

## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to Term 2. We hope that parents and students enjoyed some quality time together and are refreshed and ready for the challenges of the term. We have a busy eleven week term ahead with a variety of activities occurring. The winter sports season has begun with our students being involved in a great range of sporting codes. Other extra curricular activities continue, such as Pae Rangitahi, Manu korero, preparation for Taita and the ball. The school production will be presented in Term 3.

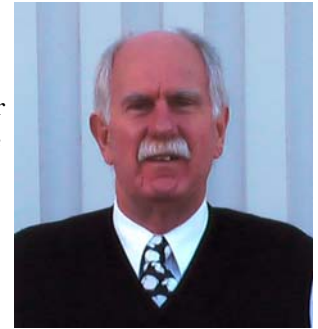
Although sports and extra curricular activities play an important part in our school and in our students' lives, the number one priority is academic work. For senior students there will be a number of opportunities this term for them to gain credits in their internal achievement and unit standards for NCEA. Alongside this, many will be continuing their learning in their achievement standards which will be assessed in the external NCEA examinations in November. Year 9 students are working through their second rotation and will receive their second graduation report in week 6. Year 10 students continue studying their same subjects as last term with half year options changing near the end of the term.

### COMMUNICATION

This term one of the ways in which we have tried to improve communication between home and school was to use a programme from the Ministry of Education called Early Notification System (ENS). This is a process where, if a student is away for Period 1 without explanation, families receive a text message. This way you can know quickly when your child is not at school. However, to make this work well, we need to have up to date cell phone numbers for parents. Can you please contact the student office to ensure we have your current number? You can also email [absence@stratfordhigh.school.nz](mailto:absence@stratfordhigh.school.nz) if this is more convenient.

We are in the early stages of using this system (ENS) and apologise if a message is sent in error. However,

we feel that our families deserve to know when their child is not in school, so we hope this will keep our children here rather than wagging. After all we are here to learn.



We believe that good communications between the school and its community are very important. If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting us either by phone, email or visiting the school. If your concerns relate to your son/daughter's attendance, behaviour or academic progress, the form teacher or the relevant year level dean is the best person to contact in the first instance. For our part we will keep in contact through the newsletters, written reports on your son/daughter, parent & teacher evenings, the school website, blog and Stratford Press High School Corner.

Newsletters will arrive via email from the start of next term. If you have given the school an email address you will no longer receive a hard copy unless it is posted with reports. If you have changed your email address recently please advise us of your new one. If you do not think the school has your email address please advise the office.

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of newsletters please let us know so you can be added to the listing for form teachers. The first newsletter of the term is usually posted to all parents.

### OVERDUE PAYMENTS

In with this newsletter is a statement of items unpaid that the school has provided for your student (s) as well as the 2011 NCEA fees. We ask that any overdue sports fees are paid as this shortfall in parent contribution means that other essential school items cannot be purchased.

*Philip Keenan, Principal*

## NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEADERSHIP AWARDS

### Support Our Outstanding Teachers

Our school has been invited to submit nominations for the *NEiTA 2011 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards* program. The awards program provides a rare opportunity to publicly recognise and encourage our outstanding teachers and give them a well-deserved pat on the back. It's the only independent national awards program where school communities e.g. parent associations, individual parents, student councils, and community organisations can nominate teachers and principals who contribute excellence. Nominated teachers receive a congratulatory *NEiTA Certificate of Registration* and become candidates for NEiTA State and National Awards. It's easy to nominate. Forms are available from the school office or forms can be downloaded or completed online at: [www.neita.com.au](http://www.neita.com.au)

## NCEA News

- ◆ A reminder that all Year 11-13 students have to pay NZQA fees on a yearly basis. Financial Assistance forms should be completed and returned to the student office at school as soon as possible. For those who qualify for financial assistance, there is a significant saving to be gained - \$20.00 instead of \$76.70. For those who applied in 2010, you must make a new application for 2011.
- ◆ Spare forms are available from Mr. Smith or from the Student Office. Please see the attached letter regarding changes in Income thresholds for the Community Services card.
- ◆ Students should be receiving their NSN (National Student Number) cards in mid-June through school.
- ◆ Any students who will need to sit the external NZQA exams (in November-December) at another location other than Stratford High School, need to let me know as soon as possible so that I can make the application to the *host school*. In such circumstances, *all* exams must be sat at the alternative location and a successful application is dependent on the *host school* actually providing those exams to their own students.

