



# newsletter

Week 11 Newsletter – 3 July 2015

## Kia Ora – Greetings to you all -the final newsletter for this term

### Well, what a fantastic term we have had!

It is hard to put into a summary all that has occurred in this term. Every part of our school has had students actively engaged in the learning, from the “routine”, critically important foundational learning in English/Mathematics, through to the rich inquiries that have been running across the school. These latter learning programmes have shown extra-ordinary engagement of students in their own learning, their detail in sharing their learning and, truly, their genuine curiosity, ingenuity and passion in following some of their wonderings. Well done all.

Coupled with the “in-class” learning we have had a raft of sporting and other challenges that our young people engage in – not just the weekend and club sports, but also the sporting, outdoor education, aeroplane build and other activities that occur. We are really well supported by our parents and caregivers and I believe our school is really fortunate in this regard.

### Mid-year Achievement reports

These are now complete and should be with you directly. If you have not received your child’s report please contact the main office and we will resend it.

At this stage of the year I am able to gauge an impression of the overall learning and achievement levels across our school, as I read all the reports. There are some very fine achievements at this midyear phase and our young people should be well pleased with their overall focus on learning. This is the half-way point of our learning and academic year and we know there is more to do in the second half. Senior students are well engaged in their focus on NCEA and as always we are encouraging them to strive at Merit and Excellence achievements. Students in Year 9 and 10 continue to gain greater skill and knowledge in all the learning areas whilst our students in Years 1-8 are striving toward meeting the National Standards benchmarks in Reading, Writing and Mathematics and Statistics and they are making good progress. There are some parent/teacher interview forums for students in Y1-8 when term 3 starts and I would like to encourage parents with students in Y9-13 to make appointments with key staff if there are any areas of concern or query you may have about your child’s achievement, learning or wellbeing as the formal parent/teacher interviews are somewhat later in term 3.

### Dates for your diary

Date	Event
2 July	8BAS - Y10 Leaders Pinnacles Tramp
3 July	Term ends Mid Year Reports sent out
<b>20 July</b>	<b>TEACHERS ONLY DAY</b>
<b>21 July</b>	<b>Term 3 begins Tuesday</b>
23 July	Year 8 Problem Challenge
25 July	Senior School Ball
29 July	Y4-8 Cross Country Y7-8 Parent Teacher Interviews Bookings open 4 July <a href="http://www.parentinterviews.co.nz">www.parentinterviews.co.nz</a> Booking Code: NXADM
30 July	Y1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews Bookings open 4 July <a href="http://www.parentinterviews.co.nz">www.parentinterviews.co.nz</a> Booking Code: HNJML
5 August	Y7 & 8 Maori Electives Day TVSS Boys Football
6 August	8SPD Sailing Day Careers Expo 1.30pm start
7 August	TVSS Badminton

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## **Property Changes over the break – with the help of funding from the Seaside Carnival**

There are two major property projects that will occur over the break.

The first is the upgrade of our junior playground. Essentially this will be a construction zone and the playground will be unable to be used – it will be considered a “dangerous” site so supervision around this area is essential. The bark will be removed and replaced with “cushion fall” and the pipework and other structures will be refurbished/repainted. This project has been enabled by the funds raised at the Seaside Carnival last summer and is part one of a two part upgrade of our playground areas in the Primary School. We are waiting for external funding to support the second part (the relocation and expansion of the Y4-6 playground).

The second project is the installation of stairs and platforms in the middle years blocks that will improve the safety of and access to our classrooms as well as providing more seating for our students.

## **Farewell to some staff**

We have a number of staff who are leaving us at this point of the year. Mr Bosson is off, after 4 and a half years, to the United Arab Emirates; Ms Denise Wilkie and Ms Joanne Mannington who have helped with our classes during the term. We thank them all for their contributions.

## **Health consultation/assessment for Year 9 students**

We have been fortunate to have received support from Midlands Health to initiate a programme of full health assessments for all our Year 9 students, commencing next term. This will occur on Wednesdays and is a fantastic platform for us to understand the health needs of our young people. This is a unique pilot project which is likely to continue into and throughout 2016. The detail of the programme will be circulated early next term to caregivers, however I am really delighted we have this support from the Ministry of Health – it is usually only available to decile 3 secondary schools (we are a decile 5 school).

## **Uniform – changes to retail outlet**

There is a change in the retail outlet for our uniforms. Whitianga Sports Ltd, will no longer be selling our school uniform and we thank Derek and his staff for their support. Our uniform will be retailed, in late August, through the Warehouse chain and in the mean time we will have all the usual uniform stock available for purchase through our office. We need to ensure we clear our stock before the Warehouse take over formally.

## **Professional Learning Day and best wishes for a great break**

This is a brief reminder that our school will be closed on 20 July while staff continue with their professional learning forums (around “Inquiry”, “Blended eLearning”, NCEA training and more). These are very valuable days for us and the learning undertaken is superb.

Finally I wish you all, all the very best for the break – I hope the weather is kind to us: that you are able to share quality family time together and recharge the “learning batteries” ready for a full return to school on 21 July.

Kind regards

Ka kite ano

John Wright

Principal

john.wright@mbas.ac.nz



## Choir News

MBAS students, Alex Nielsen, Emily Grinrod, Hannah Coleman-Smith, Izzie Elder, Juliette Lidgard and Sebastian Ross, have been hard at work learning their parts for A Winter Sing. Over the holidays, they will have a further week of intense tutoring with Dr James Niblock from Pennsylvania, USA before singing in a big choir of 50 people at the Whitianga Town Hall on Saturday 18 July (last Sat of the school holidays). Some of you may recall when James Niblock was here in 2008 and 2010 and how wonderful those concerts were! This event is being hosted by the Mercury Bay Community Choir and to encourage other MBAS pupils to hear their schoolmates sing, plus experience a big choir sound, entry to the concert is free if you are under 18. It starts at 7pm. Adults can buy tickets at Paper Plus (\$15) or at the door.

