

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers
Tena Koutou Katoa



Mr E A Benton
Principal

Shortened Day - Friday 9th September

Next Friday is the opening day for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. There are events planned for downtown Auckland from 4:00pm and there is the expectation of significant traffic congestion from much earlier. To enable staff to cross the city before things get too congested and to enable students and staff to join in the festivities, the school day will be shifted to finish at 1:10pm.

- **8:30am** **Classes commence - straight to Period 1**
- **1:10pm** **School finishes for the day**

By having no Tutor Group or Assembly in the morning and five fifty minute classes, we can have a full teaching programme on that day. **Please ensure that your child gets here by 8:30am, fifteen minutes earlier than usual.**

Late Start - 10:00am on Wednesday 14th September

Due to staff having a 2-hour professional development session on restorative practices from 8:00am to 10:00am, classes commence at 10:00am.

Property Development

We are currently finalising our property agreement with the Ministry of Education. We propose the following developments over the next couple of years:

- From the beginning of 2012, we will be hosting a class from the Wilson Home and one from the Wairau Valley Special School. This will involve modifications and modernisation of spaces in our top block, C Block. Our own Special Needs area will also move into this block, into modernised rooms. Their current rooms will be removed.
- Our Science Department will be brought closer together in A Block and the laboratories in rooms 13, 14, 74 and 75 will be upgraded. We are hoping to have a Senior Science projects room and Digital Data collection room included in this project.
- The room behind the Library will be included in the Library through glass panels and doors to provide a more comprehensive computer hub in our Library.
- A set of mothballed changing rooms in the gymnasium will be renovated back to life to help us better accommodate visiting sports teams and PE classes.
- We have secured Lion Foundation funding to move a prefabricated classroom from our cluster of Community Education rooms up next to our Whare kai and to convert it into a Whare by recladding it to match the Whare kai and putting a veranda on the front with new doors in place. This will be the next stage in a project commenced back in the 1990s with the final stage being the decoration or dressing up of our Whare to reflect our place and its history.

These projects will enable us to continue to provide excellent facilities to those lucky enough to come to our school. We certainly look forward to seeing it all happen.

Careers Expo - Tuesday 20th September

This is our biennial gathering of a huge range of tertiary training providers and even employers who will be here that evening to provide information to students and parents on possible courses and pathways beyond school. While this is primarily aimed at senior students and their parents, all are welcome.

Key Dates

Wed 31 st August	Senior Entrance Exams begin
Tue 6 th September	Senior Entrance Exams end
Fri 9th September	School starts 8:30am, finishes 1:10pm
Wed 14th September	School starts 10:00am
Tue 20 th September	Careers Expo Evening Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre Time: 7:00-9:00pm
Thu 22 nd September	Year 11 Option Choice Day (<i>No classes for Year 11</i>)
Tue 27 th September	Year 10 Option Choice Day (<i>No classes for Year 10</i>)
Thu 29 th September	Year 12 Option Choice Day (<i>No classes for Year 12</i>)
Sat 1 st October to Sun 2 nd October	Maori and Pasifika Senior Students' Marae Study Noho
Wed 5 th October	Whanau Tutor Group Prize Giving Venue: Cafeteria Time: 6:30-8:30pm
Fri 7 th October	End of Term 3 - <i>early finish at 12:30pm</i>
Sun 9th October	All Blacks win Quarter-Final
Sun 16 th October	All Blacks win Semi-Final
Sun 23 rd October	All Blacks win Final!
Tue 25 th October	Term 4 begins
Thu 27 th October	Sports Prize Giving Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre Time: 7:00pm
Tue 1 st November	Performing Arts Prize Giving Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre Time: 7:00pm
Thu 3 rd November	Senior Prize Giving Venue: Kaipatiki Theatre Time: 7:30pm
Thu 10 th November	NCEA Exams begin
Fri 25 th November	Junior Exams begin
Wed 30 th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCEA Exams finish Junior Exams finish
Fri 9 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Prize Giving Last Day of Term 4

Database Update

Please inform the school if the contact details that we currently hold for you have changed in any way. We have accurate email addresses for about 60% of you only. Your child can hand in a note from you to the Student Centre, or you can send an email to reply@gc.ac.nz alternatively, please call the school office on 444-9066.

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ABSENCES

Please contact the Student Centre on 444-9066 ext 813 or email the attendance administrator on absences@gc.ac.nz to report your child's absence.

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