



**KORERO**  
**Mana College**  
**News**

**Issue: 3**  
**March 2011**

*Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Mana College, Tena koutou. Talofa Lava. Fakalofa atu. Kia Orana. Taloha ni. Malo e lelei. Greetings to you all.*

### **Uniform Update**

As we reach the end of term it is timely to remind parents that the new green skirt for girls will be available for the start of Term 2 from Postie Plus. You will be receiving a letter in the mail giving you the exact date it will be available. As previously notified, all Year 9 girls and all girls new to the school, have made a commitment to purchase the new green skirt and must be in this as soon as it is available.

There have been some difficulties with the new school black jacket. The price was initially fixed at the start of the year at \$84; we have now been informed that this is to be \$103. We have therefore extended the timeframe for all students to be in the new jacket until the beginning of 2012. This means that students may continue to wear one of the acceptable plain black jackets until the new one is purchased. In today's assembly students have seen the jackets that are appropriate. We invite parents to begin automatic payments and/or lay-bys with the school office so the new black jackets can be purchased before the end of 2011.

School ties are now also available again at the office at \$15.00 each.

### **Whanau Future Focus Day**

Although I have not seen the final figures it appears this was a very successful day. Hopefully families are now aware and share in the goals developed for their children. Don't forget to keep talking about these goals until the end of the year (and beyond if necessary!). Our next Future Focus Day will allow you to meet the individual subject teachers of your child. The internet booking system seemed to work well so I will be investigating to see if it can support this kind of Meet the Teacher event as well.

### **ERO**

We will be welcoming the Education Review Office to our school during week 4 of Term 2. ERO is the body that provides independent reports on what is happening in schools. These reports are available on-line and when they have finished they usually provide a report to the community which we can distribute to our families.

### **Earthquake / Disaster**

We have recently held a fire evacuation and before the end of term will have completed an earthquake drill and a lockdown procedure. Being aware of what happened in Christchurch we are working to ensure our students will be safe, dry and fed should we have a disaster. We would hold all students at school and release those over 14yrs if we judge it is safe to do so and if we have permission from families. Younger students will be held until they are collected by family or authorized friends.

We estimate we would need to look after about 50 students overnight. Staff are aware they will only be released when we know we have cared for our students. We will be sending home a letter with a return slip indicating your instructions regarding the release of your child in the event of a disaster.

### **Bus Services**

A number of parents have complained to the bus company about the change of routes that mean students must walk the length of Awarua street to get to school. I have heard there are about 20 students affected. I will be approaching the Greater Wellington District Council who contract the buses to see if a better arrangement can be made. If you are unhappy please contact GWDC yourself to support our letter.

### **Manation**

We are going to have a lot of fun on our last day this term. It will also be a fundraiser for

Christchurch. Senior students are organizing events from 11am onwards that include various games and activities that will bring both competition and fun. These students will also be rewarded with NCEA credits. The day will be a mufti day with students dressed in a "Sevens" way but also sporting their 'whanau' colours. Come along and join us.

### **Dental Service**

School students, for some reason, don't always look after their teeth and even though dental treatment is free they do not use it.

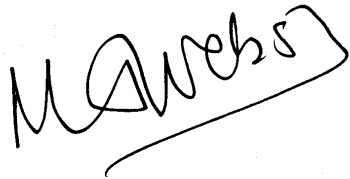
We are looking into an offer where a dental company comes to the school to screen our students and where necessary, transport and return the student between school and the dental clinic.

I would be interested in feedback as to whether families feel this is a good idea.

### **Coming Events**

Friday 15 April - End of Term 1

Monday 2 May - Start of Term 2, 10am



M. Webb