



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PAPATOETOE HIGH SCHOOL

www.papatoetoehigh.school.nz

NEWSLETTER No 1

Wednesday 10 February, 2010



Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2010 school year and I extend a special welcome to those who are having their first association with Papatoetoe High School. We have processed a number of new enrolments in recent days and along with our new year 9 cohort it follows that we probably have in the region of 200 new families introduced to our school. Having parents and families engaged with the school and fully aware of our expectations, programmes and special events is an important factor in supporting the students who attend here.

Newsletters are one of the channels of communication we have with our families and our main newsletters will be sent home with students on these dates:

- No. 2 Wednesday 17 March
- No. 3 Wednesday 5 May
- No. 4 Wednesday 23 June
- No. 5 Wednesday 1 September
- No. 6 Wednesday 27 October

The school website www.papatoetoehigh.school.nz provides useful information about the school and we are also developing other electronic communication channels that I am sure parents will find to be of benefit – more details on this will be in a later newsletter.

Several new staff members have been welcomed to the school and their details appear later in this newsletter. We are fully staffed and with a student roll of approximately 1800 and about 190 staff we are indeed a large institution.

In term 4 last year we had a team from ERO conduct a review of the school. The confirmed report has yet to be received by the board and once that happens it becomes a public document. We will post a direct link to the confirmed report on our website as soon as it is released. The preliminary report was positive and affirming of the good work done by the board, staff and students.

A good number of our students excelled in NCEA and those students who gained their certificates endorsed with excellence are acknowledged later in this newsletter. An excellence award is indeed a very challenging goal to achieve and it was particularly pleasing to note the increase in these awards amongst our years 12 and 13 students last year.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the year ahead and to the positive support of our school.



P R Gall
PRINCIPAL

TERM 1 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tues 16 Feb.....ID photos for students
- Thurs 18 Feb ...Swimming sports
- Tues 23 Feb.....Form class photos
- Tues 2 Mar.....Athletics
- Wed 24 Mar.....Music evening no. 1
- Mar 29-1 Apr.....International celebrations
- Thurs 2 AprLast day of term 1

The 2010 NZQA exam timetable can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/for-students/exams/examtt.html>

SCHOOL HOURS FOR STUDENTS

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays school starts at 8.45am. All students to be in the school grounds by 8.40am on these days. On Wednesdays school starts at 9.30am and students are required to be in the grounds by 9.25am.

On occasion we have a shortened lunch if the weather is bad and school finishes 15 minutes earlier.

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI	WED
8.40 Warning bell for students	9.25 Warning bell for students
8.45 Form time/assembly	9.30 Form time
9.05 Period 1	9.55 Period 2
10.05 Period 2	10.55 Interval
11.05 Interval	11.20 Period 3
11.30 Period 3	12.20 Period 4
12.30 Period 4	1.20 Lunch
1.30 Lunch	2.05 Period 5
2.15 Period 5	3.05 End of day
3.15 End of the day	

ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS

The school office is in the process of verifying new students' in-zone home addresses. You may be contacted to clarify aspects of students' living arrangements.

As stated on the application form "An enrolment can be annulled by the school if incorrect information about the home address of the student is given".

NEW STAFF

We welcome the following new staff in 2010:

Miss Cahill (phys ed), Mr Crisp (English), Ms Petley (English), Mrs Togatama (English), Miss Ngawati (English), Miss O'Callaghan (English), Miss Smith (phys ed), Mrs Walia (science), Miss Ataya (science), Ms Aylward (speech language therapist)

STUDENT LEADERS 2010

Sam Zaia	Head boy
Alice Enoka	Head girl
Takeshi Faamasino	Deputy head boy
Lauren Muldrew	Deputy head girl
Losalini Pickering	Arts & cultural captain
Jack Stewart	Arts & cultural captain
Brittany Olsen-Verner	Sports captain
Harry Pualau	Sports captain

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

Kauri	Anirvan Bhaduri	Melissa Gibbons
	Tania Tian	Ueese Vavae
Kowhai	Eythain Diaz	Gabrielle Frank
	Stephen Money	Reta Mousses
Pohutukawa	Kate Berry	Imraan Shah
	Delaney Watene-Taie	Ish Sodhi
Rimu	Melissa Fok	Sivi Ioapa
	Sam Maguire	Christyl Stowers

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Takeshi Faamasino

NCEA EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who received NCEA certificates endorsed with excellence:

Level 1: David Fernandes, Malisa Thay, Elwyn Rae.

