



Melville High News

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Issue 1

February 2014

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2014 HEAD STUDENTS



L to R: Bailey (Head Boy),
Stephanie (Deputy Head Girl),
Natanahira (Deputy Head Boy)
and Rebekah (Head Girl)

It is my pleasure to introduce Melville High School's head students for 2014.

2014 Head Boy, **Bailey** is a Year 13 student studying five Level 3 NCEA subjects: Drama, English, History, Media Studies and Physical Education. As part of his leadership role for 2014, he wants to strengthen the relationships between students in various year levels, help students connect more with their teachers making for better teacher/student relationships and create a fun learning environment for the students. Following this school year, Bailey plans to study a Law degree at the University of Waikato.

2014 Head Girl, **Rebekah** is also a Year 13 student taking six Level 3 NCEA subjects: Biology, Drama, English, History, Media Studies and Photography. During 2014, she wants to be a friendly, helping hand around the school, work hand-in-hand with her leadership team and to encourage all students to work side-by-side. She also hopes to get students involved in the Melville community, creating a more academic focus to our school and providing students with more opportunities. In 2015, Rebekah hopes to study Media Studies at either the University of Auckland or Victoria University.

Natanahira, 2014 Deputy Head Boy, is studying three Level 3 NCEA subjects: Advanced Physical Education, Food Studies, and Gateway and two Level 2 NCEA subjects: English and Science. His goals this year are to pass both NCEA levels, make it through the year, have as much fun as possible and be a great deputy head boy. In 2015, he hopes to take food studies at WinTec with a future goal of travelling as a chef.

Stephanie, 2014 Deputy Head Girl, also studies five Level 3 NCEA subjects: Art Painting, Art Photography, Design and Visual Communication, Mathematics with Calculus and Physics. In her role as Deputy Head Girl, she wants to enhance the family orientated vibe we have here at Melville High and to have fun and enjoy the year. Her goal is to do her best in all her subjects and the extra-curricular activities she partakes in. Next year, Stephanie intends to study Graphic Design and Fine Arts at either Massey University or the University of Waikato.

D McNulty, Acting Principal

Creating Pathways to a Positive Future

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Mr Hamill who is currently on sick leave, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our parents, caregivers and students. A special greeting is extended to all our new families. It has been a great pleasure meeting new parents and students to the school. I welcome the opportunity to meet more of you in the future to develop positive relationships and to strengthen the home and school partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all of the importance of our newsletters and ask that you refer to them as they contain helpful information which will assist with the transition to Melville High School.

2014 is going to be another exciting year for us at Melville High School as we strive to achieve our major goals:

- (a) Improving academic achievement by developing our culture of learning
- (b) Improving student attendance

We have developed specific strategies which will enable us to achieve these goals but do require your support to enable this to occur.

I am pleased to report that our NCEA achievement for 2013 saw us continue to improve on previous years' results. I will be able to report more specifically with exact figures once the results have been confirmed by NZQA. I would like to congratulate those students and their families for such good results and recognise the efforts of staff and students in their achievements. We have identified some areas for development and with your support we will be able to improve our results even further.

We have appointed six new teaching staff to the school this year. We are looking forward to their contributions to our students' education and know that you will welcome them when you have the opportunity to meet them.

The school is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities we will face this year and I am confident that we have the structures in place to respond and succeed.

The school will be celebrating its 50th reunion this year and the formal school occasion will occur on the 4th, 5th and 6th April. We would welcome your support at this event and encourage you to remind all those ex-pupils of the opportunity to revisit those great years they had at Melville High School.

Enrolments

We are continuing to process late enrolments which are causing some concerns in trying to place students into appropriate programmes. I would like to thank those parents and caregivers who took early action with enrolments which has ensured their child was well prepared and had the opportunity to select their courses.

We are continuing to have our student induction day on Mondays for new students to the school. We have found this to be a very useful strategy as it supports a student's smooth transition into their new school

Subject Fees

I would like to remind parents and caregivers of the challenges we have in the management of the resourcing we receive from the Ministry. While we make every effort to minimise costs for our students, the reality for us to deliver an appropriate curriculum requires additional funds. We do need to recover the costs of these programmes.

