

BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

140 Birkdale Road, Private Bag 34 911, Birkenhead, North Shore City
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Dear Parents and Friends

Term 1

Issue 1

3 February 2012

It has been a pleasure welcoming students back to the 2012 School Year.

This is an exciting time for all of us — students, teachers and parents. A fresh beginning! Students have arrived expectant and enthusiastic, ready for a wonderful year of learning.

Thank you to our excellent staff at the College who have ensured a smooth, well organised start.

New Students

A special welcome to **new parents and our Year 9 students**. Communication is vital to ensure your son or daughter gains the most from their time here. We have enclosed a list of important phone numbers for you.

We also welcome a number of International Students from Germany, Brazil, Japan, Korea, China and Chile.

This term we will have 10 students from **Kyoto Nishi School, Japan**. We have had a very long and positive association with this school and value their students greatly.

Lumino The Dentists is here to offer students free dental appointments. Year 9 students will bring home an enrolment form, please ensure you complete and return it (signed) so your child can receive a free check-up and treatment if required. Students over 18 years are no longer eligible. Urgent appointments please see Mrs Eberly.

German Education Agents visiting the College, together with Mr Mathewson and Ms Edwards (Int Student Manager.)



Tuesday 7 February is Day 3

Head Students 2012



Head Girl—
Eleanor Adviento



Head Boy—
Nathan Saluni



Deputy Head
Girl—
Clare Sykes



Deputy Head Boy
— Callum Hines

We're doing it again!! Our school donation / win an xbox offer was so popular with parents last year that we have decided to do it again this year!

So, simply by paying your school donation by the end of February 2012, you will be in the draw to win a Laser MP3 / MP4 player & speaker system.

Be in it to win it!!



School Fees / Donation

NZ schools are simply not funded to provide computers and other important resources to ensure our students gain a high quality, relevant education. Paying the school fee / donation helps us to do this. We would appreciate payment as soon as possible—it really makes a difference. Thank you.

School Fee / Donation

\$230— First child

\$80 — Second child

(Max of \$310/Family)

Don't forget that your school donation qualifies for a 33% tax rebate—this equates to \$66 on \$230, and \$103 rebate on \$310. You can claim this rebate by completing a form IR526—"Tax Credit Claim Form". These forms can be downloaded and printed from the IRD website (ird.govt.nz). They are also available from our Accounts Office. Pay before 31st March to claim your rebate for this tax year.

J O Mathewson Principal

PHONE EXTENSIONS:

BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE

Main office: 483 9039, FAX: 483 4094

EMAIL: office@birkenhead.school.nz

Reception (Mrs Logan — all day)
(Mrs Henderson — pm)

Absence Line/Sick Bay	Mrs J Eberly	836
Deputy Principal	Mr Page	802
Assistant Principal	Mrs Stanley	803
Assistant Principal	Mrs Plummer	807
Executive Officer	Mrs Asselbergs	804
Principal's Secretary	Mrs Alexander	832
Accounts	Mrs Johnson	809
International Students	Ms Edwards	806
School Counsellor	Mr Chambers	805
Careers Advisor	Ms Morris	819
Year 13 Dean	Mrs Russell	823
Year 12 Dean	Ms McKenzie	919
Year 11 Dean	Mr Rotheray	822
Year 10 Dean	Mr Alderman	826
Year 9 Dean	Mr Henley	824
Sports Co-ordinator	Mr Peters	834
Music Department	Mrs Russell	812
Director Performance	Mr Donaldson	812
Drama Department	Mr Willis	831

Voices of Refugee Students

At the recent Refugee Education Conference AUT 2011, **Sakina Ewazi** and **Shemshad Hassani** were part of a presentation on *The Voices of Refugee Students*. The girls talked about their personal experiences of coming to New Zealand and how the programmes at Birkenhead College have supported their academic achievement and integration into the school community.

Sakina spoke about leaving her homeland, Afghanistan, when she was 4 years old, travelling on 4 small wooden boats until she and her family were rescued by the Norwegian Tampa ship. Sakina said, *"Life has taken my family and me to weird and wonderful places. We have met amazing people who have helped us achieve things and have given us the confidence to achieve something. For this we are very thankful to them."*

Shemshad spoke about the challenges and struggles she has experienced. Her family fled from the war in Afghanistan about 12 years ago and they travelled in a "broken-down truck" to Pakistan. Shemshad said, *"Even though at first we were not able to communicate and interact with the people there, we still felt a sign of hope and relief that we were at least somewhere safer than Afghanistan."*

Sakina and Shemshad were an inspiration to all the 200 delegates and keynote speakers at the conference. They are proud of their academic achievements so far and have set challenging goals for the future.

Sakina & Shemshad with Mrs Lauago

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2012

TERM 1

Week 1	Fri 4 Feb	Photos
Week 3	Mon 13 Feb	Swimming Sports
	Thurs 16 Feb	Meet the Form Teacher / NCEA
Week 5	Tue 28 Feb	Athletic Sports
Week 8	Fri 23 March	Progress Reports home
Week 9	Thu 29 March	Report evening
	Fri 30 March	International Day
Week 11	Tue 3 April	Report evening
	Thurs 5 April	Last day of term

TERM 2

Week 1	Mon 23 April	First day of Term 2
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School Publications - if you do not wish your child/guardian's image to be used in any school publication, please advise me of this in writing.

Linda Asselbergs - Privacy Officer

MATHS HELP

Every Wednesday after school in T8, 3:15—4:15 (starting week 4), and every lunchtime. For help with homework, studying or any maths problems.

ENGLISH HELP

Every Wednesday after school in H4, 3:30—4:30
Any BC student who fears the English monster! Help is available.

SCIENCE HELP

Every Thursday after school in S5 3:30—4:30 for help with homework, studying or any science problem.

