

Update

Alfriston
college



2011/10
1 July 2011
Term2, Week 9

550 Porchester Road, Manurewa
PO Box 75 448 T +64 9 269 0080
Manurewa F +64 9 269 0083
MANUKAU CITY 2243 E admin@alfristoncollege.school.nz
W www.alfristoncollege.school.nz
W www.ac.school.nz

**KIA ORA, HELLO, HALLO, NEI HO, KIA ORANA,
BULA VINAKA, NAMASTE, KONNICHI WA, NĪ
HĀO, FAKALOFA, TALOFA, HOLA, MALO E LELEI**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

High Expectations or Zero Tolerance

Being a teenager isn't easy and I am sure many of you will agree that living with one is even harder! One minute they are enthusiastic, committed and caring and the next they can be sullen, uncommunicative or challenging! A key tool in navigating your way through this is to ensure you keep the communication channels open and let your expectations be known.

At Alfriston we have never been a punitive school, choosing to pursue a relational approach based on high expectations.

We expect:

- Learners to enjoy school
 - Learners to respect each other and treat people how they would like to be treated
 - Learners to arrive on time and attend school regularly
 - Learners to wear the uniform correctly and with pride
 - Learners to be prepared with the right equipment for lessons
 - Learners to want to achieve to the best of their abilities
- We don't view these as rules to be broken and punishment to be administered, but rather as our high expectations.

They do however need your support (as we do) to help them achieve at the excellence level. You can show your support by:

- Ensuring they are not dropped off late to school, or asked to do chores that are difficult to achieve in the morning due to time constraints
- Make sure they have the full uniform – to allow them to be warm and comfortable at school
- Checking they have a school bag and the stationery items needed
- Praising good work and discussing their future aspirations and goals
- Carefully planning holidays and family events to minimise time away from school – thus helping reinforce the importance of education and how highly you value it

All learners, with our support, can meet these high expectations and as a result experience greater success both academically and personally, by being more self-managing, relational and actively participating in a learning community.

Susan Impey
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4–5 July – Year 13 Production, *'Wednesday To Come'*
7.00pm in The John Locke Theatre
- 7 July – Year 9 Celebration of Learning
 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm Kaitoro Whanau
 - 6.00pm to 7.00pm Tirohanga and Whaingā Whanau
 - 6.30pm to 7.30pm Kaitataki Whanau
- 15 July – Term 2 ends, reports issued
- 23 July 2011 – School Ball, *'A Touch of Elegance'*
Alexandra Park Raceway
- 26 July – Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, 5.30pm in the Boardroom
- 1 August – NCEA Planning Day – Teacher Only Day
SCHOOL CLOSED
- 2 August – Term 2 commences at normal time
- Full calendar is available on our website
www.alfristoncollege.school.nz 15 July – Term 1 ends

STAFF UPDATE

New Faces at Reception

Alfriston College would like to extend a warm welcome to our two new Receptionists:



Mrs Vivien Smith



Mrs Louise Heron

Vivien will normally be at Main Reception Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and Louise will be at Main Reception Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday.

ASSESSMENT WEEK CHANGES

We wish to inform all Year 11, 12 and 13 learners and their caregivers that we are changing the way we administer the Assessment Week which takes place in week 6 of Term 3. NCEA and the way learners are assessed has meant that it is no longer as desirable to have a whole week set aside for assessment practice and study leave as it once was. It tends to be very disruptive to learning and has minimal educational value.

For this reason we have decided that there will be NO Assessment Week for Year 12 and 13 learners in Term 3. They will remain on a normal timetable and will be able to concentrate on their studies. We feel that this is a more beneficial use of the time that learners have available.

Year 11 learners however do need to practice correct exam procedure in readiness for the end of year external exams. This will be their first experience of external exams and therefore it is important that they become familiar with the correct protocols and procedures which are part of external exams. So Year 11 learners will have three exams in Week 6 [English, Mathematics and Science] but they will not have study leave as we will be compressing these exams into a two or three day programme.

As a school we believe that these changes will allow us to prepare learners who are new to external exams but not disrupt the learning focus of Year 12 and 13 learners, especially as they move towards completing their internal assessment components of their courses.

Steve Saville, Deputy Principal

JANE GOODALL EXPERIENCE

On Wednesday 22 June the Year 13 Biology class was given the opportunity to attend a lecture by the world's leading researcher on Chimpanzees, Jane Goodall. The 'Roots and Shoots' lecture was held in Albany and hosted by Kristin College.

