

# Edgewater College



FEBRUARY  
2008

## Principal's Comment

Welcome back to 2008. We have had a very smooth start to the new school year. I believe we are the first school in the area, perhaps in Auckland, to have all of the students at school and in class. By 10 a.m. last Friday the first lessons were underway for the great majority of our students.

That notion of putting learning first, and of having our students focused on the things that really matter, is the key to what we want to achieve as a school.

The concept that we should be rewarding for effort, persistence and for accepting new challenges, rather than for basic talent, is an important one and is part of a "growth mindset". You will hear lots about this during the year. This is based on new research that shows clearly that:

- Intelligence is not fixed
- Brains 'grow' by making new neuronal connections when they are challenged
- Mistakes are great provided they are used as a springboard to make change and improvement
- It's much better to reward and praise effort than it is to praise talent.

We briefly introduced these ideas to a number of classes in the latter part of 2007. In their evaluation, students commented:

- *I used to believe that there was not much I could do to improve so I'd give up. Now I believe that effort is the key to improvement.*
- *The growth mindset has opened so many doors. I used to think that the easier questions were better for me but now I'm determined to challenge myself.*
- *Over the weekend I attempted two Excellence questions for the first time and (even though I didn't get them right) I was on the right track.*

At the end of 2007, there were two further staff resignations – Mrs Singh (Food Technology) has moved to Alfriston College and Mr Fung (Technology) has taken a position at Massey High School. We welcome several new teachers - Mr A Chute (PE), Mrs S Dykman (Technology), Mrs J Nutt (English & French) and Mr J Goodier, who returns to the English Department after a year in Singapore. A new HOD Art, Ms L Moore, will commence later in Term 1. Congratulations to Mrs N Haddock, HOD Music, and Mr M Williamson, HOD Social Sciences, on their promotions.

A J Vester  
Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
The next Board meeting will be held on  
Wednesday 13 February at 6.00 p.m.

## WHANAU SPORTS DAY

The event planned for Waitangi Day has been  
postponed to  
FRIDAY 7 MARCH, 3.30 to 8.00 p.m.

MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW

## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 6 February  
Waitangi Day – Public holiday  
9.30 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Kapahaka  
Group training day at Te Tahawai Marae

Friday 8 February  
Visit from Nakatsu High School, Japan

Thursday 21 February  
"Helping your Child Succeed at  
Secondary School" - Year 9 Parent-  
teacher evening. Starts with a barbecue  
snack at 6.00 pm, and the meeting in the  
Hall starts at 6.30 pm.

Thursday 28 February – Sunday 2  
March  
Music camp (Dargaville)

### MARCH

Friday 7 March  
Whanau Sports Event – 3.30 to 8.00  
p.m.

Friday 14 March  
Polynesian Festival  
Teacher-only day (school closed)

Friday 21 – Tuesday 25 March  
Easter weekend (school closed)

Monday 31 March  
Report evening (all year levels)

### APRIL

Wednesday 2 – Saturday 5 April  
Level 2 Outdoor Education kayaking trip  
(Taupo)

Friday 18 April  
Last day of Term 1

... and note your calendar for later  
in the year:

Tuesday 17 – Friday 20 June  
School production

Wednesday 2 July  
Careers Expo

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS – ROWING

Over the holidays the Rowing squad raced at two regattas – one at Rotorua's Blue Lakes and the other at Lake Karapiro near Cambridge. Results were outstanding for both the boys' and girls' crews. In total, the squad competed in 28 events (including heats and finals) achieving seven wins, three seconds, six thirds and six fourths.

Highlights have been wins in the Women's Under-17 Double, Under-17 Quad, Under-17 Four and Under-19 Single.

The main part of the school season is now underway and will culminate in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Championships, to be raced this year at Lake Ruataniwha near Twizel in the South Island.

Students or parents who would like to find out more about Rowing can pick up an information pack from Mr Vester's PA.

### Homework Centre

The Homework Centre will reopen on Tuesday 12 February.

Venue: School Library

Dates: Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Time: 3.30 – 4.30 p.m.

Students have access to the Internet and some teacher assistance, as well as quiet place to do their homework.

Note: As this is an after school activity, students will need to make their own arrangements for transport home.

### Student Homework Diary

We are fortunate to have many business houses supporting Edgewater College in providing a free student homework diary to our students. The diary is an important link between the school and home and contains a lot of important information about school, responsibilities of parents and caregivers, students, uniform, requirements such as attendance, lateness, absences, school terms and holidays. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to go through the diary carefully with their son/daughter. Please be supportive of the student's homework and progress.

Our thanks to the following local businesses for their support:

*Total Body Physiotherapy, Ajadz Indian Cuisine, Ti Rakau Dental Centre, JR Webb & Son, Kip McGrath Education Centre – Pakuranga, Barfoot & Thompson – Highland Park, Australec Switch Gear, East Health Trust, Ti Rakau Drive Superette, Paper Plus Botany Town Centre, Howick & Eastern Buses Ltd, Hoyts Sylvia Park, Amediate Engineering Ltd, First Class Limousines, Femma's & Fella's Hair Care, Safe Store Public Storage, No Bull Services, Bentick-Stokes Law, Warehouse Stationery and Ardmore Flying School.*

During the holidays Mrs W Sheahan (HOD Japanese) spent three weeks in Japan. She was one of just seven teachers chosen from New Zealand for a Japan Foundation course. The teachers spent the time improving their knowledge of Japanese language and culture, and writing resources to use in their classes.

Phone: 576 9039 Fax: 576 9037

Website: [www.edgewater.school.nz](http://www.edgewater.school.nz)

E-mail: [enquiries@edgewater.school.nz](mailto:enquiries@edgewater.school.nz)

Office hours: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm

Careers: 577 0406 (Direct Line: Mr Whickman)

Community Education: 576 4731

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

As parents/caregivers you have an important role in ensuring that students attend school every day. A telephone message left on the school's 'absence line' would be appreciated to report absences or an email to [enquiries@edgewater.school.nz](mailto:enquiries@edgewater.school.nz).

Requests for leave of a week or longer should be in writing and addressed to the Principal, before the leave is taken. Good results and achievement at school are directly related to attendance and every day counts.

### LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

A note should be taken by the student to the Deans' Room after signing in at Tutor Group in the morning. The student then signs the Exit Book at Student Reception at the appointed leaving time. Parents will be spared waiting time when collecting students if this procedure is followed. Where possible, please try to make appointments for the doctor, dentist, etc outside of school hours.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Please ensure that you notify the school office of any changes to your contact details (also your nominated emergency contact person) so that the nurse can get in touch should the need arise. If you are advised by the nurse that your child is unwell we will require you to arrange for the student to be collected and driven home. Walking home is not encouraged.

Students who are not New Zealand citizens should also ensure their passports and permits are current and bring them to the office for copying when they are updated.

### ROAD SAFETY

Students who need to cross Ti Rakau Drive on their way to or from school MUST use the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights as this is a very busy road.

### NOTICE FROM MANUKAU CITY COUNCIL

We have been asked by Manukau City Council's Parking Services to advertise the following notice:

*Due to the continuing rise in complaints regarding illegal and dangerous parking at schools in this area, the Manukau City Council's Parking Services have commenced regular school enforcement patrols. Parking officers will no longer be asking parents or caregivers to move vehicles from illegal parking areas (including illegally parked buses), but will instead be issuing infringement notices in respect of the offence and will then post tickets out to the registered owner of the vehicle.*

To avoid congestion, we suggest that students be dropped off further along Edgewater Drive and walk the short distance to school. Please do not drive into the main carpark at the front entrance to drop off students.