



Newsletter Term 2

Issue 5, July 2011

You can find this newsletter and other information, including a calendar of school events, at:
www.onslow.school.nz

Please e-mail any success stories for students of Onslow College to:
success@onslow.school.nz

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to congratulate everyone for getting through another long and demanding term. The changes made to our school year to accommodate the Rugby World Cup have certainly made things difficult and the remainder of the year will no doubt fly by. It is heartening to hear our younger students comment on how fast the year is going - I thought it was just us of the older generation that found that!

I would like to congratulate everyone in the school for their contribution to a successful term. We have so many successful students in an amazing range of activities and I have enjoyed watching many of our sporting and cultural events. The most recent was the outstanding production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", adapted by our students into a wonderful show. We also had our kapa haka group compete in the regional competition. The countless hours of rehearsals for both groups and the commitment and dedication of the staff involved are illustrations of what makes Onslow College such a great school.

Of course, academic achievement is our core business and with half the year gone it is a good time for students to review where they are at - and then what they need to do in the next few months to ensure they achieve to their potential. It is a good time for parents to talk to their children about their progress and to help them set out goals and an action plan for the rest of the year. The second half of the year is often quite stressful for students, especially seniors, so as parents you need to be able to identify when the pressure is building and look for ways to help.

We are also heading into option selection time where students plan out the course they hope to do next year. It is really important that students think carefully about their options and do not restrict their future pathway by choosing subjects that do not lead them through to at least Level 2 and preferably Level 3. Most senior subjects have pre-requisites and that is another reason why it is important students know how they are doing in their present subjects and check if they are on target to achieve the pre-requisites for the following year. Our 2012 curriculum handbooks will be published soon.

It is a busy time with enrolments and our roll for 2012 is already looking very healthy. If you have friends who live in our zone and who are thinking of enrolling their child at Onslow College, please encourage them to get their enrolment in as soon as possible as we are certainly in demand. Out of zone enrolments for Year 9 close on Monday 8 August.

In Term 3 we plan to hold a series of community consultation evenings. We want to hear from parents about things we are doing well and also areas we could develop further. We will promote these evenings nearer the time and we certainly look forward to receiving some constructive feedback at those meetings.

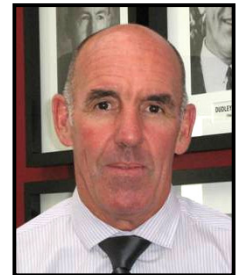
You are no doubt aware of the recent tragedy at King's College. King's have produced a superb booklet with a lot of very useful advice for parents on depression and drug and

alcohol abuse. You can download a copy at www.kingscollege.school.nz (under Teenage Guidance in the menu on the left). I encourage you to do so and congratulate King's on producing a vital resource for parents.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. It is an important time to recharge the batteries and to prepare for what will be a busy Term 3. Enjoy time with your families and friends and be safe.

Best wishes

Peter Leggat
principal@onslow.school.nz



Staff News

Farewell to Tom Hegen and Alex Nalop who have been with us over the last year. Tom and Alex came to Onslow through a German civilian service programme and have done a great job helping our Learning Support and Property departments.

We welcome Cornelius Florin who arrives from Germany at the start of next term. Cornelius comes to us through the same programme and will also be with us for a year.

Community Health Consultation

A Community Health Consultation evening, outlining the Health curriculum and other services provided for students, will be held in the Onslow College staff room on Wednesday 3 August from 6:30-8:00pm.

School Closures

Teacher Only Day - 8 August 2011

The school will be closed for a Teacher Only Day on Monday 8 August.

There will be a second Teacher Only Day early in Term 3. This date is still to be confirmed after consultation with other Wellington schools.

Community Education

Enrol now for a wonderful variety of classes in Terms 3 and 4. Details on the Onslow website:
<http://onslow.school.nz/community-education1>
Or you can phone 477 1118.
Brochures are available from the school office or from your nearest library.

Student News

Congratulations to...

