

## ***Message from the Principal***

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers  
*Tena Koutou Katoa*

### **Student achievement**

As I write this, a number of you will have read the NZ Herald and seen their 2013 table of NCEA results for schools throughout Auckland and other regions of the North Island. We compared well and take some satisfaction from the knowledge that we can say without any doubt that students can do as well or better in our school as they would in any other school. Our teachers work very hard to get the best out of each and every student because that is our job. We work hard at getting to know our students really well, their strengths and weaknesses and the way they learn, and then set about filling the gaps in their learning and setting them off on the pathway to success.

The Herald showed NCEA 2012 pass rates (compared to 2011):

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	UE
77% (+17%)	73% (-5%)	79% (+16%)	63% (+10%)

We also received an analysis of all our 2012 school leavers recently from the Ministry of Education. 75% of our leavers had achieved Level 2 NCEA or better and 40% had UE, results which place us right up with our decile or similar schools. We are delivering on our core business but we offer so much more. Students here learn in a multi-cultural environment where respect for others is a key value. Our graduates are exceptionally well prepared to contribute to the diverse world around them, far more so than those who attend schools which are more mono-cultural and mono-socioeconomic.

### **Sustainability**

We are taking a big step forward this week into being a more sustainable school. We have purchased 30 additional wheelie bins to enable us to separate out our recyclables from other waste. We are working hard as a school to ensure that all waste goes into bins and that recyclables are able to be recycled. The underlying message about conserving valuable resources and looking after our planet underpins this initiative. If we do not do this, we won't have a habitable planet to pass on to our descendants. Our next step is to separate out the food waste as well for reuse. Students and parents have already been involved in cleaning up our front gardens and establishing a composting unit. We will soon establish a plant nursery and further plant out the more barren parts of our school to create an improved environment for us all and further valuable learning for our students. If you are also living more sustainably at home, together the message may get through.

### **College Marae**

We are moving into the final stages of this project which commenced 15 years ago. In the late 1990s, the then Board and Whanau parents raised funds and drew up plans to build a Marae at the school, a Wharenui and Whare kai. As costs escalated, only a Whare kai was ever built. We have had the use of this ever since. Now, with the help of the Lion Foundation, we have shifted and modified a prefabricated classroom and turned it into our Wharenui. The work on these alterations will be finished before the end of this term at which time we will have an opening ceremony. This facility is for all of our Glenfield College community and you will all be welcome to the opening.

### **Absence**

There is far too much parental condoned absence in our school. Up to half our students miss three weeks of classes a year, with many missing much more. There is no way that a student can succeed academically while missing so much school. It is no surprise that our best attenders are also our best academics. The problem is not ours alone but absence is the major barrier to success. A student should be at school unless he/she is so sick or injured that they are confined to bed.

### **Staff changes - Sports**



We welcome to the staff our new Head of Health and Physical Education, Gail Colliar from Onehunga High School. Gail replaces Kogi Govender who left at the end of Term 1 to join her husband in Western Australia.

After about eight years as Sports Coordinator in our school, Matt Brook is off to run his own business. We wish him all the best and we are in the process of a new appointment.



## Junior exams

We are introducing mid-year Junior Exams this year to better prepare our students from Year 9 for this form of assessment and to more accurately assess students in their half year options. These exams take place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June with school finishing early on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 12:30pm



## Robotics

Our team did very well in the World Robotics Championships in California. 702 teams out of 7300 were selected for the competition and 28 countries were represented. New Zealand had 11 teams and made up 50% of the teams in the finals where New Zealand took away the top prize. Our team made it to the quarter finals of the technology division with 7 wins and 3 losses. There were 84 teams in the division. As a school

we were also awarded the Community Award and the International Educate Award.

Mr Aston and three students are currently in China fully funded by Education New Zealand, selling the creativity and innovation of our school system to the Chinese.

## 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.

## International week (17-21 June)

Our annual celebration of diversity! If you can help us with our food fair on the Tuesday by organising a stall or tutoring a group for the concert on Wednesday, please contact Ms Rax on 444-9066 or email [s.rax@gc.ac.nz](mailto:s.rax@gc.ac.nz).

## Absences

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

## 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](mailto: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.

## Important Dates

Wednesday 29 May	Year 11 Play
Thursday 30 May	Year 11 Play
<b>Friday 31 May</b>	<b>Mid-term Break (no school-holiday)</b>
<b>Monday 3 June</b>	<b>Queen's Birthday (public holiday)</b>
Monday 17 June	International Week begins
Saturday 22 June	School Ball
Wednesday 26 June	Junior Exams begins (three days)
Friday 28 June	School finishes @ 12:30pm
Friday 12 July	End of Term 2
Monday 29 July	Term 3 begins

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

**ASB Sponsorship Referral Scheme** This simple scheme offers a \$250 donation to our school for every draw down on a new Home Loan. The conditions are that the voucher must be presented to the ASB staff member when making the loan application. The loan amount must be \$150,000 or more and payment is only made after the loan is fully drawn down. This is limited to one voucher per client. Visit the school website 'Noticeboard' to download the voucher.

## Entertainment Book

A flyer is enclosed. Rotary Northcote Glenfield has arranged \$13 per book to come back to the school out of a \$65 price tag. The book offers large discounts on a wide range of goods and services.