

*The Principal's address at our Senior Academic Prize Giving Ceremony*

**Message from Mr Ted Benton, Principal**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Tena Koutou Katoa

We started 2013 with the heartening news that our 2012 NCEA results included our best Level 1 pass rate by over 7%, our highest Level 1 Literacy rate also, a numeracy rate at Level 1 of 95.5% and a Level 3 pass rate well above Decile 7. In short, a very pleasing and affirming set of results. Proof once again that students in this school can achieve as well if not better here than they would anywhere. We have other successes that we are equally as proud of, and these are the extremely high success rate that we have in getting our school leavers into meaningful futures, be it work, appropriate pre-work courses, Tertiary Training providers and of course Universities. We do not want to see any student leave school with nothing meaningful to do. Our modest size means that we know each student well and no one can slip away without some serious work on "Where to next?" We are a big provider of the Gateway programme in which students spend one day a week for twenty weeks trying out a job. These students get to experience exactly what the job is like and achieve some NCEA credits in the process. Often where things work well, there is a job offer and the student moves to permanent work. A "win-win" situation really, the student is ready to move on and they have a good job to go to that they know they like. Our job is to meet the needs of each and every one of our students as best we can and we take that challenge very seriously.

Professor John Hattie, a world renowned educationalist formerly of Auckland University and now in Melbourne, once wrote that the measure of a good school should be its retention rates, not pass rates. Pass rates may reflect more the quality of the students who entered the school in the first place rather than any value added by the school itself, but retention rates tell us whether the students like school and wish to remain at school longer. Our retention rates continue to be well above the average for our decile. That we have some students in their fifth year or Year 13, completing Level 2 of NCEA or even in a few cases Level 1, is a really positive thing because rather than leave early with no qualification and facing a real struggle to get a job, they have happily remained and completed a qualification, making themselves much more employable beyond school. That's our job. We don't rush these students out the door in order to purify our pass rates. We do the right thing even though it might count against us sometimes in the league tables.

We have had some outstanding young sportspeople with us this year whom I wish to mention and congratulate. Our Head Boy, Alani Nicklin, was chosen for the NZ U19 Volleyball Team and travelled to the USA to compete. Katelin Noyer was chosen for the NZ U17 Girl's Basketball Team, and Keita Karena and Florida Fatanitavake for the NZ U17 Girls Tag Team. We are small but the good thing about our region of Auckland is that talent will still be recognised no matter what school you attend.

Our Robotics Team started the year off in grand style by winning the NZ championships and earning themselves a trip to the USA for the world championships where they performed extremely well and were rewarded for their team work. A few of the team were then chosen along with Mr Aston to travel to China to promote our country as a centre of innovation in education. Our Bollywood group has continued to perform all over the city and keep brand Glenfield to the fore. Our thespians have shone on the stage and our musicians showcased their talents at the annual music prize giving. Kapahaka has continued week by week. There are an abundance of opportunities for any student who wishes to be involved in the performing arts and culture to do so and to shine in our school. I encourage more to do so. It is never easier than when you are at school.

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent awards evenings and shared meals for our Maori and Pasifika students and the Restaurant evening provided by our Catering and Hospitality students. They were all enjoyable evenings shared with parents and staff where differing talents were recognised.

*The Principal's address continues...*

On a completely different note, I want to let you know tonight about one aspect of the approval process for the new Charter or Partnership School that opens in Albany next year. This is to be called the Vanguard Military Academy which will provide military type training and discipline along with normal classes to secondary school students. I was not surprised but definitely interested in the fact that there was absolutely no consultation with us over this at all. After all, for seven years we have had a Services Academy in our school, separately funded by the Ministry of Education to provide military type training and discipline along with normal classes to secondary school students and we have attracted students from other North Shore schools to this programme. Not one approach to ask us what impact this might have on our programme, simply an announcement that it was happening. I leave you to ponder the politics of the current educational environment.