Level 2: Michael Do, Rachel Wei, Tania Tian, Yu Y Ly, Stephanie Cullen, Rohan Saini, David Yan, Lauren Muldrew.

Level 3: David Yan, Angela Liu, Akash Rampal, Jivitesh Kansra, Esther McCoskrie

EXPECTATIONS

Parents can assist us in maintaining high standards by ensuring that all students:

- 1. Have the correct uniform.** Uniform requirements are stated in the school prospectus – please do not accept the excuse “but everyone else is wearing it”. Check with the school if in doubt.
- 2. Have required books and equipment.** We are now on full timetable and all students should have their books and must bring them each day.
- 3. Get to school on time and attend regularly.** If your son/daughter is absent from school please telephone to advise student reception and provide an explanatory note on the first day they return.

SPORTS EVENTS

The annual swimming sports will be held on 18 February at Papatoetoe Centennial Pools. Participation is voluntary and students must enter during form time during week 1 and 2. Please encourage your child to enter if he/she is able to swim. A letter will come home if your child has entered so that you are aware of details.

Athletics preliminaries will be held at school on 2 March and finals on 5 March. Entries will be taken during form class prior to this. This is a house competition in which students are encouraged to participate.

UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will be open every morning period 1 for the first two weeks of term 1. Thereafter it will be open normal times, 9-10am Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students can purchase new house t-shirts \$10, PE shorts \$32 and jackets \$95. Also for sale are second-hand uniform items (polo tops, boys' shorts, skirts and jerseys).

STUDENT DIARY

All students will receive a student diary that contains information on the school and a place for each day's homework. Parents should check this diary to make sure homework is being written in and then completed.

UNIFORM

It was great to see so many of our students so well attired in our school uniform as school started last week. Parents are reminded that our school uniform standards are listed in the prospectus and on our website. At this time of year, uniform items that we have most difficulty with are footwear and socks. The prospectus reads as follows:

Plain brown or black leather (or imitation) sandals (with heel strap) or, plain black leather (or imitation), low-heeled, flat soled school shoes. Boots of any kind (boots are defined as covering the ankle), sports shoes and platform soles are unacceptable."

Note that sandals for girls must have a single heel strap. “Slave” type sandals are not permitted. If students are wearing shoes, they must also be wearing either socks or stocking (girls). Boys socks need to be the approved grey walk socks, NOT the black/blue ankle socks that have been appearing.

GATEWAY PROGRAMME 2010

Years 12 and 13 students are encouraged to apply to participate in the Gateway programme 2010. Students get hands on experience in a workplace, the opportunity to gain extra NCEA credits and increase their employability. We are now interviewing students for the following careers:

Electricians (requires level 1, physics and maths)
Aviation Engineers (requires level 1 and to be studying level 2, physics and maths)
Teachers (working towards university entrance in 2010)
Warehousing (open entry, selection by interview)
Police (Yr 13 only)
Hairdressing (open entry, selection by interview)
Early Childhood (Yr 13, selection by interview)
Travel & Tourism, basic skills course.

Interested students should collect an application form from the Gateway office R13 (limited spaces available). An up to date CV will be required as part of the Gateway Programme. Gateway staff will be available lunchtimes to assist students with CV writing.

Parents and caregivers are welcome to telephone for more information. Mrs Kelsall on 09 2784086 ex 784.

FEES

Recent media reports have highlighted the issue of school fees and the legality of schools charging fees. Our fee structure is in line with the Ministry of Education guidelines and has stood up to scrutiny by ERO and auditors. The following fees and costs are compulsory and we are legally entitled to charge them.