## The Bays Best Auditions - Saturday 1 August

Creative Mercury Bay are bring The Bay's Best back to Whitianga. Watch this space for a date but start working on your auditions over the holidays. For more details visit [www.creativemercurybay.co.nz](http://www.creativemercurybay.co.nz) or LIKE their Facebook page - **Creative Mercury Bay 2015** to get the latest news.



## 8FOR Gold Mining Tunnels Trip

As part of their "Gold mining in the Coromandel" unit 8FOR went on a day trip to Kuaotunu on Tuesday 23rd June. Our first visit was to the Kuaotunu hall to view photos of how the township was in the gold mining days and to look at equipment used by the miners. We then went on to Rebecca Simpson's property and walked up to and into three old mining tunnels. Rebecca was a fantastic guide giving us a lot of history and facts about the tunnels and miners. We enjoyed our day in the bush and really enjoyed exploring the tunnels. We are very grateful to Rebecca and the other four parents who accompanied us on the trip.

8FOR and Mrs Fotheringham



## SPECIALIST MUSIC LESSONS - TERM 3

If you have students who will not be continuing with their specialist keyboard, drum, flute, clarinet, saxophone, harmonica, guitar or bass lessons next term you need to inform the school office before the beginning of Term 3 to avoid being charged for the lessons, and to allow us to fill the lesson space with other students.

Thank you from the Music department.



## The Primary school will have Parent Teacher interviews on 30th July 3.20-7.30pm.

Y1-6 Parent Teacher Interviews

Bookings open 4 July

[www.parentinterviews.co.nz](http://www.parentinterviews.co.nz)

Booking Code: **HNJML**

# TOUGH WEEK FOR THE TEAMS WITH WINTER ILLS

- 1st XV played Thames at home with slim numbers - put up strong opposition but lost 36-14
- Tries by Angus Arthur and Cameron Richards with conversions by Jayden Tegg
- Devo played a friendly game against Thames, in Thames, as they were unable to field 15 players.
- 4th Grade deferred their game to Tuesday this week due to lack of numbers
- Girls played some great rugby in Whangamata on Sunday, beating Te Aroha 81-5 in their last pool game and went into the final on the top of the points table.

The final game against Te Kauwhata was a solid win for the Bay girls 55-7 and they have won the 10's trophy for MBAS. The girls and their parents also worked hard on Saturday raising funds for the team by doing a BBQ at the Rugby club for the afternoon. Thanks to all the people who bought raffle tickets, baking, sausages and mussel fritters and the Rugby Club for allowing us to fund raise on their club day, the girls appreciate your support!

The winner of the grocery raffle was Yvonne Simpson

## THIS SATURDAY - 4 JULY

- 1st XV play Paeroa at home - kick off 11.30
- Devo play HPC in Ngatea kick off 10am
- 4th Grade play Te Aroha in Te Aroha kick off 10am
- Girls take a break for a few weeks before starting their Fifteen-a-side Campaign next term



## WELCOME TO WHITIANGA COMMUNITY WAKA AMA INTRODUCTORY COURSE WEATHER PERMITTING SOUTHERN END OF BROPHY'S BEACH

For Children and Youth – Wednesday 8th July & Thursday 9th July and Friday 17th July 10am-2pm.

For Men – Wednesday 8th July and Friday 17th July 5pm (5 places only for each evening).

For Women – Thursday 9th July and Saturday 18th July 7am (5 places only for each morning).

Bookings are required, limited seats available. Expect to go out for 40 minute sessions.

Commitment – Need to show up on time (10-15mins prior to your session).

Cost – \$2 donation per session.

### WHAT TO BRING

Thermal clothing / wetsuit and lifejacket if possible.

Clothing – Shorts / T-Shirt (Jeans are not suitable).

Footwear – Jandals / Boat Shoes / Old Sneakers.

Cold Weather – Polyprop / Wind Breaker / Beanie.

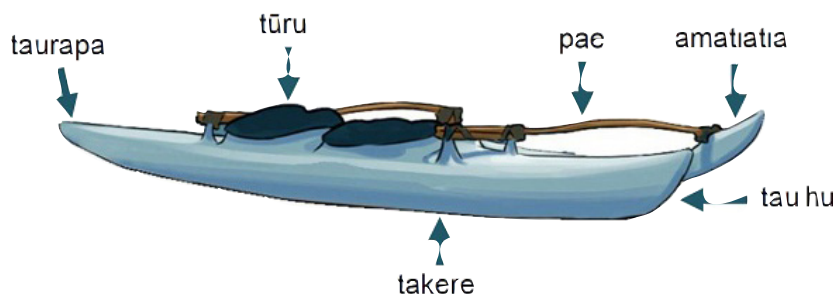
Afterwards – Towel / Drink Bottle.

We supply Canoes, Paddles and Life-Jackets.

Where:

Contact: Whitianga Community Waka Ama (Jenny) / 866 4476 / [wcst@extra.co.nz](mailto:wcst@extra.co.nz)

Check out our Facebook Page- **Whitianga Community Waka Ama** to see if your preferred session is cancelled due to weather conditions.



## Teacher Only Day – Monday, July 20th

OSCAR program at Social Services. Numbers are limited to 20. Call 866 4476