



Newsletter Term 3

Issue 7, October 2011

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

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As our country is fully immersed in the Rugby World Cup, it has been great to see our sense of pride in our country and our community spirit come to the fore. I wonder why it takes an event such as this to remind us that it is ok to talk to visitors and to be proud of the wonderful environment we take for granted. I have been fortunate to have attended some games and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the crowd who enjoy the competition of the game but who show real unity in both the pre-match build up and post-match analysis. I felt proud to be in a train with visitors from overseas who spoke of the welcome and kindness shown to them by New Zealand people. My challenge to us all is, having shown we can do that, let's keep on doing it. The same importance of community exists here at school and we are very fortunate with our school community. As our seniors build up to their exams and our juniors look to complete the year, they need to show community understanding and support for each other. I feel proud when I see our students helping each other and the way the majority relate to each other. Even when there are tensions – inevitable in such a large group – other students step in and prevent things escalating. That is a real credit to our Onslow students and I hope they continue that in their futures.

It is frightening to realise we only have two weeks with our seniors after the holidays. They have their internal school exam results and will clearly know what they need to do in order to be well prepared for their finals. Term 4 is a time for our juniors to be respectful of the pressures on the seniors and to stay well clear of exam rooms. They also have their own work to complete as they look to set a very good foundation to work from in 2012. As I look at our Year 9 and 10 students, it is great to see how much they have grown and developed over the year. They are fortunate with the commitment of their teachers and they should feel well prepared for next year. It is important they remember they need to work right through to December. The work they do now will certainly help them as they move through the school.

Over the last two weeks, I have run a series of parent consultation evenings. I invited a randomly selected sample of parents from each year group to meet with me and discuss two major questions: What is Onslow College doing well? and What could Onslow College do better? I am grateful for the parents who attended and once I have collated their comments, I will make them available on our website. I have every confidence that we are providing outstanding educational opportunities to our students but we are also always looking for areas we could do more in. As I come towards the first year of being Principal at Onslow College, I

have appreciated all the feedback I have received and certainly value every opportunity to talk with parents.

I hope everyone has a good holiday and recharges their batteries for the last term. I also hope the All Blacks live up to our high expectations and that we, as a nation, can celebrate together.

Best wishes

Peter Leggat
principal@onslow.school.nz



Staff News

Congratulations to...

- **Jan Szydlowski** who has been offered a New Zealand Science, Mathematics and Technology Teacher Fellowship by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Jan will be on leave for Terms 1 and 2 of 2012 so he can take up this opportunity.
- **David Pomeroy** who was the inaugural recipient of the Woolf Fisher Scholarship in Education. As such he left us during the term to take up study at the University of Cambridge.

Thank you to Graeme Norman and Subhag Chand who have agreed to teach David's classes until the end of the year.

Community Education

Enrol now for Term 4 classes.

Check out our website: www.onslow.school.nz

School Closures

Early Closing – 4 November

School will close early on Friday 4 November in preparation for the Leavers' Assembly. Buses will collect students at 12:20pm.

Teacher Only Day – 14 November

We have chosen Monday 14 November as the day to have our second Teacher Only Day for curriculum alignment.

Student News

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

Please e-mail any student success stories to:
success@onslow.school.nz

Congratulations to...

- **Haz Forrester** (Year 12) – chosen to represent New Zealand in an international fencing competition to be held in Australia during the October holidays. He will be joined by other top fencers from throughout New Zealand. This follows two top-ten finishes by Haz, in the New Zealand championships and the South Island championships, which are both open to fencers from throughout New Zealand. Haz will also be travelling to Shanghai in December to fence with the world-class Shanghai club.
- **Joss Traub** (Year 12) – won three gold medals in the cadet men under 73kg and open weight division and in the junior men under 73kg division at the Wellington closed judo competition held on 1-2 October.
- **Kristyn Hayward** (Year 12) - won the Winter Series Senior Show Jumping Championship at Tielcey Park, near Palmerston North. This is a series competition run over five months - the senior show jumping is at 1.10m, 1.15m and 1.20m heights. Kristyn finished the series on near maximum points and dominated the senior show jumping throughout the series.