The lecture was mainly based around Jane Goodall's worldwide programme. She talked about her Youth Supported Programme of saving and protecting nature, ranging from plants through to animals. The lecture also heavily discussed her research on Chimpanzees, which she has spent fifty years of observation on the species in South Africa.

Jane entertained us with her stories about Chimpanzee behaviour and how they displayed many emotions and tool-making skills just like us humans, as well as chucking in an odd little Chimpanzee's call of concern. It was very interesting to hear her perspective on nature and climate change, as she emphasized how vital it is for us to care, and be the one to make a difference. It was a great and rare opportunity to be a part of.

Preeti Kaur, KTK10

MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

Year 13 learners L'Rey Renata, Sven Edwards and Amar Jakhu, along with Ms Greensides attended the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) at Auckland Girl's Grammar on 10-11 June. This was the first time that Alfriston College had taken part at the MUNA and our experiences left us with a great sense of achievement and some very notable highlights.

Sven Edwards stirred up the general assembly with his impromptu and thought provoking speech on the trade embargo sanctioned by the USA on Cuba. This received a lot of positive feedback from the delegates of other Nations.

We had fun interacting with delegates from other Nations, whether it was the French wearing their berets, or the Japanese sporting samurai style hair. Even though this was meant to be a serious event, it was marked with teenage humour, for example, a delegate from the Ivory Coast shouted the Lion King introduction to begin his speech and delegates from New Zealand asked for a minutes silence to remember the death of Shrek the Sheep.

If any learners are interested in taking part in such events in the future, they are more than welcome to see Ms Greensides about joining the Alfriston College Debating Team.

Amar Jakhu, KTK3

SCIENCE FAIR

On Thursday 23 June a group of Year 9 students went to Greenmeadows Intermediate School to attend the annual Fonterra Science Roadshow. There were over 40 students representing Alfriston College so we split into two groups, one attending the morning session and one the afternoon session.

We listened to scientists speaking about Science and the senses, for example, how sound waves travel and how they are used in nature by Whales and humans. The hall was filled with a variety of interactive exhibits and so we were able to get a hands-on experience of the Science displays. My favourite exhibit was a giant piano on the floor which we were able to play by walking on the keys. Other exhibits included a chair lift, gravity experiment and conduction of electricity through metal.

Prior to leaving we heard another talk about ice and fire demonstrating how easily fire can destroy objects and also the effect of ice on the physical properties of objects. The Science Fair was an interesting trip which increased my understanding of what Science is and how it affects us all in everyday life.

Caitlin Bonnar, KTK6

ANIMALS MODULE

Trip to Guide Dog Centre and SPCA

On Wednesday 26 June, the Animals module went on a trip to the Guide Dog Centre and the SPCA. Below are some comments from learners who went on the trip:

- "We went to the Guide Dog Centre. We learnt about how long it takes to train a guide dog. We were lucky enough to see some puppies and their Mum" – Tracy Carter KTR4, Morgan Evans KTK3, Rebecca Young KTK5 and Liam Worthington AUA1
- "I really enjoyed the trip to the SPCA. We learnt about the 5 things that animals need humans to provide for them. We saw the cutest cats and kittens but we couldn't touch them as diseases might be easily spread" – Georgia Dennis KTR3 and Georgia Saunders KTR8
- "I learnt the 5 basic things that an animal needs is love, shelter, food, exercise and vet care. If they don't have these 5 things in their lives, the SPCA has the right to take the animals away from their owners. I found out that you can even microchip a goldfish!" – Priscilla Khang AUA10
- "After a few emotional before and after pictures of animals that had been brought into the SPCA, we got to interact with the farm animals. Chester the Kune Kune pig and the cute goat were the highlights of the day. I found out that Chester has a Facebook page" – Harkirt Singh AUA2

Christine Howard, Learning Leader Animals Module

ALFRISTON COLLEGE SCHOOL BALL 2011

We are all looking forward to the 2011 Alfriston College Ball which will take place on Saturday 23 July at Alexandra Park. Alfriston College Balls have a great reputation as fun events, enjoyed by all and a fine example of how young people can enjoy themselves in an appropriate manner in a formal situation. We see no reason why this year's Ball will be any different and we are all looking forward to enjoying the event.

