

MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TUARUA O TIRIWA

TE PAANUI RAHINA

274 Don Buck Road

Massey Auckland 8

PRINCIPAL : B S RITCHIE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Greetings Kia Ora Talofa Guten Tag Bonjour Malo e le lei Dobro Dosli Kia Orana こんにちは
Fakalofa lahi atu Shalom Goeie Dag Sawadee Croeso Bula Fáilte

This is the last Newsletter this term and we would like to thank parents for their support throughout the term and wish you well for a happy Easter. Term 2 commences on Monday 23 April.

2 April 2007

MONDAY NEWSLETTER

Phone : 831-0500

Fax :833-9200

www.masseyhigh.school.nz

"WE ARE AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL"

Tongan Group: 1st in the "Otuha

PARENT - SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This year we are piloting a new programme to raise academic achievement called Academic Counselling.

Part of this programme involves strengthening the partnership and improving communication between home and school. To this end we will be holding our first parent-teacher-student interviews, in Week Two, Term 2. We request all parents to take part in this important meeting about their child's achievement.

A letter will be posted home this week explaining the process. Please read the letter carefully.

We look forward to meeting with you in Term 2.



ASB POLYFEST 2007

This year Massey High School had record numbers of students participating in the ASB Polyfest with groups representing seven different cultures: Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Niuean, Tuvaluan and Indian.

Congratulations go to all the students who put tremendous effort into preparation and rehearsals for their performances. We especially thank all the tutors, costume-makers, family supporters and teachers who contributed to this event.

The Massey High School Maori, Samoan, Tongan and Niuean groups entered the competitive section of the festival and received the following awards.

Kapa Haka Group:

1st in the choral item

8th over-all school in the First Division

Niuean Group:

1st in the Lologo Tapu (Hymn)

3rd= for costumes

Nathan Tanevesi 11KPC - 1st in the Junior Boys' Niuean Speech Competition.



Our Indian, Cook Island and Tuvaluan groups gave excellent performances in the non-competitive section of the festival.

YOUTH '07 - THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SURVEY OF NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, an important national survey is being run by researchers from The University of Auckland at Massey High School. We have been selected as one of the secondary schools taking part in the Youth '07 survey. In the year 2000, we were participants in the first national adolescent survey (Youth 2000) and the results of this survey have helped us to provide for the well-being of our students.

Approximately 380 students are involved at Massey High School. Students from Years 9-13 have been randomly selected to take part in the survey. Parents of these students were sent an information brochure about the survey in the mail. Taking part in the survey is entirely voluntary and students who have been selected received an invitation card at school last week. For further information please contact Sue Grant, Youth'07 Project Co-ordinator, ph: 09 3737599 ext 87414, or check the website: www.youth2000.ac.nz.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations go to the following students who participated in the National Swimming Age Group Championship in March and won the following medals:

Jamie Johns (11ASG) - 15 years

- Gold
 - 50m breaststroke
 - 100m breaststroke
 - Auckland Relay Team (2 medals)
 - Club Relay Team - beat Auckland record by 4 seconds
- Silver
 - 200m breaststroke
 - 50m freestyle
 - 50m butterfly
- Bronze
 - Club Relay Team



Nikki Johns (10MGT) - Under 13 years

- Silver
 - 50m backstroke
- Bronze
 - 100m backstroke
 - 200m backstroke

SURVIVING THE TEENAGE YEARS

If you're the parent of a teenager, chances are you're dealing with a person you've never met – never mind that they've been living with you all their lives. That's what the teenage years are about in large measure, children dedicated to the tasks of changing, becoming grown-ups.

And while this developmental stage on the path to adulthood may cause you to think a lot about their welfare, your teens are probably not doing all that much thinking about you. They are likely to be behaving in ways that distance them from the family. If this is the current situation at your house, here's some counsel from the experts in the trenches: Don't take it personally – it's not personal.

While the tone of the teen years may throb with tension (not to mention occasional parental terror), understanding what's going on is part of the solution to working through those years. While totally permissive parenting generally ill prepares kids for adulthood, a more permissive approach seems to work well with most teenagers. Parents and teenagers can cross the bridge from childhood to young adulthood while respecting the individuality of each other. Try to make a distinction between "short-sighted parenting" which seeks to control the current situation, and "long-range parenting" which aims to help teens develop inner strength. Parents often anxiously walk the fence between safeguarding their kids and letting them make the necessary mistakes so that they can learn from them.

You may have heard the story about the little boy who was watching a butterfly struggle to break out of a cocoon. Feeling sorry for the butterfly, the boy opened the cocoon and set the butterfly free. But after flying only a few yards, the butterfly fell to the ground and died. The little boy hadn't realized that the butterfly needed the struggle to gain the strength that would allow it to fly and live.

Letting our kids struggle and make mistakes can be frightening, even when we realise that teens need to find out who they are by testing themselves in new situations. Sometimes teen behaviour appears as outright rebellion, often in those very areas parents hold most dear. Teenagers know the buttons to push to extract the most outrage from their parents. While there are different forms and intensities of rebellion, there are some common teen behaviours, such as not wanting to be with their families, not wanting to tidy their rooms, and loudly playing music parents hate.

But parents are people too. Common sense can prevail. Just as you wouldn't let a toddler dash into traffic, so parents can draw boundaries for teens, especially when behaviour becomes unacceptably risky. Parents can say no but it's often best to just say no without an accompanying criticism or lecture. The teen years are a temporary time of momentous physical and emotional growth and development, and although most teens would challenge the assertion, the fact remains they are not yet grownups, able to support and sustain an independent life. For the parents, who are grown up, it's a time to show how qualities such as patience, tolerance, respect, and acquired wisdom play out in family life.

KEY DATES

April

- 5 Last day of Term.
- 23 Term 2 starts
- 25 ANZAC Day
- 26 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm Library

May

- 3-4 Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews. Students released at 1.05pm. No classes Thursday afternoon. No classes Friday.
- 8 Australian Science Competition
- 23 Australian Maths Competition
- 31 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm Library

June

- 4 Queen's Birthday