

BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents and Friends

Term 1 Issue 3 18 February 2011

Our Parent Support Group (PSG) is the best! Today they provided the most stunning morning tea for our staff, in particular our new teachers. Thank you, we appreciate all you do for us.

Please don't forget the PSG has its first meeting next **Tuesday at 7.30pm** in the staffroom. An opportunity to share with other parents, find out more about the school and support our students and teachers in practical ways.

New Teachers

A special welcome to:

Ms Campbell (Food Technology)

Ms Kim (French)

Ms Ishihara (Japanese)

More details next week.

NCEA Scholarship Successes

We were very pleased this week to see a good number of our Year 13 students from last year gain Scholarships in the NCEA exams. It is difficult to gain an NCEA Level 3 Scholarship as only about 2% of students in any Level 3 subject will gain a Scholarship. We had students win 9 Scholarships in 6 different subjects.

Our Scholarship winners were:

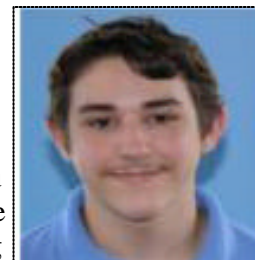
Biology – **Ngaio Garcia, John Boyle**
Chemistry – **Ngaio Garcia, Tsun Hei Tai**
Physics – **Owen Dillon, Alex Shegay**
Geography – **Alex Shegay**
English – **Summer Withers**
Maths with Calculus – **Alex Shegay**

Overall we had 9 Scholarships won from 32 exams sat, a wonderful success rate of 28.1%. This compared very well with the national success rate for all schools of 20.6%, and the national success rate for co-ed schools of 19.6%.

Teachers' Union Meeting – Tuesday February 22nd

This Tuesday, February 22nd, the Secondary Teachers' Union, the PPTA, is holding a meeting for all North Shore schools to discuss their still unsettled employment contract with the Government. Due to this, we will be unable to run any normal classes after 12.30pm, however any students who wish to remain at school will be supervised. School buses will run at 12.35.

CONGRATULATIONS to Adam Smithson 12MC, who came 1st in an online competition held by 'Worth 1000'.



When you were a child, did you get a chance to construct huge towers and houses from building blocks or lego? Well, as it turns out, one of our year 12 students hasn't let his passion for building blocks go, even if he's using software instead.

Using a game called 'Minecraft', **Adam Smithson** created an award winning Galleon called 'Le Negotiant', which won first place. As the contest holder said: "The attention to detail here is magnificent. This entry painstakingly reproduced the correct angles of the sails, and even made them windswept—no small feat in a world of cubes.

The ship was the highest ranked non-replica entry, this is certainly a stunning performance.



'Le Negotiant' is a Galleon built on the Voxelbox server, with 6 main sails, 4 stay sails, 2 jibs and a spanker sail. It is built fully to galleon standards, with sailors' quarters under the forecastle, captain's quarters and navigation in the aft-castle, and multideck storage below. The interior is well laid out. The ship's sails use 'Voxelport', a teleport plugin which lets users warp around the world via a shipping network.

Monday 21 February is Day 3

J O Mathewson Principal

Community Notices

The information given is printed as a service to parents. The school neither endorses nor recommends any offers or proposals made.

PERFORMING ARTS PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Our inaugural meeting will be held in the school boardroom on **Wednesday, 9th March**, at 7pm. Further meetings are planned for the 6th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 3rd August and 5th September.



This group supports the Music and Drama departments through:

- Communication
- Management and promotion
- Fundraising

Any parents who are moved to become more involved in the cultural life of the school are welcome to attend. For more information and a reminder of the first meeting please provide your details at <http://tiny.cc/bcart.s>.

EX STUDENT Natalie Murphy (nee Swan), 1990 to 1993, is fighting cancer. It would be wonderful to make her dreams come true. Please phone **ex student Lisa Stokes**, 815 2293, if you feel you could help.

Coach Wanted Netball Senior A

We are seeking any parent or member of the community who may be interested in coaching Birkenhead College senior A netball team in 2011.

If interested please contact the school:

Phone 09 483 9039

Email: office@birkenhead.school.nz

Attention: Mr G. Peters (Sports co-ordinator) or Ms J. Carr (Netball Manager).

NCEA Study

STUDYCARDS \$13.50 (rrp \$18.50)

Written and edited by experienced teachers

A year's work on a keyring

REVISION GUIDES \$14.50 (rrp \$19.50)

Include worked answers & full 2009 & 2010 exam papers

Buy direct!

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SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011

TERM 1

Week 4	Tue 22 Feb	PSG Meeting @ 7.30pm
Week 5	Wed 2 March	Athletic Sports
Week 7	16-18 March	Polyfest
Week 8	Fri 25 March	Progress Reports home
Week 10	Thu 7 April	Report evening
	Fri 8 April	International Day
Week 11	Mon 11 April	Production week
	Tue 12 April	Report evening
	Fri 15 April	Last day of Term

TERM 2

Week 1	Mon 2 May	First day of Term 2
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PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

First meeting of the year, Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm in the Staffroom. New and old members welcome, especially new Year 9 Parents, it would be lovely to see you.



