



## Newsletter Term 3

Issue 6, September 2011

You can find this newsletter and other information,  
including a calendar of school events, at:  
[www.onslow.school.nz](http://www.onslow.school.nz)

Please e-mail any success stories for students of Onslow College to:  
[success@onslow.school.nz](mailto:success@onslow.school.nz)

### From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This term has certainly been different with the disruption created by the snow and ice, something most of us have never experienced before. While to the hardened cold climate people the snow was not that much, it made our site and surrounding suburbs very dangerous and the decision to close was in the best interests of everyone. On the first day of snow, it was entertaining to see the novelty factor for our students and the mass snowball fight that took place at interval. One or two staff were brave enough to take part but soon retreated to the safety of the staff room.

On a serious note, it was superb how well the students reacted to the closure and we had everyone safely away from school in a relatively quick time. While there were some delays with the email traffic due to system overload, we also felt we managed to keep parents well informed.

Given the importance of this term to all year groups, but especially Year 11-13 students, the disruption was unfortunate and I know staff and students worked hard to minimise the impact on preparation for exams.

It is also an important time for our juniors as they make their subject choices for 2012. It is important they keep their career options open and choose subjects that will make sure they have a subject pathway, not just for next year but also for the following years as well.

It was good to see a large turnout at our recent NCEA Information Evening and I encourage any family looking for further advice to contact us.

During the last two weeks, I have watched a large number of our students in a variety of activities and I continue to be both amazed at their ability and proud of their efforts. We have a very talented student population and they represent the school so well. We regularly receive feedback from outside the school on just what a wonderful group of young people we have. That is always worth remembering, as in a time where many people find fault in our 'young people', I think it is important that we recognise their talents and that the overwhelming majority of them are, and will continue to make a significant contribution to our society.

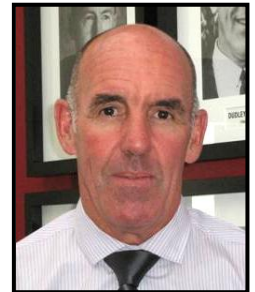
I would also like to thank parents for their support when we had our teacher only day. That day was very valuable for all our learning areas as they continue with the major curriculum alignment and development. Our students are very fortunate to be at the very cutting edge of curriculum development and to have a day, such as that one together, will be of major benefit to our students. We initially planned to have a second Teacher Only Day this term but given the disruptions earlier

and the pressure on both staff and students to complete course requirements, we will look at a date in Term 4 for that second day.

Finally, it is a time of increasing pressure for our students, and as parents, you can support your children by helping them cope with the demands of this time of year. Please make sure your child is eating properly, getting enough sleep and maintaining a balance in their lives. They also need to carefully plan out each week and know when their various assignments are due. If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes

Peter Leggat  
[principal@onslow.school.nz](mailto:principal@onslow.school.nz)



### Staff News

Congratulations to Joanne Te Morenga who has been appointed to the position of Year 9 Dean, 2012.

### Community Education

There are still places in our Saturday classes for Term 3 and enrolments are now being taken for Term 4 classes. For information please visit our website: [www.onslow.school.nz](http://www.onslow.school.nz). Book now to avoid disappointment.

### Wireless is Coming!

As we continue to strive to provide the best learning opportunities for our students, the Board has committed considerable funding to improving the information technology provisions in the school. Earlier this year we spent \$160,000 on new hardware for the school and recently we have negotiated a wonderful deal with IBM that will see a robust wireless network for Onslow College. This will allow staff and students to access the web from anywhere in the school and at any time.

We are now investigating the purchase of a large number of portable devices that students can use around the college. It will also allow those students with personal devices to connect to our network. This will require students accepting responsibility for using the resources to enhance their learning and should ensure all students have equal access and opportunity to e-learning.

## School Donation

Each year we ask parents to make a donation to the school to help us provide those extra facilities that Government funding does not cover, such as the wireless network.

We are grateful to all those families who have already paid the donation, and ask those who have not, to consider it as a valuable investment in their children. We are aware of the financial hardship that many families face but we would appreciate your contribution.

## Important Administration Matters

We have a number of matters that we'd like to remind you about. Some of our processes have not been being followed and this can create problems for us. Please read the following:

### Direct Payment Details

If making direct payments to our bank account **please** ensure there are enough details for us to identify who to allocate the payment to, or alternatively email the details of all payments to: [accounts@onslow.school.nz](mailto:accounts@onslow.school.nz).

### Student Absences

Please ring the absence line on 478 8189 or e-mail [absences@onslow.school.nz](mailto:absences@onslow.school.nz) as early as possible if your child will be absent from school. We need to know the following:

- student's full name
- student's form class
- the reason they are away (this is important for absence coding).