However in the light of recent publicity surrounding school Balls I think it is important to make the following points to the parents, whanau of those students who are attending this year's Ball:

- A School Ball is a formal event and therefore formal dress and appropriate behaviour is required
- Alfriston College organises the School Ball itself and only the School Ball. There is no such thing as a school Pre-Ball. If your child does intend to attend any Pre-Ball function we ask that you ensure that no alcohol is consumed
- Anyone who arrives at the Ball having consumed alcohol, or drugs [including synthetic substitutes] will not be allowed in and if they need to be sent home this will be at the expense of the student and their family
- There is no such event as an After-Ball. Everyone returns to Alfriston College in the buses provided and once they have done so the Ball is over and the school is no longer responsible

The expectation is that you will pick up your child from the College at the end of the Ball and from then on they are your responsibility. The Police have made it quite clear that they will close down any organised After-Ball event.

If your child is bringing a partner to the Ball who does not attend Alfriston College we look forward to meeting them and welcoming them to our celebration but please be aware that the same rules apply to them and that it is the responsibility of your child to ensure that their guest behaves appropriately.

Be assured that we are determined to provide a fun evening in a safe environment. We believe that our students can enjoy themselves without needing to resort to alcohol and drugs and we trust them to do so. Attending a School Ball is an expensive undertaking and we want to ensure that the money spent by families is well spent and that everyone has a great time.

The final date for payment for ball tickets is Monday 4 July and payment is to be made at the Cashier's Office.

Steve Saville, Deputy Principal

ALFRISTON COLLEGE HOSPITALITY UPDATE



In Term 4 last year two learning areas within Technology – Graphics and Hospitality, combined to offer our learners a chance to create a product and a service for Alfriston College staff, their whanau and the wider community.

The learners in 11 Graphics were given a brief which required them to create the packaging for the coffee beans which are

roasted in-house and used as part of the coffee service studied and provided by 13 Hospitality, with the winning design being used.

Specifications were provided; the main three were that the packaging needed to be recognisable, fit for purpose, and to be re-useable (not a single use item).

The selected design was created by Hogan Young. The name, 'Whanau Blend' was decided on as it seemed appropriate to support our whanau system at Alfriston College.

'Whanau Blend' is now available for purchase. We are using Fair Trade beans, and have now progressed into creating a three-bean blend. The beans are from Ethiopia, Colombia and Guatemala, producing a blend with plenty of depth, medium caramel tones with a nice little kick at the end; not too acidic.

'Whanau Blend' is available at \$6.50 for 200g. If grinding is required for plunger or cafeteria use, however we require a little bit of notice for this. 'Whanau Blend' is available by ordering through the Food Technology/Hospitality Department, by contact Mr Thomas on j.thomas@alfristoncollege.school.nz. Payment can be left at Reception.

Jeff Thomas, Learning Leader – Hospitality

PASIFIKA PARENT EVENING

On Wednesday 15 June, parents of Years 9, 10 and 11 Pacific Island students were invited to attend an Information Evening held in The John Locke Theatre. The evening was organised by Mr Samuela (Pasifika Raising Achievement and Mentoring Facilitator) with assistance and support from the Pasifika Mentors (Staff), Mrs Tapu, Ms Gee and her senior students, as well as the Niuean and Cook Island Cultural Groups. There were also a number of invited guest speakers: Pito and Me' Ah Ken, Lydia Sosene from Mt Albert Grammar School Pasifika Parent Committee (MAGSPPC), Terri Leo (PILOT Programme Facilitator), Li Ilolahia (BEST Institute), and Chris Lautua (MIT).

Mr Samuela presented information about what the school has been doing with regard to raising Pasifika Student Achievement. He explained that the various initiatives run alongside the school-wide initiatives such as Home School Partnership (HSP), Te Kotahitanga as well as working closely with the Careers Department.

NCEA results for Pasifika learners over the last few years were also highlighted by Mr Samuela showing some significant increases. The challenge he sees now is one of maintaining momentum. Mr Samuela pointed out other new initiatives for 2011 such as peer mentoring for Years 9 and 10, recognising Pasifika Achievers, a web page for Pasifika News and forming an Alfriston College Pasifika Parents Komiti (ACPPK).

He invited the group from the MAGS PPC to speak about what they have been doing and the positive effect it has had on their Pasifika students. They strongly encouraged our school to do the same and acknowledged that they would support the school in its endeavours.

As well as wonderful performances from the two cultural groups, parents were also treated to a lovely supper in the Auaha Commons following the presentation. There was much discussion by parents and staff and the feedback from this was extremely positive and encouraging.

