



ST PETER'S COLLEGE
PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND

Standing Tall, Promoting Excellence,
Developing Understanding

NEWSLETTER



Celebrating Catholic Education since 1904

FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Welcome to the 2011 Academic Year for our community and it seems that it was only yesterday that I was giving a prizegiving speech at the Regent! We are already into the second week of the term with the Year 13s away on Leadership Camp and the Year 10s about to go next week. We have held our beginning of year Mass and the Powhiri for our new students and staff, and I want to say thank you to all the parents who joined us at these events. Parents are always very welcome to join us at anytime for these events, despite what some students may tell their parents. A big thank you to Mike Delany and Doug Mohi and their respective teams for, once again, planning these great events.

This year we are continuing our focus as a whole College on two of our values: Respect, and Curiosity; Inquiry and Innovation. These have already been part of the focus in 2010, but we will be putting these more to the forefront of our teaching and learning this year.

We have welcomed a new staff member to the College this year with the arrival of **Sarah Hearn** as the new Year 7 & 8 Team Leader. Sarah has good knowledge of the College as she has children who attend and you will be able to meet her at the parent meeting that will be held for the different levels in the next few weeks. Please do take the time to meet with the appropriate staff and ask the many questions some of you as new parents may have.

Towards the end of last year, one of our Board members stepped down from the position of parent representative so we will be looking to fill that vacancy in the near future. If you are keen to be nominated to be a member of the Board, whether you are new to the College or not, this will be a great way to serve our community. Please contact either myself or Therese Mitchell at the main office and let us have your name.

With the changes in the term dates for 2011 as a result of the Rugby World Cup, we have two long terms in the first half of the year. This may lull some senior students into a false sense of security and the final end of year examinations will be upon them before they know. Term 4 has two weeks for senior students before they commence the external examinations, so students need to plan accordingly from the beginning of the year.

Finally we are holding a Gala this year and the convenor, Judith Clark, will be looking for parent volunteers in the very near future, to put up their hands to support this great fundraiser. Attached to this newsletter you will find the information you need to get involved.

David Olivier
Principal



Photos from the Powhiri and Opening Mass

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ...

NZ Secondary Schools Touch Nationals 2010

Our Senior Girls Touch team qualified for the NZ Secondary Schools Touch Nationals held in December at Ongley Park in Palmerston North. This tournament involves the top 20 Girls, Boys and Mixed teams from throughout NZ. This was to be one of the toughest tournaments our girls have been involved in. We played 7 games over three days, and even though we didn't win a game, we improved in each game, going down in our final 4-3 to Okaihau College.

Thank you to **Kylie Joe** for her help in coaching the girls, to **Elle Goodbehere** for her managing role, and to all the parents and supporters who helped with the team. Thank you to the members of the team for their efforts in training, fundraising and playing in the tournament. It was difficult getting the team together as we had many players coming and going in the three months leading up to nationals, and pulled in three players the week before to finally have a team of 12 for the tournament. A huge thank you to **Lara Collins, Jess Oulaghan and Elise Judd** for stepping in at the last minute. To the other team members – **Rosie Missen, Kristyn Ferry, Wairakau Greig, Louise Ingram, Kataraina Hapi-Tukapua, Tapu Tanginoa, Mamae Raukura, Daow Rinnongrua and Jordan Simeon-Benge** – thank you for your commitment throughout the season and the hard work you did in the games and tournaments leading up to nationals. It was frustrating and tiring at times but we made it to nationals, we played hard, and we improved throughout.

A special thank you to **Rosie Missen**, who captained the team and showed 100% commitment both on and off the field. Rosie has strong leadership qualities and always works hard for the team. Also a special mention to **Wairakau Greig** who was named in the NZ Secondary Schools Girls Touch Tournament Team at the completion of nationals. She is also a member of the NZ Under 19 Women's team who competed in Australia in January, and with her skills, dedication and commitment we expect to see her representing NZ in touch for many years to come.

With many of our senior players leaving, we are entering a rebuilding phase, and hope to enter a Junior Girls team in the secondary competition this term. I look forward to working with the younger players and aiming to qualify for nationals again in the future.

Jan McLeod - TIC Touch



FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR ...

If a student is finding it hard to settle into school; is having problems in relationships; is feeling over stressed, angry or sad; has had loss or grief in their lives; or just needs an objective listening ear, they can make an appointment with me and I can help.

Students do not have to have 'huge problems' to make an appointment, as talking with an objective adult about any concerns, can be beneficial for all of us; and let's face it, being a teenager is not always an easy journey.

I also have resources and information about agencies, programmes and workshops that provide further back-up for families.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on the school phone number, (06) 354 4198, extension 763. I am available from Monday to Thursday.

Janine Loving-Molloy
Guidance Counsellor

CONGRATULATIONS ...

Touch

Congratulations to **Wairakau Greig** for her selection in the NZ Under 19 Women's Touch Team which competed in the Trans-Tasman Tournament in Canberra, Australia in January 2011. She will also be competing for the Manawatu Under 21 Women's Team who are defending their gold medal title at NZ Touch Nationals in Christchurch in March.

