



CAMPION COLLEGE

GISBORNE



12 February 2010
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NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Nau mai, haere mai, greetings

PTFA

Does this sound like you?

Being part of a small, enthusiastic and active group of people who contribute their time and energy in helping to provide a link between parents, staff and students. We are always looking for new people to help to contribute in any way. It does not need to be a large commitment. We meet about 2-3 times a term and co-ordinate fundraising activities as well as catering for college activities. We would love to see some new faces at our next meeting.

PTFA MEETING
Monday 15 February
in the Staffroom at 7.30 p.m.
See you there!

Ash Wednesday – 17 February

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent. Lent is a significant period in the Church calendar. It starts with Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter time. Just as Christmas is based on the northern hemisphere season of Winter, and we picture snowfalls and cold, so to Lent is related to the northern seasons. The word Lent comes from the words long and lengthen. It signals the time of the year when the days

lengthen rapidly. During Lent the light of the world gains strength. Lent begins in the dark of winter and ends in the light of Easter.

In the northern hemisphere this was the time of the year for ploughing and planting, when in the language of the parables, the sower goes out to sow the seed, the grain of wheat is buried in the earth, the farmer spreads fertiliser in the hope of a fruitful yield. It is the time when farm animals are born and birds nest and lay eggs. It is the time when creation is at its most vulnerable. During Lent many people abstain from eating meat on Fridays. This shows empathy with the concept of this new fledgling generation. We will not add to the struggle of the young by butchering them, instead we grow hungry together for the coming fresh harvest.

While the imagery associated with Lent does not relate directly to us in New Zealand, the ideas can still be brought into our own lives. Lent is a time when we consider our own spiritual vulnerability. It is the time when we pause from the normal routines. It is a time when we search within ourselves for the significance of God in our lives. It is a time of renewal.

The whole school will be attending Mass at 10.30 a.m. at St Mary's Church. Parents and families are welcome to attend.

Year 7 Retreats

Due to unavoidable staffing issues 7FZ will go on Retreat on Wednesday 17 February and 7DL on Thursday 18 February. For 7MV there is no change. A letter is being sent home with your Year 7 student with further details.

New Gymnasium

At the end of 2009 the Hamilton Diocese confirmed approval to build a new gymnasium at Campion College. The tender process is currently underway with an expected completion date to be by the end of September 2010. The new gymnasium will be built on the existing tennis courts and new all-weather tennis courts will be placed alongside. This development will absorb most of the property funding available to the College for the next two years.

This is an exciting development, however while the Diocese will cover the capital investment it falls back to the College to equip the gym to a standard that meets the needs of today's youth.

The Ministry of Education has stipulated that with the construction of the new gym we will be required to remove the existing hall.

“Set Free” – Catholic Youth Conference 5, 6, 7 March

The weekend conference is aimed at senior school students from years ten to thirteen. This age range allows for the proper

youth culture to develop within the conference.

The conference will be held at Keswick Camp on the lake in Rotorua which is near the airport.

The conference fee is only \$50.00 for the first fifty Champion students who register AND pay and that covers everything (accommodation, food, concert fees and transport). Champion College is providing a bus to transport our students to and from the event.

You need to get your registration form and money into the office no later than 26 February.

You will want to bring a sleeping bag and toiletries, and any medication/snacks you may need.

Ask Ms Robinson for any other information if unsure.

There will be a meeting for all those enrolled to finalise details.



Triennial Elections for BOT

The board of trustees elections will be held in May this year. A detailed timeline will be produced in the coming weeks and forwarded for your information via the newsletters.

All of New Zealand's state and state-integrated schools have a board of trustees. The board of trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance and the control of the management of the school. The board is the employer of all staff in the school, is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students, and ensuring that its school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students.

Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration.

I encourage all parents to give consideration to standing for the Board.

Reunion

The Champion College Reunion date has been confirmed as the 5, 6 and 7 November 2010. The Reunion was initially planned for Labour Weekend, however due to the lack of accommodation in Gisborne over that weekend and because of many other events attracting visitors into the region we decided to change the date. The Champion Reunion incorporates students from Edmund Champion College and St Mary's Girls' College. Please keep this date free and promote it to those you know and encourage them to attend.

Congratulations to

- Anya Goodall who was presented with the Grand Prior badge by the Governor General at the end of last year. This is the highest award within the St John Youth Cadet organisation.
- Chantelle Venter and Sophie Pearce who got 3rd place in the Under 19 Girls Division of the Beach Volleyball Nationals in Tauranga at the end of January.
- Mari-lize Venter and Rebecca Story who got 5th place in the Under 15 Girls Division at the same event.
- The four Champion students who have been named in the Tairāwhiti Rising Legends Programme for 2010. They are Jayda Martin Fitzharris, Laura Quilter, Chris Dawson and Monique Smith.

Sports Report

After a notable absence the sports report is back featuring information and achievements of our students.

The College 1st XI cricket side are currently sitting in 5th place on the table just outside the finals zone. With GBHS Headmasters XI this weekend they have the opportunity to force their way into the semi finals. Champion were well represented over the holidays with Mitchell Turner, Rowan Smith, Daniel Torrie and Jarrod Fitzgerald all turning out for Poverty Bay at various levels. The Senior C side finished 2nd equal in the pre-Christmas round.

The Senior C and Intermediate 20/20 team now have their own coach with Ronald James, one of our new teachers and a keen cricketer agreeing to take on this role.

Coaches and managers for various winter sports teams are currently being sought. If you are interested in supporting our school sports teams this year please contact Scott Leighton at the College. **Scott Leighton, Sports Co-ordinator**

Bereavement

Please remember Sue McVey and her family in your prayers over the coming weeks. Sue's father, Duncan McVey, passed away on Tuesday 8 February. The funeral service was held today.

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord
And let perpetual light shine
upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Paul McGuinness
PRINCIPAL