If you have any general enquiries about NCEA, please ring me at school – 765 6039 (extn. 706)

Wayne Smith, Principal's Nominee



## Uniform: white T-shirts

Students are allowed to wear a white tee-shirt under their school top. Many students wear them for modesty and hygiene reasons. However, the tee-shirt must be plain white with no other colour or graphics on it and it must be short sleeved when worn under the short sleeved top. An alternative is for students to wear a vest, singlet or camisole. It must not be seen below the bottom of the school top.



## Riding Ribbons

During the school holidays Bruce Demchy and Te Amo Houston competed successfully for Stratford District in the Regional Riding for the Disabled Event in Hawera. Together with Fraser, from Stratford Primary School, they took part in various games against other RDA teams from throughout Taranaki. Games included egg and spoon race, bending poles, and other events requiring confidence, balance and agility on horseback. Congratulations to Te Amo and Bruce who won five ribbons each. Their team was first overall! We are very proud of their achievements.

## STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND DRESS

Students are expected to behave and dress in a manner which respects the rights of others and which enhances the school's reputation in the community. Stratford High School is a uniform school and school uniform is to be worn correctly at all times so that students can be identified as belonging to Stratford High School. This includes when the students are travelling to and from school. Students who do not wear correct uniform may be sent home.

Appearance should be clean and tidy at all times. Students are expected to abide by the school rules at all times. There are consequences for breaking these rules which may range from impositions through to detentions, withdrawal from classes to exclusion or expulsion.

Poor behaviour interferes with the student's learning, the learning of others and the teacher's role in the classroom. It is a timely reminder that when students enrolled at the school, both they and their parent(s) signed an agreement that they would abide by the school rules. When students abide by this agreement, we can all give much more time and focus to raising achievement.



## Congratulations

Certificates were handed out at assembly for TSSSA Sports this week.

TSSSA Rogaine: 3rd Junior Boys team: Robbie Howatson, Joshua Hunger, William Rohe, Reece Saywell and Herbert Van Veen and Courtney McIntosh, Rylie Saywell, Emily Short and Beth West were the 3rd Junior Girls Team.

TSSSA Swimming: 2nd Junior Girls 4x100 medley and freestyle relays was our team of Sarah Malone, Mhirron French, Nadege Coates and Beth West. Ryan Cooper was 2nd Intermediate Boys 50 M Butterfly and Backstroke and 3rd 100M freestyle. Beth West was also 3rd 50 m Breaststroke.



## Change of details

Please advise the school office if your address or emergency details have changed.

### The year 13 2011 pledge:

*We are here to serve and help make Stratford High School the most freaking amazing place in Taranaki, a place we can all be proud of.*



## Stratford High School to host students from New Caledonia



Stratford High School will be the host school for twenty-three students from New Caledonia during their ten days in New Zealand in August.

The students and their teacher, Valérie Langlois, arrive in Stratford on Saturday, 13 August. The students are from Collège Raymond Vauthier, a high school in the east coast town of Poindimié. Their visit is the result of the formal exchange Stratford High entered into with the Collège in 2008. Last year, the Collège hosted twenty-one of our students.

While they are with us, Collège Raymond Vauthier's students will live with our families. They will spend time in class and explore the Taranaki region. Stratford High is responsible for putting together their programme.

Stratford High's exchange with Collège Raymond Vauthier is

now in its fourth year. Both schools value the unique cultural and language experience the exchange provides. Our students are hoping that many of the friends they made in Poindimié in 2010 will be travelling to Stratford with the group.



## Jack Porter Tournament 2011

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April the Stratford High School 1<sup>st</sup> XV travelled to Pahiataua to compete in the annual Jack Porter Tournament hosted by Taranua College. We narrowly lost our first game to Central Hawkes Bay College putting us out of the contention for the tournament trophy. Paul Haenga and Hamish Walker both scored tries with Taylor Mackie being named Man of the Match. The final score was 17-12 to Central Hawkes Bay College.

