



NEWSLETTER #14

29th September 2011

Principal's Perspective

Congratulations to all the students who performed so admirably in the Maniototo Schools Speech Contest. I was fortunate enough to see most of the Year 3 and 4 poem readings and was suitably impressed with the standard. Out of the 6 categories Maniototo Area School picked up 4 titles, 4 second placings and 2 third placings. An outstanding result. Many thanks to all the people responsible for the smooth running of this event.

Rugby World Cup fever continues to grip the school as is shown by the photo of the "black out day" last Friday. Unfortunately the elaborately designed "Go All Blacks" tarpaulin sign failed to cope with the Norwester and had to be disposed of. Let's hope this is not an omen for the rest of the tournament. Inside the class room children have been busily studying the various countries playing in the tournament. It has been an excellent way of studying Geography.

The school was audited last week by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. This is the government department responsible for the delivery of assessment in Secondary Schools (in particular NCEA). I am pleased to say that the auditor was thoroughly impressed with the systems we have in place at Maniototo and is confident we are entirely meeting our commitments to NCEA assessment procedure. Our students are well informed and are given every chance to obtain credits in NCEA.

The first NCEA exam is scheduled for November 10th (just over a month away!). I would expect all NCEA candidates to be entering final preparations for these important examinations. Make sure there is a quiet area at home where students can concentrate on their study.

Turn the cell phone off and bury your heads into revision. As always teachers at school are more than willing to offer advice on study techniques. Just ask!

2012 senior subject sheets are about to be handed out to next years Year 11, 12 and 13 students. Our school is able to offer an extremely wide range of subject options. It is crucial that as a parent you are part of the discussion when talking about potential courses. If you have any queries in regard to school courses or career pathways please contact Mr Alec Campbell at school. A wrong decision now can have significant consequences on opportunities further down the track.

Finally a big thank you to our entire school community for the spirit and fortitude it displayed during such an incredibly traumatic week.

I think the following quotation sums up it up nicely...

"Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present, it is yours. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Regards

David Hunter

Principal

School Magazine Sports Photos

If sports coaches/parents have any team photos that we could use for the school magazine, please e-mail photo and names to Nikki Paterson at school. patersonn@maniototo.school.nz

MANIOTOTO AREA SCHOOL



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our winners at the Maniototo Competition on Tuesday, we are so proud of what you have achieved and how well you represented our school.

This Week we have two teams away to Cromwell to compete in the Social Studies quiz, good luck!

We also have Belinda from St John's Ambulance leading the children through some First Aid skills. We are looking forward to her visit.

We are all excited about WOW assembly next week, see you all there at 5:30pm on Thursday 6th October in the school gym to celebrate the children's learning this term.

Written reports will come home with the children on Friday next week, you will read detailed information about your child's attainment against National Standards and the Curriculum levels. Please ensure you see your child's teacher early next term if you would like any of the information clarified. We welcome any feedback on how we can make the written report as informative and reader friendly as possible.

This is my last Junior School Buzz as Junior School Leader, we all look forward to welcoming Barbara Hore back to school next term after her study leave.

Sarah Paterson

MANIOTOTO SPEECH CONTEST

Well done to all our students who presented poems or speeches to their classes last week, and those that were judged as winners to represent our school at the Maniototo-wide Speech contest held at the Town Hall on Tuesday.

Congratulations to all students for taking part, especially those students that gained a placing in the final contest. **What an outstanding result!**

Year 3 Poems:

Ben Voice 'So Mad' (2nd)
Amelia Steele 'Witch' (3rd)

Year 4 Poems:

Lucy Neilson 'Homework, oh Homework' (1st)
Madison Pont 'My Menagerie' (2nd)

Year 5 Speeches:

Olivia Hall We need a cellphone tower (1st)
Stephanie Smith Recycling (2nd)

Year 6 Speeches:

Rina Watt Against nuclear power (1st)
Taylor Duffy Save the orangutans (3rd)

Year 7 Speeches:

Candy Ferdinands Raising the drinking age to 21 (2nd)
Lakita Taylor Anti-smoking

Year 8 Speeches:

Peter Sangster Disciplining children (1st)
Liam Forrester Homework

Some of the finalists will go to the hospital this week to entertain the patients there.

JUNIOR SCHOOL BUZZ

What a great end of the term we are having! Athletics practices have started on Friday afternoons and the speeches are all wrapped up with class competitions last week.

All the teachers are proud of the children for giving their best. It is a great, but not always easy skill to be able to speak to an audience. Congratulations to all our competitors and especially

PTA UPDATE
At the meeting on Tuesday 27th, David Hunter made a presentation about NCEA which was very informative and relevant to all parents. Unfortunately only eight people attended. Thank you Dave for your time.

At the short meeting held afterwards it was agreed to support the swimming lessons with a \$1000 donation. Also the constitution was changed to allow all teachers present at meetings a counted vote.

For our final fundraiser of the year we are running a Christmas Hamper Raffle.

All students are requested to donate a grocery item which can be left in the box at the school office by the 28th October...that gives you a week before the holidays and a week after the holidays!!

The prize winners from the chocolate fundraiser will be announced at the WOW Assembly on Thursday 6th October.

Dí Brensell (PTA President)

MANIOTOTO SPORTS DAY

To ensure the smooth running of the annual Maniototo Sports Day, the success of the day is reliant on the help of parents and members of the community to offer their support.

Each age group requires chaperones and each event requires volunteers to run it.

If you are free on Friday 4th November to assist in some way it would be much appreciated.

Please advise the school office before 7th October.

Hockey

Congratulations to George Hall, George Johnston & Jack Cormack (St Johns) who have made it into Central Otago Hatch & Development Rep teams.