

Stratford High School



Ph: 06 765 6039
Fax: 06 765 5356
Email: mail@stratfordhigh.school.nz
URL: www.stratfordhigh.school.nz

Newsletter

STAYING LOCAL, GOING FAR

EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF CENTRAL TARANKI SINCE 1897

Principal's News

Tena koutou katoa, welcome. On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees of Stratford High School I extend a very warm welcome to you all for the 2010 school year. A special welcome to those parents who have children at our school for the first time. It is always great to see our students return to school and settle into their new levels and studies. Classes are now fully into work and students are ready to focus on learning and achieving this year.

We were very pleased with the achievements of our senior students in NCEA and their success reflects a lot of hard work by students and their teachers. It is pleasing to see the number of students striving for 'merit' and 'excellence' endorsement as this shows that our students are prepared to challenge themselves to do their very best.

This term is a very busy term with lots of activities that students can participate in. Powhiri for new staff and year 9 students were moving occasions and an appropriate way to begin the year. Already our year 13 students have been involved in peer support training and their leadership camp – both very successful and enjoyable events. We anticipate announcing our leaders on Thursday 11th February.

At our first school assembly I spoke about 'doing it right'. This means attending school every day possible, having all the required equipment, wearing the correct uniform and coming to school with the determination and commitment to learn. I also spoke about 'respect'. Respect for themselves, their peers, teachers and the environment. We want to promote a learning culture at Stratford High School and encourage all

students to take responsibility for their learning.

I was really impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and courage shown by students during the tabloid sports. This is a traditional event for the Year 9 and Year 13 peer support students. The House system continues to thrive at Stratford High and for the record Tyrer were victorious on the day. Congratulations to them. My congratulations also go to all of the staff and students involved in the Peak 2009 magazine. It is a vibrant, colourful record of the school at work and play last year. The challenge for us is to aim to record an even better year in and out of the classroom in 2010.

We welcome two new staff to the school this year, Mrs Fiona Bishop in the science department replacing Mrs Probyn who is on leave for a year and Mr Stephen Barrett, relieving in the maths department this term. The deans for 2010 are:
Year 9 – Mrs McKerchar and Mr Walker
Year 10 – Miss Kay and Mr Keenan
Year 11 – Mrs Hart and Mr Tough
Year 12 – Mrs Baldwin and Mr Armond
Year 13 – Mrs Radich and Mr Smith
The deans are available to discuss your student, by ringing the school. Please leave a phone message for them.

The following Chinese proverb provides a good thought for the year. "Opportunities multiply as they are seized - Sun Tzu" I hope that all students take advantage of the huge range of opportunities both in and outside the classroom this year.

*Philip Keenan
Acting Principal*

Kapa Haka news

Kapa Haka Wananga has been rescheduled to February 26 and 27. Students, teachers and all Whanau welcome. See Whaea Tina for details and permission slips. All Whanau welcome to come and learn and join in during the evening lessons.

Whanau Group Hui on Thursday February 11, 5 - 6 pm to sort out details for upcoming Wananga and Kapa Haka. All welcome to attend.

2010 is the tenth anniversary of Te Amorangi, a reunion is upcoming in term 3. Please talk to Whaea Tina if you have any photos, or contact details of any one involved over the past ten years who would like to attend. More info later.

Te Kapa Haka O Te Amorangi has a facebook presence! Check out the awesome photos from last year and further back! Join up to keep up with all that is happening! <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Te-Kapa-Haka-Roopu-O-Te-Amorangi/232128509865?ref=mf>

Activities week

Junior students had a very successful activities week at the end of term 4. Most students enjoyed their experiences. We are hoping that there will be reports on this school activity in later newsletters. If you wish to write an article please do so and email it to the school mail@stratfordhigh.school.nz

Updated details

We are aware that a number of students have moved, changed caregivers, etc over the holidays. We ask that parents/students confirm with the student office their correct details as soon as possible. The Board of Trustees elections process will require this information so all parents are informed about the process.

Board of Trustees' Elections

The Stratford High School Board of Trustees would like to inform parents that the elections for the BoT will be run earlier than usual this year because the BoT would like a new board in place before the new Principal takes office. If you have skills to offer and are interested in being part of a proactive board to help run Stratford High School, this is your opportunity to put your name forward. The next board meeting is on Wednesday February 24th at 6.30pm in the staff room. You are very welcome to attend and have a look how the board operates. Any other questions please contact Mr A Frost at BoT@stratfordhigh.school.nz or phone 0275 549150.