To support the challenges for families in meeting these costs we do have the facility to set up automatic payments. If you would like to use this service, then please contact our Executive Officer, Lynette Malone.

Canteen

The Board of Trustees has requested that our canteen supply healthy food for students. To enable this to occur, we have stopped the sale of the high sugar drinks and also the various sweets and lollies that have been sold previously. These items will be replaced by more appropriate options. Please support the school with this action and discourage your children from bringing to school products that contain high levels of sugar and food colouring.

Melville High School provides a school canteen for students to buy their lunch and snacks at school. The canteen endeavours to provide healthy options for students, but has a variety of items for sale. Students in Years 9-12 are not permitted to go to the Ulrich Shopping Centre under any circumstances. Students should bring cash to school for purchases at the canteen.

Messages to Students

I would respectfully like to ask parents and caregivers that they only contact the office in regard to passing on messages to their child when they are urgent. Please do not ask us to disrupt learning with messages which are not of an urgent matter.

I would also like to ask those parents/caregivers who are contacting their children by cellphone during class time to refrain from doing so as it is extremely disruptive during lessons when this occurs. Thank you in anticipation of your support.



D J McNulty
ACTING PRINCIPAL

BOT CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Kia ora and welcome back to Melville High School for 2014.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to make it to the Year 9 powhiri but the barbecue for new students was another great example of the close knit community this school fosters. Seeing Year 13 students running the barbecue along with helping organise everything else to ensure a smooth start for our newest students reminded me just how important relationships are to us all.

It was equally gratifying to see our new staff members getting out and about and getting to know not only the new students but their families as well.

One of the strategic goals of the school is to 'develop safe, supportive and constructive relationships between students, staff and our community' and the powhiri and barbecue are two of our most successful ways of achieving that. Others include school sports and swimming days and school camps, where living together under canvas teaches us all about tolerance, patience and getting along with others.

The school year has started with the news that our Principal Clive Hamill is away for several weeks for health reasons and we wish him and his whanau well in his recovery. While Dave McNulty and the rest of the senior leadership team are more than capable of holding the fort, it's not the way any of us wanted such an important year to begin.

After several months of work we are now only weeks away from the school's 50th anniversary reunion on April 4-6. There is still plenty of time to register and plenty of things people can do to ensure this is a successful weekend.

Later in the year we have a visit from the Education Review Office scheduled, which will bring added stresses, particularly for staff. The last visit by ERO culminated on one of our best reports ever and it's up to all of us to ensure we remain on that positive trajectory.

Tracey Cooper
Chairperson Board of Trustees

MHS SWIMMING SPORTS

On Monday 17 March, the Melville High School swimming sports will be held at Waterworld Te Rapa. Competitive swimmers will be taken to the pool in the morning and in the afternoon the whole school will be at Waterworld participating in the AquaSports event. Parents are invited to come along from 12.30 pm. Students will be transported by bus and are expected to return to school at the end of the proceedings. The day is always one of high energy and competition and a highlight of the House competition calendar.

A Tuck, Assistant Principal



Our 50th Reunion is fast approaching. Could you please spread the word and encourage past students, staff and Board members to register and make this a memorable occasion? Information is on our website: www.melville-high.school.nz/50th-reunion We are looking for volunteers to help us with this occasion. Tasks such as helping organise photo displays, parking wardens, etc on the Friday evening, collecting memorabilia. If you can help us in any way please contact the Reunion Committee – email reunion@melville-high.school.nz or phone Jos Caughey on 07 843 4529 Ext. 803.

UNIFORM AT MELVILLE

The year has started well with regard to the wearing of school uniform. Year 11 students, however, are reminded that they are only permitted to wear a white tee shirt under their regulation shirt or blouse. No other colours are permitted. Students who need to be reminded will have non-uniform items removed for the day.

Years 9 and 10 boys may only wear a white polo shirt. The polo shirt has been the regulation item since 2010. Years 11 and 12 boys are unaffected at this stage. The Board of Trustees is conducting a uniform review and will be surveying parents for their feedback on the Melville High School uniform.

The new black school jacket has been received very positively by the community. It is waterproof, fleece-lined and reversible. The price is also very reasonable for a jacket of this quality. Students who have the older style jacket may continue to wear it. However, students in Year 9 should purchase the new jacket.

