



Newsletter Term 2

Issue 4, May 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

Term Two is in full swing and it is a very busy term for us all with a lot of fantastic activities planned, including a wide range of sporting and cultural events. However, it is very important that students manage their time carefully and make sure they meet all their commitments, especially their academic ones. Students are facing increased assessment load and as parents, you can help by talking over their work load and helping them plan so they get everything done to the best of their ability - and not just at the last minute!

I have enjoyed getting around many activities and watching our talented students in music, drama, kapa haka and sport. I have also been interviewing a number of students to find out how well the school is meeting their needs. I have really enjoyed getting to know the students and feel privileged to be associated with such a great group of young people.

As always, there are things to work on but with the positive relationship most students enjoy with their teachers, I believe we can continue to benefit and our students accept the challenge of striving to be their best in everything they undertake.

With the change in the weather, it is really important that the students look after themselves so they don't miss vital school work through illness. While I realise that wearing a rain jacket is not 'cool' and that modern fashion is not always the best for winter, I would appreciate parents' help in encouraging your children to wear clothing that is appropriate for the climatic conditions. It is also a good time to remind our students about the ways to avoid spreading or catching bugs. We place a lot of importance on students attending school every day possible and have set up our early notification initiative this year to support that. I am pleased to see our overall attendance rates improve as a result and I would like to thank parents for their support. We still have room for improvement in the senior school but it is pleasing to see our EN initiative being successful.

There are a number of important notices in this newsletter and I encourage you to read them so you can help us continue to run our outstanding school.

Best wishes

Peter Leggat
principal@onslow.school.nz



Staff News

Farewell to Shar Stewart who is leaving us today, having made a great contribution to the graphics area. Shar is heading north where she will take up the role of Head of Graphics at New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Welcome back to Emily Barnes who is returning from maternity leave on Monday.

Year 10 Parent Teacher Interviews

The Year 10 Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday 1 June from 6-8pm. Year 10 students have been given an interview booking sheet that contains the instructions for how to book your appointments.

School Closures

Closure - 3 June

The school will be closed for a mid-term break on Friday 3 June. This was planned in response to the longer than normal term due to the Rugby World Cup.

Early Closing - 15 June

The school will close early on Wednesday 15 June to enable set up for our Open Evening. Buses will collect students at 12:20pm.

Traffic through the School

The roads through the school are not well designed for safety or convenience. If you are dropping students off at school between 8:30am and 8:45am, please do not drive into the main quads or through the school. It would help to reduce congestion and risk if you were to release passengers by the pedestrian crossing or in the layby next to the main field on Burma Rd. Thank you for your co-operation.

Onslow Homestay Programme

We are currently seeking homestay accommodation for our international students arriving from Germany, Brazil and Vietnam in July 2011. In return for sharing your home and providing a welcome and safe environment for an international student, we offer a competitive weekly allowance and on-going support.

For more information or if you would like to receive our information pack please contact Hali Balfourt.
E-mail: hali.balfourt@onslow.school.nz
Phone: 477 1629 (daytime), 461 6095 (evenings).
Mobile: 021 989 398

Adult Community Education

Check out the Community Education section of our website for Saturday classes coming up this term.
<http://onslow.school.nz/community-education1>

Achievement Centre

Extra support for students is available in Room 56 on Tuesday mornings, any time from 7:30-9:30am. Teachers from a range of subject areas are there to provide one on one mentoring, or students may choose to use the space to study. Whether students need assistance learning a skill or are striving for an excellence grade, the Achievement Centre is available to support a wide range of academic needs.

Peer Support

Our thanks once again to the willing Year 13 volunteers who have put so much time and effort into supporting our new Year 9 students. This year's group has really worked hard to live up to the goals of the Peer Support programme, and have taken their roles very seriously. I know the Year 9 students are grateful for the support they have received and have really enjoyed time with their Peer Supporters, especially at camp.

International ESOL News

This year we enrolled a number of new students from many different cultures including Afghanistan, The Philippines, Brazil, Denmark, Japan, Korea, Germany, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Fiji and Russia.

