



Dargaville High School

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Newsletter 28th MAY 2008
Issue No. 3

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

He mihi nui ki a koutou
Greetings to all Parent and Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

Many of you may well have seen that the Ministry of Education has gazetted and published the New National Curriculum that is to be implemented in all schools.

The curriculum document is available as a download from the following website:

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/>

This document sets the direction for student learning and provides guidance for schools as we design and review our curriculum. It has come after a review and consultation that began in the year 2000 and is in response to the fact that we live in a rapidly changing world that has become far more complex. Our students now face a world, where employment prospects, society's expectations, and life skills are very different from those of 20 years ago, let alone 50 years.

Schools can no longer teach a pre-defined set of skills and knowledge, knowing that they will equip the student for their future. We now live in a world, where the knowledge used for decision making constantly changes.

Students must now have the ability to find and process information and then have the skills to process the resulting knowledge to equip them in any future situation.

The new Curriculum responds well to this ideal and reflects the needs of both individual students and of society.

In our future world students will be expected to be enterprising and entrepreneurial. They will need to accept accountability for their learning and actions. The Curriculum also integrates values that promote sustainability, cultural diversity, and community responsibility into learning. The school has the responsibility of promoting successful pathways for future learning for all.

The challenges for schools are set into three areas:

- subject curriculum (what is taught),
- pedagogy (how it is taught)
- personal development (how learning is valued)

Success now becomes measured by what the student does in establishing what they have learnt. For the student this comes down to what I believe are, three focused lists of behaviours that demonstrate this success.

SELF AS A PERSON*Quality of self*

- Be mature and reliable
- Show perseverance and be resourceful
- Be honest and make ethical decisions and act on them
- Be responsible and accountable for all actions

Sense of Self

- Be positive about your own identity
- Be confident of participating in unfamiliar areas

Success

- By being enquiring and curious
- By being innovative/enterprising/entrepreneurial
- Open to new learning and new ideas
- Prepared to strive for personal excellence
- By Being self motivated – having that real “Can do” attitude

SELF AS A LEARNER*Abilities*

- Creative and reflective thinker
- Critical thinker willing to challenge the basis of assumptions and perceptions
- A problem solver
- Listen actively to others and ask questions

Skills

- Be literate
- Develop specialist vocabularies needed to understand.
- Read and understand texts and images from any situation
- Read between the lines (move beyond the literal)
- Be numerate
- Use technologies/communication tools with confidence.
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Self-management and understanding

- Actively seek and use knowledge
- Construct knowledge and ideas appropriately
- Make strategies to manage projects and meet challenges
- Assess where you are going and set new goals
- Know how you learn (Metacognition)

SELF AS A CITIZEN*Understanding others*

- Recognise different values and points of view and actions based on them
- Respect diversity and equity
- Explore different kinds of values –including cultural

Interacting with others

- Relate well with others
- Be aware of how words and actions affect others
- Discuss disagreements and negotiate solutions
- Know when it is appropriate to compete and when to co-operate
- Share ideas and recognise that teams can go further when everyone works together

Develop citizenship

- Mix and understand the values of different peoples
- Understand how to balance rights, roles and responsibilities
- Be connected to the land (whenua) and the need for ecological sustainability
- Understand NZ cultural and institutional values
- Be a member of communities, and participate
- Understand what it is to be an international citizen
- Have a sense of belonging

These are the values and competencies that make up the key components of the new curriculum.

These attributes then have to be woven through the eight Learning Areas, which makes for changes in the way we think and approach education. Even more so now, education is a partnership between school, parent and the community. Our students are a product of all three, and their success is important not only for themselves but for the future of our nation.

All of this is a “tall order!” But one in which with your help we aim to succeed in.

David Bargh

Calendar and upcoming events.

