



Phoenix

February
2010

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Nga mihi ki te whanau nui e te kura o te pou Huia. Welcome to all our new students and their families and welcome back to all those returning.

Our school roll continues to grow, despite us turning large numbers away who wished to come to us from out of zone. I spoke last year about the roll of 1394 being the largest in the 54 year history of Freyberg. This year our roll is 1473. However, we are fully staffed with over 100 teachers and 70 support staff and I am very confident we will be able to continue to provide the best education for each of our students.

Our NCEA results followed the pattern of continuous improvement that we have had for the last five years and it was particularly pleasing to see that students who were endorsed with Merit or Excellence at Level 3 rose from 15% to 26%.

Our goals for 2010 are to improve NCEA results by a further 3%, to embed the principles of the new curriculum in our teaching and school culture and to have zero tolerance for truancy. It is very clear from educational research and our own experience that there is a very high correlation between regular attendance and success at school.

I would encourage all parents to support us with attendance. If a student is not going to be at school because they are sick or have another legitimate reason for non-attendance, the school should be contacted by 9am. We want students to learn the habits they will need in the work force. You do not just fail to turn up to work. You ring if you are unable to be there. If students are not present and we have not been notified, a text message will be sent to you. Please ring the Student Centre to confirm whether the student is away legitimately or that you feel they are truant. If

a student is truant they will receive a demerit point for each class or whanau time they miss and they will have to discuss the issue with their Whanau teacher and Dean.

Students who can manage themselves and are in class on time in their correct uniform, with their homework completed, with all their equipment and engaged with learning, will earn merit points. When students are with us, we can teach them to think and be creative, to participate and relate to others, to improve their understanding of language, symbol and text and to be the future-focussed, globally aware citizens that we all want them to be.

A Human Rights School:

Freyberg is a Human Rights school. This means that we not only have a culture that acknowledges the universal declaration of Human Rights but we are pro-active in making the Rights and Responsibilities outlined in this document clear to all our students.

Everyone has the right to education (Article 26) but inherent in this right is the responsibility to allow others to learn. You have the right to be treated with dignity but the responsibility to treat all others with dignity, whatever their race, background or abilities.

All Year 9 students spent time on Thursday working with their core teachers to develop a code for their classroom by considering what rights they had and what responsibilities this includes.

Peer Support:

99 Year 13 students gave up two days of their holidays to undertake peer support training and will be working with Year 9 students in Term 1. Their commitment to our school and to others is really appreciated.

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS



Mrs Jochem



Mr Steed



Mrs Smith

Website: (www.freyberg.ac.nz)

Please visit our website. This contains up-to-date information about what is happening at school and is regularly updated with photos and u-tube clips on school activities.

ERO Visit:

The Education Review Office will be reviewing our school in March. This is a great opportunity to have

outside professionals endorse the many positive things that are happening at Freyberg and to alert us to anything that we could be doing better. It has been five years since our last ERO visit, so it will be interesting to hear their feedback on all the strategies we have implemented to improve teaching and learning.

Peter Brooks
PRINCIPAL

“There's only room for one Mr. Big in this town and that's me, Dandy Dan”.

Voted as one of the top musicals of all time, *Bugsy Malone* is described as “the greatest kiddie-gangster-musical...” and it's coming to Freyberg in May 2010. Transport yourselves to Chicago, Illinois and the world of gangster Al Capone.

Over the years since the film was released (1976) songs and references from the musical have been covered by artists from British rapper Dizzee Rascal to Ella Fitzgerald.

In this production our very own talented Freyberg students will give them a go.

Rehearsals are in full swing now that students have returned. Write the dates on your calendars now. Four performances on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th May – make sure you're at one of them!

**FREYBERG HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS
TO BE HELD 7 MAY 2010**

All NZ State and State-integrated schools have a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance and the control of the management of the school. The Board is the employer of all staff in the school, is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students and ensuring that its school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students. Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration.

The school staff and parents elect Boards of Trustees every three years.

Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can be nominated for election to a school Board.

A *School Trustees information pamphlet* and *Election Nomination Form* are available from Freyberg High School office – phone 358 4971. **Nominations must be in by mid-day 23 April 2010.**

LIBRARY

Welcome to the Library to all new teachers and students.

A reminder to teachers that you can take up to 30 items out and have them for up to 6 weeks. Also, we have not just books at the library - we also have DVDs, magazines, journals, a teachers' resource area, games, a colour photocopier, laminating service and a guillotine. Teachers may also use one of two offices that are also available here. Finally, the National Library's phone number is 0800 17 17 17. Staff can also order through me for National Library books.

Students can now use their ID cards at our photocopier. They just need to acquire an adhesive scanning dot from the Student Centre for \$2 and up-load an amount for photocopying.

Debbie Price-Ewen
Librarian

SPORT AT FREYBERG:

Welcome to all new students and of course our students who have returned in 2010. We are pleased to see so many happy faces at the Sports Room window.

At the start of this term we held a sports information afternoon for all new Year 9 students. We had lots of interest from students keen to be involved in a sports team or two. Lots can be learned from playing sport with improved fitness, team spirit and lasting friendships made. We need confirmation from parents in the return of sports registration forms to the Sports Room to assist us in making up teams, finding coaches and managers as soon as possible please. Of course, by the time families receive this newsletter, a lot of summer sports will be under way and we trust that our new students have managed to find their way to the Sports Room in C Corridor to pay their fees, find out about playing days, collect uniforms etc. If any parents have any queries, please contact us on 358 4971 on Ext. 763 or 735, or email sport@freyberg.ac.nz. We are only too happy to help.

