

School Newsletter

4 March 2011

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Tena Koutou Katoa



Mr E A Benton
Principal

This year so far...

We have had a very settled start to the 2011 school year and Term 1 is already half over. Our thoughts in the past week have very much been with those affected by the Christchurch earthquake which has directly impacted on some of our families. At times like this, we can reflect on what is really important in life, those we love and making the most of our lives and the opportunities we have because many are less fortunate. Our students raised \$2000 for those affected from our mufti-day on Wednesday 2nd March. The red and black themed day has now been picked up by others.

Nurturing Teenagers

Teenagers are incredibly rewarding but they can have their challenges at times. We are very aware that adolescence is that time where a person moves from child to adult and therefore our teenagers are often children in adults' bodies. In this regard they still need to know that you love them and care about them even though they might send out the message that they would prefer not to be seen in your company. You see, most cannot admit to their peers that they love their parents and their involvement in their lives because "*it's not cool*". My message to you is to continue to take an active interest in all that they do, set clear boundaries and stick to them around behaviour and curfews and tell them that you love them. Ignore their negative feedback if it comes, it's not what they mean.

Winter Sports

One very effective management tool for steering teenagers through their years of change is to keep them busy, thus leaving little free time for negative pursuits. Perhaps the most positive aspect of New Zealand secondary schools is that they offer such a wide range of extra-curricular activities for students to get involved in, from sports to cultural groups and the performing arts.

Our winter sports begin to get underway shortly and our main focus is on getting as many students as possible playing a sport. Please encourage your child to do so. They do not have to be an expert or champion or to have played before. They just need to be prepared to have a go, to commit to the season and attend all practices and games. This provides another focus in their lives, a healthy one, which nicely complements academic study. The registrations are being taken on **Thursday 10th March in the school theatre from 6:30pm to 8:00pm**. A letter specifically about this is enclosed. Once again, please encourage this healthy positive activity and help your child successfully negotiate the teenage years.

Message from the Principal continues...

Parent Forum

Once each term there is an evening where parents and key staff come together to discuss our school. I always attend and report on events and progress in the school to date, and we often get other key staff to talk about their roles and what they can offer the students. Occasionally, we will have visiting speakers on topics of value to parents. This is not a PTA fundraising evening but an information exchange. Our first meeting for 2011 is on **Tuesday 5th April at 7:00pm in the staffroom.**



BIG WALK Sunday 3rd April

NZ has some of the most serious youth statistics in the developed world. FYD works towards turning these around by running several amazing youth development programmes - Kiwi Can, Stars, Project K and MYND.

The Foundation for Youth Development owns these programmes and I chair a trust that raises money to deliver Project K in schools on the North Shore, Auckland Central and South Auckland. I have been involved with Project K for 12 years and Glenfield College students are involved. It makes a real difference for our kids and this walk is a sponsored fundraiser. I will be encouraging students to take part but you are welcome to join our team too. You can email my personal assistant, Daisy on d.shim@gc.ac.nz if you want to do this with the school team. Visit www.fyd.org.nz for more information.

Key Dates

Thu Mar 10 th	Sports Registration Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre
Tue Apr 5 th	Parent Forum - Learn about and discuss our school with the Principal and key staff Time: 7:00pm Venue: Staff Room
Wed & Thu Apr 6 th & 7 th	Year 11 Drama 'Alice's Revenge' Time: 7:30pm Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre
Tue Apr 12 th	Report Evening Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre
Fri Apr 15 th	Last Day of Term 1
Mon May 2 nd	First Day of Term 2

Notice

Senior Netball Coaches: If you think you help, please contact Mr Tod on 444 9066 or email a.tod@gc.ac.nz for more information.



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