



Mahurangi College

NEWSLETTER



From your Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians

Tena Koutou Katoa

Welcome back to the 2010 school year. I hope you all had the opportunity for a refreshing break with your families over the summer holidays. And a very special welcome to all first time parents to Mahurangi College.

Our *NCEA results* from 2009 were again very good. The interim results show us above national average at all three levels of NCEA and above the average for other decile 8 schools at levels 2 and 3. At level 1 we were 0.7% below the average for other decile 8 schools – the girls were above but the boys were slightly below. Particularly pleasing were our Merit and Excellence results which were well above national average and decile 8 average at levels 2 and 3.

Congratulations to following students who gained *scholarships*, which places them in the top 3% of students taking that subject nationally:

- **Melody Freeth** Biology, English and Statistics
- **Annelise Basevi** Biology and Chemistry
- **Imogen Edwards** Media
- **Dominic Smith** Statistics
- **Ian Paterson** Physics
- **Nicola Sandford** Design

Both Melody and Annelise will be studying Bio-medicine this year, Melody at Auckland University and Annelise at Otago University.



Melody and Annelise

The Board and staff were all very encouraged by our positive *ERO report* after the visit of the Education Review Office last year. The full report is available online at <http://www.ero.govt.nz> and a copy of the letter to parents is enclosed with this newsletter.

A very warm welcome to all our *new staff* this year:

- **Mr S Johnston** Mathematics and PE
- **Mr Carty** Junior Faculty
- **Miss Keane** Visual Art
- **Mr Hill** Accounting and Economics
- **Mr D Thompson** English
- **Mrs Tahitahi** English
- **Mrs Healy** Junior Faculty
- **Mr Stewart** Technology
- **Mr C Taylor** Junior Faculty
- **Miss Bain** Drama

Welcome back to Mrs Rhodes in PE and to Mrs Pinkerton in English from their maternity leave.

Congratulations to Mrs Cath Johnston who has been promoted to the position of Assistant Principal. Mrs Johnston has been a House Dean for the past seven years and has had responsibility of pastoral programmes within the school.

2010 House Deans are:

Blue Mr Glover

Green Mrs Hayward

Purple Mrs Hamer

Orange Mr C Taylor

Red Mr Collings

Yellow Miss Russ

On Thursday, 11 February our Head and Deputy Head Prefects welcomed the new American Ambassador to our school, where he spoke to a number of senior classes in the school library.



Cath Johnston



Sam Clack (Head boy), Stephanie Baddock (Head girl), Mr Macleod, Ambassador Huebner, Emma Wrigglesworth (Deputy Head girl), Thomas Ussher (Deputy Head boy).

On Wednesday 24 February we have the school *athletics championships* for all our students at Shoemith Domain – it is important for this that students bring

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New staff to Mahurangi College this year

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a sunhat, sun block and a full water bottle. If the weather is doubtful they should also bring a coat and jersey. Junior and middle school students need to be dressed in their correct PE uniform and senior students in sensible running gear.

Mr Colin Shilston will continue as *school chaplain* again this year. He brings a brief message to most of our junior assemblies on Christian themes, values or festivals. Any parents who would like their children withdrawn from this should contact our Head of the Junior Faculty, Mrs Hollyer.

We encourage parents to email the school at newsletter@mahurangi.school.nz in order to have this newsletter automatically emailed home each issue. Alternatively, the newsletters are available online on our website www.mahurangi.school.nz as are the daily school notices.

We look forward to another full and successful year.