As this is a short term, trials for **winter sports** will be held in March. Students need to listen to the Daily Notices to learn when and where these will be held.

Netball trials are as follows: Seniors trials 9th & 10th March; Year 10 trials 16th & 17th March; Year 9 trials 23rd & 24th March. If students are unable to attend a trial, they must see the Sports Room. All other sports trial dates will be posted up on the daily notices or outside the Sports Room so students need to keep a watch out.

When students trial for winter teams, they must not let their summer team down by not turning up to a game if it is at the same time as a winter trial. They must let the Sports Room know if there is a clash.

As always we are on the lookout for parents, caregivers or friends to help out with coaching and managing our sports teams. We really do appreciate any help parents can give us. Training can be arranged for anyone who would like some assistance in improving or learning coaching skills. Coaching students is a very rewarding experience and lots of people comment on the enjoyment they had with the teams they coach, so please do not hesitate to contact us in the Sports Room.

Rugby: A meeting will be held shortly for all interested parents. Please contact the Sports Room to register. We look forward to a great 2010 with sport at Freyberg High School.

Rosemary and Raewyn in the Freyberg Sports Room.



Andy Kruy who won Gold at the 2009 Nationals in Long Jump



Paige Lowe at the Athletics Finals



MUSIC TUITION



Enrolments are now being taken for instrumental and voice musical tuition. Tuition is available to any student at school in most instruments. Lessons are free for Year 9 students and costs only \$240 per year for Years 10-13. Information about obtaining an instrument is available from the Music Department – these can be rented at affordable rates from several suppliers.

Students enrolled for tuition last year must re-enrol again this year.

See the Music Administrator, Mrs Hewetson for enrolment forms and further information.

Lessons are available in the following instruments:

STRINGS

violin
viola
cello
double bass

WOODWIND

clarinet
oboe
bassoon
saxophone

BRASS

trumpet
trombone
tuba
french horn

OTHER

singing
acoustic guitar
bass guitar
drum kit

orchestral percussion

*A test on over 5000 students in 75 US schools revealed that kids who were learning a musical instrument and playing in the school band received higher marks than their classmates **in every single test area**. Not only that, but the longer they had been in instrumental programmes, the higher they scored.*

This is just one of scores of pieces of research which point to the huge benefits of learning a musical instrument. This is why we make it a compulsory part of the extension programme at Freyberg and encourage all other students to participate.

Over 1/3rd of our 290 Year 9 students are already enrolled in the music programme!

YEAR 13 RUAPEHU TRIP:

February 22nd – 26th.

Year 13 students who take four or more University-approved Level 3 courses will travel to Tongariro National Park in this week. They will experience the Tongariro crossing, described as one of the best

walks in the world, go whitewater rafting and carry out field studies.

This is a great opportunity for these students to develop relationships and get to know each other and our Exchange students. Most will be in lodges and some will be in tents.

ATHLETICS FINALS:

March 4th.

These are held at the Massey track and include the whole school. Parents are most welcome to join us and watch our top athletes.

National Assessment Guidelines

Last year NZQA put out a set of national assessment rules and procedures which schools were to plan for and put into place in 2010. The assessment guidelines relate particularly to NCEA internally assessed standards and further assessment opportunities.

The key points are that for any standard there can be only one reassessment opportunity and that if a reassessment is offered it must be made available to all students, irrespective of their achievement on the first standard. In the situation that a student does sit a reassessment then their best grade of both the original and reassessment will be submitted to NZQA. Reassessments will only be offered where it is practical to do so. In many subjects it is simply not possible to offer a second assessment opportunity. Therefore, students need to be preparing to do the very best on any assessment they sit during the year. They need to make their first efforts count as this may be the only opportunity they get to achieve any particular standard. Teachers will make it clear if reassessments will be offered during the year, however, it is also the responsibility of students to plan their time and ask questions around the conditions of any assessment if they are unsure. Further information about the rules and procedures can be found at the nzqa website: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars/secqual/2009/s2009-022.html>

Craig Steed (DP) and Tamzin Darragh (NZQA liaison)

CALENDER : TERM 1 2010

February 06	Waitangi Day
February 10	Year 9 Music Evening
February 11	Swimming Sports (Freyberg Pool)
February 12	Senior Leaders' training day
February 16	Athletics Preliminaries (School fields)
February 18	BOT meeting
	Young Enterprise E day - Massey
February 19 - 26	Year 9 Numeracy testing
February 22 - 26	Year 13 Ruapehu trip
February 22 - 24	Year 13 Gateway Community Service
March 01 – 10	Year 9 Science/Integrated Studies trips
March 04	Athletics Finals (Athletics track at Massey)
March 11 – 13	Vex Robotics North Island Championships
March 13	Manawatu Inter Secondary Schools Athletics Championships
March 15	National Young Leaders
March 17	Year 11 Geography trip
	Year 12 Biology trip
March 18	Dance trip to Wellington
March 20	North Island Secondary Schools Athletics (Wellington)
March 22 – 27	North Island Volleyball Championships
March 22 – 24	Footnote Dance workshops
March 23 – 26	Year 13 Rock Climbing trip (1)
March 25	BOT Meeting
	Year 12 Media trip
March 27	Manawatu Inter-Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships (Freyberg Pool)
March 29	Japan Trip leaves
March 29 – April 2	Year 13 Rock Climbing trip (2)
March 30	Music Showcase
March 31	Junior Parent/teacher interviews.
April 01	Last day of Term 1
April 02	Good Friday
April 19	First day of Term 2

Linda Smith
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

