



Newsletter Term 4

Issue 9, December 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

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can report on my first year at Onslow College. It has been a wonderful year for me and everything I could have hoped for. I was attracted to Onslow College by the unique qualities people talked about and still feel very privileged to be part of such a great school. I believe the school has continued to promote and provide education of the very highest standard and that the positive learning based relationships staff and students enjoy make Onslow College a special place to be. I have enjoyed learning about the school and getting to know our community. Although it has been a very demanding year, I have really appreciated the commitment of all the staff and their support has certainly made settling in a lot easier.

I have also enjoyed getting to know our students and being able to not only talk to them around school but also to watch them in a variety of cultural and sporting events. I love seeing the pride and ownership our students feel for their school. They enjoy the positive atmosphere and should feel proud of their contribution towards that. We have some areas that need further work but overall our students are a pleasure to be associated with.

While we are busy finishing off 2011, there is also a lot of planning underway for 2012 and I believe it is going to be a very positive year for the school as we build on the successes of the last few years and strive to continue to provide outstanding education for our students. Each year we set some goals for the school and our goals for 2012 are all about 'meeting the learning needs of our students'. That involves curriculum development, teachers further developing their pedagogy, providing appropriate course pathways, and using evidence to guide our teaching programmes. All this is very exciting and I believe we will continue to be one of the leading schools in Wellington through our work towards these goals.

The summer holiday season is a great time for friends and family to spend time together and to enjoy the kiwi lifestyle we all appreciate. I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to Onslow College this year and wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Best wishes

Peter Leggat
principal@onslow.school.nz



Staff News

We farewell the following staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term:

- **Jeff Abbot** Drama/English Teacher
- **Aurelien Berthaut** French/Maths Teacher
- **Donna Glenn** Teacher Aide
- **Aoife Kearney** Teacher Aide
- **Rachel Morris** English Teacher
- **Graeme Norman** Maths Teacher
- **Barbara Rivers** Teacher Aide
- **Isaac Watts** Spanish Teacher
- **Ana Welham** Drama/English Teacher – currently on maternity leave

We wish you all the best in your future pursuits.

Emily Barnes (Graphics) will be taking maternity leave for 2012. **Jessica Simons** will join us in Emily's absence.

Jan Szydlowski (Biology) has been offered a New Zealand Science, Mathematics and Technology Teacher Fellowship by the Royal Society of New Zealand. **Angela Donaldson** will join us for Terms 1 & 2 while Jan is absent.

We welcome the following staff who will join us for 2012:

- **George Beckley** Maths Teacher (permanent)
- **Adam Hart** Teacher Aide
- **Noreen Jennison** Teacher Aide
- **Kellie Krall** Teacher Aide
- **Amelia Opie** Spanish Teacher (permanent)
- **Bree Smith** Art Teacher (maternity leave)

Start of Year Timetable

Wednesday 25 January - Course confirmation for Years 11-13
Thursday 26 January - Course confirmation call backs
Peer Support Training
Friday 27 January - Teacher Only Day
Monday 30 January - Teacher Only Day
**Tuesday 31 January - Year 9 and other new students:
powhiri and orientation**
Wednesday 1 February - Year 9 and 10 students start school
Thursday 2 February - All year levels: normal timetable

2012 Term Dates

Term 1: Tuesday 31 January to Thursday 5 April
Term 2: Monday 23 April to Friday 29 June
Term 3: Monday 16 July to Friday 28 September
Term 4: Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

Congratulations to...

- **Matt Edridge** (Year 12) - selected for the Wellington Men's Futsal squad.
- **Sam Gifkins** (Year 9) - selected for the NZ Under 16 Aussie Rules Training Squad and the 2011/12 Wellington Rugby Emerging Players Squad.
- **Conor Franklin** (Year 9) - selected for the Wellington Under 13 Provincial Rugby team and the 2011/12 Wellington Rugby Emerging Players Squad.
- **Nick Hann** (Year 12) and **Charlotte Flanagan** (Year 11) - joint recipients of the \$500 Deborah East @ REMAX Scholarship.
- **Vincent Qi** (Year 10) - one of 24 students that have been selected to attend the New Zealand Mathematical Olympiad training camp in Auckland in January. The team of six to represent New Zealand at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Argentina next July will be chosen from the students attending this camp.
- **Haz (Harry) Forrester** (Year 12) - competed in an international fencing competition involving all Australian States, Singapore and New Zealand. 64 fencers competed in the foil competition for the under-20 age group. At age 17, Haz was one of the younger fencers. But he was one of three New Zealanders to make it to the top 16, beating Singapore's top fencer along the way, and losing only to New Zealand's best fencer, Hamish Chan. In the teams competition, Haz joined Hamish and another top NZ fencer (Daniel Kahu), and they finished third behind Victoria and NSW in the teams' competition. Haz fences out of the Hutt Valley Fencing Club, and is the reigning Central Secondary Schools champion.



College Sport Wellington 2011 Sports Awards

The College Sport Wellington 2011 Sports Awards were held on Sunday 6 November. Congratulations to the following Onslow College staff and students who were presented with awards:

- **Paul Leitch** (Teacher) - Apex Print Volunteers of the Year
- **Joss Traub** (Year 12) - Judo Player of the Year
- **Nick Hann** (Year 12) - Orienteerers of the Year
- **Charlotte Flanagan** (Year 11) - Shooter of the Year

NZ Economics Competition

We had 32 students sit the 2011 NZ Economics Competition held by the University of Auckland.