Swimming

Congratulations to the following swimmers from SPC who competed in the Manawatu Age Group Championships in Feilding on 29th and 30th January - keep up the great results!

- **Taiga Honey** - 4 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Medal in Men's 10 year old grade
- **George Southee** - 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals in Men's 11 year old grade
- **Charles Southee** - 6 Silver Medals in Men's 12 year old grade
- **Hamish McGirr** - Gold in Men's 14 year old grade
- **Cameron Blair** - 7 Gold Medals in Men's 15 year old grade
- **John-Joe Elkington** - 1 Gold and 3 Bronze Medals in Men's 16 and over grade
- **Janelle Birchler** - 3 Silver and 3 Gold Medals in Girls 13 year old grade.

PTFA FOOD FAIR & GALA ...

Make a note in your calendars/diaries now! **The St Peter's College Food Fair and Gala will be held on Saturday 9th April 2011 from 11.00 am.** For full details and ways in which you can support this event, see the flyer which is being distributed with this newsletter.

FOR YOUR INFO ...

Second-Hand Uniforms

The Second-Hand Uniform sale in January was a great success. Thanks to all concerned.

We have depleted our stock and would ask for donations of uniforms your child may not be using this year - from last year's juniors who are in the senior school this year, or from any of last year's seniors who may have left. These would be greatly appreciated.

There will be another second-hand sale but the date is yet to be confirmed. Further details will be available in subsequent newsletters.

P.E. Uniform

P.E. Uniforms are outlined in the Information Book (part of the Enrolment Pack). All Years 7 to 10 students must have the P.E. Uniform (green sports shorts, and either the green polo shirt or an appropriate coloured House t-shirt). Year 11 - 13 students may wear any appropriate clothing for P.E.

Early Finish on Wednesdays

A reminder to parents that **school finishes at 2.30 pm every Wednesday** to enable teachers to attend Professional Development.

ROCK ON -

(Reduce Our Community Kids Offending Now)

St Peter's College continues to be part of the Rock On Programme. This programme focuses on addressing ongoing attendance issues and working with the young person and their family by offering appropriate support to re engage students in education. The College wants to strengthen its support for students who are at risk of failing within the education system, as research identifies that attendance at school determines academic success.

The College will be indentifying chronic truants who have not responded to interventions from the school. The names of the students will be forwarded to the Rock On Forum and a multi-agency response will be planned to address the causes of truancy. (Agencies involved include: CYFS Child Youth and Family, CAMS Child & Adolescent Mental Health, Truancy and other appropriate youth service providers.)

A reminder about the absences procedures:

- Parents/Caregivers need to inform the school of an absence and the reasons for it.
- After 3 days the school requests that parents supply a medical certificate.

From Pam Owen Public Health Nurse

Parents and Caregivers can contact me via Health on Main (06) 350 4560 or through the school office if they wish support or advice relating to their child's health. I am available alternate Friday lunch times in the Guidance Counsellor's room for students if they have a health related concern. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT ...

There are so many exciting sport opportunities and awards up for grabs in 2011 so make sure you listen to the Daily Notices and check the Gym classroom window for details of upcoming events

Summer Sport Registration Forms are now available from the Sports Office in the Hall foyer, this season we are offering Volleyball, Touch, Softball, Croquet, Cricket (indoor and outdoor) and new sports like Tennis, Golf and Cycling!

PLEASE let us know about the GREAT results and successes you achieve from any sports and events that you participate in that the Sports Department might not know about like Gymsports, Mountain-Biking, Figure Skating, Archery and many more!

St Peter's is always looking to develop the leaders within our school and there are often openings for students (and parents!) to be coaches for various sporting codes so please register your interest with the Sports Office.

Many of the uniforms for Sports codes are provided by St Peter's at the start of the season and it is appreciated if these could be returned CLEAN to the Sports Office no later than a week after the last game has been played.

Fees are associated with the Sporting Codes which we offer and these are stated on the registration forms. It is imperative that fees be paid by the due date so teams can be confirmed and entered into the appropriate grades. If payment of fees is an issue please get in touch with Pam in the Accounts Office where arrangements like 'instalments' can be made.

In all, we are looking forward to a thrilling 2011 sporting year and it would be great for you to be part of it!

Contact Ms Black (Sports Coordinator) on 3544198 ext 741 or send an email to sports@stpeterspn.school.nz

Important Dates Coming Up

- **Netball Committee AGM - Wednesday 23rd February** 7.00 pm in the Gym classroom, chaired by Tracy Black, Sports Coordinator.
- **Sports Committee Hui - Monday 28th February** 4.30 pm in the Gym classroom.

All welcome - any queries email: sports@stpeterspn.school.nz

COMMUNITY ...

