



Melville High News

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Issue 2

March 2011

ADMINISTRATION BLOCK RE-OPENING

Melville High School formally re-opened the upgraded Administration Block on Wednesday 16 March. The \$800,000 refurbishment to the hall and related staff and student support facilities was well overdue and a very pleased Board Chairman, Mr Bruce Tocker formally declared the Block re-opened during a ceremony last week. He noted that the school was justifiably proud of the developments and saw it as yet another example of progress around the campus. The Administration Block development incorporated upgrades to the hall, reception, offices, staffroom, staff workroom and toilets. This refurbished facility with its new computers, resources and work spaces, affirms our support for our staff who play an invaluable role in nurturing and supporting our students in their learning. The new reception entrance makes a particularly powerful statement of pride.

At the same time, the upgrade ushers in a more realistic management strategy for the use of school buildings with the inclusion of the Student Services Centre in the administration block and the reduction of our building footprint.

The school was pleased to have several distinguished guests join us during the celebration including Tim Macindoe MP for Hamilton West, Sue Moroney MP, Martin Gallagher and Ewan Wilson West Ward Councillors, Tim Gisler and Matt Whitmarsh from Gisler Architects, Sam Rofo and David Harrison from Cook Brothers Construction, Ross Hargood from Hawkins Construction along with some of our local contributing Principals – Dianne Pollard Williams (Melville Primary), Nigel Farthing (Koromatua), Jane Rutherford (St Pius) and several of our Board members, parents and our senior leadership team.

Several community members and parents took up the offer to *wander-and-view* through the building prior to the formal ceremony. We were fortunate to have the services of senior student leaders who acted as guides for the guests and as chefs for the barbecue meal which was provided at the conclusion of the celebrations.



New entrance to Administration Block



Ross Hargood and Ewan Wilson with site manager, David Harrison

In the week prior to the re-opening ceremony, local kaumatua, Tutu Ormsby joined a small group of staff in an early morning blessing of the new facilities before the furniture and equipment was relocated back into the block.

I would like to thank staff, students and parents for their tolerance during the relocation while the construction was being undertaken. I was particularly pleased with the willingness of staff to make allowances for this and was impressed by how they coped with their challenging temporary environments.

Clive Hamill, Principal

Creating Pathways to a Positive Future

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Tena koutou katoa

This past month has been a very busy and exciting one. The re-opening of the Administration Block was a special moment. I am particularly pleased for our staff who have had to endure a challenging and shabby work environment for a number of years.


At a time when staff are working hard it was heartening to hear that the PPTA industrial action has been suspended pending the ratification process. I am hopeful that this will see an end to the industrial action so that we can all return to focusing our efforts on our students.

We are holding our Parent Teacher interviews this Wednesday evening to share with you some feedback about student progress. I encourage you all to take up this opportunity and to meet with our team of teachers to discuss your child's achievement.

Melville High School formally acknowledged the passing of former teacher Mrs Phillips. We closed the school early, postponed the school swimming sports and allowed the funeral procession to wend its way through the school before her funeral service at Newstead Crematorium. I was particularly proud of our student body and our school community for the courtesy and reverence that they demonstrated during this time. Our condolences are extended to the Phillips family and their extended family.

Finally, this last month has also seen a host of very positive and rewarding activities being facilitated by our senior students as they undertake a host of leadership activities in support of the school. At our last Board meeting, we gained an insight into one of these student based initiatives.

Kia Ora



Clive Hamill, Principal

REPORTS AND PARENT INTERVIEWS

In order to provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress with teachers, Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on **Wednesday 30 March from 3.15 pm-6.00 pm**.

Included with this newsletter is a one-page Interim Report which gives a brief indication of areas of success and possible areas of challenge for each student. The reports are not designed to provide extensive feedback on the progress and achievement of students; rather it is a tentative statement about how students are settling in to the school year.

The interview provides an opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and plan collective strategies forward. We cordially invite you to attend and hope that you will take the opportunity to meet the teachers. Deans, Senior Leadership staff.

An appointment system will operate, so please return the appointment sheet which was distributed to students **last Tuesday** so that teachers can see as many parents as possible within the five-minute intervals. (You can also download a copy from our website.)

Parents are reminded that we welcome the opportunity to talk to you about the progress of your child at any time, not just during formal report evenings. Appointments can be made through the school office for this purpose.

Clive Hamill, Principal

LATE ENROLMENTS

The beginning of the year is a busy time and we note that there have been delays in enrolling students. School started later this year but we were still open for late enrolments from 1-4 February. The enrolment information was advertised in the Waikato Times and the free weekly, The Hamilton Press, on three separate occasions. I am very grateful to those families who made an effort late last year to attend to enrolment and uniform matters.

