



Edgewater College

April 2005

Principal's Comments

There is no question in my mind that our parents are very interested in their son's or daughter's educational achievement. However, I am getting an increasing number of requests to release students from school one or two weeks before the holidays start to travel overseas. In many cases the students will be back in New Zealand by the start of the holidays, effectively giving the student a 3-4 week break.

I understand that airfares are probably the key reason for this but it does impact negatively on a student's academic opportunities.

Often the request for leave also contains a request for the pupil's teachers to give an assessment or an alternative time, and to provide detail on the work or activities the student will miss. Generally this is simply not possible. Some assessments cannot be shifted and will only occur at the time advised to students at the start of the school year. Others would require the teacher to prepare a whole new assessment task for one student, something that is a very time-consuming task.

If parents have to choose to take a student out of school then the responsibility for catching up must be the student's. To ask teachers to divert time and energy to those having an early holiday would be asking them to divert that time and energy away from those students who are remaining at school. That simply would not be fair.

In limited circumstances of genuine emergency we will of course go out of our way to ensure that a student is not disadvantaged. A good deal on off-peak airfares is not such a situation.

A J Vester
Principal

From the Guidance Counsellor

As a parent you have a right to know where your teenagers are at any time. Do you always know where they are? What they are doing? Who they are with? School holidays are coming up and I encourage parents to be watchful and careful of their young people.

Designing Careers Profiling Scheme

Recently Edgewater College was awarded a two-year contract to be the pilot school for a new Ministry of Education initiative, *Designing Careers Profiling*. This involves all Year 10 students completing a Learning Career Plan (LCP) during the annual Careers Module run during Social Studies classes. Each student will be interviewed individually or in groups to aid completion of this document.

The process will be repeated next year, so that a student profile is developed, which will assist students in their subject choices and career direction. It is envisaged that eventually all secondary school students will have this profile.

We seek the co-operation of parents / caregivers of Year 10 students by signing your student's plan, which is intended to be completed by the end of Term 2. If you have any queries please contact Mr Whickman on 5770406.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR

April

Monday 11

Yr 13 Geography field trip
Thursday 14 – Saturday 16

Outdoor Education Camp
Friday 15

Last day of term 1

May

Monday 2

First day of term 2

Wednesday 25 &

Thursday 26

Study Skills evenings

Next BOT meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Board will be held at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 13 April, followed by the usual monthly meeting.

Uniform

Sandals cannot be worn during Terms 2 & 3 so all students should have plain black lace-up shoes for their return after the school holidays.

Jerseys and jackets will be needed for the colder weather – the uniform shop is **not** open during the holidays so don't leave it till the last minute to purchase winter items.

Uniform Shop Hours

(during term time only)

Tuesdays

1.00 pm to 5.30 pm

Thursdays

1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Edgewater College Niuean Culture Group were **overall champion** in the Polyfest.

The group's placings were as follows:

Winners of The Entrance, Tama (action song), Takalo (war dance), Uniform and Boys' Leader (Allenzo Tamatoa). Runner-up in the Meke and Third place for the Girls' Leader (Susi Lo).

Well done to the group, and to the parents and teachers who supported and coached them.

Well done ...recent fundraising efforts

Money raised in the NZ Kidney Foundation "Drink Water Day" enabled us to purchase a water cooler for the Student Centre.

The recent Mufti Day, organised by Interact Students, raised \$898 for our World Vision Child Sponsorship.

So far we have collected around \$800 from the World Vision 40 Hour Famine but there is still more money to come in. **Please give your money and Famine book to Mr Banks before the end of Term 1.**

CURRICULUM NEWS

- ? Interim Reports and Attendance Records will be posted out to parents next week. **Please inform the office now of any change to your postal address.**
- ? Study Skills Evenings are planned for Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 May. Parents **and students** are invited to attend.
- ? Senior exams will take place in Week 6 Term 2. Attendance at exams is compulsory.
- ? Parents are reminded that NZQA fees will be a flat \$75 for all New Zealand students and students who have PR status.
- ? For international fee-paying students, there is no Government subsidy so their NZQA fees will be \$375.
- ? For scholarship, NZ students and those with PR status get the first three scholarship subjects included in the \$75, for additional subjects it is \$75 per subject.
- ? International fee-paying students pay \$100 per subject for Scholarship.
- ? We will be collecting these fees during Term 3.
- ? Students who meet financial assistance criteria will need to make application for fees assistance during Term 2.

Edgewater College Sport

The Sports Department will once again be selling Entertainment Books to raise funds for the Sports Department. Each entertainment book contains lots of 25% - 50% discounts or two-for-one offers from many of Auckland's finest cafes and restaurants, hotels, arts, cinema, sports and leisure activities. If you have bought one of these books in the past you'll know just how much you can save.

Books cost just \$60. Not only will you be saving on great entertainment but you'll be supporting the College as well.

Don't miss out! To order the new 2005/06 Entertainment Book call Jodi Benjamin, Director of Sport, on 5769039 ext 870 or fill out and return the order form your student brings home.

School lunch break is from **1.30 to 2.15 pm**. If you need to get your son or daughter out of school in the afternoon you need to advise office staff before bell time to allow enough time for a message to be taken to the student. With over 1000 students in the school grounds during lunch time, it becomes impossible to locate an individual student for you. A **reminder** that you do need to provide a note if your student needs to leave school before the last bell.

When dropping students at school please do not drive through the main carpark. Students should be dropped off at the gate, or even down the road in fine weather, to ease traffic congestion.

COMING SOON ...

The Tuckshop will be open for breakfast from Term 2, initially on a trial basis. Lots of healthy options available under The National Heart Foundation's "Pick the Tick" food approval programme. The Tuckshop will be open before school from 8.00 a.m.

Edgewater College runs a successful **adult education programme**. Most courses are six sessions from 7-9 p.m. on week nights. **New courses** start from 9th May so phone us on 5764731 for a free copy of our course booklet to be posted to you, or send your son or daughter to our office to bring one home for you.

Striving
for
Excellence