Toolbox Parenting Groups

Toolbox offers courses in 3 age groups (0-6 years, 5-11 years and Tween/Teen) starting on **Tuesday 1st March** at 54 Pascal Street, Palmerston North. The course runs for 6 successive Tuesday nights, from 7.15 - 9.30 pm. Cost is \$67.50 for an individual or \$90 for a couple, but subsidies are available so please ask when you book.

For more information or to book go to www.theparentingplace.co.nz email PalmerstonNthTBX@parentsinc.org.nz, phone 06 3593665 or text 0211 672267.

COMING UP ...

Year 10 Camps 14th - 16th February

Year 10 - Don't forget that it's camp from Monday 14th (8:45 am at school) - Thursday 17th February (3.00 pm at school). Your gear list is in your camp booklet. If you've lost it you can download it from the homepage of the school website.

In addition to that gear list, you're also providing things for your small group for the last night of camp and your Duke of Edinburgh practice-tramp. Please make sure you bring everything that you need as a member of that group (you completed your list with Mr Scott)... your group needs: Tent/sleeping bags, tramping packs - 1 per person, simple cooking facility for dinner and breakfast + food for lunch that will ALL go in your group tramping packs, suitable walking shoes (sturdy training shoes are OK), an adult to walk with! and that's it.

Have a restful weekend so you're good for Monday.

Any questions, contact Mr Bowen: bowenj@stpeterspn.school.nz

Senior Information Evening - Thursday 17th February

Parents of senior students are invited to attend the **Senior Information Meeting from 3.45 pm to 5.00 pm on Thursday 17th February in the College Library.** The purpose of this meeting is for the Principal to outline the focus for the year. Ms Johnson, Head of Senior School, will briefly outline issues relating to the senior school. There will be a brief update on NCEA requirements from Mrs Lynch, and an opportunity for parents to meet the Deans.

Swimming Sports - Friday 18th February

The hotly contested House competition starts with the annual Swimming Sports which will be held **Friday 18th February from 12:30 to 6:00 pm at the Lido in Park Road.** Open Events start at 12:20 pm and those students who have pre-entered for these events will need to be at the Lido at 12:00 noon. It is a normal school day, therefore all students are expected to be there. **Students need to be at the Lido at 12:30 pm, and are to wear House colours, hats and sunblock. Towels, food, water and warm clothes are essential.** The Lido tuck shop and indoor toilets will be out of bounds to all our students. We will be using the outdoor toilets.

Students are required to be at the Lido until 6:00 pm, unless prior arrangements have been made with their Form Teacher/Dean. Students who need to leave the sports before 6:00 pm need to give a note, signed by a parent, to their Vertical Group Teacher as soon as they arrive at the Lido. As students will not be attending school during the day of the swimming sports, and will be making their own transport arrangements to and from the pool, it is imperative that parents advise the College by 10:00 am on Friday 18th if their child is unable to be present at this event.

As in previous years, the reason for holding the Swimming Sports from 12:30 to 6:00 pm is to minimise the risk of excess exposure to the sun, and allow parents to attend later in the day. There will be a sausage sizzle later in the day. All parents/caregivers are warmly invited to join the fun and enjoy a BBQ tea.

Listen to the radio at 7:00 am for cancellations. If postponed, students will be expected to attend school as normal. Good Luck to you all!

Year 7 & 8 Information Evening Tuesday 22nd February

Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are invited to attend the **Information/Meet the Teachers Meeting from 3.45 pm to 5.00 pm on Tuesday 22nd February in the College Library.**

Year 9 & 10 Information Evening Thursday 24th February

Parents of Year 9 and 10 students are invited to attend the **Information/Meet the Teachers Meeting from 3.45 pm to 5.00 pm on Thursday 24th February in the College Library.**

Athletic Sports - Wednesday 23rd February

This will be held on **Wednesday 23rd February** at the Massey Track from 9.00 am until 4.00 pm. Listen to the Daily Notices for travel arrangements. **Students are to wear House colours, hats and sunblock.** Further information will be available on our school website and given to students by their Vertical Group Teachers prior to the day.

CALENDAR CHANGES ...

There are no changes to dates and times advertised in the last newsletter in December.

CALENDAR ...

12-13	Feb	- 10.00 am - 4.00 pm: Vex Robotics Regional Championships in St Peter's College Gym
14-16	Feb	- Year 10 Camps
Wed 16	Feb	- ID Card Photos
Thur 17	Feb	- 3.45 pm: Senior Information Evening
Fri 18	Feb	- 12.30 pm: Swimming Sports - Lido
Tue 22	Feb	- 3.45 pm: Year 7 & 8 Parent Information Meeting - Library
Wed 23	Feb	- 9.00 am - 4.00 pm: Athletics Sports Day at Massey Track - 7.00 pm: Netball Committee AGM - Gym classroom - all welcome
Thur 24	Feb	- 2.15 pm: Parent Information Meeting re Year 7/8 Vaccinations - 3.45 pm: Year 9 & 10 Parent Information Meeting - Library
Mon 28	Feb	- 4.30 pm: Sports Committee Hui - Gym classroom - all welcome