



Edgewater College

**AUGUST
2006**

Principal's Comment

In the second week of the holidays and the first week of Term 3, I was privileged to attend a nine-day workshop - the Pacific Institute for Educational Leadership - which was attended by educational leaders from several Pacific countries. I learned a great deal.

In addition, I had the opportunity to visit schools in Fiji. I was struck by the students' attitude, appearance and engagement in the learning process. Here was a large group of students who were doing so much with so little. These schools are not equipped to anything like the level we enjoy here, yet they were doing much longer school days, were keen to work and eager to learn. Family incomes are low, yet their uniforms were correct, clean and worn with pride.

Meanwhile, back at Edgewater College (and in schools all around our very fortunate country) I see too many students who do so little with so much. The nation's challenge, and our challenge, is to change this attitude and get all students to want to make the most of what is a world-class education.

However, this has to be a combined effort. Schools must do their part in terms of programme design and maintaining high standards of delivery. Parents need to insist on high standards. Don't accept assurances that learning is going smoothly at school. Check books, apply rewards and sanctions and, if you are not sure, contact us. A problem dealt with while it is small is a problem more likely to be solved.

A J Vester
Principal

Due to a technical error, Year 10 Progress Reports have been printed showing the year as 2005 instead of 2006. If you wish, you may request another copy of the report showing the correct year. Please phone the office or ask your student to come to Student Reception. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2007

For In-zone Year 9 enrolments please phone the office for an appointment.

Out-of-zone enrolments

Applications are invited at all levels. Please phone 576 9039 for an information pack or collect one from the office. Alternatively, the application form can be downloaded from our website: www.edgewater.school.nz. Applications close at 4.00 p.m. on **Friday 1 September** and a ballot will be held on Thursday 12 September if applications exceed the number of places available. **If you live out of zone you are required to make an application, even if you already have other children attending Edgewater College.**

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST

Monday 7 – Tuesday 15 August

Visit of Misato Machi Junior High School students from Japan

Wednesday 9 – Saturday 12 August

School band trip to Northland

Thursday 10 August 4.30 – 8.30 p.m.

Parent / Teacher interviews
* See note over page

Wednesday 16 August PISA testing

Monday 21 & Tuesday 22 August

Science Road Show

Sunday 27 to Tuesday 29 August

Year 12 Outdoor Education
Snow Trip to Ruapehu

SEPTEMBER

Friday 1 September

Closing date for out-of-zone enrolment applications

Saturday 9 September

Wearable Arts competition – Macleans College

Thursday 12 September Out-of-zone ballot

Friday 22 September End of Term 3

Next Board of Trustees meeting:

Wednesday 16 August 6.30 pm

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS:

Tuesdays 1.00 – 5.30 p.m. term-time.

Co-curricular Activities

BADMINTON

Congratulations to **Emma Rodgers** (RI5, Yr 13) who played for the NZ Badminton B Team in Australia at the end of July, beating Australia 10-3.

BASKETBALL

The Under-19 Girls' team tied for first place at the end of regular season play, with a 6-1 record. They also came second out of eight in the playoff tournament. The Open Boys' team recently won 59-35 against ACG Strathallan.



YEAR 10 CAMP, TERM 4:

KAIMAI RANGES

Monday 27 November - Friday 1 December

We have been able to increase the places available to students from 50 to 80. Cost: \$100 (subsidised) includes food, accommodation, transport, all activities and qualified guides. May be paid in instalments - but start paying now as payments will close early in Term 4. For further information see Mr Gardi or phone him on 5769039 ext. 870.

BARNADOS (www.barnados.org) provide information for parents and families on a number of topics. They have produced an extensive range of Fact Sheets through their FAIR Centre, covering many aspects of parenting. They give valuable information on Cyber bullying and text bullying, working with government agencies such as CYFS, WINZ, and many other issues affecting families and young people.

"Hot Tips for Parents" with John and Naomi Cowan

LifeGrowth Community Trust sponsoring two seminars:

Growing Boys: 7.30pm Tuesday 5 September 2006

Raising Girls: 7.30pm Wednesday 6 September 2006

Performing Arts Centre, 575 Chapel Road, Botany

The cost per person per seminar is \$20

Let's ensure our **boys** have the best opportunities to become secure and loving men. This seminar will not only share the latest research on boys, but also give great ideas and insights to help boys thrive.

Girls' creativity and natural strengths can be easily lost in the pressure to grow up fast in our culture. This seminar will share information as well as great ideas to encourage you to grow secure and optimistic daughters.

For more information please contact: LifeGrowth Community Trust on 533 4956

Phone: 576 9039 **Fax:** 576 9037

Website: www.edgewater.school.nz

E-mail: enquiries@edgewater.school.nz

Office hours: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm term time

Careers: 576 0406 (Direct line: Mr Whickman)

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Year 9 and Year 10 reports were mailed out at the end of last week. The parent-teacher interviews on Thursday 10 August are primarily for parents of junior students. Please use the booking sheet enclosed with the report for your student to arrange appointments with the teachers you wish to meet.

Senior students whose parents were unable to attend the interviews on 20 July may also arrange appointments. Students may obtain a booking sheet from Student Reception.

NZQA matters

Students whose family **qualifies for fees assistance** must pick up an official information sheet and application form from Student Reception. **Applications close on 6 September.**

Fees are:

- \$75 for all NZ students and those with Permanent Residency.
- \$375 for international fee-paying students.
- For the NZ Scholarship, up to three subjects carries no extra cost for NZ students and those with Permanent Resident status. If a student enters for more than three subjects the cost is \$75 per extra entry.
- International fee-paying students pay \$100 per subject for Scholarship.

NZQA Fees must be paid to school by Friday 8 September. Late payments will incur a \$50 late fee payable to NZQA.

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

You've probably heard items on the News from time to time comparing the performance of New Zealand school students with their contemporaries in other countries. This year, 30 Edgewater College students will be taking part in PISA, one of the world's biggest education studies, held every three years in almost 60 countries. Around 4,500 15-year-old students will take part in New Zealand.

While testing literacy in science, mathematics and reading, with a focus on science in 2006, PISA also assesses whether young adults have the ability to use their knowledge and skills to meet real life challenges. Results from PISA are used by policy makers to improve schooling for all New Zealand students. At Edgewater, testing will take place on 16 August and further information will be provided to participating students.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LANGUAGE IMMERSION AWARDS

An opportunity for language students to improve their language skills and knowledge by participating in a 6-month language and cultural experience overseas. A minimum of 20 awards, covering travel costs, will be available nationwide for departure in February or July 2007. Students live with a host family and attend a local high school. Further information is available from Mr Whickman or from the AFS website: www.afs.org.nz



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