- **Jonathan Goodson** (Year 12) - came second in his year group in a creative writing competition for students writing in French as a foreign language. The competition (Jeunes Auteurs Pour l'Europe) is run by the Académie Orléans-Tours (a branch of the French Ministry of Education) and is open to learners of French around the world. The competition is administered in New Zealand by the Christchurch-based School for Young Writers.
- **Jacob West, Ryan Moody and Jacob Baxter** (Year 13)- as part of local band 'The Onset', have won the People's Choice Award at the Regional Finals of the 2011 Smokefree Rockquest. This award qualifies them to compete in the National Finals in September.
- **Lauren McAndrew** (Year 13) - won the award for Coxswain of the Year at the Wellington Rowing Club prize giving this year.
- **Joely Harris** (Year 12) - raised \$1,387.00 for the Shave for a Cure cancer charity campaign (www.shaveforacure.co.nz/view_event_profile/5026)
- **Joss Traub** (Year 12)- won gold medals in the cadet men under 73kg and open weight division and the junior men under 73kg division, and a silver medal in the junior men open weight division at the North Wellington open judo competition.
- **Luka Venter and Peter Wigglesworth** - selected via nationwide auditions to join the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir. This is a great honour and provides them with great musical training opportunities as well as offering a chance to represent New Zealand with their singing both here and overseas.

2011 National Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival

Congratulations to the Onslow College cast who were awarded the following awards at the 2011 National Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival held over Queen's Birthday weekend:

- Christopher Finlayson Award for Outstanding Movement/Dance
- The Downstage Award for the Most Exciting Use of Theatrical Form
- Stratford Shakespeare Society Award for Outstanding Presentation from a Tragedy.

Cast: Robbie Nicol, Sylvie McCreanor, Natalija Andrejic, Luka Venter, Andy Gartrell, Ashleigh McGough, Maddie McIntyre, Cassandra Sutherland, Laura Tompkinson.

Director: Neenah Dekkers-Reihana (ex-Onslow student)

Wellington Region Japanese Speech Contest 2011 Results:

- Tusiga Fui - 2nd in the Year 10 category
- Leszek Skrzynski - 2nd in the Year 11 category
- Hannah Betts - 1st in the Year 12 category
- Trees Neal - 2nd in the Year 12 category.

Monetary Policy Challenge

Congratulations to the Onslow Monetary Policy Challenge Team who have made it into the regional finals, to be held on 5 August. Each year the Reserve Bank of New Zealand runs this competition for senior economics students in New Zealand. The challenge is to set the Official Cash Rate (OCR) for June and write a 1000 word statement justifying their decision. We wish the team of Ashley Chin, Jessie Alexander, Conor Broderick, Declan Taylor and Governor James Mitchell the best of luck in their formal 30 minute presentation of their decision.

The Economics department looks forward to further success on 23 August, when the New Zealand Economics Competition is held.

AWD Football Competition

For the first time Onslow College fielded a team in the Athletes with Disabilities (AWD) football competition. The team comprised Christian Martin, Maddie Black, Jeran Petersen-Clarke, Luke Robertson, Aidan Burgess, Monica Thompson. Oliver Gordon, our most valuable player scored 10 goals. The team made the play offs which was a very close game losing 7 to 6 against Upper Hutt College.

All the students enjoyed the experience and they are looking forward to the AWD follow up football training sessions and the basketball competition in September.



Canoe Polo

Congratulations to the Junior Open A team who, after being undefeated all year, won the Junior Finals tournament for the second year in a row at Naenae last weekend. The team consists of Fox McCrae, Stuart Engleback, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Brooke Meleah and Jean-Luc Lazet.

Congratulations also to the Senior team and Junior B team who both played well to come third place each.

Thank you to the parents who spent the whole day at the pool not only supporting the teams but also scoring and time-keeping.

Next term begins with rep trials and development. We are looking for new players of all ages, especially juniors, and new players will start week two. If you want to try a new sport, a little like basketball in kayaks, e-mail:

kathie.stobbs@onslow.school.nz

Fencing Achievements

Three Onslow students competed in the Fencing Central Secondary School Teams Fencing Tournament 2011 held at Upper Hutt College on 25-26 June.