We currently have four students from exchange organisations and 50 international students. There are approximately 90 students in the school who speak languages other than English at home.

The year started with our usual orientation programme which included a visit to the city center, ten pin bowling and our annual international dinner with all the host parents and host families. The highlight was the outdoor education camp which was held in Masterton. The students stayed on a marae, went surfing, rafting and participated in high and low rope activities.

The Japan earthquake in March was upsetting for our 12 Japanese students, many of whom live around that region of Japan. They spent an afternoon making sushi to sell to the staff and students and raised about \$500 which was sent to Red Cross.

Kerry Finnigan
International Department

Student Congratulations

Congratulations to...

- **Tayla Haumaha** - selected for the Wellington U18 Girls Premier Hockey team.
- **Hannah Betts, Amber Strain and Harriet McFetridge** - selected for the Wellington U18 Girls Development Hockey team.
- **Micki Bai** - the first student to complete the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award through Onslow College. To complete her award Micki recorded her regular involvement in three months of service to a community group, three months of learning a new skill, six months of physical recreation, and tramping on weekend journeys in the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges. Several other students are now close to finishing their Bronze Awards and are aiming for Silver.

Hillary Challenge

During the week 16-20 May, our eight person Hillary Challenge team competed in a very prestigious and demanding series of challenges. This culminated in a 45km multi-discipline expedition that was a real test of endurance.

Despite a limited build up, the team performed superbly and eventually finished 6th. Their challenge is to qualify for the 2012 event and given the individual talents of our team and the commitment of their coaches, I have every confidence they will be back for the event.



Canoe Polo

Last term was a fantastic season for two of the Onslow teams with the Junior boys coming 5th in the NZ Secondary Schools Canoe polo National Championships after winning their division at the Central South Regional Competition.

The Senior Girls' team were also major stars winning their first ever gold medals in 1st place at the National Championships as winners of Senior Girls' Division 2. This was a major achievement and both players and parents had a wonderful time at Fielding supporting each other.



Junior Boys Team: Jean-Luc Lazet, Stuart Engleback, Fox McCrae, Jasper Edge, Jeremy Everett and Daniel Davis.

Senior Girls Team: Kaylie Potaka, Myfanwy Edge, Saiorse O'Sullivan, Yvie Falloon, Brooke Meleah, Rebecca Edge and Tayla Jeromson.

Onslow Rowing – 2010/2011 Season

Onslow Rowing teams completed a successful and satisfying season at the Maadi Cup regatta held at Lake Karapiro in early April. This year Onslow crews qualified for two "A" finals (Boys Under 15 Four and Boys Under 16 Four) and five "B" finals, which is the best Onslow has achieved in the last 10 years.

The 2010-2011 rowing season has also seen some notable achievements from Onslow College rowers who have moved on to club rowing. We are very proud of the hard work and commitment being invested by Tobias Wehr-Candler, Tufi Sele and Jonathan Wright, who are currently training with New Zealand representative squads at Lake Karapiro.

Onslow College rowers collected more than their fair share of awards at the Wellington Rowing Club prize giving this year with Bastian Scotts-Bahl and Dylan Kaufman sharing the School Boy Rower of the Year award, Connor McIntosh being awarded the Most Improved School Rower, Kim Hunter winning the Most Promising Novice School Rower and Poppy Holloway-Wilson was given the award for Outstanding Devotion to Rowing.

We are all enormously proud of these rowers. We would like to acknowledge all the rowers who have rowed for Onslow this season because rowing is the ultimate team sport. Without the focus, dedication and commitment of the whole crew the boat won't go fast! We made some boats go fast this season!!

Scarves for Christchurch

Our Year 10 fashion and design class were in the middle of their fibre to fabric unit, when their teacher Zoe Hainge spotted an opportunity for the class to help Christchurch.

Glassons was asking for knitters to make a scarf and then take it into any Glassons store where they would sell it for \$25, donating all proceeds to helping the people of Christchurch.

