



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.

Free Student Dental Service

I am pleased to announce we will be providing free dental care for our students on site. The majority of young people seldom visit the dentist and suffer later in life. We have been offered this opportunity where every student can be screened in our school and most work that needs to be done can be undertaken here too. Soon you will hear from the Dental Service through the mail so that you can opt in. I encourage you to do so.

Scholarship Award

I am delighted to report that Tram Thien Ly-Vo has received a scholarship of \$2,500 to support her studies at University next year. This award was made in memory of Derek Wooton, the policeman so tragically killed in Titahi Bay some years ago. We acknowledge his family's loss and their wonderful gift in his memory.

Drainage

Some good news and some bad news. The drainage works are due to finish soon. The bad news is that it is not yet complete!

Apparently the Ministry of Education are reviewing all their expenditure at the moment and many non-essential work has been halted. I am seeking to put pressure on them to finish this job, but it will be a blessing to have no noise, no holes in the grounds and a clear site. Our gymnasium is another matter!

NCEA

I remind families that all students sitting NCEA qualifications this year must pay a fee of \$76.40. If there are three or more students in a family sitting NCEA this year, the maximum fee is \$200.00. This fee can be paid at the Mana College office by the due date, 2nd September 2011. After this, you will need to pay NZQA directly. NZQA may charge a late fee of \$50.

Families with a Community Services Card, or who are eligible for one, can apply for Financial Assistance, which reduces the fee to \$20.00 for one student sitting NCEA this year and a maximum of \$30 per family. The school office has application forms for Financial Assistance - just bring your card number and fill it out on the spot.

The maximum fees includes families where students attend different schools, as long as they are sitting NCEA.

This fee covers administration costs for both internal (at school through the year) and external (in the November exams) standards, so must be paid even if the student is not sitting any exams in November.

Teacher Only Day

On Friday 26 August we will be joining with Bishop Viard College for a Teacher Only Day. This is one of the planned days to support ICT in our cluster and all staff will be involved in learning opportunities and workshops at Bishop Viard College on that day.

As a consequence the school will be closed for students that day.

Whanau Spelling Bee

Over the course of term 2 students have been given daily words and their meanings to remember for the Whanau Spelling Bee which was tested at the end of last term. The results were as follows:

1 st	Totara	(6.1 average)
2 nd	Kowhai	(6.0 average)
3 rd	Manuka	(5.6 average)
4 th	Pohutukawa	(5.5 average)

The following students received perfect scores (10/10): Soraya Beckham; Michael Billing; Krystal Bishop; Naki Eriepa; Aaliyah Green; Duong Ly-Ngoc; Cayleb Mason; Hotene Moeau; Labeisha Moki; Natanya Oka-Shaw; Eruera Rerekura; Unaiki Royal; Georgina Selwyn; Moana Solomon; Karuna Tailor.

Congratulations to all those students who took part.

School Bus Service

I have just received a letter from the Greater Wellington Regional Council indicating that we are going to lose our school bus to Titahi Bay that departs from our bus stop. They propose to stop this service after Friday 2 September 2011.

We received this letter from Mr Rob Braddock, Contract & Quality Team Leader, contact 04 830 4262 or email rob.braddock@gw.govt.nz I will be contacting Mr Braddock about this matter and encourage you to do the same.

Senior Mentoring

You will be interested to know that two Year 12 students, Edwina Harris and Pouaka Parore are receiving mentoring support through law firms and two Year 13 students, Tramthien Ly and Vongphachanh Phanthavongsa are receiving assistance through building and accounting companies. We believe this additional experience will help develop their intentions and ambitions for the future.

Mentoring for Year 9 Students

For the past few years, an organisation called "Praxis " has been providing programmes for our Year 9 students. In terms 1 & 2, they worked with the classes on Activity Based Learning (ABL), covering topics such as goal setting, working together, problem solving and team work.

This term they are concentrating on smaller groups of students and running a mentoring programme. This involves some pupils from each Year 9 class and runs on Tuesday afternoons. This programme may involve a day out in Term 4, in which case a letter will be sent home to let you know.

The contact person for this programme at Mana College is Anthea Martin (RTLB).

Safe Driver Website

If your teenager is learning to drive (or about to start) www.safeteedriver.co.nz is a new free website to help parents/caregivers. The website has lots of great tips to help you connect with your teenager and tools to teach them how to become a safer driver. The Graduated Driver Licence System (GDLS) is a three step process. So the things you need to teach your child will change as they progress from Learner, through the Restricted phase to their Full Licence.

If you don't have the internet you can order hard copy resources. For the Learner phase call 0800 772 284 to sign up for the Practice. For the Restricted phase call 0800 822 422 for a Safe Teen Driver pack.

Coming Events

Monday 22 August-Friday 26 August -
Tournament week
Friday 26 August - Teacher Only Day (school closed)
Thursday 25 August - BOT meeting, 6pm