Maths Matters

Maths Competition Successes

40 Year 9, 10 and 11 students entered the Junior Mathematics Competition early in the year. Three Year 10 students did particularly well: David Duggan gaining a Merit award, Nikhil Chand a Top 200 and Vincent Qi a Top 30 award. In the equivalent competition for Year 12 and 13 students, the Eton Senior Mathematics Competition, Sarah Stevenson gained a Merit award.

35 students sat the Australian Mathematics Competition in the first week of this term. Of these, 14 students gained Credit awards, nine (Aaron Tam, Victoria Tam, Chun-Kiet Vong, Hunter Hintz and Meera Patel of Year 9; Ryan Palmer, Henry Sim and Elijah Smart of Year 10; and Jen Sun Hong of Year 11) gained Distinction awards and four (Nicholas Bell of Year 9, Nikhil Chand and Jeremy Everett of Year 10, and Sarah Stevenson of Year 12) gained High Distinction awards, being in the top 1% of competitors at their year level. To top that off, David Duggan and Vincent Qi of Year 10 were prize winners. Congratulations to all students who entered.

Certificates and prizes for all participants in this year's competitions will be presented at a Mathematics awards ceremony during interval on Wednesday 2 November.

Mathswell

In weeks five and six this term, the Mathswell team competitions took place between the approximately 30 secondary schools in the greater Wellington region. The Onslow College junior teams performed particularly well. The Year 9 team of Nick Bell, Aaron Tam, Victoria Tam, Angus Todd, Leo Sergeant-Shadbolt and Angus Weich was placed 5th, and the Year 10 team of Joshua Blackmore, Nikhil Chand, Jeremy Everett, Takashi Ikematsu, Ryan Palmer and Vincent Qi was placed 3rd in their respective competitions.



Student Board Trustee

Congratulations to Ana Scotney who has been elected to the position of Student Board of Trustees representative for Term 4, 2011 to Term 3, 2012.

NCEA and Scholarship Examinations

The NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship examinations start on Thursday 10 November and run until Wednesday 30 November. Exams are all three hours long and start at either 9.30am or 2.00pm. The examination timetable, with Onslow College rooming information, is in this newsletter. It can be found on our school website also, along with other exam information.

At their final school assembly in early November, seniors collect exam information including a candidate exam admission slip with their exam programme on it, their candidate code number and a checklist of things to remember. The office holds this material for those who do not attend. The candidate exam admission slip must be taken to every exam. Scholarship students must bring some form of photo ID to every exam, for example a driver's licence or their Onslow ID card.

Here are a few tips about the actual exam period

Make sure your student brings the necessary gear, including calculators if they are required - too many arrive without their plastic bag of pens or a ruler. Clear the memory of the calculator. Electronic dictionaries and spell checkers are not allowed.

Make sure your student brings the candidate exam admission slip. If they forget, they can go to the school office to collect a signed copy but this is stressful for the student and inconvenient for the office. It is also sensible to bring student ID cards if they are available.

Ensure your student has a good alarm clock and arrives with 15-20 minutes to spare so there is no panic about finding the exam room. Students can enter the exam room late, but not after 30 minutes has passed. If the student simply doesn't wake up in time, there is no consideration given. Check carefully and confirm whether the exam is a morning or afternoon exam. Every year, at least one student arrives in the afternoon for a morning exam despite our attempts to phone home in the morning. Specific room information for each student is posted in the Link Foyer and must be checked.

It is crucial that exam misbehaviour complaints are avoided at all costs. Students must not have on them in the exam room refill paper for planning purposes, cell phones, i-pods (any technology other than a calculator) or revision notes. All this material must be left in school bags at the front of the room. No communication with other students is allowed even if stationery has been forgotten. Never write on hands, arms or legs! The penalties include the loss of grades.