- Subject materials fees – payable by all students who study the following subjects:

Y10 Food and Nutrition (10FNU)	\$25
Y10 Technology – Materials (10TEM)	\$30
Y11 Technology – Materials (11TEM)	\$40
Y11 Food & Nutrition (11FNU)	\$25
Y12 Technology – Materials (12TEM)	\$40
Y13 Technology – Materials (13TEM)	\$40

Y12 and Y13 Photography, Y13 Design, Y13 Painting also charge material fees which are dependent on the projects/usage of the individual student.
- Field trips – actual costs charged and to be pre-paid before a student is able to go on class field trips.
- Itinerant music lessons – a flat fee of \$100 per instrument.
- Sports fees – actual fee advised by team managers/coaches. These fees cover part of the cost of team uniforms, affiliation fees and equipment.
- School magazine (optional)
- Several subjects in the senior school have workbooks that are strongly recommended to be purchased by students. Costs vary from subject to subject. Every endeavour is made to keep these fees to a minimum.

We are also very grateful to the large number of families who pay, by way of donation, our 'Parent Contribution'. The rates are set as follows:

Family contribution	1 pupil	\$100
	2 or more pupils	\$200

A 20% discount is offered if payment is made or automatic payment established prior to the end of term 1.

MOTOR VEHICLES AT THE SCHOOL

One side of both Carlie St and Nicholson Ave is designated "no stopping" zones. Cars are not allowed to stop on yellow dashed lines or on any private property. Manukau City Council has advised they will be doing regular enforcement patrols and will issue infringement notices.

Vehicles are not permitted to use the school grounds as a through-way, ie, from Nicholson Ave to Carlie St or vice versa, and parents are not to park in the school carpark to collect their children. To avoid congestion, parents are advised to avoid using Carlie St or Nicholson Ave to drop students off.

All student drivers who bring vehicles to or from school at any time must have an appropriate licence and have returned a completed registration form to the school. Forms are available from student reception. Student passengers must also be registered.

CYBERSAFETY

The school has a large computer network that our students have full access to and it is necessary to have controls over the use of the network.

COMPUTER NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Student users of the school computer network will:

- Use the computers for school work only.
- Look after all equipment and use it properly at all times.
- Be responsible for all work and documents in their own "My Work" folders.
- Respect the rights, privacy and property of others.
- Accept that e-mail and full Internet access is not available to students.
- Agree not to access or be in possession of offensive, inappropriate or illegal materials.
- Agree to use printers appropriately and not waste paper.
- Accept that inappropriate behaviour will incur penalties.
- Be aware that while confidentiality and privacy is respected, all student folders are able to be monitored.
- Notify a teacher of any wrongful use of the computer network.
- Not use removable storage media at school unless they have permission from a teacher.
- If a computer is found left logged on, log it off immediately.

MUSIC

ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS: Interested students are invited to sign up for music lessons, which take place during the school day on a rotating timetable but on the same day each week. Individuals or groups of up to 4 students have a 30-minute lesson with an expert musician employed by the school. Lessons cost \$100 for the year – this amount needs to be paid in term 1. Year 9 students and those students who don't take Music as an option can choose from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola, cello and double bass. Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 option Music students can also choose from keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, drums and voice. Recording lessons are for selected students only, by invitation. Enrolment forms can be collected from the music office at interval or lunch time. Enrolments close on Friday 12 February.

MUSIC GROUPS: Students are welcome to join one of the many music groups available at school. These include stage band, choir, a cappella groups and chamber groups. Sign up times will be advertised over the next week. There are also places available for lunchtime and after school band practices once a week (you need to bring your own drum sticks). We look forward to another busy, challenging and rewarding year in 2010!

See Miss Monk, Miss Wu or Mrs Saunders or phone 278-4086 ext 751 if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Zaid Mohammed on being selected for the Young Olympians squad. Zaid won bronze in the 400m at the recent National secondary schools athletics and Gabby Vaka made the discus finals.

SCHOOL BULLYING

Unfortunately this is a problem in every school and is also an issue in many workplaces. The school has a zero tolerance to any form of bullying and has procedures in place to deal with it.

Parents can help us in a number of ways as teenagers are often reluctant to report it happening to them.

