



# K Headlines

# K A I P A R A

7 February 2011

[www.kaiparacollege.school.nz](http://www.kaiparacollege.school.nz)

## Welcome to a New Year,

Welcome to a new year at Kaipara College. An especially warm welcome to all those students, and their families, who are new to the school. This newsletter is given to students nearly every week on a Friday afternoon. Each weekend it is posted to the College website (address above) in pdf format and in colour. You will find it by clicking on the Newsletters item on the website menu or by clicking the word News on the home page. You will also find past copies of the newsletters if you would like to see what the school has been up to in the recent past.

Students have been doing exciting things over the holidays, there are some excellent NCEA results and our new Year 9s have been introduced to the world of College by some of the Year 13s. You will find these stories inside.

There are some changes for this year. Three of them are highlighted in this newsletter.

### 1. Term Dates

Term dates have been changed by the Government to accommodate the final weeks of the Rugby World Cup. This has an effect on the last term in particular. The term dates are inside and on our website.

### 2. Wednesday Afternoons

Last period on a Wednesday has been a sports and activity period for all our students.

We have made changes to the way we run this period. The new arrangements are described below.

### 3. Building Construction

We hoped to have started the next and biggest stage of the redevelopment over the summer but approval processes are taking longer than we thought. The start date is now looking like the beginning of April. This stage will cause some temporary dislocation about the school but we have rearranged classrooms and facilities to accommodate the construction. By the time we get to Term Four it should be finished.

*John Grant, Principal*

## Wednesday Afternoons

For many years we have run a sports and activity programme during the last period of each Wednesday. A number of our sports teams conducted training, we provided a number of recreational activities and we provided supervised study class rooms. Changes introduced to the teacher employment contract over the last two years have caused us to review the way we run this period in order to ensure that the College fully complies with its contractual employment obligations. The changes to Wednesday afternoons are:

- We will still run sport training during this period for many of the school teams.
- We will provide tutorial and homework support opportunities for those students who want them. We will provide access to staff in English, Maths, Science, and Social Science. The Library will be open and a computer suite available for student use.
- Students who do not play sport or do not wish to take advantage of the study and tutoring facilities will be free to leave school at lunchtime (1.30 pm) on Wednesday afternoons.
- The buses will run as normal at 3.10 pm.
- Students who cannot leave school early because they need to catch the bus can stay at school and complete homework, read in the Library, access the computers or get extra help with their study.
- Any parent who requires their child to stay on the school grounds while waiting for the bus, or for any other reason, can inform us of this and the child will be accommodated in the additional help programme.

This arrangement will begin this Wednesday afternoon and continue all year.

Please note that there is no change in the number of regular classroom teaching periods in each week.

There are more focussed learning support opportunities and better support for homework.

The main difference is that students who are not involved in sport, or who do not want to take advantage of the extra help available or are not required by their parents to stay at school are now able to leave the school grounds early on Wednesday.

## Three weeks in Vietnam

Two Kaipara College students, Jade Wahanui and Blair Smith, accompanied by College teacher, Gretchen Shelling, joined students from two Australian high schools in a three week adventure in Vietnam over the holidays. The trip was put together by World Challenge, a company that specialises in these adventure trips for college students.

There were two treks in the north of Vietnam; a three day trek at Sapa and a five day trek in Mai Chau. Each day involved backpacking about fifteen kilometres and then staying with families in villages along the route. Blair and Jade found this a bit of a challenge but enjoyed it hugely. Village life in Vietnam is such a different world from Hellsenville! In fact finishing the Sapa trek was one of Blair's best days after falling down on the slippery, muddy track many times and getting covered in mud, the end of the trek with its hot showers and food was bliss. For Jade the



highlights were the home-stays and the wonderful Vietnamese food.

In Hoi An the group spent six days working in a home for disabled and homeless people. They cleaned and repainted rooms and the building's steel fence as well as interacting with the residents. The group also bought medicines for the people of the home and conducted a celebration tea for the hardworking staff.

The adventure finished with a few days on the water at Halong Bay that included an overnight boat trip. Both students enjoyed themselves so much that they would return in a flash!



## Three Weeks at Anakiwa

Madeline Shelling was sponsored by the local Lion's Club to attend a three week course at Outward Bound over the January holidays. She says that there is so much to say about Outward Bound that she could fill the newsletter! However here are the highlights:

"Outward Bound was such an amazing opportunity, it was truly life changing. You think you have physical and mental limits, but the three week course showed me that I have much more potential than I ever thought I could have. In our team we pushed past every single one of our boundaries that we thought we had. It was amazing how much we could achieve when we started to believe the motto 'there is more in you'. We are very proud of these achievements. Outward Bound is so much more than extreme outdoor activities—sailing, tramping,



white-water kayaking, high ropes, rock climbing, and even a half marathon. Values, goal setting, environmental awareness and finding out more about yourself and bettering it are also core aspects of the course. I learnt many leadership and teamwork skills and made many awesome friends that I will keep for life. Outward Bound is the most challenging, and most fun adventure I've had in my lifetime so far. I seriously recommend it!"



