



# QUEEN CHARLOTTE COLLEGE

Newsletter to Parents, Caregivers & Friends of the School • 23 September 2010



## Attendance

The last week of term signals exam week for some and the opportunity for others to catch up on how effective they have been at adding value to their education throughout the year.

It is also a good time for seniors to focus on the work required in the weeks ahead to best prepare for their externals.

I have just completed Principal interviews with all of the Year 12 and Year 13 students. The most striking impression is that of how robust and well positioned our seniors are, that is the seniors that attend regularly and try!

Unfortunately during these interviews there are some, that for the first time realise that this year may have raced on past them without any academic reward. When I refer them to their attendance record it becomes apparent why. The evidence is very compelling: attendance and achievement are related.

It is a constant source of frustration to teachers, who spend considerable time and effort in preparing lessons, and delivering them, to deal with requests to re-teach students who have missed classes. The reason for the missed class/classes is often for rather spurious reasons.

The Ministry of Education is quite clear on what constitutes a valid reason for non attendance: sickness, bereavement, and medical and dental appointments. Non attendance leads directly to a student having to catch up or run the risk of falling further behind. This in turn leads to an increase in the student's work load and lower morale and frustration. It also impacts with the student teacher relationship when teachers, understandably, are reluctant to go over lessons already taught.

There is an obvious and ready solution to the above and you as parents can assist.

Before you sanction non attendance be aware that attendance and achievement are related!!

On returning next term we look forward to our report back from ERO, success from Dani Gibbs who is competing in the Manu Korero Speech Competition, and shared experiences from the students who are going to Japan. ❖

## Coming Events...

**September 24th**  
**October 11th**  
**November 12th**  
**November 15th**

**Last day Term 3**  
**First day Term 4**  
**Last day for senior students**  
**Senior exams begin**

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**Festival Week** Fun and games galore last week saw the students and staff participate in a variety of different activities. The week started as always with pyjama day. Various other themes throughout the week included wacky hair day, Cartoon character day and Vice Versa saw many of our students and staff dressing up. A variety of fun activities took place on Thursday, when even the weather couldn't disrupt the fun.



## Notices

**Learn to Sail** There are places available for students who would like to learn to sail at the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club in Picton. The first learn to sail sessions of the 2010/2011 season will be during the school holidays at the end of Term Three. For information about the club and the three-day learn to sail course please check the website [www.qcyc.org.nz](http://www.qcyc.org.nz).

**Support Your School** If you are a TelstraClear customer please nominate Queen Charlotte College as your school of choice in their new programme Intelligent Rewards. Your nominated school will receive reward points that can then be used to buy products for the college such as projectors and sports equipment. To find out more about the programme please collect a form from the office or visit [www.intelligentrewards.co.nz](http://www.intelligentrewards.co.nz).

### Scout Fundraising Dinner

Picton Scouts are holding a fundraising dinner at DA's Bar and Restaurant on Saturday 9th October 2010. \$50 per person includes a three course dinner and Karaoke. Raffles and spot prizes will be available on the night. Funds will go towards the 2011 Jamboree. Phone Keri Rowe on 5735679 for tickets.

**Picton Youth Group** Youth Group is having a movie night this Friday. We are going to see Grown Ups at 6.25pm at Top Town.

Meet at Picton School at 5.45pm with \$10

to cover the bus and movie. Bring your own money for food at the cinema.

Limited seats are available so be there early.

### Catch up with Harold the Giraffe

The National Bank and Life Education Trust have joined forces to help Kiwi kids achieve their full potential by encouraging them to learn more about how to manage their money.

The National Bank will donate \$5 to the Life Education Trust for any savings account opened for customers aged 18 and under between 20 September and 17 October 2010. Money raised will go directly back into the Life Education Trust Marlborough, helping the Trust fund much needed resources to support educational programmes for local children.

Children who open savings accounts during the campaign will also receive a unique Harold the Giraffe moneybox to help them with their savings goals.

Harold the Giraffe will be making special visits to the National Bank Blenheim branch during the school holidays. He'll be there on Wednesday 29 September and Wednesday 5th October between 11am and 2pm and would love lots of children to come and visit him!

For further information contact: Belinda Murray, Telephone 5727115.