

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2 WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2010

Papatoetoe High School



Dear Parents

Our school has been an incredibly busy place in recent weeks and, along with the academic programme, our co-curricular programme has included swimming sports, athletics sports, Gillette Cup cricket, inter-school tennis, girls softball, Waka ama competition and cultural group rehearsals for the upcoming Polyfest. The school roll is just over 1830 which is higher than we and the ministry anticipated and consequently some class sizes are large. In recent days we have managed to create a couple of extra classes in the maths area to relieve some of the pressure and understand that these changes, whilst for the better in the long run, will cause some anxiety for students.

With a short first term we are delaying the first round of parent-teacher interviews until the first week of term two - 22 April. Progress reports will be issued to students on Wednesday 31 March and these reports, which provide an early indication of how students have started the year, really do need to be supported by attendance at the parent-teacher interviews where you will receive a more detailed analysis of your son/daughter's progress.

Mrs Baber, one of our deputy principals, leaves us at the end of term after being at the school for three years. As a forward thinking educationalist, Mrs Baber has made a number of significant positive contributions to our staff (particularly beginning teachers) and students. She has met with many family members and parents in her time at the school and I know that you will all want to share with me in wishing her the very best in her future career.

PAID UNION MEETING: The board of trustees has been informed that members of PPTA (Post Primary Teachers Association) will be attending a paid union meeting on Wednesday 24 March. A majority of the teaching staff will be attending that meeting and therefore normal scheduled classes will not be running from 12.20pm on that day. The school will remain open, however attendance for students is not compulsory. Some teaching staff will be available to supervise and assist students who wish to stay at school that afternoon.

ERO: The confirmed report from the Education Review Office relating to their recent visit to the school has now been released and can be viewed on the ERO website at www.ero.govt.nz or through the link on our website.

Finally, as from the end of this term I will finish in my role as president of SPANZ (Secondary Principals Association of New Zealand), a position I have held for the last three years. I will not miss the demands from the media associated with the role, but there have been a number of tangible benefits relating to networks I have formed and up-to-date knowledge that I have been able to share with staff.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 24 March....Paid union meeting (students released at 12.20pm)
Music evening.
Wed 31 March....Progress reports issued
29 Mar-1 AprInternational week celebrations
Thurs 2 AprilLast day of term 1
Mon 19 April.....First day term 2
Thurs 22 April ...Parent-teacher interviews 2.00-5.00pm/5:45-8:00pm
Fri 23 AprilBoard of trustees nominations close at noon.
Fri 7 May.....Voting for board of trustees close at noon.

Arts and Cultural Events

ITINERANT MUSIC LESSONS: Thank you to all families who have paid in full for their itinerant music lessons. All outstanding payments need to be made by the last week of term, Thursday 1 April please.

CO-CURRICULAR GROUPS: Students may still join our stage band (rehearsals lunch-time on Mondays), choir (rehearsals 3.15-4.30pm Wednesdays), chamber group, string ensemble or brass ensemble (rehearsals lunch-time Thursdays). There are still a few spaces for Pacifica Beats/Rockquest bands to rehearse after school. See Miss Monk, Miss Wu or Mrs Saunders or phone the music department 278-4086 ext 751 if you have any questions.

CHOIR PERFORMANCE: On Friday 12 March the Papatoetoe High School Choir performed at the AUT graduates dinner at the North Shore campus. The choir performed "Lea Halalela" by Lebo M and Hans Zimmer, "Poi E" by Patea Maori Club and "Bathe in the River" by Don McGlashan. The Fa'amasino Brothers also sang an a cappella medley. Our programme was enthusiastically received by the dignitaries and the prestigious event was a promising start to the year for our school choir!

MUSIC EVENING 1: All year 12 and 13 option music students will be performing at our first music evening for the year on Wednesday 24 March from 7.00-9.30pm (approx) in the hall. If you wish to attend you will need to get a ticket from one of the music teachers.

POLYFEST 2010: This year our school is sending four groups to perform at Polyfest: Maori, Fijian, Cook Island and Indian. Students have been putting in lots of time and effort with after school practices and some on the weekends as well! If you are interested in being a tutor for a Polyfest group next year, please contact Mrs Woods at the school. Next year we would like to be able to take Niuean, Samoan, Tongan and other groups as well.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK: We are looking forward to a variety of cultural events and items during international week at the end of term 1, with arts day on Tuesday 30th, food festival on Wednesday 31 March and performance day on Thursday 1 April. If you would like to provide some ideas or tutor a small performance group, please contact Mrs Woods at school.

2010 SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Strong leaders make strong schools

What is a school board of trustees?

Every state and state-integrated school in New Zealand has a board of trustees. Boards bring families, communities and schools together to work for a quality education for our children.

The board of trustees is a Crown entity. It is the employer of all school staff and sets the school's overall strategic direction. The school's principal is the board's 'chief executive' and manages the school operation in line with the board's policies.