TERM 2

5th May
22nd – 26th June
1st and 2nd July
2nd July
4th July

Start of Term 2
Junior Exams
Stage Challenge
Senior Reports issued
End of Term 2

TERM 3

21st July
31st July
7th August
14th August
18th August
22nd – 26th September
26th September

Start of Term 3
Senior Report Evening
Junior Reports issued
Junior Report Evening
Options Evening and NCEA information
Senior Examinations
End of Term 3

TERM 4

13th October
20th October
13th November
17th November
26th – 28th November
8th December
10th December

Start of Term 4
Senior Interim Reports issued
Senior Prizegiving
NCEA External Exams begin
Junior Exams
Senior Reports issued
Junior Prizegiving.

RUGBY 1ST XV

Botany 1st XV will be travelling to DHS on Wednesday 11th June to play the DHS 1st XV. The game will commence at 1pm. All spectators and supporters are welcome.

PTA MEETING

The next PTA Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18th June 2008 at 7.00 p.m. at the High School in A2. All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.

Schedule for BOT Meetings

Term 2	10 th June 3 rd July
Term 3	12 th August 9 th September
Term 4	14 th October 11 th November 9 th December

From the Deans

Year 9 DEAN

Uniform, attitude and behaviour have been absolutely outstanding by 99.99% of the students in Year 9. Congratulations to all students in Year 9. Congratulations to all students for an awesome start to High School.

Two areas of concern in which parental help is needed:

1. Students arriving at school without full equipment. If parents could please check daily that your child has their books, pens, ruler, pencil, rubber, calculator and highlighter (if required for Maths), PE gear.
2. Homework – many teachers have spoken to me regarding incomplete homework and/or poor quality homework. If parents could please make sure that a quiet room is available each night for homework and a spot check is done on homework quality, it would be very much appreciated. If you would like confirmation as to whether or not your child has been completing homework, please feel free to contact myself a/hrs 439-7826.

Lastly Junior Exams begin week 8 of this term. My expectations of all year 9 students are that they begin a study timetable for these exams (Maths, English, Science, Social Studies) on June 1st. Students should be aiming to study 1-2 hours per subject per week. Certainly tough going considering they will also have their regular homework. However, it is important that good study habits are formed early. Please remember that your child has never had to study for exams before and will therefore need guidance as to how to go about studying/revising. They will make mistakes, study too much, not enough, wrong things. This is how they will learn. Do not let them tell you they have **nothing** to study.

Karen Exley

PS: I really am a much nicer person than my newsletter sounds!
Yeah right!!!! (Ed)

Year 10 DEAN

A reminder for all year 10's and their parents/caregivers that junior exams are on in Week 8 of this term. They commence on Monday the 23rd of June 2008 and finish on Thursday, 26th of June 2008. All students should be revising/studying for these exams now.

Eileen Schick

Year 12 DEAN

Best wishes to the Young Enterprise Students as they undertake their project work this term. They have put a lot of effort into these programmes and they deserve to achieve well.

This week is Gateway week and a lot of year 12 students are involved with these courses. Students who are involved in Gateway placements this week must make every effort to catch up on missed class work. NCEA assessments are ongoing through out the year and any time away from class needs to be caught up.

Teachers are growing concerned with the amount of absenteeism that is occurring in this year group. To succeed at school you must attend on a regular basis and this includes both form periods and resource classes. Some students are working long hours in jobs outside of school and this is also effecting their school performance.

If you have any concerns about your student's work please ring the school to make an appointment to see me

Prue Burnett

Year 13 DEANS

Plans are already underway for the school ball. I was really pleased with the number of students who wanted to take an active part in organising the event.

Mr Barnes has spoken to interested parties concerning the school ski trip. If you were absent or have been thinking about going, see Mr Barnes for further information/initial ski letter.

A reminder to those who are confused – if you have a resource period then you must be at school. We are also checking on attendance and, just as a reminder, if you are absent then you must provide a letter from your parent/guardian.