Enrolments after Opening Day, 7 February, are deemed to be late enrolments. All such enrolments require an interview with the Junior Dean, Mr Lester Silver (Years 9 and 10) or the Senior Dean, Mrs Kathleen Christian (Years 11-13). Both of these staff also have classes to teach. As a result, there have been delays in late enrolments being processed. We provided additional release time for our Deans to work through the late enrolments on a first-come-first-serve basis. We value your support and therefore need to ensure that the late enrolment of students is well managed and interviews are a critical part of this process.

We have also adopted a new strategy to support the positive introduction of new students to our school. All new students are required to undertake a two hour **induction programme** which deliberately shares with them the special features of our school and the expectations we have for new students. before they begin school. This programme is held every **Monday morning from 8.45** until Tutor Time. It gives information on sports and cultural activities, key places and people, school values, Restorative Practices, RAP rules and much more.

Clive Hamill, Principal

TRIBUTE TO A LOVED AND RESPECTED TEACHER

Christina (Tina) Phillips, 1953-2011



On behalf of Melville High School staff, students and the wider Melville community, I would like to offer our condolences to the Phillips family and their extended family. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

My association with Tina goes back to 1978 when I first started teaching at Melville High. Tina was a member of the Science department and had been a Dean for many years at various year levels. She was a well-respected Science teacher and was involved in marking external examination papers for many years.

Tina was also involved in the extra-curricular school life during her time at Melville including Wharauoa House leader; numerous sports teams in the capacity of manager, supporter, bus driver, fundraiser and spectator; organisation of the school ball for many years; and seamstress/makeup artist for many school productions.

Tina left her mark not just in the school but also in the wider Melville community and this was evident when many past students attended her retirement farewell last year. She was often invited to 21st birthday parties and weddings of her former students.

Tina will be remembered for many things as she had contributed a lot in the 33 years at Melville. For me, I will remember most that Tina was a person who had a genuine level of care for all her students and regarded them as family. This care was why she was often called "Mum" or "Ma Phillips" by her students.

Over many years in her role as a Pastoral Dean, Tina had a tireless determination to get through and connect with all students, the most troubled of students being her greatest challenge. I think this gave her the greatest of pleasure to make these connections with both students and families alike. I have no doubt that she will always be remembered for the care and time she took to be that special person to so many people.

Rest in Peace.

Gary Schofield, Year 10 Dean and PE Teacher

NOONA

A song tribute to Christina Phillips by Naomi (Year 13 student)

You're like a mother
cause you always cared,
I know I'll miss you
though you'll always be here,
You always seemed to know
when something wasn't right,
and you always had the answers
and weren't afraid to shed some light.

You picked me up
whenever I was down,
You made things sweet
and was always around,
We'll all lose someone
but we'll see them again
It's a matter of waiting
cause with love there's no end.

Your heart was strong
Like a guided light from doing wrong
And you showed us love
I'll be thinking of you while you're gone.



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 Ron and Kathy Cronin-Lampe 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).

SUPPORTING CHRISTCHURCH

The school recently held a **Canterbury Mufti Day** and **Sausage Sizzle** to show support for the Christchurch community following the recent devastating earthquake.

Students and staff raised \$998.60 which has been forwarded to Salvation Army Christchurch.

This is a great effort and we congratulate the students for this fine incentive.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

The school has offered Video Conferencing (VC) courses to Melville students for the last four years, but the numbers have been small. This year up to 20 students requested enrolments into distance learning classes and 12 were successfully enrolled.

With the new building upgrade we now have our own dedicated studio and the support of the Volcanics cluster network has also been pivotal. Students are studying Year 9 languages, Equine studies, Classics, Economics and senior Computer Science.

We are also privileged to offer a Digitech class to schools as far south as Tuatapere to nine students in Taupo. These are exciting initiatives and we look forward to further developments next year. Students interested in VC distance learning should contact Mr Young.

HAMILTON BALL EXPO

Melville High officially rocked the 2011 Hamilton Ball Expo organised by School Ball New Zealand and The Edge. This event was held at The Atrium at the city Wintec Campus.

This gave our Ball committee the opportunity to start making plans for our school ball later this year. There was a range of stands with different DJ's, decorators, dress and suit hire companies and caterers.

I was proud of the amount of people that showed up in our 'formal' theme, how we represented our school and the way that we made Melville spirit recognisable once again. There was also a dance off between Melville and Fraser students.



**Melville High School Senior Leaders
in their formal suits and dress**

Keep it up Melville, and keep looking out for school ball updates.