Mrs P Seator is the Returning Officer for the SHS BoT elections in 2010. Important dates for parents to be aware of are:

- Nominations will open on 26th February
- Nominations close on 12 March
- The election date is 26 March if needed



Electronic Equipment

Cell phones, ipods and other personal music equipment are not permitted at school.

If a student needs to bring these items to school they are to be left at the Student Office for the day. Students who have a cell phone confiscated repeatedly will need a parent to collect the cell phone from the school. The school will not accept responsibility if any of these items are stolen or lost.

Tabloid Sports

On Tuesday 2nd of February, Stratford High became a rainbow of colours as Year 9's & 13's, as well as staff proudly dressed up in their house colours. After a busy morning, including a Powhiri, school tour, and form class introductions, the nervous Year 9's quickly relaxed, absorbing the energetic, yet competitive atmosphere. Students participated as a form class, competing against the other form classes from each house. Activities were spread over 6 stations, consisting of; 'tug of war', 'relays', 'team skiing', 'obstacle course', 'fill the bucket', and 'plug it'. With all the water activities not many people left school in dry state. The overall placings were: 1st Tyrer (290), 2nd McAllister (256), 3rd Trimble (251) and 4th Amess (251). The winning form classes were DD and MW. Thanks to all the staff for organizing and running the day.

The next events for house points will be the athletics and swimming sports to be held later this month.

Tracy Kivell



NCEA News

Congratulations to all of those students who were successful in their NCEA programmes in 2009. The result notice received by all students from NZQA is provisional only and this will not be finalised until April. At this time Records of Achievement and National Certificates will become available.

- Students have until February 19th to make any applications to NZQA for the Reconsideration (re-mark) or Review (recount) of exam papers.
- Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be issued with a Parent-Student handbook [by February 19th] which outlines the nature of NCEA and sets out a list of procedures important in managing NCEA at Stratford High School. Ask your student for this handbook and store it for reference during the year.

If you have any enquiries regarding NCEA matters, please contact Mr. Wayne Smith at school.

Returning uniforms

Students are being reminded that they need to return any sports uniforms to the sports coordinator's office. Any uniform items not returned will be invoiced to the parents (an average uniform costs the school \$100). It is an enormous expense each year to replace stolen or lost items.

Lost items

The student office is currently home to a number of unclaimed uniform items.

Unclaimed items will be given to the PTA for resale.



School umbrellas

We have a limited number of red and white Stratford High School golf umbrellas for sale. They have been partially sponsored by Ricoh Taranaki and are for sale for \$30. Please see the student office if you would like to purchase one. Students will see them on wet days being used by staff.

Uniform

Thank you to all parents and caregivers who have ensured that their students are in the correct uniform and are wearing it with pride this year. It is timely, however, that we remind you of a few points regarding the uniform:

- Students can wear sandals in term 1 and term 4. Sandals must be black, have a back strap and no adornments.
- Boys must be clean shaven.
- Make-up is **not** permitted for Y9 - 12 students.
- Students are able to wear a single pair of plain sleepers or studs in their ears. No other facial piercing is permitted.
- Tattoos must be covered at all times.
- Students' hair is expected to be clean and tidy. Extreme hair styles or colours are not permitted.

If you have any queries about your student's uniform please contact the school for clarification.



*Styles of acceptable sandals.
They must have black soles*

Absence Notification

There is always a real concern about student's wellbeing and safety when absent from school. In order to promote good safety and attendance, parents/caregivers are requested to do the following:

- Ring the school in the morning if your child is to be absent from school and leave a message.
- On the first day back following an absence, send a signed note to the form teacher giving the date and reason for the absence.
- Longer absences require a permission letter from the principal. This is an NCEA requirement.
- Attempt to get medical or dental appointments out of school time if at all possible.
- Students who need to leave school during the day for a medical or dental appointment must bring a signed note or appointment card to Mrs Potter, Mrs Gall or Mr Smith before school. Students will not be allowed to leave school without a note or appointment card. Also, students should not have time off school for reasons such as hair appointments, going to the bank or shopping.

Stratford High School has an on site Truancy Officer who periodically patrols the central Taranaki towns and districts. CTDTS is open for service on the following days:

Mon & Fri. 9:00am to 5:00pm

Wed 1:30pm to 5:30pm

For further information on CTDTS & Rock On check out

www.truancynzctdts.com

Expectations of Junior Physical Education Classes

- To take an active part in all lessons and therefore become physically educated.
- When the teacher is speaking students are listening.
- On the sound of the whistle – ***stop, look and listen.***
- Students are required to wear correct PE gear. This includes black shorts and a Stratford High School PE shirt (appropriate shoes are optional). If for some reason this gear is not available students are required to bring a note (from a parent or guardian) explaining the reason for the incorrect gear. In this case it is important that students bring alternative gear, so they can still take part.
- It is our philosophy that if a student is too sick to do Physical Education then they are too sick to be at school. If students are unable to participate due to injury a note is required from a parent or a guardian. After a student is unable to participate for three consecutive lessons, a Doctor's Certificate is required.
- It is expected that on swimming day's students bring both swimming togs and PE gear, as the weather dictates what we do.



