

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.

Term Three

I would like to begin by addressing an issue that keeps arising at the moment. We have had a number of parents asking if the school is closing. Rest assured, Mana College is not closing. Enrolments are now open for 2016 and we are working hard to ensure your children and future students have the very best possible educational opportunities available to them.

As you already know, Mike Webster resigned as Principal during the July term break. The school and wider community will have the opportunity to farewell Mike in the last week of this term. We will let you know the date and time as soon as this is available.

This term our focus is on achievement and in particular we are closely tracking the progress of all Year 11-13 students. We will be contacting the parents of students who are at risk of not achieving NCEA Level 1, 2 or 3 and need your support in ensuring that a successful outcome is possible for each and every student.

Nga mihi nui,
 Marion Tuite, Acting Principal

Board of Trustees Casual Vacancy for an Elected Trustee

One of our trustees, Di Kitisani, has stepped down from the Board of Trustees. This has created a casual vacancy on the Board for a parent-elected representative. At our July meeting the Board resolved, under section 105 of the Education Act 1989, to fill the vacancy by selection. This saves the school the expense of a by-election.

However, if people are not happy with this decision, and if more than 10% of eligible voters on our school electoral roll let us know within 28 days, a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wants to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to the Chairperson by Thursday 10 September 2015.

The position will be until the trustee elections in 2016.

If anyone is interested in joining the Board or would like to know more we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Acting Principal, Marion Tuite, or Board Chair, Chris Toa, through the school office.

Senior Performance Evenings

The Mana College Music Department has held two Senior Performance evenings over the last two terms. On those evenings there were approximately 40 performances with various combinations of instruments, where students gained credits for solo and group performances. Great fun and lots of hard work went into rehearsing. The focus now is on assessing composition, technology and research assessments – the latter of which includes much valued literacy credits.



Yr9 STARS Community Challenge

Due to poor weather forecast over the next week, the STARS Community Challenge has been postponed until Wednesday 16 September. The Community Challenge will be held in conjunction with the STARS Mentors Graduation Ceremony. If you have any queries please contact our Year 9 Dean, Seth Weakley.

TWA Camp

'Snow fights', 'sleeping over', helping each other', 'sledding in the snow', 'cooking dinner' and the 'pyjama show' were some of the favourite camp activities for the fifteen Te Whare Ako students who went on this year's camp.

Winter camp is an annual event that TWA students and staff really look forward to each year. This year we travelled to Ohakune on one big bus and spent three days enjoying the mountains and each other's company. This year students learnt about volcanoes, the local area and the story of the battling mountains before making the trip north. We had three wonderful parent helpers who ensured the camp ran smoothly.

We are already looking forward to next year!



Polyfest 2015

Te Rauparaha Arena was again the venue for the amazing Porirua event that was Polyfest. Hosted this year by Aotea College all five local colleges presented stunning cultural performances. A sample of Mana's performance is shown below, taken at a dress rehearsal assembly.





NCEA Fees

This is just an additional reminder that the final day for NCEA payments is 4 September 2015. The costs are \$76.70 or \$20.00 if you qualify for financial assistance. If you are applying for Financial Assistance the forms need to be in before September.

Special Education Update Forum

The Ministry of Education is inviting parents and caregivers to a Special Education Update forum to learn about their direction and discuss improvement ideas.

The intention is to reduce fragmentation of services, simplify access to extra learning support and increase the consistency of services across the country, so children and young people who need extra support can progress and achieve.

The next forum will be held on Thursday 20 August from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Petone Working Men's Club, 47 Udy Street, Petone.

RSVP to daughne.black@education.govt.nz if you would like to attend so they can get an idea of numbers. You can also request background information when RSVP'ing.

Coming Events

Wednesday 26 August – BOT Meeting @ 6pm
Mon 31 Aug-Fri 4 Sept – Senior Exam Week
Wednesday 16 Sept – STAR Community Challenge
Tuesday 22 Sept – 3.30pm Senior Meet the Teacher evening
Friday 25 Sept – Teacher Only Day & End of Term
Monday 12 October – Start of Term 4 @ 10am