- Haz Forrester (Year 12) - won the individual foil event out of 33 fencers.
- The Onslow team of Haz Forrester (Year 12), Gareth Smith (Year 11) and Sam Roseveare (Year 11) - won third place in the team foil event.

National Cross Country Championships

- Jonathan Beresford - 8th (Year 9 Boys)
- Phoebe Anderson - 14th (Year 9 Girls)
- Imogen Ineson - 26th (Year 9 Girls)

CWS Cross Country Championships:

- Jonathan Beresford - 1st (Year 9 Boys)
- Phoebe Anderson - 5th (Year 9 Girls)
- Imogen Ineson - 10th (Year 9 Girls)
- Georgia Yee - 14th (Year 9 Girls)
- Phoebe, Imogen and Georgia - 1st place in the overall schools three-person team competition.

Ultimate Frisbee: Players at the peak!

Since its introduction to the College's wide range of sports last year, Onslow's Ultimate teams have been going from strength to strength, winning the Wellington Secondary Schools outdoor tournament at the end of Term 1, dominating the winter indoor league in Term 2 and achieving good results in regional and national open tournaments.

Worthy of particular mention is one of last year's Year 13 students, Jonathan Jackson (JJ). JJ is now playing for the Victoria University Ultimate club and earlier this year made the Wellington U19 representative squad. After a training and selection camp with the Auckland rep squad in Taupo two weekends ago, JJ has been selected in the New Zealand U19 team to play against Australia later this year. Awesome effort JJ and best of luck against the Aussies!

New Work Experience Opportunities for Students

Darrin Deans in the OC Café and the property staff, backed up by Alex and Tom, two overseas volunteers from Germany, have provided valuable work experience opportunities to a number of students who work closely with the Learning Support Department.

Darrin and his staff have supervised and supported a group of students helping them to prepare rolls and sandwiches that were later sold by the students themselves to staff and students.

The hour long sessions provided the opportunity to sample work in a professional catering environment with all that entails and then further practice their money handling skills in a real life situation by selling at lunchtime. Darrin was pleased to be involved and has been impressed by the high levels of skill the students displayed. Some he felt could go on to careers in the catering industry.

When working on property, students were given the opportunity to try a range of outdoor activities such as garden tidying, shrub pruning, and general property maintenance. This scheme has proved popular with the students, and all activities have been recorded and accredited through the ASDAN Award scheme.

Kindly, both the canteen and property have offered more opportunities for term three where students can further develop their skills and widen their experience.



Reader/Writers Required

Onslow College requires reader/writers to provide special exam assistance to students. This is a paid position throughout the year when the need arises. For more information, please contact Sam Stephen in the Learning Support office - ph: 478 8189, or e-mail: samantha.stephen@onslow.school.nz

Book Drive

On Wednesday 6 July the Onslow College Leadership group, responsible for fundraising, ran a book drive. Our goal was to raise money to buy new library books for Brandon Intermediate School in Porirua. Brandon Intermediate was identified as a school in desperate need of an upgrade to their library. They also needed their entire picture book collection replaced. Thanks to everyone for their support and effort, especially 12GL who raised 10% of the total. The drive raised over \$1000 and we will now be able to purchase 110 new books for Brandon Intermediate. It's been really impressive to see the support for this project from the school community. The books will be covered and presented on 24 August.

Maths Matters

Junior Maths Competition Success

Forty Year 9, 10 and 11 students entered the Junior Mathematics Competition at the end of Term 1. Special congratulations go to Year 10 students Vincent Qi, who gained a Top 30 award, and Nikhil Chand, who gained a Top 200 award.

Australian Maths Competition

A good number of students entered for the Australian Mathematics Competition which will take place on the morning of Thursday 4 August, the first week back after the holidays.

Mathsweek

Week 2 of Term 3 (August 8-12) is Mathsweek 2011. There will be a national website with activities, games and puzzles that students and their families will be able to do, and there will also be activities running at school, including a junior inter-form class problem-solving competition and daily puzzles.

Mathswell

The annual regional inter-school maths teams competitions take place during weeks 5 and 6 of Term 3. If you have Year 9-11 students keen on problem solving, encourage them to put themselves forward for selection for the college teams. Dates are: 31 Aug for Year 9, 6 Sept for Year 10 and 30 Aug for Year 11.