Year 13 students have a dress code. This code addresses clothing which is acceptable for school. Students are expected to wear clothing that is acceptable in a classroom environment. This excludes singlets or beachwear and jandals.

Finally, the only socks students should be wearing at Melville High School are black ankle or knee length socks which are available from the uniform shop. Girls may also wear stockings if they prefer. However, footless tights or knee-length tights are not acceptable.

The staff appreciates the support of parents and caregivers with regard to wearing our uniform with pride and helping our students follow the RAP code of conduct at Melville High School.

A Tuck, Assistant Principal

2014 TERM 1 CALENDAR**Week 8**

Mon 17 School Swimming
Sports

Tues 18-Wed 19 Year 13 Geography trip

Wed 19 **PARENT REPORT
EVENING
3.30pm-6.00pm**

Week 9

Mon 24-Wed 26 Year 9 Camp
(1st rotation)

Wed 26-Fri 28 Year 9 Camp
(2nd rotation)

Wed 26 Board Meeting, 6pm

APRIL**Week 10**

Fri 4-Sun 6

**MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
50TH REUNION**

Week 12

Tues 15 Excellence Dinner

Wed 16 Board Meeting, 6pm

Thurs 17 Last day of Term 1

TERM 2 CALENDAR**MAY****Week 3**

Fri 23 Newsletter posted

Week 4

Wed 28 Board Meeting, 6pm

JUNE**Week 5**

Mon 2 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY**

Week 8

Mon 23 Reports posted
Newsletter posted

Wed 25 Board Meeting, 6pm

JUNE/JULY**Week 9**

Wed 19 **PARENT REPORT
EVENING
3.30pm-6.00pm**

Fri 4 Last day of Term 2

2014 TERM DATES

Term 1 28 Jan - 17 April

Term 2 5 May - 4 July

Term 3 21 July - 26 Sep

Term 4 13 Oct - 5 Dec

Absence Line**Phone 843 5212/Text 027 287 2428**

Please phone or text the above numbers if your child is absent from school for any reason. No note is required on return to school if you phone or text in.

Deans

Deans are available regarding any subject or behaviour concerns you may have about your child. Phone messages will be responded to at their earliest convenience.

Student Services Centre

- Notification of change of details
- First aid
- Student sign out/in for appointments
- Lost property
- Fees payments

Stationery/Uniform Shop

Opening hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11.00 am – 11.30 am

Guidance Counsellors

Students and families are invited to make appointments with our Counsellors, Lesley Beech and Paul Gay during tutor time each day or by phone (843 4529 ext 939/940).

Careers Adviser

Students and parents are welcome to make appointments with Mrs Searancke for advice on courses and careers (843 4529 ext 953).

Gateway Co-ordinator

Students and parents are welcome to make appointments with Angela Climo for advice on gateway placements (843 4529 ext 925 or 027 4521026).

St Luke's Anglican Church**50th Jubilee****October 2013 – October 2014**

The St Luke's Anglican Church is holding a number of celebratory events in the coming months to celebrate its 50th Jubilee year. If you would like more information on these please contact:

Robert Sherson

People's Warden at St Luke's Church

Phone 07 843 7789

Mobile 0212977205

Email: patsandbobs@xnet.co.nz

ATTENDANCE: STILL A PRIORITY AT MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL***Good attendance at school is a must.***

I am pleased to report that the focus on improving attendance in 2013 was a success.

Keeping young people attending school and engaging in education has always been important. Attendance and engagement in school improves employment, social and life chances and reduces the development of antisocial behaviour and youth offending.

At Melville High School we have the catch cry - **at school, in class and on time**. This term we will be engaging in conversations with students and their families as soon as attendance or lateness becomes a pattern.

We will continue to work with Te Kohao Health in the management of students whose attendance is an issue. We are very pleased to have this group working with us and are looking forward to supporting students and families who find regular attendance a challenge.

