

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers
Tena Koutou Katoa

NZ Robotics Champions

Congratulations to our Robotics Team for taking out the top award at the National Vex Robotics Championships held recently at the Telstra Clear Events Centre in Auckland. This award recognises not only their ability to build and operate robots to carry out specific tasks but also their team work, support of other teams and other schools.



Throughout the year the team visited local primary schools and kindergartens to show their robots to students and to inspire them into careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The team provided support in the setting up of national and international robotics competitions. They mentored new students into the programme. They entered international online competitions and they also swapped ideas with fellow students in participating New Zealand and international schools. They also participated in the Big Boys Toys event in November and at the Asia-Pacific Championship in December.

Three of our teams travelled in February to Palmerston North to compete in the Lower North Island Championships. Our teams were tournament champions and runners-up in this competition.

Glenfield College had six teams in the national competition with two teams making it to the quarter finals and one robot driven by Jason Collingwood in Year 11, making it to the finals, having had to knock out the other Glenfield robot, driven by Levi Chapman Year 10, to do so.

Jason's team also made it into the top five in New Zealand for programming skills and top 10 for driving skills. This team was also awarded the Amaze Award for all round excellence and originality in robot design.

The 2012-2013 VEX challenge is to design a robot, made from VEX parts, to score as many sacks into troughs as is possible in a time of two minutes. Part of the two minutes requires the robots to have been programmed by the student to run autonomously. The remaining period is under driver control using an Xbox type joystick. The competitions are frantic, as robots attempt to score sacks or to descore sacks. To meet the challenge each team has to learn to use microcontrollers, sensors, gears, pulleys and pneumatics to enhance their robot as it seeks to be the best in the world.

A consequence of the excellence award is a qualification to participate in the VEX World Championships in April at the Anaheim Events Centre in California. Here 500 other winners will battle it out to be the world's best. It is off to the USA for our team and their inspired teacher in charge, Mr Dave Aston.

Winter Sports Registration

We held a registration evening last Tuesday but we still expect many more to sign up to play a winter sport. Please encourage your child to do so. Participating in sport is a healthy choice which we encourage fully. Students who are involved in sports are more likely to succeed academically at school and avoid other trouble. Please don't let cost stop you from allowing your child to play sport. Talk to our accounts people about paying over the year through an Automatic Payment system or contact Mr Brook by email m.brook@gc.ac.nz or by phone on 444-9066 to discuss other support.

Report Evening – Tuesday 9 April

While interim reports have gone home today, they simply give an indication of whether your child has settled to work or not this year. A report on their achievement or results so far will be available face to face with teachers next month.

Website

We have upgraded our website and intend to keep it up to date and informative at all times from now on. Under the leadership of Mr Guy Wishart, a team of students have the task of updating this daily so I encourage you all to use this as a source of information about activities and events at our school by checking in regularly. Hopefully, it will become our main form of communication with you very quickly. Don't forget that the Parent Portal also enables you to track attendance, achievement and pastoral matters in real time. To register for Parent Portal, please email to reply@gc.ac.nz and type in the subject 'PARENT PORTAL – YOUR CHILD'S NAME'.

E-Mail Addresses

If you do not receive this newsletter by email or on an address that you want to receive school messages on, please email reply@gc.ac.nz from your preferred email address stating your name and your child's name so that we can add you to our address book. We want to eliminate postage all together as soon as possible.

2013 School Trustee Elections

The election will take place on 30th May and the electoral roll is now available at the school's Front Office to parents who may wish to view.

Communication to Students at School

A reminder to parents that students must have their mobile phones turned off during the school day. We would appreciate parents contacting students through the Student Centre. This avoids disruption in classes and learning. In addition, if students are sick for any reason and need to be sent home from the Sickbay, the school nurse will contact parents directly.

Absences

Please phone the Attendance Office on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 813 or email the attendance administrator on absences@gc.ac.nz to report your child's absence. This email address is now available on the school website for your convenience.

Parent Help - Environment

We are wanting to involve students and hopefully any interested parents in improving our school environment starting with our front gardens. If you are interested in volunteering for such work, please contact Mr Guy Wishart on g.wishart@gc.ac.nz or phone 444-9066.

Important Dates

Friday, MAR 15	Interim Reports sent home
Friday, MAR 29	Good Friday
Monday, APR 1	Easter Monday
Tuesday, APR 2	Day after Easter Tuesday
Tuesday, APR 9	Report Night
Friday, APR 19	Last day of Term 1
Thursday, APR 25	ANZAC Day
Monday, MAY 6	First day of Term 2
Friday, JUL 12	Last day of Term 2
Monday, JUL 29	First day of Term 3
Friday, SEP 27	Last day of Term 3
Monday, OCT 14	First day of Term 4
Wednesday, DEC 11	Last day of Term 4

NB: The July holidays are later this year with Term 2 finishing on 12th July and Term 3 commencing on 29th July. There will be a mid-term break including Friday 31st May and Queen's Birthday on 3rd June.

Wish For A Smile Trust Helping young Kiwis get the smile they wish for

If a dentist or dental therapist has assessed your orthodontic need and found significant problems requiring treatment, you can submit your application for assistance through the trust. All forms and detailed information can be found at www.orthodontists.org.nz or email the Wish For A Smile Administrator on admin@orthodontists.org.nz