Rangatahi in Cyberspace

Last Friday eight Onslow students from Year 11-13 science classes attended Victoria University for the day. They worked alongside undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Te Ropu Awhina whanau, getting involved in hands-on activities in various laboratories on the VUW campus. The event called "Cyberspace Journeys to Success" is an annual event run by Victoria University and it focuses on engaging students, particularly Maori and Pacific students, with tertiary science, technology, engineering, architecture and design. Our students gained a real insight into these exciting areas of study and became aware of the amazing mentoring programme available through the Awhina group at Victoria University. Our students reported that they really enjoyed the interaction they had with uni students already studying at VUW, as well as the excellent lunch provided. While it was set up to support Maori and Pacific students, the Awhina initiative is open to any student planning to attend VUW. To explore further, please visit:

www.victoria.ac.nz/science/Awhina

Talent Quest

The Student Leadership group responsible for fundraising are organising a Talent Quest. It will run at the beginning of next term. The funds will go towards the Wellington Free Ambulance and to upgrade a communal area of the school. Talent Quest Heats will be run during lunch times in the week leading up to the finals, which will be held on the evening of Thursday 18 August.

Application forms will be available at the school office from Monday 11 July. There is a small entry fee and many prizes available!

A plea: If you have any prizes that you or your business could donate please email Donna Wheeler.

donna.wheeler@onslow.school.nz

Early Notification System

The Early Notification System is now fully operational and our Attendance Officer, Jocelyn Cashin, is now sending out Early Notification e-mails and texts across all year levels for a selection of spells during the day. Deans have identified a small group of students who have attendance issues and they are monitored spell by spell.

So that you don't receive unnecessary email and text alerts, please notify us by 8:45am every day that your student is absent. If you cannot notify us by 8:45am, please do so as soon as possible.

If you have let us know that your child is ill, we do not assume they are still ill the next day. We expect students to be at school unless we have received notification from you each morning. Medical Certificates are required for absences longer than a week.

If your student is running late or has an appointment, it is critical that they sign in at the office as soon as they arrive at school. This applies to Year 13 students as well.

It is also important that they sign out at the office if they are leaving during school hours. This also applies to Year 13 students if they will be absent from a timetabled class.

NCEA News & Reminders

Book to help students and families understand NCEA
Understanding NCEA: A relatively short and very useful guide for secondary school students and their parents is a new book about NCEA. It is a plain language guide to understanding the qualification system and the decisions that need to be made each year. The authors did lots of research with schools, students and their families, and the book contains stories drawn from real-life experiences. The purpose of the book is to help students make the most of NCEA. It is also intended to give parents more information so they can help children make the best decisions. Price: \$19.95. You can buy it from the publisher at www.nzcer.org.nz or ask at bookstores.

Fees

Just a reminder that the NCEA fee of \$76.20 is due at the end of term. These fees are separate from other school fees. NZQA does not release results to students if the payment is missed. Remember that there are huge discounts for families who have, or are eligible for, a community services card. If you have mislaid the invoice or the financial discount forms please contact the office for a replacement.

New Zealand Scholarship

Onslow College encourages its very able students to enter New Zealand Scholarship which is designed for the top 5% of the New Zealand Level 3 cohort. Subject leaders are enrolling Scholarship candidates in July and August and many students have begun extra tutorials. Now is the time for students to speak to their teachers and to be thinking carefully about both the rewards and the implications.

Scholarship is tested by additional examinations, embedded in the NCEA timetable, often on Saturday. However, it is a challenge that is well within reach of our most able students in each subject. The exams are based on the Level 3 subject courses but they involve higher level thinking or performance and will require extra reading and learning in the student's own time as well as tutorials with their teachers. The highest awards will assist with university fees.

See the NZQA website for more information:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/scholarship/index.html>

Medical Evidence for Missed Assessments

Students who are absent for an assessment or miss a deadline must provide medical evidence. See the students' copy of our National Assessment Handbook which is also on our website: <http://www.onslow.school.nz/uploaded/Curriculum/Assessments/2011%20Student%20National%20Assessment%20Handbook.pdf>

Term 3 and 4 Assessment Timetables

These will be in a finalised form on the school website by the beginning of next term, or you can check those school bags!