If students arrive at school after the start of the school day they **MUST** sign in.

If a student gets ill during the day they need to inform the office. The office will then contact a parent to collect the student. The student **MUST** sign out. If students bypass the office and contact parents directly we do not know the whereabouts of the student. Please keep the office informed.

### Driving into the School Grounds

Please do not drive into the school grounds to drop off or pick up your children at the start and end of the day. With the buses driving through the grounds, the additional parent traffic causes congestion and puts the safety of our students at risk.

## Cereal Guide to Parenting Teenagers - Margaret Ross

By popular demand this great parenting workshop will run again this year.

Parents of students in Years 9-11 are invited to come along to the staff room on 22 September from 7pm to 9pm.

Please RSVP by e-mailing: [janet.glenn@onslow.school.nz](mailto:janet.glenn@onslow.school.nz).

Many Onslow parents have commented on how helpful they found this and how much practical help it gave them to deal with some of those difficult parent/teenager crises.

## Knowledge Shop NCEA Exam Preparation Programme

Knowledge Shop will be running its highly successful NCEA Exam Preparation Programme at Onslow College from 10-14 October. Classes are limited to a maximum of 15 students and will be taught by experienced and knowledgeable NCEA teachers. On the programme, students will:

- revise key areas of the curriculum
- learn exam techniques and strategies
- discover how best to prepare for the exams.

Places are strictly limited. Students can book for individual sessions or for the entire course.

Go to [www.knowledgeshopnz.co.nz](http://www.knowledgeshopnz.co.nz) to find course information and to book. Alternatively, phone: 478 8000

## Deborah East-Anastasi @ RE/MAX Scholarship

A \$500 grant is available towards international travel for an Onslow College student who is representing the college or New Zealand in a sporting, cultural or academic field overseas.

Applications are to be made in writing to the Principal stating why you deserve/need the scholarship. Applications close on 26 September.

The selection will be made by the Principal and Deborah East-Anastasi based on the application and on recommendations from teachers, coaches etc.

## Yamamura Exchange

Many thanks to all the wonderful families who hosted a Japanese student earlier this term. The students and teacher had an enjoyable time here and really appreciated the hospitality of Onslow families.

A group of eight students, Mr Steve Mitchell and Mr Peter Leggat will make the return visit in October.

Keep an eye out in future newsletters if you are interested in going on this exchange next year - it is open to all Onslow students in Years 10-13.

## International Food Fair

The Languages Area and International Students Department held their annual International Food Fair as part of their celebration and promotion of language learning in the school. This took place in the hall at lunchtime on Friday 9 September. The money raised (over \$1600) will be donated to the Japan Earthquake Disaster Fund.

It was a very successful event with a wide range of food available. The huge crowd of staff and students certainly enjoyed the experience. The highlight was the 'Flash Mob' haka led by students from our Poutama group. With this event being on the opening day of the Rugby World Cup it was appropriate the haka was the final act.

## Gateway Programme Applications 2012 - September Information Meetings

**Year 11 & 12 Student Information Meeting:** Wednesday 14 September at 2:10pm Room 50

**Parent Information Meeting:** Wednesday 28 September at 5:30pm-6:30pm Room 50.

If you are a parent of a Year 11 or 12 student considering applying for next year's Gateway Programme, you are warmly invited to come along to an information meeting. Peter Chapman (Careers Advisor) and Carolyn Lewin (Gateway Coordinator) will give a short presentation and answer any questions about the programme and its suitability for your student.

Gateway is a successful long term work experience programme for Year 12 and 13 students. Selection for one of 30 places is through application, interview and recommendation of the Dean. Students applying should have high standards of attendance, self-management, maturity and motivation as well as a career focus on a profession or trade that they have a passion to explore. Applications for enrolment are due by Friday October 7 (last day of Term 3). Contact Carolyn Lewin, Gateway Coordinator [carolyn.lewin@onslow.school.nz](mailto:carolyn.lewin@onslow.school.nz) for more details.

## Peer Support Training

The process of training next year's peer supporters will begin soon. Interested Year 12 students should keep an eye on the notices for details about the application and training processes. To be accepted into the training programme, students must be able to demonstrate that they are reliable and responsible - their record of attendance will be considered in all cases.

Students will be trained over three days: 2 December at school, followed by an overnight camp at Brookfield on 4-5 December.

Selection will be carried out after this camp, based on how individual students performed in a variety of roles during the camp. The final day of training will occur on 26 January at the college.

Please note that attendance at all three training days is compulsory - students who are unavailable for these dates will not be selected as peer support trainers.