On Friday we played off for third place and successfully beat Taranua College in another hard game. We won the match 22 – 12 with Hamish Walker, Jason Simpson, Jarrod Thompson and Aaron Buckland all scoring tries and Jason receiving the Man of the Match award. The final was between Central Hawkes Bay College and Waiopehu College with Waiopehu coming out the winners.

Thank you to John Espin and Jeff Walker for giving up their time to coach the team. Congratulations to Aaron Buckland, Scott Caskey, Jack Espin, Jarvis Gotty, Taylor Mackie, Ella Robinson, Jason Simpson and Hamish Walker who were all selected for the tournament team. We are proud to have had eight members of our Strat-

ford High School team named in the 24 man tournament squad.

Thanks to Taranua College for hosting the tournament and we look forward to competing in 2012.

*Jack Espin,  
Captain.*



# 2011 ANZAC Day Commemorations

Our Head Boy and Girl spoke at the Stratford RSA ANZAC Day ceremony and to the school at assembly last week on the meaning of ANZAC.

TAYLOR  
BAILEY



On this day, the 25th of April in 1915, a group of volunteer New Zealand and Australian soldiers found themselves wading ashore before dawn at a small beach on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey, now known as ANZAC cove. Many of these men were only teenagers, some as young as 16. All were anxious to prove that as the representatives of their new nation they would not be found lacking courage and military ability; and that they could acquit themselves at least as well as the soldiers of older, more established countries of Europe. The events on the day of that landing in Gallipoli, and the days to follow, were the unbreakable and permanent foundation for our nation building.

For eight months after the first landings, those young ANZACs underwent a 'trial by ordeal'. 36,000 New Zealand and Australian soldiers were killed or wounded at Gallipoli.

In that terrible battle, and in the associated hospitals and training camps, young New Zealanders earned a reputation for courage, self-reliance and mateship. The experience drew New Zealanders together as a nation and established a New Zealand character, that set standards for all the soldiers, sailors and airmen who followed them in the wars that followed.

At Gallipoli so many years ago, those young men and women found out what it is to be a New Zealander. Our lush green country, with its open skies and small population helps shape healthy, confident, competitive, and freedom loving individuals who, with good leadership and high motivation, can more than match the best people in the world in whatever they do. I believe they are the ones

who initiated our can do, and never give up attitude.

I believe this is why New Zealanders come together every ANZAC day. We do it to remember the ANZACs and their achievements, the very high standards they set for those who followed them. To honour the heroism, tenacity and resilience of the devoted New Zealanders who served our country. To remember the very people who built the foundations of our nation and the ever lasting values we shall hold.

TIM  
STANNERS



On this day, every year, we gather to remember the sacrifice of the brave and valiant who gave their all before the unforgiving cliffs of Gallipoli, some ninety-six years ago. The carnage that followed the ANZAC landing was on an unprecedented scale. It was a defining moment, a coming of age, for two great nations — New Zealand and Australia.

We stand here today to honour these soldiers and the memory of their hardship, endured for us. We have pledged that "we will remember them". The ANZAC spirit lives on, close-on a century later, as alive now as at its birth, on the catastrophic morning in 1915. It lives on in the people here and the stories of places on the far side of the world, stories passed down that tell of heroism, sacrifice and what our extended family across the Ditch refer to as "mateship", in a time when fewer and fewer of us have a direct link to someone who fought in what history calls "the Great War".

Ninety-six years have passed. Look around you. The spirit of ANZAC survives with passion and intensity.

Why is this? It survives because it of what the word has come to mean. Today, the word ANZAC resonates with belief in a freedom to choose our way to live together, and peace and sense of security as we do this. This is precious. Today's world offers us a lot to fear. Despite such threats, however,

we have something to hold on to – the memory and the tradition of the bravery, valour and determination of those who fought for us, to safeguard these things sacred to us—freedom, liberty and peace.

New Zealand is what it is today because of ANZAC Day. This day reminds Australia and New Zealand of a crucial part of our identity. It reminds us that we are courageous, strong of heart, and willing to fight to secure and defend what we value. It reminds us that peace, freedom and democracy matter, and of our responsibility to ensure that the society we live in today is as it should be: free from terrorism, fear and political uncertainty.