Derived grades for ill students

We wish our students well in the examinations and know they will be working hard to prepare for them. The stakes are high so it is important that any student who falls ill or faces a major emergency applies for a derived grade (the new name for compassionate consideration). This includes students who feel ill during an examination as well as those who are not able to sit examinations at all. Please phone us if a student is too ill to attend the exam.

The procedure is to collect the necessary forms before visiting the doctor from Kate Williams (in the resource room beside room 16) or from the school office, complete them and return them to Kate or the school office by Thursday 1 December. Teachers will derive a grade for each external standard using practice tasks and the school examination results. If an unwell student has completed or started an examination, grades are estimated by the school as well as the papers being marked in the usual way. The student gets the higher of the two sets of results so it is worth applying for a derived grade. The forms include pages for the doctor. The doctor must be seen within two days so collect the form from the office promptly. More than one doctor's visit may be required if an illness persists. A normal brief medical certificate is not sufficient.

For most students, despite the stress, examination time passes without serious upheaval. For some there are crises, so keep in touch with the school. Feel free to contact the dean or Kate Williams if you have any questions:
kate.williams@onslow.school.nz

Helping your child sit exams with confidence

Make sure they have breakfast. Studies show that teenagers who skip breakfast become inattentive later in the morning. Make breakfast a calm, unhurried and healthy start to the day.

Help them prepare the night before - several pens that work, a fresh battery in the calculator, candidate exam admission slip, other stationery, medication all in a plastic bag.

Remind them that their work in class, their homework and their revision will help them through the exam. Help them keep things in perspective.

Discuss exam techniques with them –

- read the instructions carefully and mark the questions that have to be answered
- read the question carefully to understand it
- jot down ideas and notes on the pages at the back of the exam booklet or at the top of the page (cross it out later)
- change an answer if necessary (put a line through it, never use white-out or pencil – they are banned)
- work at a steady pace and take no notice of others finishing early – but keep an eye on the time
- relax nerves by deep breathing
- have a go at all questions - there are no grades for blank sections and in NCEA it is crucial not to leave out a question
- keep work legible and tidily set out
- use time at the end to read over, correct and make changes.

Discuss the results helpfully and positively - what can they do to prepare better next time, what do they need to do to make sure they know their work?

End-Of-Year Book Returns – Senior Students

Library and Textbook Room

Students should:

- Know what items are issued to them.
- Return all un-needed items before they go on exam leave.
- Return all remaining loans on CLEARANCE DAY (Thursday, 1 December).

To Check What Items Are Issued to You

- Go to www.onslow.net.school.nz – Library/My Library/Borrower Details (OK the security warnings and use your school login).
- Enter your borrower number (your student number).

Any problems? – Contact:

Barbara.Walker@onslow.school.nz Ph: 478 8189, ext 804
Diana.Molloy@onslow.school.nz Ph: 478 8189, ext 803

Sports News

Onslow College Sports Awards 2011

Onslow College Hall
7.00pm
Thursday 27 October 2011

Major Sports Awards

Nominations are now open for the Sportsman, Sportswoman, Team, Service to Sport and Coach of the Year categories. Please email through Category, Name and supporting information why they have been nominated to sport@onslow.school.nz. Nominations close Wednesday 12 October 2011.

Sports Representatives/Champions

Onslow recognises those that have made representative teams or achieved outstanding results in their field. To assist and ensure we do not miss your student's achievements please email through their details to sport@onslow.school.nz. Please have these to us by Wednesday 12 October 2011.

Sports Awards Recipients

If you are a coach and know you have not sent in your team's MVP and MIP award details please email sport@onslow.school.nz. This is now URGENT! All recipients will be listed in the Sports section of our website: www.onslow.school.nz, by 19 October 2011.

