



Principal's Comment

This morning we had an awards ceremony for Year 9 students to celebrate their efforts and achievements. This was a special assembly. Later in the week there will be prizegiving, where students who came 1st or 2nd in a subject are recognised, but I look at today's assembly as equally if not more significant. Some of you will wonder why I might think like that.

All of us have some talents and abilities. Sometimes those talents or abilities mean that we are naturally better at something than the other people in our group. Unfortunately what has happened in our society is that we have started to think that if we have to work hard to succeed then that's really not as good as succeeding because we are naturally good at something.

A sentence I never want to hear is: "I only got an award for effort." I think that nothing could be further from the truth.

If we only value things we can do easily then every time we come across a challenge we can't solve quickly we will give up.

Unfortunately that affects us in two ways. We never try anything that looks difficult in case we fail. Even with those things we are naturally good at, we will never look to extend our boundaries in case it proves to us that we were really not that good after all.

If, however, we start looking at difficult things as a challenge then we are not put off by the fact that it's hard or that we can't do it the first time we try.

If I ask my four-year-old grand daughter to read me a story she doesn't tell me she is hopeless at reading and does not want to read any more – she tells me she hasn't learned to read yet. It's not that she can't do it, it's just that she hasn't learned yet. That's the growth mindset that I want all our students to have. It's an "I can learn" attitude. It may take me a bit longer. I might have to work a bit harder but I can do it if I try.

That's why today's awards are so special. Some people have a natural advantage in some areas and have a head start in winning first place. Everyone has the same ability to really try, which makes the competition for the awards the students got today much greater and makes their achievement in getting one a real credit to them.

A J Vester
Principal

Please keep this Newsletter in a safe place as it contains important information about the start of the 2009 school year.

START DATES FOR 2009

JANUARY

Tuesday 27 January
School office reopens

Thursday 29 January
Option confirmation for students who have been contacted and any students needing to change options:

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Year 13
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Year 12
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Year 11

FEBRUARY

Monday 2 February
School bus services begin
8.50 a.m.

Year 9 & new International students – go to the Hall

Year 13* - go to the Gymnasium (you may be dismissed early today)

12.00 p.m.

Year 12* students – go to the Hall

* Years 12 & 13 may wear mufti today

Tuesday 3 February
8.50 a.m.

Years 9 & 12 students – go to your class

Years 10 & 11 – go to the Hall

(Year 13 students stay home today)

Wednesday 4 February

8.50 a.m. All students at school, in class

Friday 6 February

Waitangi Day holiday – school closed

Thursday 9 April

Last day of Term 1

TERM DATES:

Term 2:

Monday 27 April to Friday 3 July

Term 3:

Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

Term 4:

Monday 12 October to Friday 11

December **

** Final day for Term 4 to be confirmed.

The date given is the projected date – the latest possible date allowed by the Ministry of Education is Tuesday 15 December.

PLEASE SEE OVER THE PAGE
FOR UNIFORM SALES

UNIFORM SHOP – 2009 ARRANGEMENTS

Students must be in correct uniform for the start of the school year.

Uniform Sale Dates

Contact the school office from 27 January on 576 9039 to make appointments to purchase uniform on the dates below. *For sales to proceed smoothly it is essential to make an appointment, particularly if fittings are required.*

Wednesday 28 January	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Thursday 29 January	9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Saturday 31 January	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

During term-time, the Uniform Shop will be open every Wednesday from 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. except for the last Wednesday of each term, when it will be closed for stock-taking.

Methods of payment:

1. Purchase the uniform outright (cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS)
2. Place an order and pay a 50% deposit. Uniform may be collected (during shop hours) when the balance is paid. You will need to order in December for items required for the start of the 2009 school year.
3. Pay by automatic payment from your bank account. A deposit is required to secure your order and the uniform may be collected on completion of payments. Please see an Accounts Officer to make arrangements. (You may wish to continue your automatic payment to pay school fees – if so, please inform us.)
4. Cash sales only for second-hand uniforms.

Ordering uniform on-line

Uniform items can be ordered from our website: www.edgewater.school.nz under Student Information. Complete the order form and email it to enquiries@edgewater.school.nz or fax to 576 9037. Please select the size of garment carefully, noting if a fitting may be required, and allow two working days during term-time for processing. If you wish to pay in advance by credit card, please fax the order with your details or phone Mrs Lim on 576 9039 ext. 814. For security reasons do not send your credit card details by email.

Second-hand uniform

Second-hand uniform items can be sold through the Uniform Shop provided they are clean (freshly laundered and ironed, or dry-cleaned) and in good condition.

Please ensure your name, contact details and recommended price is attached to each individual item of clothing.

Reimbursement cheques are mailed out once a term.

A handling fee of 20% will be deducted. It is essential that you notify any change of address in order to receive a payment.

Please note we reserve the right to reject items for sale. You will be notified and asked to collect them. If not collected one month from notification we will dispose of those items.

The following items will not be accepted:

- Old style jackets
- Old style PE shirts
- Skirts that have been shortened
- Old style girls' blouses or boys' shirts
- Any clothing that is dirty, torn or faded.

STATIONERY

There will be no stationery sale at school at the beginning of 2009. Stationery lists were mailed with reports during Term 4 and are available from the school website. We recommend that you purchase your stationery from PaperPlus Pakuranga, as they are familiar with our requirements and will have the compulsory packs available for Year 9 and Year 10 students. Students should purchase their stationery during the holidays and have it with them for the start of the school year.

Farewell ...

At the end of term we say goodbye to several staff members:

- Mrs Dhillon, Art
- Mr Fitness, Social Sciences / French
- Mr Goto, Japanese
- Ms Leafberg, English
- Mrs Odendaal, Technology
- Mr Stickland, Physical Education

We thank them for the contribution they have made during their time at Edgewater College and wish them well in their new ventures.

Edgewater Community Education

2009 booklet is now available or see our website for full details:

www.ecep.homestead.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday 2 February: Our office opens for business

Tuesday 10 February (5 – 7 p.m.): Enrolment evening

THANK YOU!

To the parent who anonymously donated a number of high quality calculators to the Mathematics Department - these are much appreciated.

Striving _____
for **Excellence**

SCHOOL OFFICE REOPENS TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

Phone: 576 9039 Fax: 576 9037

Website: www.edgewater.school.nz

E-mail: enquiries@edgewater.school.nz

Careers: 577 0406

Office hours: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm during term