The first ANZAC Day gave us a picture of unity against incredible odds. The recent, terrible calamity of the Christchurch earthquake also showed us a picture of extended family coming together to fight alongside each other, Australian workers immediately here to assist, repair and help New Zealand in its time of need. This truly is a testament to the bond we share with our neighboring country.

As we gather here today, I am mindful that the Gallipoli peninsula saw a tragic end of life for many youth, of a similar age and background to myself and my peers. I acknowledge their strength and courage, and am proud that my school hall at Stratford High has a section devoted to those young men and women who allowed us all to enjoy a peaceful life. We must remain thankful for these brave ANZACs, whose sacrifice has allowed us to live a life free of such heartache, conflict and fear, with freedom to choose and pursue what we wish to achieve.

Some would argue that it is time to put this campaign, this remembrance, to bed and to move on. I disagree. Today we stand side by side with our Australian neighbours to remember and reflect, and thus show that the spirit of ANZAC is as strong as ever. Lest we forget? No, we will not. I am a proud New Zealander, and because of the sacrifices that have been made for me, I can be who I wish to be. Today is a day of remembrance, and

# Board of Trustees Report

Well as we move into term two, things at SHS are going along to plan. The Board is busy trying to get minor repairs around the school finished and plan ahead for future property refurbishment. We did have plans to try and refurbish Cleland Block, but this involves extra funding from the MoE. This unfortunately will have to wait with the MoE using all possible funding to rebuild the Christchurch school system, which our school supports. The Board is reviewing some school policies and procedures and writing a new *Charter and Strategic Plan* for the future. This involves a lot of work but when finished, we will see our school heading in a positive and constructive direction.

We have seen our students attend many outings and from all accounts represented our school at a high standard. Things like Relay for Life, Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival, sporting events and school trips. We take pride in seeing our students showcasing our school.

The Board has also worked very hard over the last two years with the LSM, who has helped the school with getting the finances and financial systems into a workable position. The work that has been completed over the last twelve months has been enormous and the results will be obvious when the audited accounts are back in the near future. The Board has set a budget this year that will allow the school to operate successfully and provide all the needs that the staff and students require to provide our children a first class learning environment.

The Board and staff are monitoring and reviewing how the school deals with bullying as this seems to be the topic of the moment. I will say that it has always been there, but more into the press now due to Facebook, the internet and texting. SHS has good systems in place but as I said are reviewing them. One thing parents and caregivers can do to help, is try and monitor internet usage and texting by students. If you don't know what they are up to on the net, then how can you say they are not doing something you don't approve of?

On a negative note, this year we have had far too many students suspended and in front of the Board because of disciplinary action. We as a Board see ONE student as opposed to many. Students and parents have to realise, that as a student you get only one chance to go through school and one chance to achieve an education as a youth. The future and the direction of the students are set at secondary school. The school is here for the students. It is here for the students to achieve and to plan their future. Please remember that and make the most of your time here. We as a Board have over 500 students to provide for and we will not allow a few to mess it up and disrupt those students who genuinely want to succeed. So as I have previously stated, we will continue to take a strong but fair approach to those who offend. Finally I would like to thank the staff, students and the community for their support and wish you all the best for the rest of the year.

*Alan Frost*

*Chairman SHS BoT*

## Parent / Teacher Relationships

Rule 3 and 4 of the relationship rules series.

### **Rule 3: Partner with your child's teacher.**

Children who do best at school are the ones who have parents (at home) and teachers (at school) working closest together.

- ◆ Teachers describe parent-teacher relationships as essential, vital and critical.
- ◆ Positive links between parents and teachers create positive attitudes to school.
- ◆ Your involvement will help your child's progress at school, build trust and resolve differences.
- ◆ Parent-teacher partnerships, like any teamwork, benefit from communication.

### **Rule 4: Participate in your child's school**

No matter what support or assistance parents can offer, regardless of whether it's during school hours or out-of-hours, it's always appreciated.

