



*Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of Mana College, Tena koutou. Talofa Lava. Fakalofa atu. Kia Orana. Taloha ni. Malo e leilei. Greetings to you all.*

## Welcome to Term 2

I would like to let all our parents/caregivers know that the Principal, Mike Webster, is currently away from the college on sick leave. We all send our best wishes to him and trust that his recovery is progressing well.

Over the last two weeks there have been articles in the Dom Post and Kapi-Mana that have portrayed a particular viewpoint about our school. Rest assured that this is not the full picture.

The College welcomes the support that has been provided by the MOE and we will continue to focus on raising achievement for all students. We are committed to providing the very best educational opportunities for you and your children.

Our focus for Term 2 is on high student attendance, a positive attitude for learning and academic achievement. I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together; students, teachers and whanau.

This edition of Korero is evidence of the diverse experiences and achievements of our students.

Nga mihi nui  
Marion Tuite, Acting Principal

## ICT Achievement

Congratulations to Hung-Tien Ly on his highly successful completion of the NCEA Level 1 JavaScript course in the Year 10 Computer Programming option class.

Hung-Tien achieved this in one term with full marks, demonstrating exceptional problem solving skills. He is now learning how to create web pages using HTML and CSS, which he should complete by July.

At this rate, he will complete the Level 2 Computer Programming course before he has finished Year 10. Well done, Hung-Tien!

## Learning to Speak Up!

“Awesome”; “great”; “nice” and “cool” are just some of the words Te Whare Ako students use

to describe the “Speaking Up” course they are attending this term.

Ngawai Kirwan explains that the ten week course teaches students about “self advocacy” which she describes as “talking to people and groups and sticking up for yourself”. She is looking forward to learning ways to “get the shyness out of my head”. Rachael Sims is also attending the course which she said is important because “I need to speak up more, to make my own choices”.

Connor Spinks explains how the course helps students to “learn about different jobs and will help us get money”, it also encourages students to explore positive changes the school can make.

The ten week course is run at Mana College by a self-advocacy organisation called People First. Funding for the course was arranged by IDEA services in conjunction with the college. The course places a strong emphasis on the students learning how speaking-up can be maintained in their daily lives, and how to appreciate and value their own abilities.



## Careers & Transition

Year 11, 12 and 13 targeted students have had in-depth interviews to discuss career options and gather information for future career pathways.

Twelve senior students successfully gained their First Aid Certificate and achieved NCEA credits.

We have had very successful University presentations from Victoria, Massey and Otago at Mana College this year. These presentations give students an insight into university life and available courses.

Many STAR courses have been organised and senior students are currently processing applications for them. These short courses give students a taste of specific career pathways and enable credits to be gained.

### **Awesome Yr 9 STARS Camp**

With the support of the Foundation for Youth Development, on 21-24 April we took our Year 9 students and STARS Mentors for an activity-packed few days at YMCA Camp Kaitoke, near Upper Hutt.

The students had the opportunity to participate in challenging outdoor activities with the support of accredited facilitators. Activities included abseiling, giant swing, treetop course, challenge course, kayaking, archery, mountain biking and nightline trail. These activities relied on all students and staff stepping out of their comfort zone and challenging their fears. The students were all extremely respectful and it was a great experience for all.

Our confidence in our Senior Mentors being effective role models for our Year 9 students has grown significantly since the start of the year. Seeing the students both work alongside each other, as well as lead by example, was truly an enriching experience for all staff. Hearing from the staff at YMCA Camp Kaitoke about how well behaved our students are, and how their participation, team work, respect and cooperation was second to any other school group they have ever had, has made all the planning and time away from school worthwhile.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Year 9 Deans, Seth Weakly and Kath Beckett, for their organization and commitment to this experience.



### **Services Academy Winners**

This year's Services Academy students were put through their paces on a 12 day induction at Waiouru Military Camp, joining other Service Academies nationwide. They endured early morning wake up calls, along with physical training, team building, lifeskills, theory lessons, military drill, confidence and high ropes courses. A priceless and proud moment was our students bringing home all three competition trophies for Sport, Longest Day Endurance (a combination of activities) and Military Drill. Well done team!



### **Coming Events**

Sun 24 - Fri 29 May - Yr11 Outdoor Pursuits Trip  
Friday 29 May - Teacher Only Day, school closed  
Saturday 30 May - BOT Meeting @ 10am  
Monday 1 June - Queens Birthday, school closed