Term 2 is almost half-way through – most of you should have a good enough idea of what you are doing next year, whether it is full-time study at university or full-time employment. If you are still unsure then go and see Mrs Bourke-Heerikhuisen in your resource period to see what options are available to you.

A date for your diary – Year 13 Graduation dinner Wednesday 3rd December at the Lighthouse. Parents/caregivers are most welcome – will advise on ticket prices at a later date.

Mrs A Troath and Mr P Barnes

On Friday 27th June 1.15 – 2.00 pm (lunchtime) Whangarei Suit Hire will be showing their suits in the school hall. They have discounted the price of hire by 15%. You are able to book your suit and Whangarei Suit Hire will deliver and return to the school to collect your suits. A deposit/bond of \$20 will need to be paid at the time of booking.

Suit hire is also available from Jack Fannon Menswear, Victoria Street, Dargaville phone 439 8946.

Dargaville High School Ball

Will be on: Saturday 16th August 2008 at the Epi Centre

Time: 7.00 pm – midnight

Theme: La Ville de L'amour (Paris – City of Love)

Dress: Formal (e.g. Ball Gowns and Suits)

Ticket Price: \$35.00

This year we will be having a ballroom dancing competition. Prizes for the best dancing pair in each year level. The ball committee is currently organising dancing lessons and will put further information in the daily notices and the next school newsletter.

NZQA FEES

A reminder to parents/caregivers for all students sitting NCEA this year; you will be getting a bill (to be paid around the end of August) for NZQA fees. This will be \$75 per student. You might want to consider paying this by instalments – if so, see Liz Pocklington in the office.

You might be entitled to financial assistance (reducing to \$20 per student/\$30 max per family) if:

- You are receiving a Work and Income (WINZ) or Study Link benefit, or have a Community Services Card.
- You are eligible for a Community Services Card (but do not currently have one).
- You have two or more children (2) taking these qualifications in the same year, regardless of your income.

Contact Mike Calder if you think you qualify.

(Note: financial assistance does not apply to overseas students.)

Roy Barton – Assessment Dean

From the Board

RESULTS OF PARENTS SURVEY MARCH 2008

A total of 68 questionnaires were completed.

99% of respondents felt that prizegiving was either important or very important. 52% would prefer prizegiving during the day, although 9% felt it should be either. However 88% of respondents did say that they would support a prizegiving event out of hours.

79% of respondents believe that all students should attend prizegiving, although a comment was made about behaviour if it was compulsory.

Only 43% of respondents attended last year's prizegiving. Of those attending 89% thought that it was good or excellent.

78% of respondents had read and understood the Targeted Drug Testing policy and 94% agreed that Targeted testing should take place, 57% felt that it should be at parents' expense (but see also the comments on this aspect). All parents wanted to be contacted by the school if there was any belief that their child/student is under the influence of drugs.

91% of respondents felt Rubicon is having a positive impact, although only 45 parents responded to this question. A number of comments related to it being too soon to tell or that, parents were not aware of the programme.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTION – PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations are invited for the election of one parent representative to the Board of Trustees. Nomination forms and a copy of this notice will be posted to all eligible voters. Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office. Nominations close at noon on the 6th June 2008 and may be accompanied by a candidate's statement. The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours. There will also be a list of candidates, names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school. The poll closes at noon on 20 June 2008.

Lynne Lucich – Returning Officer

Stage Challenge 2008

With only 6 weeks until Performance Night... the pressure is on! The production is coming together nicely, with the costumes, soundtrack and choreography all well under control. We are performing on July 1 at Forum North. Tickets will be available through the School Office next week, at \$24.50 for adults and \$19.00 for under 12's.

We will be practicing on the Monday of Queen's Birthday weekend from 2-5pm, instead of the usual Sunday Practice. Attendance at rehearsals is absolutely vital at this stage, as whole group run-throughs are difficult if people are missing.

