

Newsletter 3 April 08

INTRODUCTION

Just as we think we have settled NCEA down and embedded it confidently in the minds of parents, students and employers, the media heads off on another ill informed wild goose chase. At times like this we fail to understand why journalists do not better inform themselves as to how NCEA operates in schools, look at the difference between doing internal and external assessments, and come to some appreciation as to why it makes perfect sense that internal assessment results are always going to be better than external examinations. And it does not mean a reduction in standards, as some journalists might like to believe. (Sunday Star Times March 16)

NCEA is achieved at the various levels by acquiring a set number of credits at levels one, two and three. Many of these credits can be achieved sitting assessments throughout the year in a range of standards set for each subject. Further credits can be achieved by sitting external examinations in November and December.

The outcome of this mix of internally and externally assessed standards is that many students may acquire the bulk of the credits required for their level of NCEA, through internal assessments, prior to the end of year external examinations. Consequently, for many students, the internal assessments become a greater priority and they place more importance on doing well during the year, achieving good results in the process.

In the course of the year's work, students are surrounded by structure, support, feedback, extra tutorials, and the opportunity to perhaps resit an assessment. It is no wonder that students do well. All of the conditions are there for them to achieve and to succeed to the best of their ability.

In contrast, students sitting external examinations are faced with the challenge of independent study once school finishes, (usually a week prior to their external examinations); they are faced with the uncertainty of what exactly will be asked of them in the examination, they have only one chance to get it right, and they are put into an unfamiliar examination room with many more students in a fairly tense environment. All of which is a great challenge for students and tests many skills that go beyond a competent application of the knowledge that they have learnt. The external examinations are an important test for students, but the contrast in conditions from those of internal assessments, does create a picture as to why external results are not as good.

The balance between internal and external assessments is important, and it will change depending on the ability of the student and their goals for further education or employment. NCEA is a qualification designed to meet the needs of the individual student. The preliminary work that NZQA is doing on comparing internal and external assessments is important, but the results can be very easily taken out of context and be misconstrued, as they have been by the media over the last few weeks. The data provided from NZQA assists schools to be continually reviewing its practices, examining moderation processes, and ensuring that we continue to have a qualification that is rigorously assessed and a valid measure of what students know and what skills they have mastered to apply to situations that are relevant. We have a qualification that gives excellent information about what a student knows and can do.

Our own analysis of our results show that our students are achieving excellent results with their internal assessments, but we do need to do better with external examinations. Our focus for 2008 is to challenge our students to achieve well in both the internal and external standards. We want them to adopt the notion that "There is No Choice But Success".

Academic Colours

This year I want to acknowledge the academic success of our students sitting NCEA with the introduction of Academic Colours Awards. On 4 April we will hold a special assembly to recognise the academic success of the top ten students who sat NCEA Level 1 or Level 2 in 2007. It is important that we celebrate the academic success of our students and continue to encourage all students to strive to achieve to the best of their ability.

For this inaugural Academic Colours Award assembly, Paul Geoghegan, Mount Maunganui College's Board of Trustees' Chairperson and Youth Court Judge, will address the assembly and present the awards.

The awardees are:

Jessie Smith
Kris Roberts
Sophie Disney
Owen Miller
Michael Heberton
Jason Haines
Emma-Rose Luxton
Hayden Beard
Michael Lim
Torrin Bright
Tim Rogers (Scholarship)

Simran Poonia
Jessica Aiken
Leanne Fry
Amy Lean
Gabrielle O'Meara
Kevin Fray
Jessica Walley
Chloe Liddy
Nathan Brown
Tracey Carter

Terry Collett
Principal

FEES

Please note that NO change is given when student's pay accounts - this credit is applied to the student's account balance.

WINTER UNIFORM

As previously advised to families Term 2 and Term 3 the following changes are made:

- No sandals to be worn – black leather shoes only
- No Girls shorts to be worn – girls can wear either the school skirt or the school regulation trousers
- No long sleeved T-Shirt or polyprop to be worn under school polos.

The approved school uniform supplier has indicated they are awaiting stocks of some polos and a few sizes in the Girls black regulation trousers.