Establishment of Sports Clubs

Onslow College is looking to establish clubs for the major sporting codes to assist with the planning, running and future of the sport at Onslow. Basketball will be the first sport to kick this off with an information meeting for interested parents and community members to look at basketball at Onslow and for those who are keen to express their interest in becoming part of the club committee. The meeting will be in the staff room on Wednesday 2 November at 7:00pm. If you are unable to attend but wish to express your interest in being part of the committee please email sport@onslow.school.nz

Teacher Aide Wanted

Teacher Aide - Fixed Term Position

An opportunity has arisen for a teacher aide to work in our Learning Support Department for up to 25 hours a week during term time for the 2012 school year.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and skilled practitioner to join our dedicated team of staff to support both teachers and students throughout the year levels.

Previous experience of working with students with a range of special/learning needs is desirable, but not essential.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon, 28 October 2011. Interviews will be held in the week beginning 31 October 2011.

An application form and job description are available from the vacancies page of the school website: www.onslow.school.nz
Electronic applications should be sent to John Robinson at: vacancy@onslow.school.nz

From the Board

Board Elections in November

Nominations are now open for two new parent representatives on the Board of Trustees. Now's the time to think about whether you would like to nominate yourself or someone else.

I would like to encourage you to give serious consideration to standing for the Board. If you are interested in participating in the governance of Onslow, being a parent representative is an important and rewarding way you can contribute to your young person's education.

We are looking for trustees who will focus on supporting teaching and learning and the on-going improvement of student achievement.

The role of the board is to govern the school - set its direction and monitor progress. This is done via the charter and goals, strategic plan and regular reviews of learning areas.

Dates for the Election

You will receive forms in the post within the next week and nominations must be in by Friday 4 November. Voting papers will be distributed on 9 November and voting closes on Friday 18 November – not to be confused with a rather larger election taking place a week later!

Want To Know More?

If you would like to know more about being a parent trustee at Onslow, please feel free to contact one of the trustees via info@onslow.school.nz :

Chairperson: Shelley Murdoch

Parent Trustees: Mike Doogan, Gail Dewar, Tony Cooke and Debbie Iversen

Whanau Trustee: Jenny-Kaye Potaka

Shelley Murdoch
Chair, Board of Trustees

Term 4 Calendar

A live version of the calendar of events can be found at:

<http://onslow.school.nz/home/about-onslow/general-info/calendar-of-events/>

October			
Wednesday 26	6:30pm	Whanau Hui	Room 56
Thursday 27	7pm	Onslow College Sports Awards	Hall
Friday 28	All day	Slave Day	
Monday 31	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
November			
Tuesday 1	TBA	Sports Coaches and Manages Dinner	
	7:30pm	Carmina Burana Music Department Concert	Hall
Wednesday 2	2:15pm	Performance for Year 9 Social Studies	Hall
Thursday 3	3:10pm	Year 13 classes finish for the year	
Friday 4	12:20pm	School finishes in preparation for Leavers' Assembly	
	2:15pm	Leavers' Assembly and afternoon tea	Hall / Rec Centre
Sunday 6	10:00am	Arboretum Working Bee	Arboretum
Monday 7	11:20am	Year 12 Final Assembly	Hall
	7:30pm	PTA Meeting	Library
Tuesday 8	2:10pm	Year 11 Final Assembly	Hall
Thursday 10		NCEA & Scholarship Exams Begin	
	7:00pm	Year 9 Dance	Hall
Monday 14		TEACHER ONLY DAY	
Monday 28	7:30pm	PTA Meeting	Library
Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30	TBA	Year 10 Major Production	Arts Centre
Wednesday 30		NCEA Exams End	
	6:30pm	Whanau Hui	Room 56
December			
Friday 2 – Saturday 3	2 days	Peer Support Training Day	Hall
Sunday 4	10:00am	Arboretum Working Bee	Arboretum
	7:30pm	Leavers' Ball	TBA
Sunday 4 – Tuesday 6	3 days	Peer Support Training Camp	Brookfield Camp, Wainuiomata
Monday 5 – Wednesday 7	3 days	Year 10 Camps	Various
		Year 9 Programme	
Monday 5	5:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Conference Room
Thursday 8	1:10pm	Year 10 Final Assembly	Hall
	2:10pm	Year 9 Final Assembly	Hall
Friday 9		END OF SCHOOL YEAR	