Withdrawal from Internal Standards

If your child would like to withdraw from an internal standard and you approve please send a letter to the dean. All students are entered in all standards and failure to complete one when the student has 'had the opportunity' to do so will generate a Not Achieved grade. Ill-health and overseas trips will reduce the opportunity so students in those categories should talk to their teachers about withdrawals.

Japan Trip 2011

Several places still exist on this trip that will be accompanied by Steve Mitchell and for part of the time Mr Peter Leggat. The trip departs on Thursday 6 October and returns on Sunday 23 October. It includes 4-5 days of sightseeing around Kyoto, Himeji, Hiroshima and Osaka, followed by 10 days in a homestay while hosted at Yamamura doing a range of activities, including a day at Tokyo Disneyland. The next meeting will be held next term after the Yamamura visit. Cost will be \$4000 per person. If your son or daughter is in Year 10-13 they are welcome to join. For further information, please e-mail: kathie.stobbs@onslow.school.nz or steve.mitchell@onslow.school.nz

Yamamura Visit 2011

Twelve students and one teacher from Yamamura Gakuen will visit Onslow College from 4-13 August. A huge thank you to all the families who offered to host the students. This is an annual exchange so if you missed out on hosting this year (we received a lot of offers!), please keep it in mind for next year. The Japanese students will have a full programme while here, including visits to Te Papa, a local primary school, jewellery making, cooking, weaving, language exchange with Kiwi students learning Japanese and attending some classes.

Sports News

Sports Commitment

It has again, been a frustrating winter to date for our outdoor sports codes. With cold, wet weather, cancellations occurring on a regular basis and the unavailability of sufficient training surfaces and times, the commitment part of our brains starts to ask questions! As for the indoor sports players, what's your excuse? It is time to tough it out.

Remember, your coaches and managers have committed their time as volunteers to give you the opportunity to play a sport. They put in a lot of time to prepare trainings, sort transport, be at games and support. Please make the most of the opportunity you have been given and show true commitment to your team. It is also important you recognise the contribution from your coach, manager or transporter and thank them every time.

Stick to it. Stay committed and give it your all. The respect you earn is priceless.

Chevalier College Visit

Thank you to all the families that hosted our friends from Chevalier College, Bowral, NSW. As always they had a wonderful, but unfortunately short stay.

Results: Boys Rugby Onslow 7 - Chevalier 14
Girls Hockey Onslow 2 - Chevalier 2

Support Onslow College Sport

Help Onslow Sports earn points for gear and equipment, through your personal or business transactions.

Intelligent Rewards™ has been specifically designed to assist New Zealand educational facilities extend their budgets through support from key New Zealand Business Suppliers.

Go to www.intelligentrewards.co.nz for more information and to register your support.

Winter Sports Tournaments

We have teams entered for winter tournaments from 22-28 August. Please show your support with any fundraising initiatives these teams have planned for next term to assist with reducing the cost.

Wrap up warm and get out there and support our teams. See you on the side lines.

Fili and Brenda
Sports Office

Entertainment Books

Onslow still has stocks of the new book and will continue selling them until September. Help support canoe-polo and save yourself money on lots of 2-for-1 dining opportunities etc. To see the current book online view here:

www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/Wellington_20112012/

Books can be paid for and collected from the school office. A flyer/order form is available on the website or contact kathie.stobbs@onslow.school.nz

From the PTA

Tertiary Costs Evening

Aiming to go to university or polytech? You need to come to the Financial Support & Advice Evening for Year 12 and 13 students and their families on Monday 15 August, 7:30pm in the Library.

Maria Goncalves-Rorke, manager of the Financial Support & Advice Service at Victoria University, will tell you everything you need to know about student loans and allowances. It may make sense to borrow money for fees, but should you use a loan to buy pizza?