Students not wearing the correct uniform will have the item confiscated or the student will be sent home to correct the incorrect uniform item.

PTA

Next meeting is Monday 14 April 7.30pm in the College Staffroom.

Guest speaker is Jane Doherty from the Careers Department at our College.

Don't forget our Quiz Night on May 16th!!

Entry forms and information available from the college office or on the website:

www.mmc.school.nz

START DATE - TERM 2

Please note school is open on Monday 5 May NOT as a Teacher Only Day as previously notified.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 8 April	Junior Report Evening
Monday 14 April	PTA Meeting, 7pm
Tuesday 15 April	Senior Report Evening
Friday 18 April	End of Term 1
Monday 5 May	Start of Term 2

SPORTS NEWS

Winter sports teams have been trialling ready for a start next term. Just a reminder to all players **YOU MUST HAVE PAID YOUR SPORT FEES BEFORE YOU CAN PLAY NEXT TERM.** If you need to use the Automatic payment service provided by the school please pick up a form from the Sports Office or Main Office to make these payments.

The fees are as follows:

- Rugby \$50
- Soccer \$ 70
- Netball \$ 70
- Hockey \$170.00 (Turf fees and lights incl)
- Basketball \$70

Payments can be made at the main office with a Winter Sport Payment form.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

The term has passed by incredibly quickly and it has been a very busy one for the students.

SWIMMING CHAMPS

School swimming sports were held on a wet but warm day and there were 2 records broken at the event by Michael VanderZanden in the Jnr Boys 100m Breaststroke and Joseph Kayes in the 1 length Butterfly. Overall results were:

SNR BOYS: 1st Joseph Kayes, 2nd Josh Homer, 3rd Owen Miller

SNR GIRLS: 1st Candra Hansen, 2nd Christie Yule, 3rd Sarah Hilligan

INT BOYS: 1st Devlin Couvee, 2nd Nathan Smith, 3rd Simon Miller

INT GIRLS: 1st Amanda Knox, 2nd Gemma Fitzpatrick, 3rd Brooklyn Reardon-Nikara

JNR BOYS: 1st Ben Kendall, 2nd Danny Kayes, 3rd Michael Vander Zanden

JNR GIRLS: 1st Simone Couvee, 2nd Courtney Bicker, 3rd Mikaela Aitken

TRIATHLON RESULTS

The school triathlon championships were held as part of the UCAN2 Triathlon on Sunday 30 March. It was also compulsory for 301 Sport Science students to compete for Sporting Performance NCEA credits. Distance - 400m swim, 9km cycle, 3km run.

Owen Miller had a sensational race coming out of the water first and increasing his lead in the bike leg and having a solid run to take the win.

Simon Miller 1st Intermediate Boy, Hayden Beard 4th overall, 3rd Senior Boy and Ross Cowdrey 5th overall, 1st Junior boy.

Ashley Cochrane also a Year 9 student was the first female to finish the race and take the school triathlon title.

GOLF TEAM

Our Golf Team of Gordon Campbell, Jordan Golding, Fabian von Volkmann and Liam Fitzgerald after 5 rounds of pennants won the Zone 2 competition and now play in the finals at Te Puke.

