

KEEPING IN TOUCH *with* NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Leading me to lead my learning

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Newsletter - Term 1, Week 6, Friday, 14th March 2008

Tena koutou katoa

I would like to congratulate Ngapuhi Iwi Social Services as they open their new offices on the corner of Broadway and Station Road. The service has gone through some huge changes over the past 18 months and I acknowledge manager Lance Kennedy and his staff for all their efforts in the short time that Lance has been given the reins. Northland College has two active programmes with NISS; the Year 9 STARS Peer Mentoring programme and the District Truancy Service. There are many other arms that link into our College and they are all beneficial to the well being of our students.

I join with Kaikohe Hau Ora as they welcome their new manager Kara Shortland to their offices. Kara was well supported when he was welcomed two weeks ago. He gave the gathering an inkling into his work ethic and his values when he talked about knowing only one miracle worker. Kara is not here to perform miracles, neither is he here to resolve all problems. He is here to work with his team to provide the best possible opportunities to those who need their assistance, the best possible advice to those who seek it and the best possible outcomes to those wanting direction. All the while he is very aware of his ties to the Tai Tokerau but he is his own man. Although we all walk in the shadows of our parents and our tupuna, we must stand on our own feet and be accountable to them through our actions. I wish Kara and his team well as they set out on a renewed journey under new leadership.

REPORT EVENING

This Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm I would like to see all parents and guardians come to the school hall and meet with the teachers of your children. When you arrive you will receive a report that is designed to reflect the preparation and attitude of your child since starting school this year. For Senior Students, the report will cover all five subjects. For all our Middle School students, the report will cover Monday, Tuesday and Friday home classes. I would also like you to meet other new staff to the school including Mr John Matthews our new Deputy Principal who is replacing Mrs Carolyn Bennett who is on two years leave working with Video Conferencing schools throughout the Taitokerau region.

INTER SCHOOL ATHLETICS

These were postponed at the last minute. All schools have been asked to send through the qualifying times, distances and heights for eligible students. Sports Northland will make a decision based on the information they receive. Thanks to the teachers who have been working overtime with students last week to improve qualifying times, distances and heights in order to give them a better shot at getting into the Tai Tokerau inter-provincial athletics team.

SCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

These will be on Tuesday 18th March from 11:00am – 1:30pm. We have already had the heats and we have the names of all students who will be released from class to attend the swimming sports on that day. We would like to see as many parents here to support the students in their swimming on that day. I'm sure that the relays will again be an attraction with the staff looking to retain their winning trophy as they take on the students. There is a lane available for the parents – organise a team.

TE ROOPU ARA WHANUI

Our school Kapa Haka have been very active since the start of the year. Senior students from the group worked with our new intake of Year 9 students to prepare them to welcome back their Year 10, 11 and 12 tuakana at the start of the year. Members of the Roopu attended the opening of the new premises for Ngapuhi Iwi Social Services. They are currently preparing for three big performances.

1. **April 15th and 16th** - Taitokerau Secondary Schools Festival at Okaihau College
2. **May 3rd** - Taitokerau celebrate Willie Apiata VC at Waitangi Treaty Grounds
3. **June 16th to 20th** - National Secondary Schools Kapa Haka competitions in Wellington

The Roopu will be asking for your support as they fund raise to get themselves to these venues. We will keep you informed about events and we look forward to having you support Te Roopu Ara Whanui.

To the parents and caregivers of Te Roopu Ara Whanui and Te Awatea Bilingual Unit; we have a very important meeting next Monday 17th March at 6:00pm in the school hall. Please be here ready to start at 6:00pm and we look forward to finishing the meeting by 7:30pm.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are starting to get a regular group of students coming to school not wearing correct school uniform, in particular incorrect school footwear. We have three current goals.

1. all students achieving to the best of their ability
2. all students taking responsibility for their own actions
3. all students taking pride in Northland College

School uniform is one area where the whole school can contribute to the school wide goal. Students who do not have the correct school uniform need a signed note from home. This needs to be given to me

YEAR 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

I meet with all the Year 9 and 10 students every Thursday afternoon. We do a lot of work on singing and I take the opportunity to talk about expectations of students who enrol at Northland College. I am very concerned with the poor attitude, the lack of respect and the negative impact that some students have on their peers, their classmates and those who do not necessarily have a choice of where they have to sit or who they have to be with.

We often talk about the young people of today having more to do than when we were their age. We also look at them and wish we had the opportunities they had when we were growing up. Be that as it may, it is still up to all of us to work collectively to give our young people the best chances to make something of themselves and their future. It is not the job of the parents alone or the teacher alone or uncle or aunty or the grandparent. It is up to us all. What I am keen on is that the message we are giving is the same

The set of school rules that we use are based on common sense. They reflect what all of us would want to be happening every day of our lives, not just here at school but on the pathways that we walk during our daily lives. We ask our students to respect the health and well being of themselves and others, to use appropriate behaviour and appropriate language. We want them to take full responsibility for their own actions and to not harass anyone physically, mentally, emotionally, sexually or verbally. We ask them to attend all timetabled classes on time and to wear the correct school uniform correctly at all times. We want them treating the other people's property and the school environment with respect. Variations of these rules will apply to each and every one of the students in their future places of employment.

We all need to work collectively for the benefit of all of our students. We can not afford to absolve ourselves of our responsibility and expect someone else to do what we should all be doing. *"It takes a village to raise a child."* This has been a catch phrase for many different organisations for many years. Here in Kaikohekohe we have the opportunity to make this a reality. We do have a good town. We do have good people, we do have good students. Let's collectively put ourselves to task of making good things happen for all of our students.

I again apologise for the lateness in sending out the last newsletter. I will be working hard to ensure we have the fortnightly newsletter out on time every even week of the term.

John Tapene
Principal.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY DAY



LITERACY AND NUMERACY DAY 2008



Thank you to all those who participated in and helped with Literacy and Numeracy day for 2008 it was a great success

ATHLETICS DAY 2008



Well done to all those who donned their house colours and participated in Northland College Athletics day for 2008. The weather was fantastic and it was great to see so much house pride from both staff and students

