



Bream Bay College

Peter Snell Road, P O Box 111, Ruakaka, NZ
Ph: 09) 4328226 Fax: 09) 4328228
Email: admin@breambaycollege.school.nz
Principal: W.R. Buckland



Newsletter Information: 2nd March 2006

From the Principal

He mihi nui kia koutou katoa

We are nearly at the half way point for term 1 and the College continues to run smoothly. The "honeymoon period" where all students are keen and cooperative is well past and the normal range of issues have surfaced. We are pleased with the progress being made by Deans and Senior Managers to address areas of concern that we have identified. Please do not hesitate to contact the Deans or Senior Managers if you have any concerns so that they may follow up on them.

Term 1 is always packed with sports events and cultural activities. We encourage all our students to participate in the opportunities offered. As parents/caregivers you can help your son/daughters by ensuring that they keep up with the work missed when they participate in these activities. It can be easy for a student to get behind if they are involved in lots of areas.

Our Kapahaka Roopu is practicing hard for the up and coming Tai Tokerau Festival which is being held this year at Otamatea High School. Special thanks to Alisha Paikea for taking on the tutor role. As part of the lead up to the Festival we are planning a Mana Tu day on Saturday 8th of April between 10.00am and 2.00pm. We have invited Ruakaka Primary and One Tree Point Kapahaka Roopu to perform alongside our College Kapahaka Roopu. Please come and enjoy the performances with us. If you would like to perform, please contact Beverley Webb on 432 8226 extn 703.

Ninety parents and students along with 13 Bream Bay College staff attended the year 12 and 13 parents and students 'Mix and Mingle' barbeque. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to meet our teachers and talk to other parents of senior students. We hope that the communication channels established between parents and the school and parents will lead to a further improvement in our external results at the end of the year. We wish to thank Ginny Gardner for organising the evening and providing the meal for all who attended.

Our Information Communication (ICT) Professional Development Cluster kicked off in earnest with Mark Hooper and myself attending an ICT conference in Rotorua for 4 days. The conference was filled with innovative ideas on how to enhance learning



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through the use of ICT. Within the College the lead teachers and facilitator have met and are planning the best way to start down this path that we will be working on for the next three years. As a school we are fortunate to be in a position that would be described as ICT capable and we look forward to the professional development opportunities making ICT part of all lessons over the next three years.

The staff and students joined together to produce an athletics sports day that was a great success. Students turned out in big numbers to participate in all events and support their houses. On a normal school day we can expect 6.5% of our students to be absent. Our absence rate for the athletics sports was 8.2%. The number of races held in each event was up on last year along with the number of participants in the field events. The bank for spectators was empty as most of the students were competing throughout the day. Thank you to all the parents who came and assisted and called in when time permitted to see the sports in action.

It has come to the College's attention that some students are refusing to bring togs for swimming which is part of their PE programme. PE is a compulsory part of the nationally prescribed junior curriculum. We are required to ensure that all students participate in this curriculum and accordingly we will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that this happens. Please assist us by not accepting any excuses at home for your son/daughter to not bring their togs. It would appear that we will be at the stage of needing to stand a small number of students down from school for refusing to comply with the College's requirements in the near future. With parental support this does not need to happen. The College is committed to lifting the level of academic urgency that students display towards their learning in all areas of the school. Complying with PE requirements is included in this.

School bags are a must. Teachers are tired of the small number of students who turn up to class with a pen and a bit of paper. There is no record kept from period to period of the work that has been completed and this leads to a lower level of performance in assessments. Parents/caregivers, are you serious about your child achieving? If you insist that they come to school with a proper bag that can carry the exercise books prescribed by your son/daughters teachers and associated pens pencils etc. The College will be discussing what action it will take with any student who turns up to class without the appropriate gear and no school bag. We will keep you posted.



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Athletics Sports

Some of the many students who dressed in house colours for the athletics sports. Can you identify them?



Sub junior relay



Bream Bay College students watching the finish of the 4 x 100m sub junior girls relay



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The Bream Bay College Information Line is available for parents/caregivers who wish to hear up to date information concerning school trips away and the details of what is required for the student on the day.

To access the Information Line please dial 4328226 and select option 6.

Curriculum update by Eric Hansen:

Course Changes: By now all students should have finalised their courses and be working towards their first assessments. Course changes will only take place in the near future if there is room available in the class. After the 1st April no further course changes will be allowed.



Reports: A progress report will be issued to all students on Thursday 23 March. This report will show the assessments for the whole year, and will provide information on work habits evident so far this year. The first report night will be held on Wednesday 29th March from 4pm-8pm. This report night is for the parents of those students who have not settled in properly. Some parents will be contacted by the Deans, seeking their attendance, so that we can work together and sort out ways to improve the performance of the student.