AFS Host families urgently needed for overseas exchange students!

Could you host a student from one of more than 50 AFS countries for a few weeks or up to a year? There are students waiting to come to NZ who need host families now.

For more information at school talk to Ms Craw in T11 or Ms Purdie in S8. Contact the North Shore branch of AFS by email: hosting@afsns.org.nz or phone Sue on 426 5030.

Teenagers, Alcohol & Drugs

Paul Dillon

Monday 4th April 2011

This seminar will be of interest to anyone who has an interest in this area, especially educators.

Venue: Auckland University, Epsom Campus, Music Auditorium, Gate 2, Epsom Ave, Mt Eden.

Cost: \$160. Any queries : info@pdseminars.co.nz

**ACCOUNTS STATEMENTS
TO BE POSTED HOME OVER THE NEXT
FEW DAYS**



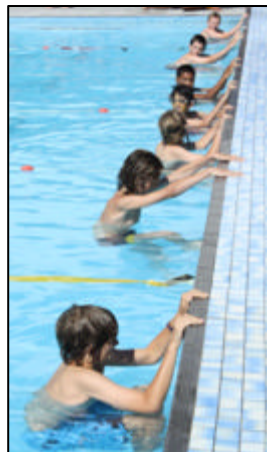
VALENTINES DAY AT BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE



Monday saw the Student Council spreading friendship around the school, delivering roses and chocolates to lucky students. In addition, the ever popular serenades were available for students to purchase in the week leading up to valentines day. It was heart warming to see so much caring and really showed that the BC family is as close as ever!

SWIMMING SPORTS AT BC—17 FEB

... more photos next week



WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION

Trials for most Winter Sports, played in Terms 2 & 3, will be held during the second and third week of March. Teams will then be announced and Registration Forms will be sent home. These **MUST** be returned by Friday 25th March.

ALL FEES must be paid by **THURSDAY 15th APRIL**

Payment options:

1. Full amount paid by 15 April.
2. Weekly payments by 15th April.
3. Automatic payment — bank account set up by 15th April. This can be done by internet banking or completing the AP form and taking it to the bank. Mrs Johnson in our Accounts Office will need to know when the AP has been 'set up'.

AP forms can be obtained from Mrs Johnson or Mr Peters, Sports Co-ordinator.



IMPORTANT NOTICE **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Birkenhead College has been advised that since the 11th of January, 13 people have been confirmed with measles infection in Auckland and the disease is now likely to be spreading in the wider community. The number of cases may seem small but one person with measles can infect many others. So far the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) has contacted nearly 500 people as part of this outbreak investigation. ARPHS advises that immunisation is the best protection against measles. **Immunisation is safe, effective and free.**

Measles is a serious and highly infectious viral disease. It makes people very sick, often causing fever, cough, sore red eyes and a rash. People with measles can be infectious even before they start feeling unwell. While almost all people will make a complete recovery, it can lead to hospitalisation and in rare cases, death.

Parents/guardians need to find out whether their children are protected against measles.

Regarding your child's immunisation status:

- **If your child has not received a measles immunisation (MMR vaccine)**, call your GP as soon as possible. Arrange a time to immunise your child as it is never too late.
- **If your child has received one measles immunisation (i.e. one MMR vaccination)**, call your GP as soon as possible. Arrange a time to immunise your child with their 2nd MMR. Two measles immunisations provide better protection than one.
- **If your child has received two measles immunisations, or they have definitely had doctor-diagnosed measles infection in the past**, they are considered protected. Over 95% of people who are fully immunised are protected from measles.
If you are not sure of your child's immunisation records, check with your GP. They can do a blood test to check your child's immunity to measles if needed.

If your child is not immune or you choose not to immunise your child, they are not protected from measles. If they come into contact with someone with measles, they will likely have to be excluded from school for up to 14 days.

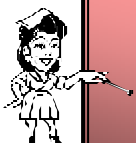
The Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulation 1966 Part 3 r 14 (2) provides a legal mandate for the Medical Officer of Health to enforce isolation of any measles cases or contacts where this is indicated. Isolation is the only way to prevent further transmission of the virus and to protect others in the community (like very young babies and ill people) from getting infected.

Watch your children for symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes, or a rash. If this occurs:

Call your GP or Healthline (0800 611 116) as soon as possible for advice.

Keep your child away from school until they are well again. Your GP will advise the safest time for your child to return to school.

For more information on immunisation, please call the Immunisation Advisory Centre free on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) or visit their website <http://www.immune.org.nz>



A word from our school nurse -

- If your child has sores they **MUST** be covered while they are at school. Students with open wounds may be prohibited from swimming. Any infectious sore needs to be treated by a Doctor.
- There are tummy bugs going around so please keep your children home if they have been vomiting.
- Please encourage your children to drink plenty of water during the day to prevent headaches caused by dehydration.