



Phoenix

February
2007

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Nga mihi nui ki te whanau nui o te Kura o te Pou Hoia.

Greetings to all of you associated with Freyberg High School and I hope 2007 is a wonderful year for you.

I am often asked whether a 16 year old student should stay at school or go into the work force. There is no doubt that schools have changed in the last twenty years and one of the areas of change is that students stay longer at school. Twenty years ago, students stayed for Year 13 Bursary examinations. Now a lot of students in Year 13 are not interested in going to University. NCEA certainly helps cater for these students and we have to make sure the courses on offer are appropriate for these students. To stay at school longer is not necessarily a good thing unless there is the appropriate attitude towards school work. In fact, there is no point for a student to stay at school unless they are motivated in their studies.

Is leaving school and going on youth training courses a good educational option?

Early Leavers' Youth Programme Labour Market Outcomes By Age					
Age at Entry	Employment	Further Training	Other (Left without work/training)	Unknown (Did not engage)	Sample Size
Under Age 15 ^{1/2}	16%	25%	37%	23%	57
Between 15 ^{1/2} and 16	22%	30%	30%	18%	73
Age 16	49%	25%	26%	n/a	208
Age 17	41%	35%	24%	n/a	130

This data is from research done in Wanganui. All of these students left school with low qualifications – but those who left at age 16 or 17 succeeded much better. Another study looked at the self-rated happiness of 15 year olds who hated school and wanted to leave as soon as they turned 16. They found these students were actually happier than the 16 year olds who had hated school and had just left school.

There is no doubt that students who stay at school until at least age 16 (the MOE does grant some early leaving exemptions) are much better prepared to succeed in further training and work. BUT, a school is not a baby-sitting agency. Students at Freyberg High School must be motivated in the classroom and engaged in their studies.

Our research shows that there has been an improvement at Freyberg High School in students attending class on time, doing assignments on time and bringing the appropriate equipment for their studies. This year we want to monitor the levels of student engagement in the classroom.

Our goals are clear. We want to monitor the levels of student engagement in the classroom.

We want students to take more responsibility for their learning and to assist them, we will monitor their engagement in lessons; we will ensure they are in appropriate courses that challenge them but also offer a chance of success if they work well and we will spend a lot of energy on professional development in teaching strategies that assist your son or daughter.

Students have made good progress in their ability to read and write

In Level 1 NCEA, a student gains "Literacy" if they pass 8 credits in English and "Numeracy" if they pass 8 credits in Mathematics. When our 2006 Year 11 cohort were tested with PAT Reading Comprehension, over half of the students in Year 9/10 who gained less than 40%, gained Literacy at Year 11. All students (except 2) who gained over 40% in Reading Comprehension in Y9/10 gained Literacy at Level 1 NCEA. Of the students who were in Stanine 1 – 3 in Year 9/10, 80% gained Numeracy in Level 1. The improvement in students who entered our school unable to read and write at a functional level is most noticeable.

Michael McMenamin
PRINCIPAL

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2007

“Make a difference for our school”

Nominations will be called on 1 March from the school community for parents/caregivers to put their name forward to stand in the election for Trustees on the Board of Trustees of Freyberg High School. From this date there will be nationwide advertising on the television screens encouraging potential nominees to put their names forward.

If you are interested in supporting our school and students by putting your name forward and would like further information, please contact us.

The Principal or the Board Secretary Atholl Leask (leaska@freyberg.ac.nz) are happy to give you more information or you may like to contact the Board Chairperson Neil Barsanti, who can also be contacted through the school (Phone: 3584 971 Extension 708).

Atholl Leask
EXECUTIVE MANAGER

ROTARY

Rotary organises overseas exchanges for students in Y12 or 13 who might like to spend a year at a school in another country in 2008. Rotary meets application fees but all other costs are met by the parents (average is about \$15,000.)

The students stay with Rotarian's families in whatever country they wish to go.

If you are interested and want further information, contact the Principal at email office@freyberg.ac.nz or Phone: 3584 971 Extension 703.

INTEGRATED STUDIES / SCIENCE YEAR 9 FIELD TRIPS

All Year 9 students will take part in a one-day field trip to Ashhurst Domain between 26 February and 2 March. This is a joint Integrated Studies and Science Department curriculum- focused field trip for our students. It will involve class time preparation and follow-up work and is an integral part of both Departments' programmes. The added bonus is that our students have enjoyed this practical learning experience in the past as it makes abstract ideas relevant to their daily lives. All Year 9 students are expected to attend.

Students will have been given a Newsletter with details about the trips in Week Two this term.

We appreciate your support as parents and caregivers in making this practical learning experience possible for the students.

Pene MacLachlan
HOD Integrated Studies

ATHLETICS FINALS

Athletics Finals are on Friday March 9 at the Massey Athletic Track. We welcome the support of caregivers on the day. The school will be providing transport to and from school and the Massey Track. Further information will be provided closer to the day.

Kent Mori
HOD Physical Education

TELECOM SPONSORSHIP

If you spend more than \$50 a month with Telecom, you can earn points for a nominated school. If you would like to sponsor Freyberg High School, contact www.telecom.co.nz and in the top right search area, type "Sponsor a School." Click on "No.2 Sponsors" and follow the links. Thank you.

SCHOOL DONATIONS / ACTIVITY FEES

Thank you to the many parents who have already paid or arranged to pay their School Donation and Activity fees.

