



Edgewater College

MAY 2007

Principal's Comment

Parents will notice that lots of discussion around school involves the word "decile". After hearing some feedback from some students recently I realise that not everyone understands what "decile" actually means.

Decile is a measure of the underlying socioeconomic nature of the community that the students at a school come from. At its most simple it is a measure of income or wealth. Decile 10 represents the most wealthy 10% of the population while Decile 1 represents the least wealthy 10%.

It is not – contrary to what some of our students thought – a measure of intelligence or ability.

The system of deciles was set up by a previous government as a way of organising additional funding for schools in areas that served lower decile communities. It is believed that needs are often greatest in those areas while at the same time parents' ability to contribute financially is less.

It is certainly true that many more students in wealthier communities are likely to receive paid after-school tuition, attend paid coaching in their sport and have regular and expensive music lessons.

However, dedicated teachers, innovative learning programmes, effective school systems, high levels of student support and high expectations are not the preserve of wealthy communities. Our results in NCEA in 2006, the large number of our students going on to be successful at university, and the smooth transition of many students into the workplace, show clearly that we can hold our head up proudly as a school.

A J Vester
Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the recent Board of Trustees elections for six parent representatives, the following candidates were duly elected:

- Mr Tony Corkery
- Mr Peter Cornelius
- Mr Owen Jones
- Mrs Rose Katipa
- Mr Ron Nelson
- Mrs Karena Williams

Mrs Kaye Main was re-elected as the Staff Representative.

Mrs Karen Smith continues as the co-opted member from Te Tahawai Marae and Gunther Adam as Student Representative.

At its first meeting, the Board re-elected Mr Peter Cornelius as the Board Chairperson and Mr Ron Nelson as Treasurer.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held in the Boardroom on Wednesday 16 May at 6.30 p.m.

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

Monday 4 June

Queen's Birthday holiday – School closed

Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 June

Senior exams

Wednesday 6 June

Stage Challenge, Aotea Centre

Monday 11 – Friday 15 June

Edgewater Idol – lunchtimes in the Hall

Saturday 23 June

Senior School Ball – 7.00 p.m.
Rendezvous Hotel (Carlton)

Wednesday 27 June

Careers Expo – 7.00 p.m.
School Hall

STUDENT DRIVERS

Students who drive a car to school on a restricted licence **must not carry passengers**. Recently, fines of \$400 have been incurred for breaking this regulation. Insurance cover is also at risk.

Bringing a car to school is a privilege – please use it with consideration towards others in the community, such as our neighbours, when you are parking in the street.

UNIFORM

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

Can't make the regular shop

hours? Uniform items may be ordered and prepaid at the Office for students to collect from the shop on Wednesdays. Order forms are available from our website or the Office.

A reminder that during Terms 2 & 3, black leather lace-up shoes are to be worn with navy socks (boys) and either white socks, black or natural coloured tights (girls). (Knee-highs are not permitted.)

Student Achievements

Anas Sirajur-Raheem, Yr 13, TO1, will represent the Pakuranga constituency at the Youth Parliament in Wellington, to be held during the July school holidays. Anas was selected from candidates submitted by all the secondary schools in the electorate.

During the last school holidays, **Gunther Adam**, Yr 13, KO2, took part in the Spirit of Adventure programme and was presented with the Captain's Award. This Award celebrates outstanding leadership qualities displayed by a selected trainee who successfully captained the STS Spirit of New Zealand and crew.

HOST FAMILIES REQUIRED WITHIN COLLEGE ZONE FOR GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS – 6 MONTHS FROM 14 JULY

Are you a typical 'Kiwi' family?
Would you like to host a short-term international student?
If so, we would love to hear from you.

We are looking particularly for caring New Zealand families who have English as their first language and who would enjoy the cultural exchange of having an international student as part of their family.

Application forms can be obtained from Mrs Wheeler at the College Office or by telephoning 577 0402.

Sports Department Fundraising

The Sports Department is again selling Entertainment Books to raise funds. Each book contains lots of 25% - 50% discounts or two-for-one offers for cafés and restaurants, hotels, arts, cinema, sports and leisure activities.

Books cost just \$60. Not only will you be saving on great entertainment but you'll be supporting the College as well. To order the new Entertainment Book call Jodi Benjamin, Director of Sport, on 576 9039 ext 870 or complete and return the order form that your student will be bringing home.

Year 10 Camp

Term 4, Kaimai Ranges - Dates to be confirmed

Cost: \$120 – includes food, accommodation, transport, activities and instructors.

Only 60 places are available, so don't miss out. See Mr Gardi for more details (phone 576 9039 ext. 870). Payment is to be made at Student Reception (may be paid in instalments).

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

Careers: 577 0406 (Direct Line: Mr Whickman)

Community Education: 576 4731

HOMEWORK CENTRE OPENS

After a recent survey of 200 students on their attitudes to homework, we decided to help by running a Homework Centre after school, three days per week.

Venue: School Library

Dates: Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Time: 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Students will have access to the Internet and some teacher assistance, as well as a quiet place to get their homework done.

Note: As this is an after-school activity, students will need to make their own arrangements for transport home.

RUGBY in 2007

The 1st XV rugby team spent an intensive weekend of training and team building over the weekend 27-29 April, based at Te Tahawai Marae. The programme also involved the boys' parents.

We are grateful to Mr Tu Edwards, a parent who offered to provide a structured programme for our rugby players in 2007. As well as the regular training sessions, the programme includes life skills and values to equip these young men for life beyond school and rugby.

Stage Challenge 2007

Edgewater College will be making its debut at the 2007 Stage Challenge at the Aotea Centre on **Wednesday 6 June**.

Participants will shortly be bringing home a letter outlining the rehearsal schedules, details about the performance night and how to purchase tickets.

EDGEWATER COLLEGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Edgewater Adult Education programme has new evening courses starting from Monday 7 May (7-9 p.m.)

Huge range of subjects including Arts, Craft, Design, Photography, Dance, Health & Fitness, Massage, Computer skills, Languages, Food & Wine, Business & Finance, Employment Skills, Learner Licence Theory, Personal Growth, VHF Marine Radio & lots more!

Phone 576 4731 for further information or pick up a booklet from the Community Education Office.

Careers

The Careers Advisor, Mr Whickman, is available to meet with parents and students. Contact him on 577 0406 (Direct line) for an appointment.

All parents, students and friends are invited to our fifth annual CAREERS EXPO on **Wednesday 27 June at 7.00 p.m.** More details will be available nearer the time, but put this date in your diary.

Striving
for
Excellence