Nishil, Head Boy 2011

HEADZ UP

Anna (Head Girl), Kiera (Deputy Head Girl) and I attended the Headz Up leadership day, an event held at the University of Waikato on 24 February 2011 and organised by Waikato Institute for Leisure and Sport. This event was held for all Head Students in the Waikato region.

The main purpose for this programme was to help these students become more confident, effective leaders by developing skills in areas relevant to their roles as a representative, liaison and leader in their school and wider community.

Throughout the day, we participated in range of activities from theory-based to a lot of practical work. The highlight of the day was cooking pancakes and making a unity circle structure out of resources provided. We also learnt how well head students work together as a team. The bonus for the day was definitely making new friends from the other schools.



**Kiera, Anna and Nishil
after finishing their unity-circle**

By the end of the day we proved that TOGETHER WE ARE ONE, TOGETHER WE ARE . . . MELVILLE!

Nishil, Head Boy

BEAUT GROUP

A group of senior students (pictured right) have established an enthusiastic band of willing workers, with the support of teacher, Sean Christian, who wish to improve the school environment. They have met with the Board of Trustees, outlined their programme and gained Board support. The **Beaut Group** has completed its first project which was tidying up the gardens adjacent to the stand-alone Science store adjacent to the staffroom. The group's slogan is "Look better, feel better". The group have a series of projects ahead and will be inviting broader student and parent support. Well done students.

2010 TERM 1 CALENDAR

MARCH

Week 8

Tues 29 Year 10 Vision Testing
Wed 30 **Parent Report Evening**
3.15 pm-7.00 pm

APRIL

Week 9

Wed 6 Waikato Secondary School Swimming Competition

Week 10

Wed 13 Raft Race
Fri 15 Last day of Term 1

TERM 2

MAY

Week 1

Tues 3 Board Meeting, 6.00 pm

Week 4

Fri 27 Newsletter posted

Week 5

Tues 31 Board Meeting, 6.00 pm

JUNE

Week 6

Mon 6 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY**

JULY

Week 9

Fri 1 Reports posted
Newsletter posted

Week 11

Wed 13 Parent Report Evening,
Fri 15 Last day of Term 2

2011 TERM DATES

Term 1 7 February – Friday 15 April
Term 2 2 May – 15 July
Term 3 1 August – 7 October
Term 4 25 October – 14 December





Sports@MLV



Rugby

The Boys' Under 16 Rugby team has been making solid efforts at their training sessions and should be well prepared for the start of the season.

On Wednesday 9 March, the team hosted 11 students from Onomichi Gakuen in Japan. The students were on a two week study visit. The Melville Coach, Paul Nathan, organised a special skills training session with Waikato Development Officer, Alf Daniels. The boys then had the opportunity to practise these skills in an opposed practice. The feedback from all parties was that the whole exercise was very successful and that this could be the basis for an ongoing relationship for both schools.

We have insufficient players to form an Under 15 team, so these boys will be playing in the open grade team with the Melville Rugby Club.

We have had 10 girls show an interest in playing rugby this year so we are looking at our options to get them playing in the secondary school competition.

School Athletics Champions

The following students are the Melville High School Athletics Champions for 2011:

Junior Girls, Annalise
 Junior Boys, Kalib
 Intermediate Girls, Jessica
 Intermediate Boys, Jordan
 Senior Girls, Samantha
 Senior Boys, Ben

New school records were set by:
 Annalise, Junior Girls 800m and 3000m
 Kalib, Junior Boys 3000m
 Ryan, Senior Boys 3000m

Sports Uniforms

Over the year, we have a number of sports shirts, shorts and singlets used by students that are not returned to school. Usually they are put away in a drawer, wardrobe or cupboard and forgotten about. We would be grateful if you could have a look and see if there are any Melville High School sports clothing items in your household and return them to the Student Services Centre. By returning these items you will be helping us to reduce the cost of sports fees to the students. Thanks for your help.

Zone Athletics

There were nearly 30 Melville High athletes who competed in the Central Zone Athletics Meeting at Porritt Stadium recently.

The Central Zone is made up of all the secondary schools in Hamilton as well as Cambridge, Morrinsville, Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan.

Kalib won the Junior Boys' 3000m and finished second in the 1500m. **Piahana** finished second in the Intermediate Boys' Shot Put and **Sinead** finished second in the Intermediate Girls' Javelin.

In the Athletes with Disabilities section, **Cameron, Davis** and **Reno** took the first three placings in the 100m. **Sunil** won the 200m with **Scott** coming third. **Deshan** finished third in the 400m. **Zain** finished third in the 100m for Athletes with Cerebral Palsy.

These athletes, along with **Annalise, David** and **Mere**, qualified to compete for Melville High School at the Waikato Bay of Plenty Secondary School Championships.

