



# Edgewater College

February '05

## Principal's Comments

As we head into the new school year, we do so in something of a media and political storm.

Under pressure, the Minister has changed the decile funding formula. Any direct reference to ethnicity is now removed. The outcome for us is that we move from decile 3 to decile 4. The net result financially is \$730. That's not \$730 per student but \$730 for the whole school. It's the lowest percentage increase of any school in Manukau City.

The second big issue has been school fees – the parental donation. Put simply, we have one of the lowest requests in the Herald distribution region. Despite this, we still have many families who don't pay it. The bottom line is that if our school community wants their students to enjoy all the benefits of a top quality classroom and co-curricular education then it is vital that the school fees are paid.

I am genuinely hopeful that our parents will realise what a very good investment they are making when they pay the \$1.50 a week our school fee equates to. Because it's a donation it is tax deductible, so the real cost is even less than that.

A J Vester  
Principal

A BIG welcome back to all students. Here are some longer-term dates for the year that should be fixed to your notice board at home (or entered into your diaries).

- ? *Term 1* Week 10 Interim Reports will be mailed to parents.
- ? *Term 2* Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May there will be "Study Skills Evenings" for senior students and their parents. Junior students and parents will also be welcome.
- ? *Term 2* Week 6 – Exams for senior students.
- ? *Term 2* Week 9 Senior students receive their Provisional Record of Learning print-outs.  
Week 10 Teacher-parent interviews for senior students only.
- ? *Term 3* Week 2 Junior students receive their Provisional Record of Learning print-outs.  
Week 4 Teacher-parent interviews for junior students only.

## MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR

### February

#### Wednesday 16

"Helping your child succeed at secondary school" – Parent/Teacher evening for parents of Year 9 students: 7 p.m.

#### Thurs 17 – Friday 18

Year 13 camp

#### Wednesday 23

Year 9 & 10 Maori students' hui at the Marae: 6 p.m.

### March

#### Friday 4

Year 12 Geography field trip

#### Tuesday 15

Course and NCEA information evening at 7 pm, for Year 11, 12 & 13 students and parents

#### Friday 18

Teacher only day

#### Thurs 17, Friday 18,

#### Saturday 19

Polynesian Festival

#### Monday 21

Year 12 Biology field trip

#### Sunday 20 – Wed 23

Year 13 History field trip

#### Friday 25 – Tues 29

Easter break

### Next BOT meeting

The date for the next Board meeting will be Wednesday 9 March at 6.30 pm.

### Uniform Shop Hours

(during term time only)

#### Tuesdays

1.00 pm to 5.30 pm

#### Thursdays

1.00 pm to 4.00 pm



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

**Edgewater Community Education Programme** will again be running a wide variety of night-classes during 2005. Phone 5764731 or call at the ECEP office for a brochure. The office will be open for extended hours (10 am – 7 pm) on **Thursday 17 February** for Term 1 enrolments, or enrol online on [www.ecep.homestead.com](http://www.ecep.homestead.com).

### Parenting with Confidence

will be running a six-week *Tool Box Teenage Parenting Group* course commencing Thursday 10 March. For further information contact Garth & Judy Collings, phone 5334281 or 021 2765252, or email: [g.j.collings@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:g.j.collings@maxnet.co.nz).

### Being the Parent You Want to Be

It is widely recognised that children grow up to be happier and more confident when their parents enjoy and get on well with them. Groups for mums and dads concerned about their stress and anger and the effect it might have on their children are available day and evening. Enquiries to Anger Change Trust, phone Jill Patterson on 4766947.

### Could you be a Kid-Start Caregiver?

KidStart is currently looking for caregivers who are willing to care for pre-school children in their own homes. If you:

- ? have experience bringing up children
- ? are over 20 years of age
- ? are able to provide a fenced playing area

Kidstart are able to offer you visiting teacher support and resources, guaranteed reimbursement and free NZQA-approved training.

For information contact KidStart East City – phone 5720215.

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Sickness should be the main reason for not attending school. A telephone message left on the school's absence line is necessary when a student is absent for two days or more (phone 5769039 ext. 813).

Absences must be covered by a note signed by the parent/caregiver, which should be handed to the Tutor Group Teacher on the first day back at school. Where possible, appointments for the doctor, dentist etc should be made outside school hours. Requests for special leave for one week or more should be addressed to the principal in writing before the leave is taken.

Remember that attendance is directly related to results and achievement. Regular absences will be followed up.

### TERM DATES 2005

Term 1: Ends on Friday 15 April  
 Term 2: Monday 2 ay to Friday 8 July  
 Term 3: Monday 25 July to Friday 23 September  
 Term 4: Monday 10 October to Tues 14\* December  
 \*(end date to be confirmed)

## Peer Support Programme

The Peer Support Programme runs during Term 1 of each year. Groups of 8-10 new Year 9 students meet with senior students once a week. The programme assists Year 9 students to make new friends and get to know senior students who become older "buddies" to them. Some of the topics covered are: getting to know you, building friendships, communication, dealing with conflict and understanding the rules of the school. If you have any queries, please contact Mr Wood or Mrs Frost.

**Senior students should be checking their Interim Result Notices to ensure that all results are correct. If there seem to be incorrect entries students should see Mr Bull as soon as possible. We are able to correct mistakes, but only until mid-February.**

## SPORTS COACHES NEEDED

We are looking for volunteer coaches and managers for a variety of sporting codes. The following positions are currently available:

- Rugby coach (x2)
- Netball coach (x3)
- Waka Ama coach (x2)

Coaches are required to hold either regular lunch-time or after-school trainings and attend all games. Current clean drivers licence essential.

To register your interest, please contact Ms Benjamin on 5769039 ext 870 or [bnj@edgewater.school.nz](mailto:bnj@edgewater.school.nz) before 5 March 2005.

## CAREERS INFORMATION

Parents and students are welcome to see or speak to the Careers Advisor any time. Please contact Mr Whickman on 5770406 (direct line) or leave a message.

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for  
**Excellence**