Term 2 Activities

The PTA have had a very busy term supporting staff and families at the Year 9 tea/report evening (which the PTA provided supper for), report evenings for all Year Levels and also the successful Open Evening.

We raffled off a basket of goodies at each report evening. Many thanks to those who purchased tickets. The money raised is used to pay for refreshments for the times we support staff and families at different events throughout the year, as well as for other contributions around the school, such as supporting the Arboretum project.

Our congratulations go to the very happy raffle winners of the latest report evening round:

Year 9 - Lin Laternell
Year 10 - Helen Champion
Year 11 - Robyn Gimblett
Year 12 & 13 - Brigit Saunders

We'd also like to thank the kind PTA ladies who willingly helped out on each of these evenings.

Term 3 Activities

Looking ahead to Term 3, we will be available to support the Year 10 NCEA Information Evening/Report Evening, and we will be hosting the Tertiary Costs evening (information above). See the calendar for the dates and times of these events.

Please feel free to join us for any of our meetings (7:30pm in the College Library), or contact our Secretary, Maree Kibblewhite, for further information - ph: 934 3410

From the Board

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on Monday 8 August. Parents are always welcome to attend our regular meetings which are held in the Conference Room and open to the public. Please contact the Principal's PA, Charmaine Barrett, if you would like to attend (ph: 478 8189; e-mail: charmaine.barrett@onslow.school.nz)

This is a good time to remind you that there will be elections for new Board members later this year when two of our current members will be stepping down. If you are interested in standing, you may wish to come along to a meeting.

The role of the Board of Trustees is to govern the school - set its direction and monitor progress. This is done via the charter and goals, the strategic plan and regular reviews of learning areas. For further information, see the College website: www.onslow.school.nz/home/community/board.

Shelley Murdoch
Chair, Board of Trustees

Calendar Term 3 (some dates subject to change)

August			
Monday 1		FIRST DAY OF TERM 3	
Tuesday 2	All day	Youthtown Get2Go Challenge	Hataitai Park
	2pm	ICAS English Competition	Room 22
Wednesday 3		New International Student Orientation	
	2:10pm	StudyLink visit	Hall
	6:30pm	Community Health Consultation	Staff room
	6:30pm	Whanau Hui	Room 56
Thursday 4	9:45am	Australian Maths Competition	
	10 days	Yamamura Gakuen exchange	
Sunday 7	10:00am	Arboretum working bee	Arboretum
Monday 8	All day	TEACHER ONLY DAY	
		Enrolments close for Year 9 out-of-zone 2012	
	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Thursday 11	4pm	Year 10 NCEA Evening and Parent Teacher Interviews	Hall
Sunday 14	8pm	Year 11 Ball	San Francisco Bath House
Monday 15	12:20pm	Talent Quest Heats	Hall
	7:30pm	PTA – Tertiary Costs Evening (guest speaker Maria Goncalves-Rorke)	Library
Tuesday 16	12:35pm	Talent Quest Heats	Hall
Wednesday 17	9:30am	11PE Triathlon	
	12:20pm	Talent Quest Heats	Hall
Thursday 18	TBA	Talent Quest Finals	Hall
Monday 22-Friday 26	All week	Winter Sports Tournament Week	Various
Friday 26		Attitude Seminars (all year levels)	
		Ballot for Year 9 out-of-zone places for 2012	
September			
Sunday 4	10am	Arboretum Working Bee	Arboretum
Wednesday 7	6:30pm	Whanau Hui	Room 56
Thursday 8	Overnight	Year 13 Biology Zoo Trip	Wellington Zoo
Monday 12	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Monday 19 - Friday 23	All week	School exams	
Saturday 24 – Sunday 25	2 days	Hillary Challenge Qualifier	OPC, Tongariro
Monday 26	7:30pm	PTA Meeting	Library
Thursday 29	7:30pm	Carmina Burana Music Department Concert	St Andrews, The Terrace
October			
Sunday 2	10am	Arboretum Working Bee	Arboretum
	7:30pm	Year 12 Ball	TBC
Wednesday 5		Japan Trip Departs	Japan
Wednesday 5 – Friday 7	3 days	Coast to Coast	
		END OF TERM 3	