

# BIRKENHEAD COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



140 Birkdale Road, Private Bag 34 911, Birkenhead, North Shore City  
Email: [office@birkenhead.school.nz](mailto:office@birkenhead.school.nz)—Website: [www.birkenhead.school.nz](http://www.birkenhead.school.nz) Ph: 09 483 9039 Fax: 09 483 4094

## Dear Parents and Friends

We have a number of Japanese students here and strong links with Japanese schools, which makes the situation in Japan even more real and poignant.

Only last week our teacher, **Mrs Ishihara**, travelled down the eastern coast of Japan, which has been so devastated. She is a key support person for our students who value her compassion and experience.

Our thoughts are with the Japanese people.

### Congratulations Athletes!

The North Harbour Championships held on Monday included all Secondary Schools up to, and as far as, Mahurangi College - this was a 'big' event. Many of our athletes secured top 6 places against some very accomplished club athletes from some of the larger schools. This was a tremendous achievement by our athletes.

Star performances again from our junior champ **Megan Kikuchi**, 1st 100m, 1st 200m, 1st 300m, and Long Jump, what a fine athlete she is, and 'power thrower'



**Kiamo Ah Kuoi** who threw the javelin an incredible 51.39m to win by 5m. He followed this up with two 3rds in the Shot and Discus. Both students are certainties to represent the school and North Harbour in the Greater Auckland



Championships next Monday. Good luck to them.

Other outstanding results were recorded by **Melanie Bracewell** 4th High Jump, **Sefa Seufale** 4th Shot Put, **Lauren Rudolph** 4th Shot Put and **Kayla Gordine** 4th 200m. Unfortunately Kayla was unable to compete in the 100m, her favourite event, due to illness. Well done to all the team.

**PROGRESS REPORTS**  
will be sent home with the students  
on Friday 25 March

**Monday 21 March is Day 3**

Term 1 Issue 7 18 March 2011



### NGA PEKA HOU - Polyfest

It was an uplifting experience to see Nga Peka Hou perform at the ASB Polyfest yesterday. They made us feel so proud when they took to the stage and gave such a professional and animated performance. We were so impressed with the choreography, their superb costumes, and their discipline and precision. A strong spirit is so evident in this group.

Special thanks to their tutor: **Moerangi Black**, ably assisted by **Annette Whetu**, and a strong group of parents - **Nicole Young, Gaynor Pratt, Mata Teiho, Maureen Pike** and supporters **Matetu** and **Hope**.

We are proud of you all.

Noreira he mihi maioha tenei ki a koutou Nga Peka Hou, mo to koutou tu pakari, tu maia, tu kaha i runga i te atamira!

Ka mau te wehi!

## MUSIC!

**NCEA Performance Evening** - Wednesday 23rd March at 6.30 in the BGT. Our senior music students will be performing for the first time this year. Please come and hear a wide range of soloists and ensembles performing at a variety of levels. Entry is free although donations will be accepted at the door.

Our other performance evenings are 1 June, 6 July, 17 August and 14 September.

*J O Mathewson Principal*

## **Close Encounter with an Alien – well, an Alien Creator that is....**

It's not every day that students get the chance to speak to a professional conceptual design team, but on Thursday one of our Year 12 English classes were granted this opportunity! The students interviewed two specialists **Matt Aitken** and **Greg Broadmore** from the Weta Workshop and Weta Digital groups in Wellington. Weta is a “five time Oscar winning one stop shop, servicing the world's entertainment and creative industries.” Students took part in this interview as part of their NCEA Visual text study of the film ‘District 9’. Matt Aitken was the visual effects supervisor for ‘District 9’ and has also worked on projects such as ‘The Lord of the Rings’ and ‘King Kong’. The interview was conducted through skype and students were able to ask questions that provided them with information they can later use in their assessment essays. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and students said...



“It was cool to speak with someone who had expertise and knowledge in all things digital. I found the design process really interesting and I saw the extent of work that goes into creating special effects in cinema.”

“We asked questions to the guys at Weta Workshop. It was good because they answered our questions and now if I write on special effects and visual features I will have more to write about – more knowledge.”

## **BUDDY WALK**

The Auckland Downs Syndrome Association is organising their 6th annual Buddy Walk at Tahaki Reserve, 250 Mt Eden Road, Mt Eden, on Sunday 20th March.



Registration opens at 9am, walk begins at 10am. Buddy Walk is a 3,5km walk followed by a carnival with clowns, rides, spot prizes, silent auction, raffles, celebrities, stalls, music, entertainment and more.

The goal of Buddy Walk is to celebrate individuals and families living with Downs syndrome and it is a fundraiser for the association. It is a wonderful, heart-warming event that celebrates the many abilities and accomplishments of people with Down syndrome. Whether you have Down syndrome, know someone who does, or just want to show your support, come along and join us on Sunday 20th March.

Cost: \$25 for a family of 4, additional children \$5 - under 5's free.

Individual registrations \$10 or for groups of 10 or more \$7 per person.

For more information, please call Christel on 636 0351 or 021 1362537 or go to the website [www.buddywalknz.org](http://www.buddywalknz.org).

