

Karamea Area School

Week 1- Term 3.

22nd July 2010



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to a new and busy term. Over the later part of the break I caught up with many of the teaching staff and discussed what they have in store for the next 20 weeks of school.

Although my own school days were enjoyable, I am sure I did not do half as many of the interesting and exciting things that KAS offers. Well done to the teaching staff who have worked hard to plan programmes that aim to meet the varied needs and interests of the wonderful students we have here.

This week's newsletter will be brief as I give the students and staff some time to prepare their articles. In the next edition there will be reports from the Buller Rugby game against the Italian team, a report from The Spirit of Adventure and a whole lot more.

Welcome to the 3 students who have joined the KAS team recently. Billy and Ryan are our new faces in room 1 and Kylie is a familiar face who rejoins the Year 12 group.

Attendance

As a bit of a mid year reminder I would like to restate the importance of regular attendance throughout the school year. I have become increasingly surprised and concerned at the number of students who have been absent from school recently for what I consider to be family holidays. Based on 2008 and 2009 data the average yearly attendance rate at KAS is around 84%. This means that after every five years of schooling the average KAS student has only attended just over 4 years of school.

Our 2010 attendance figures have just dropped to the 90% mark.

From where I sit the equation is quite simple.

Time at school = Student achievement

Less time at school = Less student achievement.

As stated in the MOE attendance guidelines,

- *Regular attendance at school is fundamental to student learning.*
- *Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve educational success, and increase their career and life options.*

There are 12 weeks during the year when students are not legally required to be at school. Family holidays should be planned during these times.

FROM THE PRIMARY TEAM

All the best to the 10 primary students who have elected to participate in the coaching and competition sessions with Buller Hockey. These sessions will take place after school on Thursdays for the next 7 weeks. Buller Hockey has generously paid for the transport to and from Westport. Thanks to Colin Lindsay who will drive the team over this week.

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who have already sent back the permission slips and payment for the swimming sessions.

SECONDARY NEWS

This term the secondary students will have a new range of electives to choose. Based on student interest, 3 of the following options will be offered on Friday afternoons.

- Ball Sports (Football, Cricket & other ball games)
- Golf- Learning the basics including etiquette and rules.
- Creative art: Pottery and sculpture or painting.
- Creative clothing. (Design your own sweatshirt, hoodie or T-Shirt)
- Creating a movie.
- Introduction to social psychology.
- Introduction to martial arts and fitness.

LIBRARY NEWS

Christine is on leave this week. She will be back on deck next week.

BOT NEWS

CONSULTATION FOR THE 2011-2013 STRATEGIC PLAN
A brief update: Over recent weeks the BoT have met twice to work on the consultation process for the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan. We have developed and trialled questions for both parents and staff. The next job is to develop questions for the students and work out the best way to ask these questions.

The BoT intend to consult the school community during week 3 of next term.

BoT Conference.

Boards of trustees have been in existence for 21

years now and during the school holidays, parent trustees Teresa, Lynda and Brian travelled to Christchurch for the 21st annual School Trustees Association Conference at the Christchurch Convention Centre on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July.

This conference gives a great opportunity for our Board members to rub shoulders with fellow Board members from different parts of the country, in social and professional development settings. The main purpose for attending is to learn more about how Boards should be operating and can work more effectively.

Each Board Trustee attending went to 5 different hour and a half long seminars, as well as attending keynote speeches by people including Minister of Education Anne Tolley.

Returning with renewed motivation and new ideas, the Trustees who attended now have a challenge to utilise and pass on their new-found knowledge, to hopefully benefit the education of our children - the whole point of Boards of Trustees.

Results for the senior netball team

17.July. Karamea Shooters started great in the 2nd round, with two wins.

24 - 13 v Reefton Ferns
29 - 15 v B.H.S Silver

Player of the Day: Samantha Hislop.

It was great to see our Principal call in & see the team play, and great family support cheering them on.

Jennifer Hislop

COMING EVENTS

27 th / 28 th July	Parent Conferences
29 th July 5 th August	Whole primary travelling to Westport for Swimming sessions.
The next 7 Thursdays	Primary hockey team travelling to Westport.
29 th July	PTA meeting 7.30 pm @staffroom

Parent conferences.

Parent conferences will be held next Tuesday 27th July and Wednesday 28th July.

To accommodate these conferences there will be an early finish on Tuesday (2.20pm).

These conferences follow on from the reports and portfolios that were sent home at the end of Term 2. They are an opportunity to answer questions, share information and set goals for the remainder of the year.

Parent conference forms were sent home on Monday. Confirmed times will be sent home with your children this Monday – please check their school bags!

If you have any dates or information you would like included in the Canary please get it to the office before 10.30am of the day prior to publication.