We will be continuing with confirming clear expectations for students, staff, parents and caregivers and share this information. This will include elements of the following:

- a. Prizes for excellent attendance. Last year 20 MPS Players were balloted to students who had excellent attendance.
- b. Rewards for students with good attendance (minimum 85% attendance), including punctuality (not being late to class) and access to:
 - i. Playing in sports teams
 - ii. Swimming Sports
 - iii. Athletics Day
 - iv. The Raft Race
 - v. The School Ball
 - vi. Cultural activities including Stage Challenge and Kapa Haka Competitions
 - vii. Tournament week
 - viii. STAR
 - ix. Gateway
 - x. Trips
 - xi. Sport trips
 - xii. Class trips
 - xiii. Special programmes
 - xiv. Vehicle Passes

Clearly such a strategy will require a partnership between students/families and school. I look forward to your continued support in this area.

D McNulty, Acting Principal**PUNCTUALITY**

We value the attribute of punctuality at Melville High School and again seek parent and caregiver support to ensure students arrive at school every day on time to start classes. Punctuality is a habit that is important and must be developed. It shows respect and commitment. I would like to acknowledge those parents and caregivers who ensure that their children arrive on time at school; such practice enables a smooth start to the day.

D McNulty, Acting Principal

INTERIM NCEA RESULTS

I would now like to take this opportunity to congratulate those students who succeeded in their NCEA results. A special mention is made of those who did well in the external assessments (exams).

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn, Natasha, Holly** and **Breanna** who gained an overall Excellence endorsement at Level 1 and at Level 2 **Rebekah** and **Madeline** also gained an overall Excellence endorsement. These students gained in excess of 50 Excellence credits. We are delighted with their success.

The interim results are as follows. A fuller report will be made when the results are confirmed in April.

**Melville High School
All Students %**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NCEA Level 1	56	62	64	68	70
NCEA Level 2	54	52	75	66	70
NCEA Level 3	38	27	45	63	49

**Melville High School
Māori Students %**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
NCEA Level 1	46	50	54	64	66
NCEA Level 2	50	40	74	50	68
NCEA Level 3	0	18	35	54	41

We are also pleased with the continued improvement in Māori student achievement. While we are not satisfied with these current levels, we are pleased that our deliberate strategies to nurture Māori success are producing results.

We recognise that such success is the result of significant effort and focus of students, families and, of course, our staff. Such focus begins well before the senior years of high school. We therefore acknowledge the contribution made by primary and intermediate schools.

A Tuck, Assistant Principal

MAKING A DIFFERENCE READING PROGRAMME - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you interested in helping our junior students practise their reading? We have a very successful reading programme for our junior students called '*Making a Difference*'.

If you have two spare half hours a week and would like to help, please ring Margaret Black (ext. 924) or Valetta Wiperi (ext. 807). Full training will be given.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PB4L)

Melville High School continues to be involved with PB4L which starts with our school wide rules or kawa.



This poster is widely displayed around the school and all students and staff should know these three rules, widely known as the RAP. For the past two years, PB4L has focused on classroom behaviour. Systems have been developed to teach and reward appropriate behaviour as well as responding consistently to inappropriate behaviour. Behaviour data is collected and strategies are developed to bring about improvements in behaviour. Annual surveys have shown a definite improvement in behaviour and PB4L has probably contributed to improvements in NCEA results.

The PB4L goals this year will be around improving student behaviour in out-of-class areas and punctuality. Data will be analysed for issues such as punctuality, litter, out of bounds, etc and the staff will implement strategies to improve student behaviour. By this process we aim to bring about a deliberate improvement in student behaviour leading to improved learning and achievement.

J Ledson, Assistant Principal

FUTURES@MELVILLE

What steps are you taking to create your future? If you have any questions about your future come to J6 and see Mrs Searancke, Director of Careers.

Careers

Careers classes are held every Wednesday period 3 for Years 11, 12, and 13.

GATEWAY

Students studying Gateway as a subject are required to do a work placement gaining experience in a career area of their interest. See Angela Climo in J6 for all your Gateway enquiries. If any employer wishes to host a student in their work place please contact Angela on 027 452 1026.

STAR

Secondary Tertiary Alignment Resource – is available to enable students to experience a range of careers through programmes at WINTEC and other providers. Students can apply to enroll on the courses by coming into the Futures office at J6.

ENGLISH LEARNING AREA NEWS

We have been thrilled with our NCEA results in English for 2013. NZQA recognises those students who do particularly well by awarding them Endorsement in those subjects where they get 14 or more credits at Excellence or Merit level including at least 3 credits in an external standard. The following students should be proud of their great results:

Excellence in English

Level 1

Holly, Breanna, Kaitlyn

Merit In English

Level 1

Jade, Oliver, Natasha

Laura Strother

Level 2

Rebekah, Conor

Level 3

Rachel

Congratulations to these students and their teachers.