How can I tell if my child is being bullied at school? Some of the signs of this are:

- A reluctance to get ready for school or go to school
- Being truant from school
- Wanting to stay home because they are 'sick'
- Being continually worried or upset
- Unexplained and upsetting phone calls, texts or emails
- Sudden changes in moods or personality
- Being unable to sleep
- Coming home without items like clothing, bags and pens
- Loss of interest in their sport, hobby or interest
- Unexplained cuts, bruises or scratches.

Things you can do:

There are a number of things that you can do to support your child and the school. For example:

- Talk with them calmly and listen to what they have to say. They may be nervous or embarrassed to admit they are being bullied.
- Support them but don't tell them to fight back or threaten to speak to the bully as your child will see this as making a bad situation worse.
- Work with them to deal with this problem and explain how the school needs to know and that they will get bullying stopped.
- Make sure their mobile phone is switched off at night and be aware of any mood changes your child may show after receiving texts.

Please immediately contact your child's form teacher, their house dean, the counsellor or a deputy principal if you know or think bullying may be happening.

There are also two excellent books available in our school library on bullying. They are: Evelyn Field, *Bully Busting: How to help children deal with teasing and bullying*. Keith Sullivan, *The Anti Bullying Handbook*.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

During the holidays Lauren Muldrew participated in the Rotary National Science & Technology Forum. She, along with 155 students from around New Zealand and Australia, experienced various aspects of science including robotics and psychology among many others. Lauren thanks the Papatoetoe West Rotary Club for the full sponsorship of this unforgettable experience.

POLICY ON CELLPHONES

Students are permitted to bring cellphones to school, but use of cellphones must be appropriate. Any inappropriate use will result in the phone being confiscated and possibly sanctions. Cellphones are often the target of thieves and any student bringing a phone to school is responsible for its safekeeping and does so at their own risk.

HEALTH CENTRE

The health centre is for students who are sick or injured at school. **Please keep students who are unwell at home** for their safety and to prevent spread of infection.

A student must attend the health centre if they are unwell or injured before going home. Do not arrange to collect a student via phone without speaking to the nurse first. No student will be sent home from the health centre unless a parent or caregiver is contacted.

EMERGENCY CONTACT. Inform student reception of changes of address or telephone numbers in case your child is injured or unwell at school. It is important to provide two alternative contacts in the event that we are unable to contact you directly.

WATER is important for general health, which is extremely important for learning. Encourage students to drink water several times daily especially in summer and during high stress times such as exams.

FOOD is important for energy and learning so the provision of a healthy breakfast, snacks and lunches for all our students is appreciated. Restrict soft drinks as they are very high in sugar which is bad for teeth and general health.

WOUNDS Any open wounds or sores must be covered to prevent the spread of infection.

MEDICATION. If your child requires emergency or special medication at school please contact the school nurse to complete a consent form to allow her to administer the medication. Nurses sometimes administer the following medicines at school. **Please inform us if you do not wish your child to receive any of the following:** Paracetamol, Loratabs, Nurofen, Strepsils, Vicks 44 cough medicine, Mylanta for upset stomachs, eucalyptus inhalation, aromatherapy for headaches and period pains and homeopathic remedies of arnica and rescue remedy.

PIERCING One ear stud only, no face studs visible unless for cultural reasons and note written by parent or caregiver. We strongly discourage students from face piercing as infection and scarring is a common problem seldom considered by young people before it is done. It is also a fashion that will change. However, if it is done it is best done at the beginning of the December school holidays because any studs must be removed before returning to school.

DENTAL HEALTH: Annual check-up with a dentist is recommended and is free until age 18 years. Contact nurse for a list of dentists in Papatoetoe or a Mighty Mouth enrolment, who visit the school regularly.

ASTHMA CLINIC: An asthma nurse specialist visits the school regularly. If you wish your child to see her, please contact the school nurse. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend with their children.

Please inform the school nurse if your child is recovering from surgery or has ongoing health or social problems, which may affect their performance at school. We are happy to meet and discuss any issues with parents and/or guardians.