## Entertainment Books

Last chance! Entertainment books are still on sale at the school office until the end of September. Download a flyer from the school website or pay directly at: <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104982> Cost is \$60 and each book sold helps to maintain the school fleet of kayaks, equipment and trailer.

## International Student News

This term we have welcomed around 15 new students from a variety of countries including Korea, Brazil, Vietnam, Germany and Japan, as well as exchange students from Paraguay, Italy and Spain. Students went on an exploratory. We farewelled a group of about 10 last term with a pizza/karaoke evening which was enjoyed by all. Currently we have 49 international students in total and six exchange students with us. The students are enjoying their time and we are busy planning some activities for them for the rest of the year.

## School Practice Exams

This year school exams for seniors take place in week 8 of Term 3 (September 19-23). To allow students to prepare for these important exams, there will not be any trips outside the school or internal assessments this week. School exams allow students to hone examination skills and to prepare for the final NCEA exams which run from 10-30 November.

The grades earned in school exams are also used when necessary for deriving a final grade when students are ill or have some sort of emergency just before or during the final NCEA exams. Up to 30 of our senior students could be in this situation so these school exams are doubly important.

If your teenagers tell you that they intend to use the school exams to see what they don't know, and therefore revision isn't important, please don't believe them! Teachers can tell students what they don't know by reminding them of the grades gained for practice tasks completed during the year. The deans have provided students with a planner to help them use the weeks leading up to exams to begin revision notes, practice vocabulary or activities and to start memorising content. This will not only give students a head start for their final burst of revision in October – November; it will also allow us to estimate a fair final grade if required.

You can view the assessment timetable at: <http://onslow.school.nz/uploaded/Curriculum/Assessment/Onslow%20Exam%20Timetable%202011.pdf>

## From the PTA

The PTA committee organised guest speaker, Maria Goncalves-Rorke from Victoria University to come and speak about tertiary costs on 29 August. It was great to see around 170 people turn up. She was a very interesting speaker with a wealth of knowledge and suggestions on financial matters for both parents and students heading off to University. Thank you Maria, and we look forward to hosting you again next year.

This term, the PTA have also helped out at the Year 10 NCEA information evening providing a raffle, and tea, coffee and supper afterwards. Our next PTA meeting is on Monday 26 September at 7:30pm in the Library. Please feel free to pop along and join us.

## Student News

Student success stories are added to the website on a regular basis.

### Congratulations to...

- **Phoebe Anderson (Year 9)** – chosen to represent Wellington tennis as the top 14 year old girl at the Tasman rep fixture this weekend in Blenheim
- **Joss Traub** (Year 12) - won gold medals in the cadet men under 73kg weight, the cadet men open weight and the junior men under 73kg weight divisions at the North Island judo championships held on 3-4 September. Joss successfully completed his Shodan grading assessment and was awarded his black belt. Joss also won a silver medal at the Singapore International judo championships. 11 countries competed including Australia, Singapore, Indonesia and Korea.
- **Will Rivett** - won bronze at the South Island Judo Championships (20-21 August 2011)
- **Nick Hann, Shamus Morrison and Stephanie Harding** - selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Team to compete at the Oceania Carnival to be held in Australia in October.
- **Niki Zivkovic** – selected for the U18 Future Firebirds Winter Training Squad
- **Tom Jamieson, Matt Croxford, Hamish Cooke** - selected for the U16 Future Firebirds Winter Training Squad
- **Year 10 – Andrew Cooney, Tim Johnson, Alex Ridley, Angus Henderson** - selected for the Year 10 Future Firebirds Winter Training Squad
- **Year 9 – Daniel Pile, Dylan Wood, Sam Gifkins** - selected for the Year Future Firebirds Winter Training Squad
- **Onslow Under 15 Football team** - came 2nd in the Junior Premier Championship



**Athletics New Zealand National Road Champs** - held in Wellington on 20 August 2011:

- Jonathan Beresford (Year 9) - third in the Boys 14 race
- Phoebe Anderson (Year 9) - fourth in the Girls 14 race
- Cyrus Chow (Year 9) - tenth in the Boys 14 race

### Smallbore Rifle Shooting

The Onslow College Smallbore Rifle Team placed first at the Wellington Schools Smallbore Rifle Teams Match 2011. Members of the team were Florian Virtuso, Charlotte Flanagan, Michael Gimblett, Andrew Jane and Seth McIntyre. Florian placed 2nd top scorer in the New Zealand Secondary Schools competition.

Florian, Charlotte and Michael placed 1st, 3rd and 4th top scorer respectively in the Wellington Team.



