



KORERO
Mana College
News

Issue: 1
February 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.

Welcome

Welcome to all our new students and parents/caregivers. Welcome back to all of you who rejoin us. We also welcome some new staff: Victor Mau (English), Ngaire Neilson (Fashion Technology), Margaret Vaka-Vivili (Science), all covering maternity leave positions. We also welcome Michael Drain (Photography) who will be taking over from Mandy Alves who leaves us for study at Auckland University.

Our theme this year is simple ... 'Here to Learn'. If your child attends school regularly and engages in classroom learning he/she will achieve well and succeed in whatever they do. Everything we do should aim to support this and your help is much appreciated.

Building Works

Once again our site has building works going on. We are trying to ensure that the drainage problem we've had for years is finally sorted out and this work will probably continue throughout this term. We are also doing a lot of work on our gymnasium which means PE activities are likely to be outside. This work will last until the end of April.

Students need to continue the respect they have shown up to now and keep themselves safe by avoiding going near the works.

Early Notification

We are still in the early stages of using the Early Notification system and I need to apologise for when we occasionally send a message which turns out to be wrong. However, we feel that our families deserve to know when their child is not at school, so we hope this will keep our children here rather than wagging. After all we are 'here to learn'!

Athletics Day

This will take place on Tuesday 22 February from 9.00am to 3.05pm and will involve all students meeting at the Kura Street Athletics track at 8.45am. Students should be in school uniform and wear the PE uniform to compete. It is a great fun day and you are welcome to attend.

Student Focus Day

On Friday 25 February we will be having our Student Focus Day. This is when each student comes to school for a 20 minute interview with their form teacher. During this time goals will be set for 2011 and pathways explored. Students are only expected at school for their 20 minutes and should then return home.

A Student/Whanau Future Focus day will follow on from this on Friday 25 March. This is when you come to school with your children and meet with their form teacher, discuss goals and how the first term is going. It is a very important meeting and for some we ask you to approach your work for time off. More information is to follow.

Teachers Paid Union Meeting

On Wednesday 23 February there will be a paid union meeting for members of the PPTA at 1.30pm. I ask that you make arrangements to look after your children for that afternoon from 1.00pm onwards. If this proves impossible non-union members of staff will supervise them in the library until 3.05pm.

Student Leaders

This year our Head Students are:

Head Girl	- Seina Abera
Head Boy	- Campbell Woodmass
Deputy Head Girl	- Harmon Edwards
Deputy Head Boy	- Tremaine Teakura

Over the next two weeks students and staff will be electing Tuakana for the year. We want to continue the tradition of excellent leadership we have seen so far.

Open School

We believe we are an open school and want to listen when you have issues so that we can put things right. However, I need to insist that you make an appointment by calling our school receptionist on 237 5424. This will ensure that you meet the most appropriate person in one of our meeting rooms.

With recent events throughout the world caused by intruders, we must insist that you do not go to any classroom without invitation. We have a lockdown policy to protect our students should something serious occur. This involves sirens, block lockdowns, the Police and a fearful school atmosphere. We want to avoid this kind of thing happening so ask for your cooperation in these matters.

If you do have any issues that need to be sorted out please call or go to the office, leave your details and an appointment will be arranged for you.

School Uniform

We have begun the year with the introduction of some new uniform items. Our new green skirt will be available towards the end of the term and we expect all Year 9 students and those new to the college at other levels, to be wearing these from the start of Term 2.

There is now only one school jacket to be worn by all students – this is a black, Canterbury style and is available by order through the school office. There are sample sizes available at the office.

A reminder that white polo shirts are no longer acceptable, all students should be wearing white dress shirts. The shorts have also been phased out and all boys must wear black dress trousers. All girls should be wearing skirts.

If you have any questions about uniform please don't hesitate to contact your son or daughter's Dean or Ms Tuite, Deputy Principal. Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students wear the correct uniform and have pride in where they come from.

Hands On Careers Expo

There will be a Careers Expo on Thursday 17 March at Te Rauparaha Arena between 9am and 3pm. Some of our senior students will be going along to experience the day's activities. We would also like to encourage parents and caregivers to attend the Careers Expo so they can gather information for their sons or daughters.

Examples of providers that will be at the Expo are: Electrical, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Transport, Communications, Defence, Art, Travel and Tourism, Building and Construction, Drama, Digital Media, Sports and many others.

Bus & Train Changes

The Greater Wellington Regional Council has advised us that as of Sunday 20 February there will be a new bus and train timetable operating. If your child uses either buses or trains to get to or from school please check the Metlink website for an update on the changes that will affect them.

www.metlink.org.nz

There may be some additional changes to school bus services as of Term 2, 2011 but these have not yet been confirmed, so we will update you as soon as we know if any changes are to occur.

NCEA Seminar

You are invited to learn more about the NCEA system at a seminar at 6pm on Wednesday 16 February at the Porirua Employment Hub, 6 Hagley Street, Porirua. Abdi Bihi, from the Ministry of Education, will share information with parents about NCEA and will offer the opportunity to raise any issues on NCEA that are not clear to them.

Coming Events

Tuesday 22 February – Athletics @ Kura St, 9am
Thursday 24 February – Full BOT meeting, 6pm
Friday 25 February – Student Focus Day
Friday 25 March – Student/Whanau Focus Day