Student pathways update by Ginny Gardner:

It was great to see so many people at the BBQ on Wednesday night in the Café Courtyard. It was an opportunity for parents, students and staff of senior students to mix and mingle and also for the school to get pursue its message of **ACADEMIC URGENCY** with a receptive audience.



There are many pathways for young people to follow with less than 20% of school leavers going on to university which means that 80% of NZ's school leavers take different paths. Did you know that 95% of New Zealanders



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have more than 6 career changes with less than 5% staying in the same occupation. This means that the choices for our young people are huge. Knowing what you want and how to get there is an ongoing challenge for students and for many people already in a career. Career planning in the 21st century is a life long experience and the need to continue education is a necessity as we face the demand for constant up-skilling.

Young people faced with decisions on their possible careers need to carefully weigh up their options, access the right resource people, ask the right questions of the tertiary institutions and weigh up whether the course / career is for them. Bad choices can be costly in terms of time, money and effort not only to the student and their family, but to the country as well. Young people are often unaware that their tertiary fees are three quarter funded by the government. It is understandable that our young people appear confused or daunted when you look at the vast array of courses and providers in New Zealand all vying for them to be their customer. Students should not be reluctant to come forward if they need help.

A worthwhile place to start is the Career Services Kiwi Careers website where there is vast information on careers and training. The relatively new programme called Pathfinder is a must to check out. In Pathfinder you can complete an online questionnaire about yourself, explore suggestions from the Pathfinder database and plan your next steps. Along the way you can read articles on topics relevant to each stage of the career planning process. Pathfinder will save the information you input so that you can continue to explore anytime you wish to come back.

Another way that students help make their decisions easier is to take up the option of becoming a Gateway student while at secondary school. This gives the students valuable work experience in the career of their choice and they get to study for credits in the selected industry which will also contribute to their National Certificate. An added advantage is that employers are given the opportunity to "try before they employ" potential employees. For potential university students, it is suggested that this work experience is done through holiday times. Ms D'ath, our Gateway Coordinator, will try her best to link you with an industry associated with any career of your choice. Please feel to contact the Careers Adviser any time on 4328226 ext 736 or the Gateway Coordinator on ext 722.

Co Curricula Update by Mark Bayer





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Year 9&10 EOTC Camp: Parents please note we have Year 9 and Year 10 Education Outside the Classroom days coming up in 3 weeks time. The Year 10 Day trip to "Goat Island" is on **Friday 24th March** (Week 7) and will cost approximately \$25. Activities include snorkelling, glass-bottom boat ride, a short tramp and kayaking. The Year 9 Day trip will be to Stevens' Camp near the Waipu Caves and is on **Tuesday 28th March** (Week 8) and will cost approximately \$25. Activities will include orienteering, swimming, flying fox, bivvie-building, damper cooking, and treasure-hunt. Newsletters are being prepared as this goes to print to go to Year 9s and 10s with full details.

U14's Annual Northern Regional Surf Carnival

Eleven Bream Bay College students represented the Waipu Cove Surf Life Saving Club at the Under 14's Annual Northern Regional Surf Carnival in Orewa last weekend. There were over 1000 competitors from as far south as Raglan and our team of Garby Smith, Siobhan Hayward, Rachelle Cox, Briallen & Kezia McCabe, Samantha Ellis, Demi & Chelsea Mitchell, Jordan Marriner and Ashley Whittaker represented the club superbly. Jake Moffatt, our only medal winner, showed plenty of composure and speed to gain a bronze medal in the Boys' Beach Flag event. Congratulations to the remaining competitors who qualified in various finals and several managed 4th and 5th placings.

Year 12 and 13 bbq

Year 12 and 13 students and their parents look on attentively as staff are introduced at the senior Mix and Mingle BBQ.



UP AND COMING EVENTS

March



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- 1 BBQ for -Yr 12&13 parents & students - 6pm, CAFÉ Courtyard
- 2 School Athletics Day - 9am - 3.20pm - all welcome
- 8 PTA Meeting, 7.30pm in Staffroom, all parents welcome
- 15 Northland Athletics - Whangarei
- 16 Yr9 Bay of Islands Trip
- 18-19 World Vision 40 hour Famine weekend
- 21 Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm
- 23 Progress reports issued
Rugby 7's - Whangarei
Whanau Support Meeting, 5.30pm in Whare, all parents welcome
- 24 Yr 7&8 Mediation Training
- 29 Parent/Student Report evening - 4pm-8pm

SCHOOL TERMS 2006

- Term 1 7 Feb - 13 April
- Term 2 1 May - 30 June
- Term 3 17 July - 22 September
- Term 4 9 Oct - 14 December