Scarves needed to be between 1 and 1.8 meters long and of any colour. Our class got to work, looking at the latest colours of the season and researching existing fashionable scarves. We came up with some amazing concepts and sourced second hand wool to work with.

Students were able to work by themselves, in pairs or groups: depending on their confidence and skill level. After a week of practicing and three weeks knitting in class and for homework, the scarves were ready for pompom's and tassels and fixing the odd little hole.

We personally delivered the scarves to Glassons on Lambton Quay and raised \$275 for Christchurch.

Awesome work Girls!



Japan Trip

Subject to sufficient numbers we have just received notification from our sister school, Yamamura Gakuen, in Japan that they would welcome a visit from us this year and all is well in their prefecture in Japan.

The trip will depart Thursday 6 October and return Sunday 23 October. It includes 4-5 days sightseeing around Kyoto, Himeji, Hiroshima, Osaka and Takayami, followed by 10 days in homestays while hosted at Yamamura doing a range of activities including a day at Tokyo Disneyland. An information meeting will be held in the school staffroom on Tuesday 7 June from 7:30pm. All interested students and parents are invited. Cost will be \$4000 per person. A flyer with a brief outline is available from kathie.stobbs@onslow.school.nz or steve.mitchell@onslow.school.nz

Billets/ Homestays Required

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the annual exchange programme with Yamamura Gakuen (our sister school near Tokyo) and they will be bringing 10 girls and 12 boys to Onslow College from Thursday 4 August to Saturday 13 August and we need to find families to host them. The students are aged 15-17 years of age and have a full school programme including sight-seeing and cultural activities. If you can help please email kathie.stobbs@onslow.school.nz

While it may be preferable to have their own room, many students share with a host brother/sister of the same sex and lots of students remain in contact with their host families for many years after the exchange.

NCEA News & Reminders

NCEA Fees

Due at the end of this term, Friday 15 July. These fees are invoiced separately. GST changes have pushed up the cost: for most students the fee will be \$76.70 (this sum includes up to three Scholarship entries. Extra scholarship entries will cost \$76.70 each). Information will be posted to you in a week or two including details about generous financial discounts. The forms for these will be on the website in a couple of weeks. The fee could drop to \$20 per student or \$30 per family (if three students are entered into NCEA) so check this out if you have a community services card or receive a benefit.

Ill Health Requires Medical Evidence

A note from home will not cover student absence from an NCEA internal assessment. The rules are similar to those covering absence from an NCEA exam. Medical evidence is required. This could include a visit to the doctor, the surgery nurse, the physiotherapist, the dentist, the chemist (as long as the pharmacist is prepared to write a note).

If the student signs out through sick bay and the office staff can easily see that the student is very unwell that will also suffice for an assessment on that day but only if it is very visible.

BUT if the student is still ill the following day and this continues to impact on assessments, then a medical diagnosis is needed. So while you would not normally take a student to the doctor for a cold, if the impairment from the cold is such that the student cannot meet an assessment deadline then that medical evidence is important. There are credits in a nationally monitored qualification at stake which is why the requirements are much tighter. There is also a fairness issue.

For consistency we require medical evidence from every ill student.

Students have been given this information in their assessment handbook, daily notices, assemblies, course outlines and by class teachers.

Opting Out of Internal Assessments

There are often good reasons why a student may wish to withdraw from an internal assessment. Ongoing ill-health, overseas sport and cultural commitments are some examples. Because all students are initially entered into all the standards attached to a course, formal withdrawal must happen before the assessment begins. Otherwise the grade is Not Achieved because NZQA considers that the student had the opportunity to complete the work. A letter from home to the dean or teacher is needed please.

Term 2 Assessment Timetables are on the school website along with the draft versions for Terms 3 and 4.

New System for Paper Copies of the 2010 NCEA Certificates and Records of Achievement

Students now have to order the paper copies they require using the Learner Login section of the NZQA website. The National Student Number (NSN) is needed and it can be found on the students' January School Results Summary.

