



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 Two

Term 2 is now coming to an end and it has certainly been a busy time with a number of notable events – many of which are discussed in detail in this newsletter.

The storm that took place in May resulted in a number of Porirua school's being forced to close due to flooding, including Mana College. A really positive consequence of the flooding was the fact that we were asked to host three classes from Porirua School in our hall for three weeks.

This experience was enjoyed by all our staff and students and the Years 3 & 4 and 5 & 6 students really like their time at the 'big school' as they called it. This is a fine example of schools working together in our community and forming real connections.

Our focus continues to be on student achievement and we are currently closely tracking credit accumulation at NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Once again there is a huge variety of achievements and experiences written about in this Korero – I know you will enjoy reading about these successes and rest assured that our goal is success for each and every student at Mana College.

Nga mihi nui
 Marion Tuite, Acting Principal

Consultation

Many of you will know that over the past term we have been thinking and talking about the direction for Mana College in the years ahead.

Our school has a proud tradition of providing a good education for students in the Porirua and Titahi Bay area. However, times change and what schools need to provide for their students changes also.

We are taking this opportunity to look at what Mana College offers to students and ask these questions:

- What are we proud of about Mana College that we need to preserve and strengthen?
- Where does the College need to improve?
- What are the **most important** aspects of a *quality Mana College education*?
- Who do we need to work with/link with to do this?
- What are the biggest challenges we will face in moving forward?

We have been engaged in conversations with many groups and individuals who want a strong future for the College. You may already have been part of one or more of those conversations.

This is an opportunity for you to tell us what you think. Whether or not you have already been part of a conversation about how to make Mana College strong in the future, we would like to hear from you.

There are many ways you can tell us what you think:

- Answer our questions on a piece of paper and drop it in at Reception
- Talk with any of our staff about what is important to you for Mana College's future
- Contact any of the Trustees on our Board
- Email Helena Barwick, our Limited Statutory Manager, who is helping us plan the way forward helenabarwick@paradise.net.nz

If you would like to email Helena she will arrange a time for a conversation.

Please let us know what is important to you as we work together for a strong future for Mana College.

WELKS Project

This month, Years 9 and 11 students have been involved in an eye sight screening study. This involves looking for signs of degenerative disease which is easily treatable if picked up early. I would like to thank the parents and students who returned their permission forms and took part in the screening.

We were the first school in New Zealand to take part and I would like to thank the Capital Vision Research Trust and our Year 9 and Year 11 Deans for their organisation around this.

Hillary Outdoor Education Centre

Twenty Year 11 students and two teachers have recently returned from a week at the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre in Tongariro.

They experienced many things for the first time, including caving, camping, navigation, snow and high ropes. The students learnt to work in cohesive teams, both as participants and leaders. They were able to discover new things about themselves when faced with challenges and were constantly pushed beyond their comfort zones.

We are tremendously grateful to Mana Community Trust and Nikau Trust for their financial support of the Hillary Step Scholarships which enabled this trip to take place. This is the fourth year that we have been involved in the Scholarship programme which has seen a total of 80 students benefit from this experience.

When asked to describe their experience at Tongariro, students used words such as awesome, memorable, crazy, challenging and amazing.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Tony Braddock, year 11 Dean, for his organization and commitment to make this happen for our students.



Down on the Farm

Te Whare Ako students had the opportunity to visit the Wallace Family Trust Dairy Farm at Otaki on Monday 22 June. This visit tied in with group learning about dairy foods and healthy eating as part of the Life Skills curriculum. Some students also gained Level 1 Supported Learning credits by ensuring they dressed appropriately for the farm and for the icy weather.

Malcolm and Alma Wallace explained to us how they rear their calves and milk their animals. Much of their farm's milk goes to the Kapiti Ice Cream factory to make delicious creamy treats.

Hayden Garrett & Chevelle Leota are pictured here hanging with the herd.



Chamber Concert Success

We are very proud to advise that Waiora Paul-Utiera, Manasseh Fenika, Jobe Kaiawe and Hamana Houia, the Mana College Chamber Group won the KBB Award at the Chamber Group Contest earlier this month.

These awards are presented to groups who are judged to be striving for excellence in their music making. Eligible groups must contain wind and/or brass and/or percussion instruments.

Whilst every performance of the 25 groups was of a high standard, our Chamber Group cinched their award to resounding applause.



Adobe National Championship

Lynda Nguyen-Ly was one of 15 participants selected for the National rounds of the Adobe Certified Associate World Championships which took place at Avondale College in Auckland on 22 June. Participants involved were given a design brief to work on throughout the day. We wish Lynda all the best.



Careers / Transition / Gateway

Twenty students completed a Health & Safety and Hazard Identification course last week. They all passed gaining seven NCEA credits and just as importantly, they picked up valuable vocational skills to support their safety whilst undertaking their work placement.

We also have a Learner Licence course running the first week of the holidays promoting safe driving amongst our students.

A group of our Year 12 students visited the Careers Expo in Wellington where they gained information on careers and tertiary education.

Our Gateway students are out in the community doing work experience in a variety of jobs including retail, fitness training, building, hairdressing, tourism. While on placement, the students learn important life skills and also gain credits back in the classroom.

We have had several visitors into the school. Fa'afoi from Victoria University Outreach programme has been working with Year 12 & 13 students preparing them for University and other tertiary education. We have also had speakers from Travel Careers & Training and the NZ Defence Force. All of these provide our students with opportunities to consider different vocational pathways.

NCEA Fees

As we are now half way through the year this is just a 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.

Coming Events

Friday 3 July – Last day of Term 2
Monday 20 July – Start of Term 3 @ 10am
Wednesday 22 July – BOT Meeting @ 6pm
Tuesday 28 July – Meet the Teacher (3.30-6.30pm)