Despite what you may read in the media, many schools are finding it increasingly difficult to budget within the existing Operations Grants allocated.

The school Operations Grant must cover all school operations, including support staff salaries, priority maintenance, caretaking and cleaning wages, curriculum delivery, extension programmes and consumables associated with curriculum, administration, property, technology, etc.

The payment of your School Donations and Activity Fees enables us to provide the best in resources and equipment to support our teaching and learning programmes. On a comparative basis nationwide, our School Donation is very reasonable and has not increased in the last four years.

The donation/fees may be paid in instalments if you wish or by automatic payment to:
Freyberg High School ASB Palmerston North A/C Number 123143: 0067863:00

(Please ensure the pupil's first name and surname are shown in the detail column).

We thank you for your support.

Michael McMenamin
PRINCIPAL

PHOTOS

Whanau and core class photos will be taken on Thursday 22 March.

If you wish to purchase a copy, please pick up order forms from either the Student Centre or the Sports Room.

Sport and Cultural photos will be taken on 4th September. Reminders on this later.

DICTIONARIES IN HOMES AND CLASSROOMS

Having access to a good dictionary at home, and in every classroom, is very important for student literacy. Freyberg High School has arranged with Bruce McKenzie Booksellers Ltd for the purchase of the Penguin English Reference Dictionary at a generous discount. Each classroom is now supplied with a copy of this dictionary.

We recommend that families consider purchasing a copy of this dictionary from Bruce McKenzie Booksellers also – excellent value at \$39.95. If you present your Freyberg High School ID card to the shop assistant, you will receive a 10% discount on this price.

Geraldine Reynolds
HOD Literacy
Teacher in Charge Library

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMME

We run a programme where we monitor the progress of our students who excel in academic, sporting or cultural activities. One of the ways we choose students is through parental nomination, so if you would like your son or daughter to be considered, please email Sam McIver: mcivers@freyberg.ac.nz or write a note which your child can bring to his or her whanau teacher.

SPORT AT FREYBERG

Welcome back to returning students and families and also a special welcome to new families to Freyberg.

Summer sport will be starting almost straight away and lists of sports that are available through Freyberg are available from the Sports Room in C Corridor. We encourage all students to play a sport – it is a great way to get to know other students and staff members and all levels of ability are catered for. If you want to try out a new sport, we would be very happy to have you come along and have a go.

Even though it is only February, we advise that Netball trials will be held in early March to give us time to get teams organised and trainings planned. We welcome parent support with all sports at Freyberg, but especially with Netball as we have so many teams. If any parents would like to be involved in assisting at trials, please contact the Sports Room on 3584971 ext 763. We are also looking at employing someone for the Netball season to

assist our Teacher in Charge with the weekly running of Netball. If you are interested in being involved in Netball at Freyberg, please contact us urgently.

Registrations for Tennis, Golf, Touch, Volleyball, Water Polo, Girls and Boys' Cricket, Softball and Canoe Polo are available from the Sports Room. In most cases uniforms are supplied and the registration fee covers the charges made to us by Sport Manawatu or other clubs who plan the weekly inter-school competition. Payments can now be made by Eftpos in the Sports Room. Also, any assistance from parents in coaching or managing a team would be very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing lots of students at the Sports Room joining up for a team this year.

Rosemary Barsanti
Sports Co-ordinator

HEAD STUDENTS 2007



Head Boy
Jesse Strafford



Head Girl
Adina Curtis



Deputy Head Boy
Adham Hussain



Deputy Head Girl
Sarah Brooks



BOT Rep
Ashleigh Davis



Student Council Rep
Jaydene Meadows



Student Council
Vice-President
Michael Harrington

HOUSE LEADERS



Ruahine
Gene Devonshire



Ruahine
Ashleigh Blummont



Tararua
Kelsi Te Peeti



Tararua
Lewis Karaitiana



Manawatu
Drew Delany



Manawatu
Mahashweta Patel



Kapiti
Sophie Swan



Kapiti
Heather Crowther

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S NOTEBOOK



We have had a very smooth start to the year despite having over 1300 students – the largest our roll has ever been.

Year 9 students got a great start to their Secondary schooling with the help of over sixty Year 13 students who undertook peer support training and ran programmes for the new students on their first day.

Term one has only eight full teaching weeks and with athletic sports, swimming sports and trips, students will need to be organised and take responsibility for their own learning to keep on top of their academic studies.

Parents are most welcome to attend Athletics Finals on March 9.

KEY DATES TERM 1

February 12	Senior Leaders training
February 14	Year 9 Music evening
February 16	Swimming sports
February 20	Athletics pre-lims
February 26 – March 2	Ruapehu trip Year 13 Year 9 Integrated Studies trips
March 9	Athletics finals
March 10	Relay for Life
March 14	Year 11 History trip
March 20	Sports Ambassadors
March 22	Whanau and Core Class photos
March 26	Senior Leaders' Conference, Wellington
March 28	Geography trip
March 30	Year 9/10 Interim Reports
April 2 – 5	Year 13 PE Rock Climbing trip
April 4	Year 9/10 Report interviews
April 6	Good Friday
April 6 – 22	School holidays

Peter Brooks
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

PTA

PTA meeting in the Staff Room on Tuesday 27 February at 7.30pm. All parents are welcome. Our PTA does not do fundraising, but meets once a month to discuss issues in the school. It is a way that parents have a say in how the school is run.

PEDCO
L.M.V.D.

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