

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Can I begin with a warm welcome to all the Otahuhu College parents. To the new parents well done on your choice of school. At Otahuhu we are trying to cater for all students from the gifted to the struggler.

Our exam results reflect this. The overall number of qualifications gained by students in 2009 at levels 1 to 3 is up by 10%. The most pleasing feature of this is in Year 13 at level 3 where we are now getting twice the number of NCEA level 3 passes that we got in 2006. Also at that level we had 39 students complete level one. This is a testament to the fact that we do not give up on our students. I will include a comprehensive NCEA analysis in the next newsletter.

The year has got off to a great start with the haka waiata competition a superb example of what Otahuhu College is about. It demonstrated teamwork, discipline, cultural awareness and excellence.

Currently our cultural groups are practising hard for the festival while our volleyball and touch teams have got off to a winning start.

This year is going to be a very special year for Otahuhu College.

Kia Tamatane

G I LAURENSEN
Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees will next meet on

Thursday 25 February 2010
at 6.00 pm in Rooms H4/H5

(off the Hall Foyer in M Block)

SCHOOL CALENDAR – TERM ONE 2010

Month of FEBRUARY Wednesday 24th **Academic Awards, 7.00pm in School Hall** Thursday 25th School Athletics . Mt Smart Stadium Thursday 25th **Board of Trustees Meeting, H4/5, 6.00pm** Month of MARCH Monday 1st ASS Athletics Girls . Mt Smart Stadium Tuesday 2nd ASS Athletics Boys . Mt Smart Stadium Saturday 6th ASS Waka Ama Regatta Seniors . Orakei Basin Wednesday 10th ASS Athletics . Champ of Champs . Mt Smart Friday 12th & Saturday 13th ASS Volleyball Championships (TBA) Tuesday 16th..... **Fiafia Evening in School Hall Wednesday 17 – 20** Auckland Secondary Schools Polyfest Saturday 20th NISS Athletics . Wellington Sunday 21 – 27 NISS Volleyball Championships . Palmerston Nth Tuesday 23 – 26 NZSS Waka Ama Championships - Rotorua Thursday 25th **Van Morrison Tribute, School Hall, 7.00pm** Thursday 25th **Board of Trustees Meeting, H4/5, 6.00pm** Tuesday 30th ASS Kilikiti Tournament Seniors - Auckland Wednesday 31st **Parent / Report Interviews Month of April** Thursday 1st April **END OF TERM TWO – School Holidays** Monday 19th April **START OF TERM TWO**

Academic Awards Evening

Wednesday 24th February at 7.00pm.

Parents and Students are invited to join us to acknowledge and congratulate the successes our 2009 senior students who have performed well in their studies for 2009. Please be in the school hall by 6.45pm.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (NCEA)

This is the first in a series of feature articles in our newsletters throughout this year, which will answer questions about particular aspects of NCEA.

WHAT IS NCEA?

- " NCEA stands for **N**ational **C**ertificate of **E**ducational **A**chievement
- " NZQA stands for **The N**ew **Z**ealand **Q**ualifications **A**uthority . this is the Government administered body that runs NCEA.

NEW WORDS FOR AN OLD SYSTEM

- " Level 1 (Year 11) . replaces School Certificate
- " Level 2 (Year 12) . replaces University Entrance
- " Level 3 (Year 13) . replaces Bursary
- " Scholarship still exists, as it did before

HOW DOES IT WORK? Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 work towards a qualification, gaining credits by passing a series of assessments. Most students will be working towards gaining credits in either one or both of the following types of assessments

- " **UNIT STANDARDS:** These are **all internally assessed** – this means that they are assessed in class during the year.
- " **ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS:** Some are **internally assessed**, while the rest are **externally assessed** – this means that they are assessed at the end of the year with a nationally based exam. All students in New Zealand sit the exam at the same time.
- " **Both types of standards are nationally recognized.**
- " Each student's course is tailored to meet his/her individual needs.
- " Standards are criteria that have to be met by a student in order to gain credits . it may be a skill like graphing or public speaking, or it may be knowledge based.

WHAT ARE STANDARDS? A year's course is made up of **STANDARDS:**

- " Each student's course is tailored to meet his/her individual needs.
- " Standards are criteria that have to be met by a student in order to gain credits . it may be a skill like graphing or public speaking, or it may be knowledge based.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Junior Students [Years 9 . 11] wear blue uniforms.

The uniform items will last for three years with careful treatment. The girls' skirt should be hand-washed only in warm water. **Senior students** [Years 12 . 13] wear black and white uniforms.

SCHOOL FOOTWEAR

In the summer **Terms 1 & 4** sandals may be worn . black or dark-brown Roman sandals are preferred.

*High fashion sandals **OR** jandals are not accepted.*

In winter **Terms 2 & 3** school shoes must be worn. These are to be leather, lace-up school shoes.

***NOT** boots, slippers, sports shoes or other high-fashion styles.*

We would appreciate parents' assistance in this matter.

Student ID Cards

ID photographs will be taken on 18-19 February. ID cards can be ordered from the school office. Cost is \$6.00. ID cards are useful to ensure student fares on the bus and train.