IN THE NEWS

- Big congratulations to Tayla Blanchard who represented the BOP in the Maori Netball Champs and was chosen for the NZ U15 Netball squad. This is an awesome achievement for Tayla.
- Owen Miller placed 2nd in the Waikato Triathlon champs and won the U19 Ocean Swim series, which is over a 2.8 km course. Also featuring in the placing's for their age divisions in the Ocean Swims were Simon Miller, Mason Pickering, and Callum Knox.
- Our swimmers who went to Div 1 and 2 age group Nationals had a very successful end of season with Candra Hansen making 3 DIV 1 Finals and Ben Kendall getting a PB at Div 1's in Christchurch. At Div 2's in Wellington Josh Homer cleaned up taking 3 gold medals in the Breaststroke races and 2 gold in the medleys. Michael Vander Zanden also got a bronze medal for 200M Breaststroke. Other swimmers made it through to finals and achieved PB's were Callum Knox, Devlin Couvee, Simone Couvee, Courtney Bicker and Cara Ryan.
- Secondary school athletics was held at Otumoetai College with the best ever results recorded from Mt College with Christie Yule 1st in snr girls shot and discus, 2nd places from Baye Jacob and Marisse Dickson, Steve Furness 1st Int Boys Triple Jump and Shotput and 2nd in Long Jump, Simone Couvee 1st in Jnr girls Javelin and Kodi Hammant 1st in Jnr boys 100m. Mt College collected a further 25 top 3 placing's in other events.
- A small team went on to the Waikato Athletic Champs with Leonie Young 3rd in Jnr G 300m, Rochelle Newdick 2nd Jnr G Triple Jump, Kodi Harman 3rd Jnr B 100m, Steve Furness 1st Int B Triple Jump and the remaining students all coming in top 8 places.

TIMBERSPORT

The school team has had a very successful season with Cliff Hughes as coach, Tony van Veen manager and Winnie Hughes Asst Manager. Our school has dominated the various events with all the training and preparation paying off. The team is Chanel Bell, Casey Balks, Ali Baker, Nick West, Mao Hosaka, Brendon Harding, Darcell Apelu, Luke van Veen, Florrie Baker, Scott Langdon.

RUGBY

The school is fielding a record 5 rugby teams this season 4 boys and 1 girls team. A very successful 7's Baywide Champs event was run by Mt College at Blake Park with the winners of Div 1 TBC, U 14 and U15's won by Rotorua Boys High with Mt College coming 3rd and 4th and the Girls division won by Opotiki. The organising that went on behind the scenes was superb and ensured the event ran smoothly.

SURF LIFESAVING

This has played a dominant role in many of our students summer activities with Ross Cowdrey and Ashley Cochrane winning the BOP Age

Champs and medals from Danny Kayes, Rebecca Parkes, Cara Ryan, Trudi Greig, Simone Couvee, Jackson Edwards. At Ocean Athlete Nationals our students performed incredibly well with medals and national Titles from Ross Cowdrey, Danny Kayes, Ashley Cochrane, Simone Couvee, Trudi Greig and Cara Ryan

At the Senior Lifesaving National Champs medallists were Briar Merrett, Sasha Greig, Christie Yule and Jordan Hills.

EVENT DATES:

School Surfing Champs	Wednesday 9 April Omanu Beach 9am
National Tri Champs	Sat/Sun 12, 13 April Karapiro
Golf Ross Arnie Cup	Mon 14th April - Te Puke
Round Mt Relay	Mon 14th April - Mauao
WINTER SPORT STARTS	5 MAY
Inter school swimming	Wednesday 7 May Rotorua
School Cross Country	Tuesday 13 May
Multi Sport Champs	Friday 16 May - Rotorua
Interschool Cross Country	Wednesday 21 May Waipuna

CAREERS

9 May..... Waikato Uni Open Day –
Bus going from school for
Yr13 students

13 May..... Parents as Career Educators
(PACE) evening 7:00pm

15 May..... Tertiary Awareness Day

This year is off to a very busy, productive start in the Careers Department.

In the first 2 months we've had visits from:

- Dig Action Roadshow
- Western Bay Driving
- Auckland Uni Liaison
- Otago Uni Liaison
- PIHMS Liaison (Pacific International Hotel Management School)
- Massey Uni Liaison

Career Education Update:

Year 13

- Updating their Career Profile
- Decision-making : many have been to the Career Centre to discuss their tertiary/ career pathways
- Parents please view the progress by going onto: <http://careers.mmc.school.nz>

Year 12

- Reshape and edit Career Profile at end of Term 2
- Parents please view the progress by going onto: <http://careers.mmc.school.nz>

Year 11

- Career Education via Study
- Parents please view the progress by going onto: <http://careers.mmc.school.nz>

Year 10

- Straight-up Programme
- Career Development Programme starting in term 2 via Social Studies

Year 9

- Career Discovery starting with Mr Wiglesworth via Social Science