



NEWSLETTER, JULY 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We have had a very full and difficult second term, and it would be fair to say that staff were ready for a break.

I would like to thank you all for your understanding around the flood time, and I extend my sympathy and best wishes to those of you whose properties have been affected by water. The School field was like a lake – seagull paradise! - and we have sustained some water damage in the Automotive area which will require a lot of work to repair. It was good that we were able to continue lessons from the Tuesday.

Term 3 is ten weeks long, finishing on Friday 25 September.

The focus for *all* students has to be academic achievement, with School examinations for the seniors in weeks eight and nine. As Year 11, 12 and 13 students finish in week 4 of Term 4, we will be working hard to ensure they are well prepared for the external examinations. Junior examinations are held once the seniors go, so the Juniors also need to be well prepared.

During this term we are expecting two visiting schools, one, Xu Zhou, from China, and the other, Namiki, from Japan. I have been asked by the International Department to say that they are wanting home stay accommodation for the students from Japan, who will be here from 19 August till 27 August. If you think you could help, please contact the International secretary on 349 1181.

We are also expecting the ERO Review office from Monday 24 August to Friday 4 September.

As Term 4 is very short for the Seniors, and there are a number of award ceremonies, the following dates may be of interest to you for forward planning:

Thursday 15 October	Sports Awards
Thursday 22 October	Cultural Awards
Thursday 29 October	Maori Awards
Wednesday 4 November	Y11 Prizegiving (1.30pm start). Final day for Y11.
Thursday 5 November	Y12 Prizegiving (1.30pm start). Final day for Y12. Y13 Prizegiving (7.00pm start). Final day for Y13.
Friday 6 November	NCEA examinations begin.
Monday 9 November	Junior examinations begin (two days)
Friday 11 December	Final day for the Junior School Prizegiving at 11.00am.

Final reports for 2015 will be issued to students on the day of their respective prizegiving.

TERM 3 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday 22 July	Pasifika in Palmerston North (2 days)
Thursday 23 July	Sports exchange vs NPGHS (here)
Monday 27 July	NCEA Report <i>A report will be posted home for each student in Years 11 to 13, indicating their progress towards their NCEA level certificate.</i>
Tuesday 4 August	Sports team photos
Thursday 13 August	Central Six Winter tournament
Friday 21 August	Teacher Only day NZQA Fees are due (this applies to students in Years 11 to 13)
Monday 24 August	ERO review begins
Tuesday 1 September	Period 5 Professional development <i>Students will be released at 1.50pm. The library Homework Centre will be open until 4.30pm and buses will run as normal.</i>
Monday 31 August – Friday 4 September	Winter Tournament Week <i>A number of our sports teams will be involved in competitions this week.</i>
Wednesday 9 September – Friday 18 September	WHS Senior Examinations <i>All subjects will be offering an examination and students are expected to attend. Study leave is a privilege not a right, and therefore students have to earn the permission to have it. Students will be considered on a case by case basis, and they should know whether they qualify or not by Monday 7 September. A study pass will be issued, and parents of those students who have not earned it will be contacted.</i>
Friday 25 September	Term 3 ends

Please encourage your son or daughter to plan ahead, especially those in Years 11 to 13. There is not a great deal of time left, and it is certainly not too soon for them to be planning and executing a revision programme, especially for the School examinations. Your support in this regard is valued, as we take an immense pride in our students' academic achievements.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Elizabeth Spooner
Associate Principal