



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.

Here to Learn

As you know our theme this year is 'Here to Learn' and I am pleased to see attendance has improved on last year, so the "Here" part is working.

I am also happy to report that "to Learn" seems to be happening too, and we are hopeful of improving our NCEA results in 2011.

Non-Violence

We are a non-violent school and we seek to keep our students out of violent situations both in and out of school. If there are any violent incidents involving your child please feel free to talk to us and also to the Police. After all, assault is a crime, it is not just about breaking school rules.

We do not accept bullying of any kind and we expect our students to respect each other. When this doesn't happen we need to know. Bullying is NOT okay, so please let us know if your child is feeling bullied. We will do something about it.

Our Solution

When we have problems such as the above, we like to solve the issues through restorative conferencing. This holds people to account not just to the school, but also to our students and their families. We have found this method works incredibly well and brings issues to a proper closure with appropriate changes made.

Tuakana

I am happy to announce our Tuakana for 2011. Students and staff have been involved in electing this group and each has made a presentation to a school assembly.

Georgia Flint
Hawaiki Harris
Jesikah Kirk
Aiesha Maoate
Shakira Rua
Destiny Toimata

Edwina Harris
Jessie Kirikino
Ojarn Lucas
Brodie Parker
Iosia Soliola
Edwina Utanga

News from the Student Health Clinic

The school nurse is now a 'Quit Group' quitcard provider for the smoking cessation programme. This means that she can assist students to give up smoking by following the 'ABC smoking cessation' guidelines. This will involve education and support of the student by the nurse. It can also include the provision of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. The student will receive ongoing follow up and support from the nurse while taking part.

Whanau Focus Day

You will shortly all receive a letter inviting you to meet your child's form teacher(s) on Friday 25 March. On that day we only expect students at school for your 20 minute interview.

Because of the continued industrial action by the PPTA, interviews can only occur between 8.30am and 5.00pm.

You will also be able to select your appointment times by using an internet booking system. More information is detailed in the upcoming letter.

I recognise some families work and I will be sending you a letter to show to your employers asking them to release you so that you can join your child and their Form Teacher to set an educational/career plan for the year.

Please note that our Special Needs Unit, Te Whare Ako, will remain open for students as per normal.

Athletics

Thank you for your tolerance when we had to abandon our Athletics day at Kura Street on Tuesday 22 February. We had very wet and cold students within 40 minutes of the start and had to make a Health & Safety decision

that did not meet with all parents' approval.
Please accept my apologies for this.

We managed to hold the event two days later
on our school field and it was a great success.
Thank you to the parents who came along both
days to support us. We have decided to hold
this event at school in future.

E-mails/E-Learning for Students

Soon our students will be issued with
educational email accounts to enable them
use the virtual learning tools like Moodle
(students can access their course work from
home), Myportfolios (students can keep
evidence and record of their learning &
network with their classmates), Google Apps &
Calendar and Web 2.0. This advancement is
happening due to the Ministry of Education's
ICT PD Cluster initiative.

If any parent has any concerns or needs further
clarification about this you can contact the
Principal.

Reports

Interim student reports will be mailed out
shortly. If you do not get one before the end
of the week please phone the school and check
we have your address correct and we will mail
you another copy.

Coming Events

Friday 25 March - Student/Whanau Focus Day
Thursday 31 March - BOT meeting @ 6pm
Friday 15 April - End of Term 1



M. Webb