



Principal's Comment

Welcome to the 2011 school year. As a school that is committed to providing every opportunity we can for students to achieve and reach their potential, it's really pleasing to start the year by reporting on some excellent NCEA results for 2010.

Last year I was able to report some significantly improved results and this year I am pleased to be able to report that we have improved on those.

In 2010 we performed at or better than the national level across all levels in 82% of the unit standards our students attempted, 74% of the internally assessed achievement standards and 82% of the externally assessed achievement .

76 % of our Year 11 students eligible for a Level 1 certificate achieved that. Level 1 literacy rates had risen to 87% and numeracy to 90% (both significantly above the national rate).

We didn't do this by concentrating on credits that were 'easier' to earn. In fact, more of our achievement standard credits are earned in external examinations (55% compared with 47% nationally). In the external examinations at levels 1, 2 and 3 our rate of achievement is above the national rate. At level 1, 71% of papers sat were passed as compared with 63 % nationally.

These results didn't come about by accident and I need to make reference to the new initiatives we put in place in 2009 and continued within 2010 to improve our results, and to the hard work of our teachers.

I also need to acknowledge the great attitude of many students who took the opportunities we offered and ran with those, including coming in during the holidays to complete assessments.

A J Vester
Principal

FEBRUARY 2011

Please note the following dates in your calendar

TERM 1:

Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 February

Year 13 camp, Ponui Island

Wednesday 2 – Saturday 5 March

Band camp, Dargaville

Wednesday 9 March

Mighty Mouth Dental Service on site

Thursday 17 March – Saturday 19 March

ASB Polyfest

Friday 18 March

Teacher-only Day – school closed

Monday 28 March

Careers Expo.

Saturday 2 April

Culture & Fashion Extravaganza

Friday 15 April

Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

Monday 2 May Term 2 begins

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Wednesday 16 March** at 6.30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

From the Careers Department

A **big personal thank you** to all parents and students (current and ex-students) who have supported/used in many and varied ways, the Edgewater College Careers Department and myself over the last nine years. In retirement I will look back on this as a most positive and enjoyable experience both inside and outside the school environment. Please give your support to our new Careers contacts: Sharon Blasé and Judi Tredwell. Best wishes and regards to you all.

Mike Whickman (HoD Careers & Year 13 Senior Dean)

Contacts for Careers & Guidance:

Mrs Sharon Blasé Tel: 09 576 9039 ext. 831
Mrs Judi Tredwell Tel: 09 576 9039 ext. 832

WELCOME

Welcome to all our Year 9 students and new students at other year levels who are attending Edgewater College for the first time. We look forward to working with you and your families. We also welcome several new teachers: -

- Ms Rhonda Tibble (HoD Maori)
- Mr Sa'id Milton (Social Sciences)
- Mrs Marleis Caradus (English & Media Studies)
- Mrs Helen McNaughton (English)
- Ms Jo McKenzie (English)
- Mr Alan White (English)
- Mrs Linda Scott (Social Sciences, Childcare & Food Technology)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS FORMER STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Shaoqing Meads** who has achieved outstanding results in the 2010 NCEA Examinations. Shaoqing received an **Outstanding Scholarship** for **Mathematics with Calculus** and **Scholarships** in both **Chemistry** and **Physics**.

Congratulations also to Steven Steyl who achieved **Scholarship** in **Classical Studies**.

STUDENT CARS & PARKING

Students who drive cars to school are not permitted to access their cars at interval and are not permitted to drive them during school hours. All students on a restricted license are not to take passengers, unless the passenger has held their full licence for more than two years.

Any student who drives to school is to park their car inside the back gate or on the street. Parking in the slip lane (at the front of the main carpark) is for Community Education students and visitors only.

Students who bring a vehicle to school must give the registration details to the school office. (This will enable us to help you if you leave your lights on, etc.)

PARKING & TRAFFIC NEAR THE SCHOOL

The front car park is for staff, visitors to the school and adults attending Community Education classes. **Please do not drive into the front car park to drop off or pick up students.** Please drop them off at least 300 to 500 metres from the school and they can walk the remaining distance. This will help reduce congestion around the school entrance.

Due to the rise in complaints regarding illegal and dangerous parking at schools, the Auckland City Council's Parking Services will be doing regular school enforcement patrols at schools in this area. The parking restrictions are in place near schools for a reason – to protect our community's children. A 'zero tolerance' practice is applied to errant parking and you risk a fine of \$40 to \$60 if you park illegally.

HOMEWORK CENTRE

The Homework Centre reopened this week.

Venue: School Library

Days: Monday to Thursday

Time: 3.30 – 4.30 p.m.

Students have access to the Internet and some teacher assistance, as well as a 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.

Apologies to Parents & Students

The PE Uniform is on back-order and will not be available until the end of April.

HEALTH CENTRE

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.

Measles Alert

Measles is a serious and highly infectious viral disease. Parents/guardians need to find out whether their children are protected against measles. **If your child has not received a measles immunisation (MMR vaccine), call your GP as soon as possible.** Arrange a time to immunise your child as it is never too late. If you are not sure of your child's immunisation records, check with your GP. They can do a blood test to check your child's immunity to measles if needed. If your child is not immune or you choose not to immunise your child, they are not protected from measles. **They will may have to be excluded from school for up to 14 days** if they come into contact with someone with measles. Watch your children for symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes, or a rash. If this occurs call your GP or Healthline (0800 611 116) as soon as possible for advice. Keep your child away from school until they are well again. Your GP will advise the safest time for your child to return to school.

Scabies

Please be aware that there are some cases of scabies in Auckland schools. Scabies is caused by tiny insects which burrow into your skin. Signs to watch for include a very itchy rash and small blisters between fingers, on the wrist or inside the elbow. Scabies is easily spread by contact, and by sharing clothing or bedding. You MUST see a Doctor for Treatment.

Need some advice?

If you have a question about your health that you would like answered, you are welcome to see a nurse at the Health Centre. If you are too shy, or too busy studying, you can email AsktheNurse@edgewater.school.nz. I will answer all questions confidentially via email.

Mrs Fleming, School Nurse

STUDENT ID CARDS

We recommend that all students purchase an ID card (cost \$5). There will be opportunities to obtain discounts at several participating outlets. Photos have been taken last week and students may now collect these from the Student Office at interval or lunchtime only.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone: 576 9039

Fax: 576 9037

Attendance line:

576 9039 Option 1

Careers Advisor:

577 0406

Community Education:

576 4731

E-mail:

enquiries@edgewater.school.nz

Website:

www.edgewater.school.nz

Office hours:

8.30 am to 4.00 pm during term