



# Edgewater College

APRIL 2007

## Principal's Comment

The current public debate about NCEA may be creating a lot of doubt and concern in the minds of many parents.

Much of the criticism of NCEA is unfair and, in some cases, deliberately misleading. Certainly there are some changes required but it is basically a sound system that is being undermined by people with an agenda that is not really related to educational standards at all.

I have included a quotation from a letter to the Editor of the New Zealand Herald, from Associate Professor Peter Sheppard of the University of Auckland Anthropology Department:

*"The students of today are generally better trained for university than they were 20 years ago. The brightest will excel and can compete anywhere for additional training, as is shown by the number who progress from Auckland to top universities throughout the world.*

*Much of the NCEA debate is not about education. It is about marketing, status competition and the egos and politics of some secondary school administrators.*

*Parents would be better to invest their time in talking to and supporting their children, not buying them what they might believe is a better education. The educational advantage all parents can provide has no price."*

A J Vester  
Principal

## INTER-HOUSE SPORTS DAY

After a postponement for bad weather, the Inter-House Sports Day was a great success on Thursday 22 March. Mrs Blase, our School Nurse, shares her reflections on the day:

*It's 10.30 a.m. and you can feel the buzz in the air, the anticipation, the excitement, the fun of the kids getting together to paint each other with the House colours as well as the thought of achieving those extra House points!*

*The weather was perfect, not a sign of rain. As I wandered around the different events I could see that the kids were truly having a great time, laughing and cheering on their mates at a crucial moment. It struck me that Sports Day is not just about winning – it is about having a go! It was nice to see different cultures coming together to form team solidarity regardless of their background. The students grabbed the opportunity to compete and excel in their chosen sport. Voices rang loud and clear supporting fellow team members on to the finish. The students stayed focused on the events, the day passed successfully and injury-free.*

*One of the day's highlights was the Tug-of-War. Team spirit was almost tangible, with students and teachers rallying each other almost to the point of super-human effort. The relay race ended the day at a fast pace with the whole school cheering for their House relay teams. The overall winner was Rimu House with a healthy margin, but all Houses performed well. Surely we have some future Olympians in our midst.*

Special thanks to Mr Shapcott, Miss Benjamin, Ms Hayward, Mr Gardi and Mr Stickland in the PE Department for organising such a great day.

## MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR

### APRIL

#### Monday 23 April

Term 2 commences

#### Wednesday 25 April

ANZAC Day – School closed

### JUNE

#### Monday 4 June

Queen's Birthday holiday –  
School closed

#### Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 June

Senior exams

#### Monday 11 – Friday 15 June

Edgewater Idol – lunchtimes in  
the Hall

#### Saturday 23 June

Senior School Ball

#### Wednesday 27 June

Careers Expo – 7.00 p.m.  
in the Hall

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The first meeting of the new Board of Trustees will be held in the Boardroom on **Wednesday 18 April at 6.30 p.m.** Election of the Chairperson and officers will take place at that meeting.

## UNIFORM SHOP

**Shop hours:** Wednesdays 1.00 – 5.30 p.m.

In week 1 of Term 2, the Uniform Shop will open on **Monday 23 April from 1.00 – 3.30 p.m.** as Wednesday is a public holiday.

Please see page 2 for important uniform information for Term 2.

# Student Achievements

## DEBATING TEAM SUCCESSES

The three junior debating teams won their debates against Massey High School (2) and Lynfield College in Round 2 of the Secondary Schools Debating Competition last week. The students' enthusiasm, their diligent research of the moot, preparation of their team's argument and focus on improving their delivery techniques resulted in the convincing wins.

## NIUEAN GROUP

Congratulations to the Edgewater Niuean Group on achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at the Polyfest. They also earned a Special Award for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Contemporary Costume and were:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tame (action song)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Meke (hopping to drumbeat)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fakaosiaga (ending)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Takalo (war dance)

Excellent results by a hard-working group of parents and students.

## ROWING TEAM

During March, the College rowing team has taken part in the North Island Secondary Schools and the New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships at Lake Karapiro. In the National Championships they competed in seven events, making the finals of six. It was a wonderful regatta with 2,000 competitors, 42 events and over 110 schools represented. Our students did very well, achieving:

- 5<sup>th</sup> A Final Girls' under-16 double (out of 64 crews)
- 4<sup>th</sup> B Final Girls' under-16 quad (38 crews)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> B Final Boys' under-18 Novice Four (20 crews)

## GAP YEAR COMING UP

Stephanie Witton (TO2, Yr 13) has been offered a position as a GAP student at Pilgrims' school – a boarding school attached to Winchester Cathedral in the UK. She will commence her position as a sub-matron in January 2008. Congratulations Stephanie, what a wonderful opportunity!

Edgewater College has an ongoing relationship with Pilgrims' school. Information is available from Mrs Wheeler for students who might be interested in the scheme for 2009 or beyond.

## SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESSES

Two of last year's Year 13 students achieved New Zealand Scholarships in 2006. Congratulations to:

- Shaun Li (Mathematics with Calculus, Accounting)
- Brenda Ni (Graphics & Design)

## UNIFORM INFORMATION UPDATE

*With less than three weeks to go before Term 2 begins, we want to remind parents about our uniform policy, especially the changes that occur in the winter terms.*

Uniform items are labelled with the College logo and can only be purchased from the Edgewater College uniform shop. Footwear can be bought from any shoe shop. No other items are allowed.

In the winter terms students may wear the following items:

### GIRLS

Blue blouse  
Skirt  
Shorts  
Trousers  
White socks or natural, black or navy tights (no knee-highs)

### BOYS

Blue shirt  
Shorts  
Trousers  
Navy socks

Boys and girls can also wear the uniform sleeveless vest, jersey and/or jacket.

T-shirts are not to be worn under the uniform but a PE T-shirt is required for Year 9 and Year 10 students.

In Terms 2 and 3 students may not wear sandals. Shoes must be plain, black lace-up shoes. There are a number of students who need to buy lace-up shoes before Term 2 begins.

Some students are coming to school in dirty or torn uniform. This reflects badly on both the school and the student and so we recommend that students have a minimum of 2 blouses/shirts and 2 items from the range of skirts/shorts/trousers.

**Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly marked with the student's name (including surname).**

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring your son or daughter represents the school well in the community.

The Ministry of Education requires schools to sight **original** documents when used for verification purposes, and to hold a copy on file. This is part of the enrolment process. Students who are not NZ citizens are responsible for ensuring their record is up-to-date by taking their passport to the school office for copying whenever a new passport or permit is issued, or if their immigration status is altered (eg. by gaining Permanent Residence in NZ). See Mrs Knowles in the Front Office.

## EDGEWATER COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Edgewater Adult Education programme offers a huge range of learning opportunities in the evenings, daytime and weekends.

Have a look at the yellow flyer enclosed with this Newsletter. For details on these courses you can:

- Visit our website: [www.ecep.homestead.com](http://www.ecep.homestead.com)
- Phone **576 4731** to request a brochure by post

The Edgewater programme is always changing to meet the needs of our community. How do we do this? With your input – so tell us what you, your family, your neighbour or friends, need or want to learn. We welcome all interest so give us a call now on 576 4731.

Phone: 576 9039 Fax: 576 9037  
Website: [www.edgewater.school.nz](http://www.edgewater.school.nz)  
E-mail: [enquiries@edgewater.school.nz](mailto:enquiries@edgewater.school.nz)  
Office hours: 8.30 am to 4.00 pm term time

Careers: 576 0406 (Direct line: Mr Whickman)

Striving  
for  
Excellence