Mr Samuela is extremely grateful to all staff, including the Senior Leadership Team and Pasifika Mentors for their support and contribution which will benefit our Pasifika Learners.

Steve Samuela, *Pasifika Raising Achievement and Mentoring Facilitator*

SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST 2011



From 17–19 June the Alfriston College Music Learning Area had five Bands entered in the 2011 Smokefree Rockquest. The Bands were 1 Step Above, Something to Hold Onto, Our Last Days, House and 2nd Generation. All of the Bands performed to a very high standard,

representing their chosen styles well with slick, well-rehearsed and catchy performances.

All the musicians enjoyed the experience and readily made new friends and fans amongst those present. Musicians from 'Something to Hold Onto' were invited to support the working Band 'In Dread Response' (who had band members present at the competition), a compliment to their musicianship and appeal.

Alexander van der Voorn, *AUA3*

AUCKLAND BAND ASSOCIATION

Solo and Ensemble Contest



The Auckland Band Association Solo and Ensemble Contest was held on Sunday 19 June 2011 at the AUT North Shore Campus where Andrew Cooksley, WHG6 entered as a soloist. Congratulations to Andrew for being awarded the 'ABA Slow Melody Trophy' for his solo trumpet performance.

Student musicians performed solo or with an ensemble, for Area Band Directors and musicians from the North Shore Concert Band, receiving both verbal and written feedback following their performance. Adjudication was available for all wind, string, and percussion instruments as well as voice and piano. Recipients of an I or II rating will receive an award, medal or trophy. In addition, while entrants waited for their rating, they attended a variety of classes and free performances.

Davin Tornquist, *Head of Learning - Music*

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As we are now in the middle of winter we find it necessary to address some growing concerns we have regarding a small number of learners and their school uniforms.

It is important to mention that we have a school uniform for very good reasons; warmth and durability being two of those reasons that are most relevant in the winter months. It is important that all learners have a school jersey or a school jacket; it is also important that these items are clearly labelled and that learners never leave items of uniform unattended.

- We do not accept non-uniform items of clothing. This includes non-school jackets, hats and sweatshirts. If for any reason a learner does not have a school jacket or jersey for a particular day then they must bring a note from home requesting a uniform pass. If they are wearing a non-uniform item of clothing then it must be black or dark blue so that it closely matches the school colours. It must have no writing or design on it
- Any T-shirts that are worn under the school shirt must not be long sleeves and must be blue or black in colour.
- Hats of any type are not acceptable and will be removed from learners if they are seen
- Under no circumstances will a learner wearing jandals or jeans [black or blue or any other colour] be allowed into class
- Regarding shoes, we have tried to accommodate clothing trends and we allow learners to wear any style of shoe as long as they are black; this includes the soles and the laces. We would prefer that learners wear traditional leather lace up school shoes. The reason for this is that they are far more waterproof and more durable than canvas shoes. We are finding that learners who wear canvas shoes are having problems keeping their shoes dry. The traditional school shoe is a far better option and actually works out to be better value for money
- School socks are a compulsory item of clothing for boys who are wearing shorts. Again some boys are wearing cheaper shorter black socks but our expectations have not changed. The school socks are warm and practical

If a learner is repeatedly not meeting these uniform expectations they can expect to be sent home to rectify the situation. We are hoping that, with your support, the incidences of learners arriving at school in non-uniform items will be greatly reduced.

Having said that the vast majority of learners are wearing their uniform with pride and they look great.

Steve Saville, *Deputy Principal*

FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Module Presentations

The Universities, MIT, AUT and Unitec are holding their Overview Presentations during module time in Term 2. The dates are as follows:

- **Wednesday 6 July** **Victoria University**
- **Wednesday 13 July** **Unitec**

All presentations start at 1.45pm and will be held in L9. All Year 12 and 13 learners are welcome to attend.

Break Out Scholarship Programme

For any Year 13 student interested in applying for Scholarships, the Library has 20-minute sessions where they can access the Scholarship Programme called Break Out. Please encourage students to come along as this is a great opportunity and we do not want them to miss out. They can also come into the Careers Department to use the computers provided for students. We are also very happy to assist them.

Korina Lorimer, *Careers Advisor*

ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE UPDATE

If you would like to receive a digital copy please send your details to Mrs Kay-Cassin who will add you to our Update list: j.kay@alfristoncollege.school.nz