Cricket

After winning the first round match against Hamilton's Fraser High, the First XI competed in a "Twenty20 Field Day" at Waikato University against the other qualifiers.

The first game was against Cambridge, which is the top team in Division 1A. Batting first, Cambridge put on over 200 runs for the loss of 3 wickets. Melville was always behind the run rate and were all out with 3 overs left.

The afternoon game was against St John's College. Batting first, St John's put on 180 runs. Melville lost 3 early wickets which brought **James** and **Jordan** to the crease. They batted through the rest of the innings, having an unbeaten partnership of 82 runs.

It was a valuable experience for the new players in the team to play such good opposition.

MANGAKOTUKUTUKU

Continuing on from the success of winning the Hauraki Festival in 2010, (Mangakotukutuku/Marawaatea) the Melville High kapa haka group is now preparing for the battle of all battles, the Tainui Secondary Schools Kapa Haka competition which is being held at Piopio College on Saturday 16 April. The group is made up of new and old students. Although it was a great shock to 'find out' that the competitions will be held at the end of Term 1, our group got together to discuss a strategy to accept the challenge of competing at this year's competition.

Firstly, a Mangakotukutuku Management Committee was elected to lead the way with Leanne Wilson elected as chairperson, Sandy Te Rito (secretary) and Jocelyn Te Kanawa (treasurer).

Secondly, tutors for the group were established. Whaea Te Mana will work with ex-students of Mangakotukutuku to train the students in all disciplines required for the competitions. A big thank you to Kapene, Levi, Toni-ann, Nadia and Aroha. We believe that the group has potential to do well this year.

Finally, the choosing of leaders was completed and lots of rehearsals and noho marae (weekend live-ins) arranged. Mangakotukutuku will be led by **Reisharn** and **Marama**.

I would like to acknowledge some of the items in the group's programme that have been gifted to our group. First the poi item by Hēmi Walker, the action song Pimia Wehi from Te Wakahuia, the choral item from Hone and Hēni Green, the traditional chant and haka composed by Ngapo and by Te Rei Tuhua and the exit by Mite Kukutai.



Marama and Reisharn

The programme is beautiful and, with the help of the tutors, the group will sharpen up and be a force to be reckoned with. All the best to Mangakotukutuku.

DRESS REHEARSAL CONCERT

Wednesday 13 April
7pm in the Melville High Hall

Adults \$5, students \$2,
children 5 and under FREE

Please come and support our Mangakotukutuku
We are fundraising for transport
and kai for our tamariki

Kia Kaha Mangakotukutuku. Kei a koe te ihi, te wehi, te mana hoki.

Whaea Te Mana Rollo, Teacher in charge of Mangakotukutuku

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGES OF OPC GREAT BARRIER ISLAND – MORE ON BACK PAGE



OPC GREAT BARRIER ISLAND – AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

Ten lucky students involved in the Institute of Sport programme, took up the opportunity to travel to Great Barrier Island's Outdoor Pursuit Centre recently. They travelled in style – flying direct to the island from Auckland Airport on Sunday 28 March.

Students were definitely not there for a holiday! Each day started at 7am for breakfast and by 9am they were out the door and straight into activities. When they returned to the centre at 5:30pm for dinner, students then worked on assessments or took in an evening presentation until 9:30pm! Activities each day included surf kayaking, sea kayaking, coastering, rock climbing, traversing, abseiling down waterfalls, bush bashing (tramping through thick bush), fishing, snorkelling and overnight camping.

All the students had a tremendous attitude towards giving new activities a go and as a result developed their confidence in stepping outside of their comfort zones. They all successfully completed the Sea Kayaking Unit Standard assessment which required both theory and practical tasks. Students also completed their Coastguard Safe Boating Certificate on the Tuesday evening.

We returned to Hamilton on Friday 4 March all extremely tired but at the same time it was with sadness that the week had gone so quickly and it was going to be back to reality the following week.

I was proud to be associated with an awesome group of students - they were fantastic ambassadors for Melville High School. We have a tremendous reputation at OPC and the staff always look forward to hosting our students.

Special thanks are extended to all the parents who supported their children in participating on this trip.

OPC Great Barrier was an awesome experience. The opportunities that are given to students are life changing ones which simply cannot be had sitting in a classroom at school. My advice to everyone out there is to take up the opportunities that your teachers offer this year – you will have so much fun, meet new people, learn new skills you haven't tried before and gain so much confidence!

Well done to the following students who completed their OPC Great Barrier Island Adventure Challenge programme: Luke, Robyn, Cian, Jershon, Jayden, Te Waanahi, Logan, Aria, Robbie and Caitlin.

Michael Edwards
HOD Physical Education