Every year we have over 25% of our students and a few staff leave us. To those students leaving us, go forth and do the great things of which we know you are capable. We are also losing Head of English, Mrs Blomkamp to Whangaparaoa College, a short walk from home. Mr Cutis-Lewis heads back to the UK, Miss Taylor heads off on her OE and after 30+ years in our school, Mr Macaulay will leave at the end of Term 1, 2014 after covering for my sabbatical leave in Term 1 next year. My thanks to all those staff for tremendous service to our school. They will be missed. We also farewelled Mrs McLeod, our Specialist Classroom Teacher during the year, as she headed home to the deep south, and welcomed Mr Karl Lee from Rangitoto College as her replacement.

I want to thank the Board for their governance and support this year. My thanks to the Senior Leadership Team and staff for all that they have done all year to guide and support our students in their learning. We have a challenging but incredibly rewarding job. Thanks to all parents, caregivers and whanau for supporting our work with your children. Thanks to all our students for making our jobs so rewarding.

*The Board Chair's address at our Senior Academic Prize Giving Ceremony*

### ***Message from Mr Michael Dunning, Board Chair***

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers  
Tena Koutou Katoa

In 2013 we have continued to have a settled and consistent environment from a Board perspective.

On the property front, the big achievement in 2013 has been the completion of the college's Marae with the opening of the Whare Wananga "Puawananga", in early September. This finally delivered the Marae plan whose genesis dates way back to 1987, had the first stage completed in 1998 when the Whare Kai "Kimiroa" was built, but which until this year was only half completed, due to the usual funding issues. For this final stage of the project which from *go to wo* has taken 26 years to complete we owe our thanks to the Lion Foundation who provided the bulk of the funds, and to Mr Benton, staff and Whanau parents who provided the energy, both mental and physical to get the job done. Great things take time as the ad says.

Together the two buildings on the Marae provide a flexible learning space for all curriculum areas across our school to use and a special place to welcome and host visitors. We have already seen a group of about 50 students and parents from Kaeo Primary School in the north spend two nights here while they visited Auckland and we very much view the Marae as a community asset, in particular for school groups both local and from further afield.

In addition to the Marae work, a project to expand the Library into the room at its rear and provide a more flexible learning space has been completed. This will provide an improved environment for Year 13 students to use during study periods and also more room for digital access as well as flexible reading areas.

In another piece of work, a set of mothballed changing rooms in the gymnasium are being re-commissioned and made new so that we have more sets of changing rooms for PE, the Services Academy and visiting sports teams on Saturdays. This work is almost finished.

The upper levels of the gymnasium, both the mezzanine and the "Funky Chicken" room have been fully upgraded. PE staff hope to provide an aerobic fitness area on the mezzanine with equipment such as exercycles and rowing machines to complement the weights area downstairs.

Overall, we believe our facilities continue to be excellent and provide great learning opportunities for students.

*The Board Chair's address continues...*

On the finance front we continue to manage the college's funds effectively, but given the levels of Government secondary school funding the budget has to be carefully managed to support the highest level of learning and social outcomes we aim to achieve, and I believe do achieve.

Our overseas students programme continues to thrive and build. It provides a quality experience for the students who come on both annual and short terms programmes from countries as diverse as Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia attending this year, but the programme also adds considerably to the breadth and diversity of college life in return. It also provides an important source of additional funding that is critical to the services we provide.

Glenfield College is, I believe, a school of special character. We are a modest sized college, certainly by North Shore standards, and while we would always like to have a few more students (it continues to pain me the number of local students who choose to go elsewhere for their secondary education, the vast majority for no good reason), the more modest size brings with it a number of advantages and is itself a factor that contributes to that special character.

There are far greater opportunities at Glenfield College to interact with the teaching staff, to be known as an individual and not just as another student, to stand out, and to be in positions of leadership and responsibility be that academic, sporting, cultural or social.

Last month in the Herald there was an article quoting London School of Economics research that revealed that students are more likely to get kudos and gain self-confidence when there are greater opportunities to stand out – something that Glenfield College is focussed on achieving and for which our medium size is an attribute.

I first came on to the Board at Glenfield College eight years ago, only slightly pre-dating Mr Benton, but have had an involvement with the college that goes back over ten years from when our eldest son started here. Lots of change in that time, as is always the case over a decade, but lots of stability as well with a real consistency of purpose which I think is critical as a base to allow good quality education and the development and support of students to occur.

This is a year of change for Diane and I though as it's the last year we will have a child at Glenfield College, in fact that change started a bit early for us as Aiden left for America in August on a student programme.