The membership of the school board includes elected

PRINCIPAL'S AND PARENTS' FORUM (PaPF) is a sub-committee of the board of trustees and is open to anyone from the school community to join. By joining this group you become an important link between the board and the school community. We would welcome any parents interested in joining us at our next meeting on Monday April 19, 7.30pm in the boardroom. Please contact the school office for further details.

THE UNIFORM SHOP opens 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).

A CREATIVE WRITING GROUP is being formed to encourage and support students who wish to develop their interest and abilities in the writing of short stories, poetry, and film/drama scripts. They will be mentored in a range of techniques including creating their own voice, the mechanics of plot, the development of character and the writing of realistic dialogue. This group will give students a supportive community to nurture their talents and produce writing that is ready for national and international competitions and for publication. It is hoped to eventually have an annual magazine to showcase the writing. Interested students should see Mrs Togatama or Mr Crisp.

EXCELLENCE IN LEVEL 1 SCIENCE 2009. Congratulations to the last year's level 1 NCEA students who gained an Excellence grade in one or more of their external standards. Two students performed exceptionally well; Samihah Buksh gained Excellence in all five external standards and Kajal Mudaliar gained three Excellence grades.

MATHS ACHIEVEMENTS. Congratulations to David Yan for being awarded a Scholarship in Calculus in 2009 as a year 12 student.

David, along with Rohan Saini and Anirvan Bhaduri, have been offered a place (based on their marks in level 3 Calculus in 2009) this semester in a stage 1 mathematics paper at The University of Auckland. Lauren Muldrew has also been offered a place in a stage 1 statistics paper at The University of Auckland. We wish them all the very best in their university studies.

Maths Tutorials

- falling behind?
- having problems?
- confused by assignments?

Come to

M10



Wednesday
or Thursday

(the one that has an ODD date)

2.15 - 4.15pm

ATHLETICS: Congratulations to Pohutukawa house who won the overall house competition. Our individual champions were:

Junior	Boys: Laekasta Smith	Girls: Gloria Ieli
Intermediate	Kalvin Chetty	Nerry Kahi
Senior	Elwyn Rae	Apii Nicholls

COUNTIES-MANUKAU ATHLETICS:

Int Boys High Jump	Rohil Sewak - 3 rd
Snr Boys High Jump	Sivi Ioapo equal 1 st
Snr Girls Shot Put	Gabby Vaka 1 st Karen Mavae 2 nd
Snr Boys Shot Put	Inoke Latu 3 rd
Jnr Boys Shot Put	Rodney Tusa 4 th
Int Girls Discus	Faimafili Vaa 1 st
Snr Girls Discus	Gabby Vaka 1 st
Jnr Boys Discus	Kalib Corry 3 rd
Snr Boys 4x100m Relay	TJ Hopoi, John Vili, Mathew Smith, Greg Foe 3 rd

Congratulations to Gabby Vaka who has been selected for the North Island team going to Wellington next weekend.

SWIMMING SPORTS: Congratulations to Kowhai house who won the overall house competition. We thank the student leaders who played a major role in facilitating the events. Individual champions in the school swimming sports were:

Junior	Boys: Michael Mills	Girls: No contenders
Intermediate	Jesse Mager	Dayna Walker
Senior	Sam Maguire	My-Lan Ishibashi

TENNIS: We have an enthusiastic group of 100 students comprising 7 teams and many of our players are winning games despite only starting tennis a few months ago. Thanks to Gary Hale - a professional coach coming in once a week. We now have 4 practices a week and students are playing tennis at lunchtime.

In the New Zealand Champs our top player, Lawrence Naidu, beat King's College's Lance Green 7-6 (12-10), 6-2. Counties-Manukau Champs results include: Sharon McCoskrie reached the semi-finals in senior girls singles; Lawrence Naidu reached the finals in senior boys singles; Rohan Saini and Shreyas Mahanta reached the finals in senior boys doubles.

PUSH PLAY

The inaugural Push Play campaign (15-26 February) offered a vast range of lunchtime physical activities including: touch, cricket, badminton, hockey and zumba. On the last three days there were over 150 students each lunchtime in the hall partaking in zumba classes. We appreciate the support of the Latin Rhythm Dance School for providing an instructor, Otahuhu police touch rugby team who played against a year 13 invitational team, and the AMP'd team (who also provide activities in Allenby Park on Thursdays after school for all those interested).

The level of participation by students and staff was great to see. Thanks to the student leaders who ran the events and kept track of the house points, and the PE department who organised the programme. The winning house (with the greatest participation rate in the activities) was Pohutukawa.

SIR PETER BLAKE AWARD FOR THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FORUM:

Tania Tian, year 13, is one of five students selected to represent Auckland in this forum run in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment. During the April holidays, the students will attend a four-day workshops in Wellington, culminating in a presentation at Parliament Building's Grand Hall. Projects focus

SPORTS