



Waitara High School

Kia Kaha Ki Te Ora Tonu
"To Strive and Go Forward"



October 27 2011

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to Term 4 where things at school are extremely busy as we gear up for external exams, junior exams, prize giving and many other events. All seniors should now be studying regularly in preparation for their external examinations and if parents need help from the school please feel free to contact us.

Prize Giving

A reminder that Senior Prize-giving will be held on Monday 7th of November, starting at 7.30 pm. There are classes as normal on this day and all students are expected to be in class and working as normal. We ask that guests be seated by 7.20 pm so that we can start on time.

Teacher Only Day

There is a teacher only day on November 14th so that staff can do some further work on the Standards Alignment for senior programmes. This has no effect on external exams and if there are any juniors who are unable to stay at home on the day, can you please notify the school office so that we can provide supervision for them.

Junior Exams

Junior exams will be held on Tuesday 8th November and Wednesday 9th November and will involve Maths, Science and Social Studies exams.

School Fees

There are still some outstanding school fees including subject fees and I would urge all parents to contact the school

office to arrange payment options before the end of the school year.

Goodbye

At the end of Term 3 we farewelled our Guidance Counsellor, Mr Graeme Clark who has retired. Mr Clark has been a staff member at Waitara High School for 15 years and he has had a very positive effect on the lives of many of our students and families. We thank him for his invaluable service and wish him well in his retirement.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

At the end of last year Waitara High School became involved in the Positive Behaviour for Learning offered to schools by the Ministry of Education. We joined Waitara East, Waitara Central and Manukorihi in this journey so it can be seen as a real wider school community initiative. A group of staff meets regularly and there is also a monthly school coaches' meeting where we share ideas and look at how we are progressing. One of the many important tasks this year has been to think about what values we at Waitara High School want to highlight for our students. At Parents' Evenings, parents contributed their ideas of the values they most wanted to encourage in their young people and this gave us a very positive starting point along with staff ideas. Obviously, it's also essential for the students' voice to be included and so in form time a number of possible options were looked at for a word that would encompass their ideas. From staff and students the following word was chosen: REACH. Each letter of the word stands for a value we want our school to stand for: Respect; Excellence; Aroha; Commitment and

Hauora. This term we will be working with a group of students to develop a positive reward system for students exhibiting these values in classrooms, out and about in the school and, hopefully, down the track, in the community as well. If you are interested to find out more about our journey so far, please feel to contact us at the school.

School Mountain biking:

We are excited to have purchased ten mountain bikes to develop a competitive team at Waitara High School. Mountain biking is growing rapidly as a recreation, and the prospect of a track running the length of New Zealand will offer a challenge for active people of all ages.

This term a program will be run every Thursday after school at a cost of \$5.00 each for those interested.

Secondary Schools events include teams of two/three or four/five, all competing on the same circuit over a specified time period. The team to complete the most circuits is the winner. National events are usually run in Rotorua.

Teen Agriculture Club

Students who live on a farm, or rural area, or just have an interest in animals or farming are forming a Waitara High School TeenAg Club, under the Young Farmers Clubs umbrella. Amanda Murray, the regional representative, visited the school last term, and is passionate about TeenAg clubs. Clubs are sent a Club Folder outlining how to set up an organization with a chair, secretary and treasurer. Students do not need to be taking agriculture as a subject but may have some farming skills and want to learn more. Activities the group could organize include farm visits, guest speakers and farm skills activities and competitions.

Orientation Afternoon

On Monday December 5 school will finish at 12.30 as we will be holding the orientation afternoon for Year 8 students.

Term 4 Calendar

Nov 7	Senior Prize Giving – 7.30 pm
Nov 8-9	Junior Exams
Nov 10	Senior Exams start Board of Trustees meeting
Nov 14	Teacher Only Day
Nov 30	Senior Exams finish
Dec 1	Documentation Day
Dec 5	Year 8 Orientation Afternoon
Dec 6	Junior Activities
Dec 8	Board of Trustees meeting
Dec 9	Junior Prize Giving 11 am

The exam timetable for the senior exams is attached to this newsletter.

Congratulations

Ashleigh Hoeta is representing Taranaki at the National Gymsport Championships in Timaru from Wednesday 2 November to Sunday 6 November. Ashleigh has had to qualify to participate in this competition. Best of luck to Ashleigh and we look forward to hearing her results.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Gellen
Principal