Change by its nature can be exciting, fearful, and stressful – often in equal and interchangeable doses. We certainly felt that way with the “baby” of the family leaving us for a year to a land far, far away.

No doubt for our Year 13s and other senior students involved in the change of leaving Glenfield College this year there will be a similar range of emotions, but with the confidence of youth I'm sure the emotions will be concentrated more at the excitement end of the range.

What change also brings is opportunity. I know that's how Aiden viewed going to America – and taking advantage of opportunity is the approach that I would encourage all our 2013 leavers to take.

To Mr Benton, thank you for the quality of your leadership. And to the teaching and other staff – thank you for the qualities and attitudes you bring which are of course so critical in enhancing the learning environment at Glenfield College, so as to provide the quality outcomes for the students at all levels.

And to the Year 13s in particular, but also any other students, family and staff who are leaving Glenfield College this year – a heartfelt thank you for your contribution to the life of the school.

At the end of the day it is always people who give a place its special character and hopefully a number of you will look to find ways to continue to contribute to that special character of Glenfield College in future years.

# Information to parents or caregivers

## Junior Calendar for the remainder of 2013

Week 5, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	This is a normal school week for Years 9 and 10 although Year 9 travel to Mahurangi West for Social Studies on Tuesday and Wednesday.
Week 6, Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup>	This is a normal school week for Years 9 and 10.
Week 7, Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Exams take place from Monday to Thursday. Students are required by 8:45am in the morning for exams which finish at 2:00pm. On Monday and Tuesday they all have exams. On Wednesday the exams are Year 10 Option Subjects which involves all Year 10 and Year 9 Languages only. On Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> only those who were absent from exams on the previous three days will be required. Year 10 will sit their English exam on Friday Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> as part of their normal school day. Friday Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> is a normal school day.
Week 8, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday to Thursday are normal school days for all students. On Friday Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> , the Junior Activities Programme commences. All students are required at school by 8:45am. Year 9 students will be at school and will finish by 2:00pm. Year 10 students will be off site and their return time will be advised by a separate letter.
Week 9, Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup>	On Monday, Junior Activities continue with Year 9 students finishing at 2:00pm and Year 10 students as advised by separate letter. On Tuesday, all students are required at school from 8:45am until 2:00pm. On Wednesday, all students are required at school from 8:45am until Junior Prize Giving finishes and reports are issued at about 11:15am. The school year is then ended.

## Enrolments for 2014

Enrolments continue Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Phone Daisy Shim on 444-9066 or email [d.shim@gc.ac.nz](mailto:d.shim@gc.ac.nz) for an appointment to enrol your child. We look forward to you joining us at Glenfield College.

## Rotary second-hand book sale

Northcote Primary School  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
9:00am to 4:00pm  
All books \$2.00

## Parent Portal

Please register by email to [reply@gc.ac.nz](mailto:reply@gc.ac.nz) from your preferred email address stating your child's name.



**MRS WASH LAUNDROMAT** has reopened after a fire which saw the business closed for 3 months. Completely renovated with new machines Robert, Donna and Ana look forward to being of service to you again. Serving the wider Glenfield and North Shore community we offer the best prices on the shore. Come visit us at our newly decorated premises 444 Glenfield Road (behind Civic Video) and next to Red Cross, White Cross and McDonalds. Phone 4433226, [mrswash@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mrswash@xtra.co.nz) [www.mrswash.co.nz](http://www.mrswash.co.nz)

## Absences

Please phone the school to report your child's absence for the day and provide a note explaining the reason on your child's return to school. The school requires a medical certificate for any absence of over three days. If your child misses school time due to illness, please request for a medical certificate from your GP as this will normally allow your child to sit any missed NZQA assessment when they return to school.

## 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.



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## Second-Hand Book Sale

Northcote Primary School  
Cnr Onewa and Lake Roads  
Northcote

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013  
9.00am to 4.00pm

All Books \$2.00

Proceeds will be directed to an International "End Polio  
Now Campaign" through Rotary International

This is your chance to help eliminate Polio in the World -  
cases have been reduced by 99% - help us to eradicate it  
completely from the last few remaining countries

Organised by Rotary Northcote Glenfield Charitable Trust

