



DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 4

MAY 2011

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Tena koutou katoa

Staffing:

We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Towgood, to teach English at Dargaville High School. She took up this position at the beginning of term 2.

Deborah Hambly has advised the Board of Trustees that after more than 5 years of dedicated service to the students and community, she has opted to resign.

Tai Tokerau Festival:

The Tai Tokerau kapa haka competition took place at the end of last term in Whangarei. This year the festival was jointly hosted by Whangarei Boys' and Girls' High Schools. Our students had been training very hard all term including many weekends and put on a very polished performance. Their performance received a huge amount of positive feedback. They did themselves proud and upheld the mana of Dargaville High School. My special thanks to Whaea Winne Clarke, Kaumatua Rihari Turner and to their tutor Jessica Phoenix and the parent supporters who gave up a lot of their time for our students.

Peer Support Camp:

Also towards the end of the first term we held our Peer Support camp at the Kauri Coast TOP 10 Holiday Park. The venue proved to be extremely popular and enabled us to run a very successful programme. The students were kept really busy in a range of team building activities. The relationships that developed between the students and their buddies will stand them in good stead for the rest of the year.

Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews (held 12 May):

We want to raise the academic achievement of our students and hope that by means of the interview, all parties will have gained the understanding of how to work towards that goal. It is important that the parents are involved in the academic plans and progress of their child. We want to strengthen the relationship and communication between the school, the student and the family so that we are all working together to achieve our students' academic success. We will be holding another round of parent-teacher interviews later in the year

DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please note that the School's Daily Notices is accessible to parents/caregivers on the school website. Please visit: www.dargavillehighschool.co.nz to view the Daily Notices.

Student Behaviour and Dress:

Students are expected to behave and dress in a manner which respects the rights of others and which enhances the school's reputation in the community. Dargaville High School is a uniformed school. The school uniform is to be worn correctly at all times so that students can be identified as belonging to Dargaville High School. Appearance should be clean and tidy at all times. Students are expected to abide by the school rules at all times. There are consequences for breaking these rules which may range from impositions through to detentions, withdrawal from classes to exclusion or expulsion. Poor behaviour interferes with the student's learning, the learning of others and the teacher's role in the classroom. Our focus needs to be firmly on raising achievement and this requires a focus on learning.

David Bargh
Principal

FROM THE DEANS**Year 9 Dean**

Term 2 is well under way and students should be gaining valuable teaching and learning experiences. Please continue to ensure that your child attends school daily, and completes homework tasks on time.

It is a concern when students are absent from school without a valid reason – how are they going to achieve? Most students are remembering to bring in absentee notes (if you receive a txt from the school, simply send a return text or ring the school office - a written note must be provided upon return to school). Failure to provide a note may result in a visit from the truancy officer.

I am always available to talk with you.

Winnie Clarke

Year 12 Dean

We have a busy 11 week term ahead of us. Students should be consolidating their knowledge by regular 2-3 hours of homework per night – Monday to Thursday. They should be using their homework diaries to keep track of assessment and work completion dates. If you student needs assistance with their planning please contact me so we can arrange some goal setting help.

Please note that students need permission to bring cars to school (Mr Hartle has the forms) and full attendance is necessary for academic success.

If you have any queries about your students progress please phone the school to make and appoint to discuss any issues.

P Burnett

COMPETITION - PARENT SURVEY

Included in this newsletter is a Parent Survey on the sexuality programme taught at Dargaville High School. We would like as many parents/caregivers as possible to complete the survey and get it back to school.

For Year 9 and Year 10 Students - Each survey that is returned from your parent/caregiver will give you an entry into the year level competition. Hand surveys into the office. A draw will be held at Assembly in June to find the lucky prize winners. One prize for a year 9 student and one prize for a year 10 student. Prizes sponsored by Jon Matich Surfwear. Any queries to *Prue Burnett – Health Teacher*.

FROM THE BOARD

Once again Discipline within schools has reached the headlines with the Right Hon Anne Tolley writing to all Schools Board of Trustees on the matter, namely the Board's responsibility to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students (and also for our staff). Times have changed from when many of us were at school, say for example when fighting led to an automatic expulsion or at least suspension for a lengthy period. Today the Discipline Committee needs to meet:

1. The criteria as specified in the Education (Stand-down, Suspension, Exclusion, and Expulsion) Rules 1999
2. Apply the principles of natural justice; and that
3. Each matter will be heard on its merits.