### Annual French Oral Competition

On Saturday 27 August Grace Dobbie, Harriet McFetridge, Conor Thomas and Ella Vodanovich (Year 11) and Casey Apse, Jonathan Goodson and Luka Venter (Year 12) competed in the annual French oral competition at the Alliance Française. Congratulations to them all, and particularly to Casey Apse who came joint 2nd in the year 12 section.

### 2011 Computer Skills

Onslow College students fared well in the recent ICAS computer skills assessment. Seven students participated and were awarded one distinction, four credit and two participation certificates.

Congratulations to the following for their success in this assessment:

Rishabh Dhariwal (Year 9) - Credit  
Christopher Keegan (Year 10) - Distinction  
Elijah Smart (Year 10) - Credit  
Matthew Koch (Year 11) - Credit  
Simon Teesdale (Year 11) Credit

### Get 2 Go Challenge

On Tuesday 2 August an Onslow College team won the Wellington and Wairarapa Youthtown Get2Go adventure racing challenge. The winning team was one of three enthusiastic Onslow teams competing against eight other school teams from around the region. Onslow College is now invited to represent Wellington and Wairarapa in the Get2Go Grand Final competition against eleven other regional teams, on Great Barrier Island in December. Members of the winning team are: Phoebe Anderson, Rebecca Edge, Rebecca Grant, Stephanie Harding, Jonathan Beresford, Josh Blackmore, Jasper Edge and James Overell.

Youthtown Get2Go challenge is organised by the Outdoor Pursuits Centre and is designed to get young people out into New Zealand's incredible natural playground, improving teamwork, learning new skills, and having fun. In the Wellington competition each team of eight Year 9 and 10 students climbed rock walls, kayaked across frigid water, mountain biked around a technical course and orienteered their way through part of Wellington's green belt, to gain points towards their total score.

Adventure racing at Onslow College is about more than just regional and national competitions. It's about enjoying new skills, activities and speed in the outdoors. Junior student coaches Nick Engleback and Jane Harding are keen to get more students involved in sailing, tramping, biking, climbing,

orienteering and racing some other local schools. Senior student coach Beverley Holder, together with racing teachers Ron Lock and Reece Geurson have a similar vision. Any students who would like to be involved in adventure racing at Onslow College should get in touch with the Sports Office.



### Winter Sports Tournament

#### Boys Hockey

A relatively young side went to Stratford where unfortunately they had a number of injuries that certainly impacted on their results. It was a great experience for the team and despite their 14<sup>th</sup> placing, it will set the team up for the future.

#### Girls Hockey

This team went to Levin for the Kate Trolove Trophy. After a high scoring first game, the team struggled to score goals in the remaining games and this saw them not do as well as they had hoped. They eventually finished 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### Boys Football

The team were looking forward to tournament after an indifferent season. They travelled to Papamoa and throughout the week played the football everyone knew they were capable of. Despite playing very well, the team unfortunately lost their quarter final in a penalty shoot-out. The team ended up coming 7<sup>th</sup> but most other sides acknowledged they were among the best teams there and the side can draw a lot of confidence from their performance.

#### Girls Football

The team travelled to Wanganui where they played some great football but struggled to score goals despite dominating much of their matches. They finished their week with a good win and a final placing of 10<sup>th</sup>. The benefit of their week away together was best demonstrated in their local competition final where they not only played really well but they also scored two good goals to deservedly be crowned champions.

#### Netball

The Lower North Island tournament was here in Wellington and the girls certainly showed the benefit of the week together. They dominated their pool winning all games. They struggled in the quarter finals but bounced back with two good wins including beating Queen Margaret's in a local derby. The team eventually came a very credible 5<sup>th</sup> in the B grade.

This team also returned to their local competition full of confidence and in the semi-final, beat the top qualifiers. In the final, cheered on by a large Onslow contingent, they again played well and won by five goals to deservedly win their grade.

Tournament week is a wonderful experience for our students and would not be possible were it not for the coaches, managers and parent supporters who travelled with our teams. On behalf of our students, a huge thanks.

### Calendar Term 3 (some dates subject to change)

September			
Monday 12	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Wednesday 14	9am	AWD Basketball	Walter Nash Stadium, Taita
	12pm	Road Race Relay Championships	Trentham Memorial Park
Monday 19 – Thursday 22	3 days	NZSS Snowboard Championships	Turoa Ski Field
Monday 19 - Friday 23	All week	School exams	
Wednesday 21	9am	AWD Basketball	Walter Nash Stadium, Taita
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	
Thursday 6	8:45am	Plunket Babysitting Certificate	Room 50
Friday 7		END OF TERM 3	