- David Macleod, **Principal**

DATES

Wednesday February 17

- Swimming Champs

Monday February 22

- North Harbour

Swimming Champs

Wednesday February 24

- Athletics Day

Monday March 1

- Photo Day

Wednesday March 3

- Mufti Day

Thursday March 4

- NH Athletics Champs

Creating educationally powerful connections

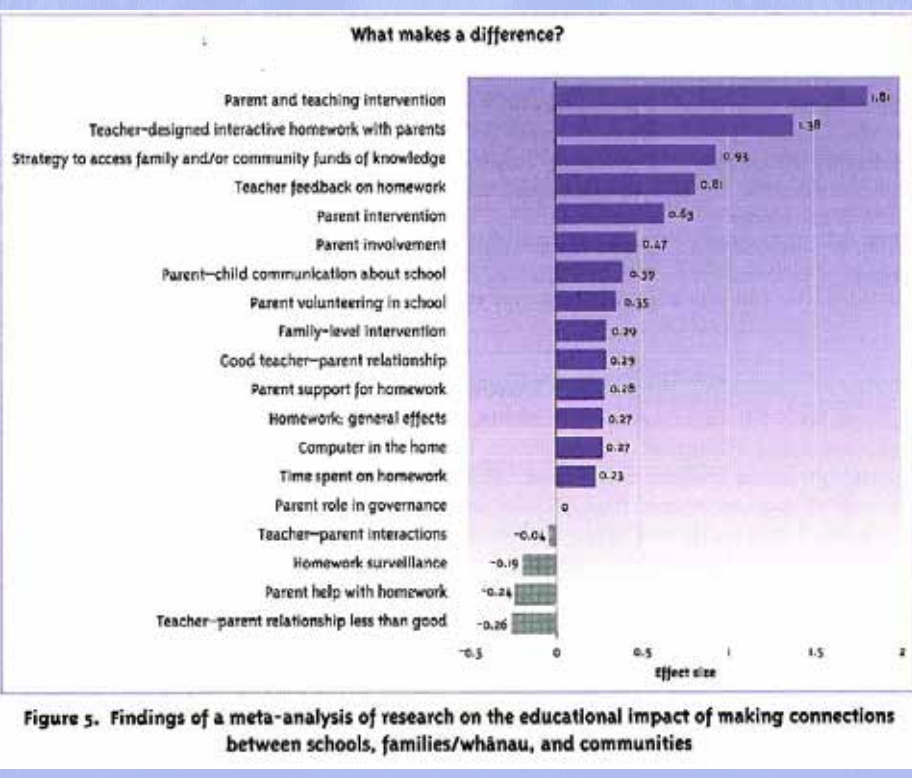
Extract and summary from; School Leadership and Student Outcomes: Identifying What Works and Why (<http://educationcounts.govt.nz/goto/BES>).

This report, recently released, analyses national and international literature on the effects on student outcomes of various types of school-home connection. "The results of this meta-analysis (as shown in figure) shows that different types of parental involvement can have large, small, or even negative influences on student achievement. School leaders can build educationally powerful connections with families, whanau, and communities through teaching, through homework and through school-home relationships"

All teachers serve a leadership role, we are persons of influence not only within the school but also within the community. We do 'cast a shadow' and the type of connections we make within our 'school family' can have a big outcome on student achievement. This table does not reflect 'best practice' but reflects best evidence. E.g. 'homework can support or undermine student achievement depending on how it is designed.... Positive effects are more likely to be associated with programmes that support parents with strategies for effective help."

Reflective Exercise: Which school-home connections have you found to be helpful? Why were they helpful? Which group were they helpful for?

- Andrew Allen, (RTL B)



Great Barrier

A 3am meet on Sunday morning at the Sandspit wharf saw 94 Year 13 students, accompanied by 20 parents and staff, out of bed nice and early with packs ready to take on Great Barrier.

Easterly winds greeted us ensuring we had a long, and (sickening for some) ferry ride before arriving on the Island.

The groups separated and for five days we tramped around the island living out of our packs, carrying our tents and food - a challenge for many as it was not quite the dining



and accommodation we were used to. Yet it proved to be an amazing time for all despite encountering a small storm on the first night responsible for ripping a few tent flies, breaking poles and leaving unwanted puddles of water in many of our tents.

In conjunction with the camp we began our Peer Support training with Mrs Johnston at the Haratonga Campground, helping to create group unity while providing a much needed rest from all the walking. It was an experience

I'm sure we will treasure for a long time. Thank you to Mr Stirling for making it possible.