It is the second and third points that are critical to understand. Natural Justice is defined as follows:

“Natural Justice

Section 13(c) of the Education Act 1989 Act states that the purpose of the provisions is in part to ensure that individual cases of the stand-down, suspension, exclusion or expulsion of a student from a state school are dealt with in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

These principles are recognised in many statutes to which Boards of Trustees and Principals are subject. The most important of these is the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Section 27 states:

(i) Every person has the right to the observance of the principles of natural justice by any tribunal or other public authority which has the power to make a determination in respect of that person's rights, obligations and interests protected or recognised by law.

(ii) Every person whose rights, obligations or interests protected or recognised by law have been affected by a determination of any tribunal or other public authority has the right to apply, in accordance with law, for judicial review of that determination.

Acting fairly and reasonably

Natural justice can be defined as the obligation to act fairly and reasonably in the circumstances. What is required will vary according to the situation. The principles of natural justice must guide the making of any decision that will affect a person's rights, obligations or interests.”

In both the first and last paragraph, reference is made to the individual cases and the circumstances. Therefore the Discipline Committee needs to look at the circumstances of each individual case whilst keeping in mind its responsibilities for health and safety of students and employees at the school. This can be a very difficult decision. It also means that the outcomes for each student will be different. The Board cannot make statements like: students caught fighting will be expelled, we have to look at the individual circumstances, case by case. Looking in from the outside I know it can be a challenge for the wider community to understand the different decisions we make on individual students when at face value the circumstances may appear the same. This is one of the hardest roles the Board of Trustees and the senior management team involved in discipline undertake. Our intentions are always to try to keep students at school (as research has shown that outcomes/ learning/success for that student is best addressed in a school environment) whilst at the same time balancing the needs of other students and staff.

Shirley Baume

Chairperson, DHS Board of Trustees

STAGE CHALLENGE

The countdown is on with only 6 weeks until performance night, Friday 24th June at Forum North, Whangarei.

With nine schools performing on the night, it should prove to be an exciting event. Tickets will be available soon—when they arrive we'll let the students know via the daily notices, but if you'd like to reserve yours in advance, see Liz Pocklington at the school office.

For those who cannot make the night, there will be a full dress rehearsal on Sunday 19th June in the school hall, time to be confirmed.

Also important – Queen's Birthday Weekend - practice will be Monday 6th June, same time and place.

Lastly, please remember to get your Stage Challenge fees paid to the office.

This covers entry to the event, props, make up, cast/crew t-shirt and transport.



Kia ora Caroline Gray & Martine Topia

NOTICES

HELP US WIN A SHARE OF \$500,000 AND YOU COULD WIN TOO!

Anchor Milk believes in our schools, and are really proud to bring us THE GREAT ANCHOR MILK RUN 2011, all you need to do is buy ANCHOR milk, text the code on the bottle and nominate OUR SCHOOL to be in to win one daily prize of \$5,000 (\$2,500 for you and \$2,500 for the school), with a grand prize of \$100,000 (\$50,000 for you and \$50,000 for the school), promotion runs from now until end of June 2011 so please BUY ANCHOR MILK and nominate us to win with you along with you!

HAERE MAI NAU MAI

TUESDAY, 24th MAY 2011, 10.00 – 11.00 AM

Year 10 to Year 13 **Maori students and parents/caregivers** who are interested in learning more about attending University are invited to meet.

Margaret Taurere, Maori Equity Advisor from Auckland University:

- Presentations about University (AUT, Auckland and Waikato) and what supports there are for Maori Students
- Encourage students to plan ahead to gain the right qualifications at school
- Explore pathways to tertiary education

You will learn:

- What school grades you need for university entrance
- University costs a lot but there are various ways to pay it off and scholarships to help
- You can change after you start
- There are pathways to help you get started if your school grades are not high enough

Education is the key – support your child to reach their goals!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TANGITERORIA SCHOOL AND DISTRICTS 125th REUNION

Registration forms now available – Download from www.ttschool.school.nz or Phone Sarah on 09 433 2367 and she will mail you a form. Registrations close 20th May 2011. Dinner and Dance – Limited seats so get in quick.