- ◆ Read school communications regularly.
- ◆ Support the school's values in your home and encourage respect.
- ◆ Involve yourself in the school community through a diverse range of activities.
- ◆ Look for opportunities to share knowledge and experience.
- ◆ Respect the teacher's professionalism.
- ◆ Ultimately your child will reap the benefits of your involvement.

# CAREERS NEWS – TERM TWO

If you are interested in any events you will need to sign up in the library or visit Mrs Milner & Ms Hodson in the careers room in T Block for more information. Parents are more than welcome to attend these liaison visits if they wish – please phone Viv Milner on 06 765 6039 – extn 716 for times and dates.

## This week:

- ♦ **Waikato Open Day:** Fri, 13 May at the Hamilton Campus. The van will be leaving from school at 6am sharp and returning by 6.30pm for those students who have already signed up.

## Junior students

- ♦ **Workchoice Day:** Tues, 17 May. This is a 1 day national event which involves Yr 12 students experiencing a place of employment with participating company Contact Energy on East Rd. This is an exciting opportunity to see first-hand the many careers involved, which include electrical & mechanical engineering.
- ♦ **Babysitting Course:** 2 day course on Mon, 16 May & Wed, 18 May from 3.30pm – 5.30pm in Library. Interested Yr 9, 10 & 11's please sign up in Library. *If the 2 day course does not suit everyone, we are able to change it to a 1 day(4 hour) course.*

**Stratford District Youth Council Youth Expo:** May 26 from 1pm to 5.30 pm @ War Memorial Hall

## Liaison visits

- ♦ **Canterbury University Liaison Visit:** Period 4, Thurs 12 May (Day 5). Interested Yr 12 & 13's sign up now
- ♦ **Victoria University Liaison Visit:** P 5, Tues 17 May (Day 2). Interested Yr 12 & 13's sign up now
- ♦ **Waikato University Liaison Visit:** Period 2, 2 June in Library. Yr 12 & 13 students may sign up in Library.
- ♦ **Navy Careers Bus:** at SHS on Wed, 25 May (Day 2) all day.

**WITT Open Day:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. More information later.

**Get Ahead Agriculture Careers Experience Day:** Thur 2 June. Yr 12 students interested in a career in the ag industry (not just farming – includes science & commerce)

**Smedley Station & Cadet Training Farm:** Orientation will be held on 11 & 12 June. Applications close at the end of July. Check out [www.smedley.ac.nz](http://www.smedley.ac.nz)

**Defensive Driving Course** – A 4 day course has been scheduled for Mon & Wed, 20 & 22 June & 27 & 29 June from 3.30pm – 5.30pm. \$50 charge for this course to cover books. There are limited places so sign up early

**NZ Army Careers Experience (ACE) 2011:** Mon, 18 July – Fri, 22 July at Linton Military Camp. Limited places available for students to check out trades available, stay in barracks, eat in the mess, conduct Army-style physical training & get hands-on experience of what life is really like in the Army! Nomination forms available through the Careers office for Yr 11 – 13 students.

**Waikato University Science Open Day:** Thurs, 28 July & **Waikato University Engineering Open Day:** Fri, 29 July – Limited places available by registering at [www.sci.waikato.ac.nz](http://www.sci.waikato.ac.nz), talking to your science teacher, or emailing [science@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:science@waikato.ac.nz)

**Petroleum Skills Association NZ** is providing an opportunity for 3 students at Yr 12 or 13 from SHS to attend an interactive student workshop at the NZ Petroleum Conference in New Plymouth on Thurs, 09 June and Fri, 10 June. More information from Mrs Milner or to be considered for nomination, please sign up in the Library.

**Studylink:** Period 5, 29 June to present on loans & allowances for study in 2012. *Every student studying at any tertiary institution next year should attend.*

**Car Painting Work Experience** – We have been offered an opportunity for a student to experience this trade with a local car painter. Yr 12 or 13 students interested in being considered for this, please see Mrs Milner in the Careers Room.

**Youth Transition Services – Tui Ora Ltd:** YTS provides a service for students who are ready for transitioning. This service is available every second Wednesday between 9am & 10am – to make an appointment please sign up on the Careers Board in the Library.

The next newsletter will be issued in week 6 of Term 2. The website is updated regularly with new information.