Course Endorsement

NZQA now endorses courses as well as certificates which will recognise our subject experts. 14 credits at merit and/or excellence in an Onslow course will be rewarded with a course endorsement as long as at least three credits are from internal assessment and three from external assessment. Only PE and Level 3 visual arts can gain endorsement with 14 internally assessed credits (or 14 external credits).

E-mail any questions to: kate.williams@onslow.school.nz

Gateway

The 2011 students on the Gateway Programme are all underway with their work experience placements one day each week at a wide range of companies including: printing, electrical, hotels, florists, travel agencies, bakeries, builders, auto mechanics and early childhood centres.

The aim of the Gateway Programme is to provide senior students in Years 12 & 13, with a workplace learning opportunity in a self-selected career area.

Students gain pre-placement training and credits in First Aid, Workplace Safety, Kiwihost Customer Service and Driver Education. Through their placements, they can also achieve industry-related unit standards that go towards NCEA and industry qualifications. Because of their placement day and additional study, Gateway students develop skills in managing the demands of their Gateway placement, their school programme and other commitments. Thank you to the parents of our Gateway students for supporting your student in their work experience and encouraging them to manage their time effectively.

One of our Year 12 Gateway students has already been selected for a full time job and apprenticeship at a leading Hairdressing Salon in the city. Of the 30 students on the 2010 Gateway Programme, successful outcomes include eight students studying at polytechs and other providers - including two students accepted into Toi Whakaari's Costume Construction Course; four gaining apprenticeships in cheffing,

plumbing, and joinery; one student studying at Massey University and seven students in full time work.

We thank the following companies for partnering with Onslow College as Gateway Programme employers and their willingness to offer work experience and quality support, training and mentoring to the student at their workplace:

Accor Hotel Group / Russell Properties / Colin Lovering Hair Design Johnsonville / Adam Tulloch Electrical / Brendan McDonnell Builders / Kia Ora Sheet Metal / House of Travel, Johnsonville / Excel Digital / North City Tyre & Service Centre / Bunches Florist / G Guy Motors / The Learning Support Dept, Onslow College / Carrigane Childcare Centre / Challenge 2000 / Kelly Sports / Childhood Concepts Early Childhood Centre / Shayne Plunket Building / Nada Bakery, Tawa / Ohariu Valley Riding School / Harding Electrical

Parents interested in discussing the programme can contact Carolyn Lewin, Gateway Coordinator in the Careers Dept. Ph: 478 8189 ext 843; e-mail: carolyn.lewin@onslow.school.nz

Entertainment Books

Is your current book about to expire? If so don't worry as Onslow still has stocks of the new book valid until 1 June 2012. 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/

You can also order and pay for your book online at: www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104982

From the PTA

Who are we? Onslow College's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is a group of enthusiastic parents who meet once a month in the College Library. Our next meeting for Term 2 is on Monday 27 June at 7:30pm. These meetings are open to anyone to attend and we would love to see you there. It is a great way to meet other parents and have some involvement with your children's school.

Unlike primary school committees, we do not do any fundraising. We are there to assist the school with events such as catering for the annual Year 9 tea, Onslow's open evening next month, the up-coming parent-teacher interviews and other events in which the school is involved during the year. We also assist in the Library and support the Arboretum.

If you cannot attend meetings, we also have a "Willing Helper's List" to call on extras when needed. The more helpers we have, the less work is required by everyone - so please consider offering your hand.

We are currently running the PTA meetings without a Chairperson. Does this position interest you? We have a very supportive committee to support you. If you are keen or want to know more about what's involved, please contact our Secretary, Maree Kibblewhite - Ph: 934 3410.

Alternatively, if you would like to be added to the "Willing Helper's List", please email your name and contact details to Karen at doogan@paradise.net.nz

Last Thursday, we were pleased to host a successful Year 9 tea and would like to thank all those who bought a raffle ticket. Congratulations to Year 9 parent, Lin Laternell who won the evening raffle - we hope you enjoy the winning goodies!