

STAFFING MATTERS

We have two teachers who are on medical leave for at least the next term. Veteran Special Needs teacher, John Toroa suffered a series of strokes and is making slow but solid progress and Digital Technology teacher, John van Rooy is still having treatment for his blood disorder. Our thoughts are with you and your families and we wish you a speedy recovery.

We welcome to the school:

Mr Graeme Kuiti

Graeme is our new **Sports Co-ordinator** and is a very familiar person around some of sports teams. Graeme has a strong sport background, especially in Basketball, Softball, League and Rugby. He brings a strong theoretical and practical sports experience especially in coaching and sport administration.



Mr Garth Stimpson

Mr Stimpson comes to Melville High after brief teaching positions at Hamilton Girls' High and Cambridge High School. He has a passion for teaching and joins our Technology team, teaching Digital and



Visual Design and Hard Materials technology, Metal. He has a background in fitting and turning and is a family man involved in church life.

Mr Bevan Thomas

Bevan will be relieving in the position of John Toroa. Bevan is well known to the students and staff. He is a passionate drama teacher and experienced in supporting students with learning needs. He readily involves himself in the extra-curricular activities of the school.



Mrs Chandani

Jandani

Chandani will continue relieving for John van Rooy until the end of next term. Jandani has a very positive disposition and has responded well to working at Melville High school.



We bid farewell to the following staff:

Mr Vinny Ridgeway

Vinny is a Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTL B) who is employed by the Hamilton based RTL B Cluster 16 and has been based at Melville High School over the last five years. As from next term he will be based at TKKM o



Toku Mapihi Maurea, a total immersion primary School in Silverdale as part of his new role as a RTL B Māori. We will still be seeing him as he will continue to support us with the Te Kotahitanga programme, one day a week. I would like to acknowledge Vinny's great support and assistance that he has provided over the years. I especially would like to note his strong and unwavering support over and above his RTL B responsibilities and in particular in the area of kapa haka and kaupapa Māori.

We wish you well Vinny and we are pleased we will still have you as part of our RTL B support network.

Teenaa koe e te matua, e Vinny

Moou i whakarangatira i te kaupapa ki too taatou kura o Meriwera.

Moou te ringa haapai o Te Kotahitanga.

Moou te whakaoranga o te whakaaro Maaori.

Haere i too huanui o te ora
Noo maatou te maaringanui.

Pai maarire ki a koe.

Mr Jeff Bennett

We bid farewell to Jeff Bennett who has been a fixed term teacher in Technology. Jeff has consistently been one of the first teachers here at school in the morning and we wish him all the best for the future.

TAGGING

As you all will be aware our community is being inundated by tagging. This same issue is happening at school. One of our school values is "Respect". Respect for ourselves, respect for others and respect our environment. At present we have a few students and a few youth from outside the school who are showing no respect for our school. As a result we have adopted the following strategy to help improve our environment:

- Undertaking a blitz and removing all tagging
- Making our internal areas more visually pleasing with student artwork and murals
- Greater video surveillance
- Greater Liaison with our community police constables
- Rewards for information that leads to the identification of taggers
- Banning vivid and permanent marker pens from school

We welcome your support in this area and any information that may be helpful.

C Hamill, Principal

SCHOOL BALLS AND THE CHALLENGES THEY BRING

Auckland Police have asked schools to warn students and parents off boozy after-parties during the ball season. Every school in the Auckland region has received a letter from police asking them to tell students and staff that events where tickets are sold and alcohol served to underage people are illegal. As it is school ball season I thought that it is an appropriate time for me to again raise this matter.

The annual school ball season has historically been a time of binge drinking by a small minority of teenagers. In supporting our young people to make sensible choices about their behaviour at pre-balls, balls and after balls, we as a school community face a huge challenge. It is only through a clear set of expectations and a cooperative relationship between schools and parents that we will be able to safely help teenagers to chart this traditional right of passage.

We can support our young people by monitoring our teenagers spending, knowing where they were going, whom they were with and when they would be home. Our goal of course is to show our care and love through taking an interest and at the same time setting boundaries. We are, of course, trying to help them grow while trying to protect them from the worst excesses of youth culture.

At our balls, normal school rules etc. apply, i.e. no smoking and if students are suspected of using or possessing drugs or alcohol they will be tested and escorted from the premises and face serious discipline action from the school. We take precautions to ensure good safe management by ensuring that ball concludes at an appropriate time (11.30 pm). Further, students are only released into the care of their parent/caregiver and the school accepts no responsibility or liability for the students once they leave the Ball premises, and once the Ball has concluded. Students are reminded that to be eligible to attend the Ball they have to have a minimum 85% attendance rate and have paid outstanding subject and co-curricular fees (sports, cultural).

Traditionally the Ball has been a tremendous success and we are seeking your help to keep it that way. For me personally however, it is always an apprehensive time and while it is not part of the normal curriculum, it is an important aspect of senior students' year.

C Hamill, Principal



Artists Impression of the new Fitness Centre currently being built through the generosity of the John and Glenice Gallagher Foundation