## MEPA 2011- Aotearoa Sounds

HERBS      BOX JUICE      UNKNOWN PEACE      TWIN COAST      KJ's  
WESTWOOD      AVALON HEWITT      LANI RICHARDS

**Saturday, 12 February      3-9pm      Tickets: \$20**

*Aquatic Park, Springs Road Entrance*

*Kaipara College Music Department Fundraiser*



# Science Forum 2011 Auckland University

The Kumeu Rotary Club sponsored two of our students, Jacob Lawes and Jasmine Sawyers-Mullen to the annual Science Forum run for secondary students from around New Zealand and Australia at Auckland University. This is a great opportunity for our students to see what professional scientists do. Thanks, Rotary for your generous sponsorship.

Jacob Lawes reports...

If people were asked to imagine what a science and technology forum, or indeed just a normal forum was like, they would probably imagine a dull affair over a few days with strange topics, and the attendees writing notes constantly. Well, the first two days in the 2011 Science Forum blows that, and any other stereotype of forums, out the water.



The science forum was a chance for 162 New Zealand and Australian students, including me, to meet and discover more about the cutting edge of modern science and technology from NZ researchers at the front of their fields. Subjects such as the usual Chemistry, Physics and Biology were covered, but also lesser known subjects such as Bio-Chemistry, Bio-Engineering and Psychology were covered, each lesson giving a much deeper insight into the subject and how it improved life.

Yet while it was a forum focused on science and technology, science and technology was not what we did 24/7. A secondary purpose of the forum was to allow us to meet new people from around New Zealand and Australia who were interested in the same things and a chance to make new lifetime friends. One lecturer had a child go through the forum over a decade ago, and according to him, she still keeps in regular contact with her forum friends.

For the full two weeks of the forum, not a single one of us felt bored or wished we did not want to be there. In fact, during those two weeks, we had five people sent to hospital with breaks and dislocations. Each and every one of them was back at the forum as soon as the hospital released them, rearing to continue the fun. In the two weeks I was there, we participated in activities such as dissection, looking at how the brain works, working with chemicals to identify metals, created a fluorescent goo, and we built a robot car. We also had time to go to the movies, play a volleyball tournament, have a disco, and spend a day exploring Auckland with our new friends.

This forum was a great experience, and given the chance, I would sign up again in a heartbeat. To finish with a quote: "reach for the stars. That way, if you fail, you will still reach the moon." Take every opportunity given to you, because you never know what it might lead to.

## Term dates for 2010

Term dates for this year are different from normal years. The Term Three holidays have been delayed by the decision to align them with the final weeks of the Rugby World Cup.

Please note that this results in NCEA Examinations starting three weeks into Term Four.

|                   |                             |                    |             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Term One</b>   | Ends                        | Friday             | 15 April    |
|                   | Easter holidays are in      | the term holidays. |             |
|                   | Anzac Day is Easter Monday, | 25 April,          |             |
|                   | in the middle of the term   | holidays.          |             |
| <b>Term Two</b>   | Starts                      | Monday             | 2 May       |
|                   | Ends                        | Friday             | 15 July     |
|                   | Queen's Birthday:           | Monday,            | 6 June.     |
| <b>Term Three</b> | Starts                      | Monday             | 1 August    |
|                   | Ends                        | Friday             | 7 October   |
| <b>Term Four</b>  | Starts                      | Tuesday            | 25 October  |
|                   | Ends                        | Tuesday            | 13 December |
|                   | Labour Day:                 | Monday             | 24 October  |

## Holidays & Term Time

From time to time parents request leave to take their children away on holidays during term time.

Parents cannot legally excuse their children from school for this reason and the school will not grant leave for this purpose. We appreciate that often holidays are dictated by work concerns or an opportunity comes up for an exciting overseas experience. However the law regards students who are taken from school for this reason as, in effect, truanting.

There is sometimes a request for students to be supplied with work while they are away. The school policy is that work will not be provided in these circumstances. For students in Years 11, 12 and 13 there can be NCEA Internal Assessments due during the year. The school cannot grant extensions for holidays nor can it make special arrangements for students to make up missed assessments.

## Year 9 Orientation Days



Two days of introduction to life at College finished in the pool on Thursday afternoon as the new Year 9 classes competed for top form in canoe races and banner and chant competitions. They have learned their way round the College, met their teachers, picked up their books and come to grips with the rules and routines of life at Kaipara. In this they were assisted by a hard working and enthusiastic group of Year 13 students who gave up four days of their holidays to plan the programme and work with the new students. Top form? 9MO—for the second year running!



### Swimming Sports

**Wednesday, 9 February**  
**12.30 – 3.00 pm**  
**School Pool**

Entry is voluntary.

Entries can be made with your Form Teacher or at the Sports Office in the Gym.

Students can watch the last half of the races while waiting for the school buses.

### Senior Uniform

We are aware that some students are experiencing difficulties getting all or part of the new senior uniform. These delays are in the supply of items to our uniform shop.

Students who are waiting for uniform should bring a note to the College and a permit will be issued.

We expect that all students will have outstanding uniform items by the end of this week.

**The College Uniform Shop will be open:**  
**Tuesday and Friday from 1.30 – 2.15 pm**  
**Thursday from 8 – 9 am.**

# COMING UP

|             |           |   |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 9 February  | Wednesday | Swimming Sports                         |
| 18 February | Friday    | ID Photos                               |
| 3 March     | Thursday  | Athletics Championships                 |
| 20 March    | Sunday    | Auckland Dragon Boat Champs Lake Pupuke |
| 15 April    | Friday    | End of Term 1                           |

**For careers, scholarship and contact information see either Ms Couch or look on the Kaipara College web-site under Careers [www.kaiparacollege.school.nz](http://www.kaiparacollege.school.nz)**