## **ROUND THE BAYS**

Ports of Auckland Round the Bays has been an annual event in Auckland since 1972, and has now grown to be one of the world's largest fun-runs. The event took place last weekend and was 8.4km long over a flat course that followed the contours of Auckland's Waitemata Harbour. Staff who participated: **Ms Carr, Ms Russell, Ms Celebrin, Ms Watts, Ms Fuller, Ms Ellis, Mr Moore and Mr Tuu'u**



## **PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The next PSG meeting will be held on **Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm** in the Staffroom. This is also an opportunity for anyone who would like to take on a position, such as chairperson, secretary or treasurer. While existing office-holders have indicated they are willing to carry on for a further year, the PSG would welcome anyone wanting a chance to participate in these roles.



## TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

Year 13 Textile Technology students must work with different technologists during the year so they can extend their knowledge about how people work within the field of textiles. All students must then submit a written report for an external assessment. **Denise Hosty** from the Costume Studio in Albany, came to visit last week to share her wealth of knowledge. She is responsible



*Visiting technologist, Denise Hosty.*

*Year 13 Textiles*

costumes you may see at rugby & netball games as well as making costumes for t.v commercials and the annual Christmas parade in the city. It is because of her generosity with sharing information and resources that we had so many students passing their external exams in 2010!

## Nike Work Ethic Award - Year 12

To win a 'Nike' you have to demonstrate that you are having a victorious week by displaying an **excellent work ethic** in your classes. This means you have to try your very best to **positively impact your life during that week** and the lives of those around you i.e other students, teachers etc.

If you receive a Nike you will be awarded the 'Nike Work Ethic' certificate at the year 12 assembly and then on Friday you and your whole form class will receive a small prize at lunchtime in your form room. This means your whole form class benefits if you win!

But...if someone in your class wins the award and your Dean has heard negative comments from teachers about your work habits, then you will not receive the class prize.

**Candidates for the class prize MUST have good attendance records for that week. They also must have a clean slate in terms of detentions for that week.**

## RYDA

Rotary Young Drivers Awareness



Last Friday, Year 11 students took a trip to the North Harbour stadium for a series of workshops designed by Rotary to influence their attitude to driving and inform them of

their responsibilities when driving or riding in a vehicle. The workshops were well organised and students appreciated the chance to interact with the Police, talk to a person who had suffered a brain injury as a result of a crash, and learn safe stopping distances and driving skills from an ex Formula One driver. The day had a powerful influence on students, and the programme will hopefully achieve its goal of a reduction in injury and death on our roads from the next generation.



## AUCKLAND ASTHMA BUS

The Auckland Asthma bus will be here in week 9 (30th March). If you would like your child to have a free one to one consultation with an Asthma Specialist Nurse please call the School Nurse and leave a message on the absentee line (483 9039 ext 836). There was fantastic feedback from students who attended last year.



## 'Shattered' Road Show

Last Friday our Year 12 and 13 students were treated to a memorable presentation by the police and Tamati Paul, a crippled survivor of an horrific car accident. Tamati had been a NZ champion surf lifesaver and kayaker until the accident caused by a speeding drunk driver, and he really struck a chord with our senior students with his amazing attitude to life and his message of safe sober driving. All who saw and listened to him were profoundly affected.

**EVEREST TREKS -  
Youth to Everest**



Ex student, Katrina Martin (2010), is taking part in the Everest Trek this year. This is a 16 day cultural and walking adventure to the Everest region of Nepal, in the April school holidays, for students aged 15 years and over.

The purpose of the programme is educational and cultural, combined

with the physical aspect of trekking. 2011 marks the first year of the partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award scheme, enabling participating students to qualify for Gold Residential and/or Gold or Silver Adventurous Journey status towards their D of E Award.



For more information [www.youthtoeverest](http://www.youthtoeverest)

**GAMES TO SUPPORT**

**Saturday 19 March**

**Cricket:**

Junior Cricket 0830 Orewa  
1st XI vs Glenfield 0900 Home



**Tennis:**

Senior Girls 0815 Home  
Junior Boys 0815 Home  
Junior Girls 1015 Home



**CLASS PHOTOS [www.myclassphoto.co.nz](http://www.myclassphoto.co.nz)**

Log in: bhc Password: bhc  
Limited time special offer - from 4 March to 25 March, buy all the photos you want during this period and pay only \$10 + GST per photo (normally \$16). Hurry!!

**If a family does not have access to a credit card or the internet, please see Mrs Plummer with \$11.50 (inclusive of GST) and she will order a photo for you.**

**UNIFORM REMINDER!**

Next term — shoes and socks are to be worn - **black leather dress shoes** with regulation socks (boys) and white socks or black pantyhose for girls.  
**No black socks or track / sand shoes or canvas shoes .**

**Lumino The Dentists**

The Lumino Dental Bus is finishing up this week after seeing approximately 350 students for free check ups and treatment. If your child was not seen and is under 18 years old you can call Lumino the Dentist, Takapuna, on 361 7156 to make an appointment.

Birkenhead College Presents

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

13-16 April  
Wed Sat  
7.30 pm

Student \$8.00  
Adult \$12.00  
Family \$25.00

Brian Gerrard Theatre  
Birkenhead College  
140 Birkdale Road, Birkenhead

FOR TICKETS: 483 9039  
<http://tinyurl.com/bctickets>

Music by Alan Menken  
Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman  
*with permission from Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd*

**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2011**

**TERM 1**

- Week 8** Tue 22 March PSG Meeting  
Fri 25 March Progress Reports home
- Week 9** Fri 1 April International Day
- Week 10** Thu 7 April Report evening
- Week 11** Mon 11 April Production week  
Tue 12 April Report evening  
Fri 15 April Last day of Term