English Staffing changes

We have farewelled Mrs Seluka who has returned to Australia and is working at a senior high school in Canberra. Interestingly, she has missed the air conditioning and fantastic facilities at Melville as her current school seems very deficient. Teaching in 40 degrees without air conditioning would be a challenge!

We have welcomed **Mrs Diaz** as a permanent member of our team and we are also pleased to have **Mrs Whaanga** working with us.

Courses

Our Year 9 students are busy being assessed in reading, writing and spelling. We collect a lot of data at the beginning of the year so that we can plan effective programmes that meet the needs of these students. Our focus is on improving basic skills in reading and writing. The Year 10 classes are working on a preparatory unit looking at their expectations for the future and how English will help them achieve their goals. Senior classes are preparing for their first NCEA assessments.

All of our students will benefit from reading more at home. Reading for pleasure is an important factor in success at secondary level. Our library is well stocked and students can borrow up to three books at a time. Parents/caregivers can assist us by asking their students about their reading as well as discussing ideas from books that have been read. Graphic novels are very popular with boys and are a great way to get them to read.

All English teachers welcome contact with home. Please ring us with any concerns or questions you have.

M Black, Leader of English Curriculum

YEAR 9 CAMP

All Year 9 students once again have a wonderful opportunity to attend the Year 9 Camp to be held at Karapiro Domain. Three tutor groups will travel out on Monday 24 March and return on Wednesday 26 March, while the remaining three tutor groups are on camp from Wednesday 26 until Friday 28 March.



2013 Year 9 Camp

The cost will be kept to an absolute minimum thanks to the generous support of Perry Outdoor Education Trust. Students will sleep in tents and as we do not have room to take mattresses it is advisable to get started now in organising a suitable pad to sleep on. All students have a huge amount to gain from attending camp and we are happy to work closely with families to support students where medical issues could be a possible barrier to attendance at the Year 9 Camp.

J Ledson, Assistant Principal

SPORTS@MLV

In 2014 we will be offering the following sports: Akido, Basketball, Clay Target Shooting, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Softball, Touch, and Volleyball. If you are interested in playing any other sport please come and see me. If we do not have a sport available, I will get the appropriate information about it.

I believe Melville High School will have another good sporting year due to the talent we have and the calibre of our coaches and managers - all the best to our teams in 2014.

Over the holidays we have had a number of students participating in sport. Congratulations to the following students:

Kalib (participation at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Championships).

Cameron (participation at the New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Championship with Cameron winning two silver medals in the 100m and 200m sprints).

Cody (who made the Waikato U15 Boys' softball team who participated at the North Island tournament in Wellington last month).

Annika (Waikato U14 Girls' Football team last year).

Assryia (made it into the Royal Family Dance Crew - a great achievement).

Graeme Kuiti, Sports Co-ordinator

A GREAT START TO THE YEAR

Powhiri

The year began with a special welcome to new students, their families and staff at the Powhiri at the school Marae, Te Manaakitanga on Tuesday 28 February.

The fresh, fine morning and the sense of anticipation provided an excellent backdrop to this introduction for those who were new to our school.

This process is a very important part of the induction procedure we provide for both new students and staff.



The Year 9 students then began their orientation with a two day programme and with the assistance of Year 13 students eased themselves into high school without the "helpful advice" of Year 10, 11 and 12 students who began school on Thursday 30th.

Barbeque Evening

The induction culminated with a 'new student' barbeque which was hosted by Year 13 students on the Wednesday evening. The dome area, by the flag poles and adjacent to the office, was an ideal location with the mature trees providing much appreciated shade.



Over 150 staff, students and their families valued the opportunity to mix and mingle, meet each other and enjoy a bite to eat.

I am very appreciative that all concerned took the time to attend this function. I thank the many senior students who acted as excellent hosts and helped with the preparation and tidying up. It was an impressive start by the 'class of 2014'. I was also thankful that staff and Board of Trustees members took time out to be there too.



D J McNulty, Acting Principal