2011 NCEA Examination Timetable and Rooms for Onslow College Students

All exams are 3 hours

LS = Learning Support rooms, MP = Music practice rooms, 51A/54A = language offices

Date	Time	NCEA Level 1	NCEA Level 2	NCEA Level 3	Scholarship
Thu 10 Nov	9:30am				Drama Arts Centre / Conference Room
	2:00pm		English LS 2-4 Rm 51-3, 55 - 59		English Rm 54
Sat 12 Nov	9:30am				Stats and Modelling Rm 56
Mon 14 Nov	9:30am	Mathematics Rm 51-52, 54-61 LS 3-4		Home Econ Rm 51 Spanish Rm 53 LS 2	
	2:00pm			Stats and Modelling Rm 51-55, LS 3	
Tue 15 Nov	9:30am	German Rm 53	Accounting Rm 51	Science Rm 52	
	2:00pm	Accounting Rm 55-56, LS 3	German Rm 53	Biology Rm 51, 52, 54	
Wed 16 Nov	9:30am	English Rm 51 - 60 LS comp, 1, 3, 4, MP1-8	Media Studies Rm MS2, LS 2		Classical Studies Rm 61
	2:00pm		Physics Rm 51 - 53	Art History Rm 54	Physics Rm 53
Thu 17 Nov	9:30am		Mathematics Rm 51 – 58 LS 3		
	2:00pm	French Rm 53	Te Reo Maori Rm 52	Economics Rm 51, (L.2) Rm 56 LS 3 (L.3)	Art History Rm 54
Fri 18 Nov	9:30am			English Rm 51 - 55	
	2:00pm	History Rm 54, 59 - 61 LS 2	Biology Rm 51 – 54, LS 3	Japanese Rm 57	German Rm 55
Sat 19 Nov	9:30am				Chemistry Rm 56
	2:00pm				History Rm 56
Mon 21 Nov	9:30am	Science Rm 51 - 59 LS comp, 1, 2, MP 1-8	Chemistry Rm MS1 – MS2, LS 3	Chemistry Rm 60 – 61, MS1 LS 4	
	2:00pm		Drama Rm 54 – 55, LS 2	German Rm 53	
Tue 22 Nov	9:30am		Geography Rm 54 LS 2		Biology Rm 53
	2:00pm		Spanish Rm 56 LS 2	History Rm 53	
Wed 23 Nov	9:30am	Geography Rm 53, 54, 56 LS 1		Geography Rm 51, 56	Accounting Rm 56
	2:00pm	Home Economics Rm 55	Japanese Rm 53	Classical Studies Rm 51, 52, 54	
Thu 24 Nov	9:30am	Japanese Rm 53	History Rm 51 – 52, LS 2	Accounting Rm 54, LS 3-4	
	2:00pm			Maths with Calculus Rm 51 - 54	
Fri 25 Nov	9:30am	Economics Rm 57 – 58, LS 2-3	French Rm 53	Physics Rm 51, 52, 56 LS 4	Spanish Rm 54 and 55
	2:00pm		Science Rm 55, LS 2	Drama Rm 53	Media Studies Rm 54
Sat 26 Nov	9:30am				Calculus Rm 56
	2:00pm				Geography Rm 56
Mon 28 Nov	9:30am	Drama Rm 51 - 52, LS comp, LS 1, 51A, 54A	Classical Studies Rm 52 54 LS 2-4	Te Reo Maori Rm 52	
	2:00pm	Te Reo Māori Rm 54	Music Rm 53	Media Studies Rm 51 – 52, LS 3	
Tue 29 Nov	9:30am	Spanish Rm MS2			
	2:00pm			French Rm 53	Physical Education Rm 56
Wed 30 Nov	9:30am	Music Rm 56 LS 1	Economics Rm 54, LS 3		Economics Rm 53
	2:00pm		Business Studies Rm 56, LS 3	Chinese Rm 53	