June 1 has been set as the final day for payment of the \$70 levy, as we have buses, props, costume and T-shirt bills to pay.... please ensure your child has paid by this date. Don't forget fund-raising chocolates are available at the office.

Thanks for your support, and the efforts of all those working to make "DO YOU REMEMBER?" a performance to remember.

Ruth Chitty

Teacher in Charge – Stage Challenge

From Transition and Careers

TRANSITION CAREERS WAIKATO UNIVERSITY TRIP

On May 8th and 9th, 22 students along with Mrs Bourke-Heerikhuisen and Mr Calder went on the annual Waikato University Open day trip. On the way students visited and were shown around the Massey Albany, Auckland University and A.U.T. Campuses. After staying the night at a Christian Youth Camp in Ngaruawahia, with 300 other senior students from around the Upper North Island we attended the Waikato University Open day. Two students took the opportunity to visit WINTEC in Hamilton. The trip was a success with the students able to check out the different University environments. The only disappointing note was when Mr Whippy, the School bus, broke down on the way home, resulting in a rescue effort from Martine and Jimmy Topia and Clive Fremlin. This meant a very late return to Dargaville. Thankfully, the students coped very well and took this misfortune in their stride.

ENGINUITY DAY

This is a day run by the Auckland University Engineering Department targeting girls interested in Engineering. You have to be in Year 12 or Year 13 and doing or planning to do level 3 physics and maths with calculus. See Mr Calder if you are interested.

STEAM AHEAD

This is a programme for Senior Maori and Pacific Island students, run by Auckland University. It offers a day of workshops and lectures on many of the courses offered at Auckland University. It will be held on the last Wednesday of term 2. Students will have the opportunity to hear a lecture or take part in a workshop in four of the areas; Law, Visual Arts, Commerce, Performing Arts, Architecture and Planning, Medicine, Engineering, Science, Pharmacy, Education, Technology, Music, Nursing and Maori Studies. It will be offered to Year 13 students first and if any places are left it will be offered to Year 12 students. There will be no cost to students selected. See Mr Calder if you are interested.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We have recently had correspondence from Waikato University stating the following students have been awarded Scholarships for this year:

Kaitlin Morrison and Stephen Sherman – Vice Chancellor Prize for Academic Excellence. These are worth \$5,000.00. Kathryn Fysh, Quentin Griffiths, Jared Johnson, Kaitlin Morrison, Denise Robertson, Stephen Sherman, Jessie Van Hooydonk and Nastasja Windleborne have been awarded school leavers scholarships of \$3,000.00. Kaitlin Morrison has also been awarded the Science Admission Fees Scholarships. Well done to all these students for their academic excellence.

TRAVELLERS

For the last three years I have run a Travellers Programme in the School for Year 9 students. In order to choose the students who would benefit the most. All Year 9 students complete a survey on line; these are evaluated by staff at Auckland University who returns to the school the name of the students most likely to gain from taking part. The course looks at skills and learning around handling change, loss and grief. We have had very good feedback from students who have been involved in previous years. Parental permission will be obtained and information given before any student is offered a place.

Sports Update

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

BOWLS

Congratulations to Jessie Moffett, Hayley Flay and Vanessa Moffett who have been selected to play in the Northland squad against North Harbour on 25 May at Wellsford.

WRESTLING

Congratulations to Damen Beynon who has been selected in the New Zealand Squad to compete in the Down Under Games in the Gold Coast from 2-10 July. Damen has done well recently placing 1st in the Waikato Championships, 2nd in the Auckland Secondary School Boys and 2nd in the New Zealand Secondary School competitions.

KARATE

Congratulations to Shane Tregidga who is a Black Belt and was awarded First Dan. Shane has recently travelled to Australia's Sunshine Coast in the New Zealand Development Team and when competing in the 16-18 year age group's 2007 NZ Open and NZ National Karate Championships won silver, bronze and two gold medals.

**COMING
SOON
in WEEKS
6 & 7**

PANCAKE CAFE