Six students received a High Distinction which puts them in the top 5%. We also had six more students achieve with Distinction.

The Division One (Year 13) top students were:

- Rebecca Gan - High Distinction & top Onslow student
- Sam Donaldson - High Distinction
- Florian Virtuso - High Distinction
- Declan Taylor - Distinction
- Arif Dzukelfly - Distinction
- Simon Scott - Distinction
- Connor Broderick - Distinction

The Division Two (Year 12) top students were:

- Axel Olsthoorn - High Distinction
- Petar Andrejic - High Distinction
- Jack Matthes - High Distinction
- Nina Opacic - Distinction
- Hilton McShane - Distinction

General End of Year Info

The school office will be closed from midday on Friday 9 December, although a skeleton staff will be in attendance during the week of 12-16 December. For any urgent matters after 16 December, please e-mail principal@onslow.school.nz

The office will re-open on Tuesday 24 January 2012.

Student Lockers

All lockers are emptied at the end of the year and reallocated at the beginning of the following year. All padlocks and contents of lockers must be removed before the end of school. Any padlocks that remain will be cut off before Christmas so that the lockers can be claimed at the start of 2012. Students who want a locker in 2012 should bring a padlock to school on their first day (we recommend a substantial key padlock). No lockers will be allocated before 31 January (Year 9 students have first choice). We recommend that students do not place valuable items in lockers as we cannot take responsibility for the security of items placed there.

Library

Leavers Book Donations

We were thrilled that, given the economic climate, \$1065 worth of new books were selected by generous parents and caregivers at the Leavers Afternoon Tea to donate to the library as a memento of their student's years at Onslow College.

Outstanding Book Loans

Just a reminder that at any time students can check what books they have out by:

- asking library staff;
- emailing the Library Manager - Barbara.Walker@onslow.school.nz;
- entering their borrower number into the library catalogues (My Library-Borrower Details); or
- going to www.onslownet.school.nz, clicking the link to the library, going through the security warnings, logging in and clicking the link to the library. Then clicking My Library-Borrower Number and entering their student number.

NCEA Examinations

The three week examination period finished on 30 November and the NZQA supervisors would like to thank Onslow students for their excellent exam room behaviour and their courteousness. We also thank the juniors for coping with the room changes and keeping the exam area quiet.

NCEA exam results notices will not arrive in the letterbox this year

The mid-January external exam results can only be obtained online this year. All students must go onto the NZQA website learner section to see their results (or to register if that hasn't been done). Don't leave it until January to set up the personal learner access.

From the Learner home page students can also order National Certificates of Educational Achievement, University Entrance certificates, Records of Achievement and School Results Summaries. One copy of certificates, records and school results summaries is free but reprints of certificates previously awarded will be charged.

If students apply for reviews and reconsiderations of externally assessed standards, they should wait until these are completed before ordering documents.

Course Confirmation Day for Seniors

Please bring a printout of your 2011 results.

Parent Election Results

Parent representatives' votes:

Keith Mockett	70
Julian Moore	200
Louise Starkey	119
Jeff Thompson	203
Invalid Votes	1

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

Julian Moore
Jeff Thomson

Diana Bradley
Returning Officer

From the Board

It is with regret that we farewell Shelley Murdoch and Debbie Iversen from the Board of Trustees. We would like to recognise the dedication and commitment they have shown to the Board and the school over the past three years.

We join Peter Leggat in farewelling the staff who are leaving us at the end of the year. Thank you for your contribution to the College and we wish you well in the future.

Recently we farewellled our Year 13 students in a ceremony that celebrated their five years at Onslow and the learning, growing and achieving they had done in that time. We are proud of our leavers and hope they will continue to keep in

touch with the school in the years ahead. To those parents whose children are leaving Onslow, thank you for your support.

We wish you and your families a happy and peaceful holiday and look forward to working together to realise the potential of our students in 2012.

Primary Industry Trades Academy [PITA]

2011 was the first year of the new Ministry of Education funded Trades Academies Programme.

Two Onslow College Year 12 students - Kelly Poehls and Nicole Wright - were participants in the PITA Trades Academy run by Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre in Masterton.

Both girls gained a wide range of agricultural skills and experience through their weekly work experience on local farms, tutor days at neighbouring farms and two residential courses based at Taratahi. They completed their National Certificate in Agricultural Introductory Skills Level 2 - a grand total of 46 Level 2 credits. They also gained confidence and training in the safe use of farm machinery and vehicles including tractors and quad bikes!

Nicole and Kelly were great ambassadors for Onslow College, and as 'city girls', impressed their tutors with their diligence, willingness to get involved and learn new things and participate in every aspect of the programme. In turn the PITA experience has given the students a taster of potential agricultural careers and course options including Massey University and Taratahi College for further training.

Two new Year 12 Onslow Students have been accepted into the 2012 programme and are certain to gain as much from the Programme. If you are interested in finding out more about the PITA Trades Academy, please contact Carolyn Lewin in the Careers Department carolyn.lewin@onslow.school.nz



Cricket for Girls

Girls who are interested in playing Saturday cricket are invited to contact Onslow Cricket:

- Amanda Cooper 027 626 8404; or
- Janice Hodgson 478 0998 / 021 137 584