ID Cards and School photos

Photos for ID cards for all students will be taken on Wednesday 10th February. The cost is \$6 per card and is payable to the photographer on the day. Any students who decide to get a card after this can pay \$6 to the student office until 19 February. After this date the cards will increase in price to \$7.50. Class photos will also be taken later this term on Friday 26 February

Congratulations to Brittany Kivell and Laureen Cox for their participation in the Flanagan Cup at the weekend. This is a 3.6 km open sea swim held off the coast of New Plymouth. Brittany was placed 14th in her field.

School Accounts

All year 9 students have been invoiced for the required books. Year 10 students will be given their invoice later this week. Senior students who have not paid for any required text books by the end of the month will be invoiced and this will be included with the interim reports.

Parents are able to set up automatic payment accounts at any stage to assist with payments. See Mrs Terry to get the appropriate form.



FREE BREAKFAST !!

Breakfast is available at E-Town on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th February, from 7.30am until 8.30am for any students. There is no charge. Held at All Saints Church Hall, King Edward Street, Eltham. Any questions please phone 764 8112

Relay 4 Life

Hi everyone, we're Dylan & Tracy, your Relay for life student leaders for 2010.

Relay for life is an annual event held in most regions around the country. It is to raise awareness for those living with, and affected by cancer, as well as bringing people together to fight back and raise hope.

Each team member raises funds through sponsorship prior to the event and then participates in the relay over the two days. Each team has one batten that must travel around the track for 24 hours with all members taking their turn.

The relay has four main parts, the opening ceremony, survivors' lap, candle remembrance ceremony, and closing ceremony. Along with the relay, there is on site entertainment, a relay idol competition, and big screen movies. It's a great social overnight event, that brings people together.

Stratford High has been involved in Relay for life for the last two years, with 2009 being crowned Relay Idol champs. We want to make the 2010 event the best yet. We're starting earlier and doing a few things differently, so we encourage you all to consider participating.

For those interested, see us for more information after assembly on Thursday. Thank you.

Coming Events

There are a number of events happening in the school which students are encouraged to participate in. These are the events for Term 1 and we encourage parents to come to school for athletics and swimming finals day. Parents are also welcome to attend any TSS events and we ask that you contact Mrs Kofoed, Sports Coordinator if you are able to assist with managing or transporting students.

Wed Feb. 10	ID photos taken
Feb. 15 to Feb. 19	Y9 TOPEC visits
Sat Feb. 13	Hillary Challenge qualifying event
Sun Feb 21	TSS Beach Volleyball
Tue 23 Feb.	SHS Triathlon Senior boys tennis
Wed 24 Feb.	SHS Swimming Senior girls tennis TSS Yachting
Thu 25 Feb.	Senior mixed tennis
Fri. Feb. 26	Kapa Haka live in
Sun 28 Feb.	TSS senior touch
Tue 2 Mar	SHS Athletics Defensive driving 3.45 pm
Thu 4 Mar	Defensive driving 3.45 pm
Fri. 5 Mar	Teacher Only Day
Sun 7 Mar	TSS Athletics
Mon 8 Mar	Taranaki Anniversary Day
Thu 18 Mar	Poutama Interviews Junior graduation report 1 issued to parents on this day.
Sat 20 - Sun 21 Mar	Relay 4 Life
Mon 22 Mar	Y13 Geography trip (3 days) Senior reports posted during this week.
Tue 23 Mar	TSS Swimming
Wed 24 Mar	TSS Orienteering
Thu 25 Mar	TSS Dressage
Fri. 26 Mar	TSS Bowls
Sun 28 Mar	Y12 PE tramp (3 days) TSS Mountain Biking
Wed 31 Mar	Senior Report evening
Thu 1 Apr	House Assembly Challenge End of Term 1
Fri. 2 Apr to Sun 4 Apr	Old Pupils Assn reunion for all pupils who attended school prior to 1970. Jack Porter rugby tournament
Week 2 holidays	- year 11 Agriculture course
Mon 19 Apr	Start of term 2