



MENZIES COLLEGE

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17 May 2019

From the Principal's Desk

Kia ora

Marcus Akuhata Brown

Next Wednesday 22 May at 2pm we have the pleasure of Marcus Akuhata-Brown speaking to the whole school. Marcus is a former teacher and a gifted communicator recognised the world over. He tells of how low expectation and achievement were removed from his life through positive encouragement, intuitive goal setting and having the courage to break free from his comfort zones. For Marcus, this led to a life of adventure, excitement and purpose and he is happy to share this story with us. Feel welcome to attend this assembly with us on Wednesday and hopefully its content could lead to some invaluable discussion at home. Our Year 7 students will be back from camp in time to listen as well and the topic relates precisely to the purpose of their few days at Omaui.

Joint Industrial Action

By now you will be aware that teachers who are members of their respective unions, both the NZEI (Primary) and PPTA (Secondary) will be taking joint industrial action on Wednesday 29 May. Though our school remains open for instruction, only the non-union staff members will be present. Buses are not intending to operate. This action has not been taken lightly and is not simply about improved pay, which the Government and media have tended to focus on, but also creating better resourcing for those students with learning needs and conditions of employment other than salary. I know we all have challenges in the jobs we do but having been in teaching for over 30 years, I can't recall a time where I was previously reluctant to inform students to consider teaching as a career. This is disappointing as it has been a most enjoyable and rewarding profession to be part of but it has changed and its future shape is very much under threat. The last time the PPTA members had a full strike day was in 2002. While looking for this information I discovered a few occasions where teachers really have put strike action on the line in America. In 1973, Philadelphia teachers went on strike for nearly two months, Cleveland teachers walked off the job in 2002 and didn't come back for 62 days. Last year, teacher strikes in West Virginia and Oklahoma lasted 10 and nine days, respectively. Let's hope it doesn't come to this.

Changes to NCEA

Changes to NCEA were announced earlier this week and I have had a read through material online to consider the merits of this. I have to admit I find them surprising, especially if they consider most being in place by the start of our next school year. In the next month I'm sure more will come out but in the meantime key changes they are considering include:

- Students being assessed in 10 Literacy and 10 Numeracy externally. This could happen from Year 7 onwards.
- Only 60 credits required at each year level. Level One used to be 80 and still is, if you count the 20 credits above, which is a requirement at some stage.
- Only able to resubmit to progress from a "Not Achieved" to an "Achieved" grade and no higher.
- Most likely only four standards per subject with 50% being externally assessed. Only 20 credits available per subject.
- Students may also look to graduate with "Vocational Entrance" as they work towards a trade or other areas of the workplace. For more information Google "NCEA Change Package 2019 Overview".

continued over page



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Upcoming Board of Trustee Elections

Nominations for parent representatives on our Board of Trustees close at mid-day on 24 May. More extensive information was in the previous newsletter and is included with the handout in this edition. If you are interested please contact the acting Board Chair Carlyn Stewart or the school office about details. Nomination forms are available from the office.

Gerry Ward
Principal

PB4L - Achievement Slip Draw

Congratulations to the following students and staff members for winning the achievement slip draws:

Week ending 10 April: Stuart Gourlie, Beth Scott, Aaron Ross, Brock Stuart & Mrs Dale.

Week ending 17 May: George Healey, Josie McLellan, Lisa Yorke, Connor Wilkinson and Ms Youngson.

Your vouchers can be collected from the office. It is good to see so many achievement slips coming in!

Important Dates

May	20	Defence Force - school hall 2pm for all Year 9 & 10 students & senior students who are interested
	20-22	Year 7 camp - Omaui
	22	Marcus Akuhata-Brown - school hall at 2pm
	27-31	Year 7 & 8 conferences
	27	Incubator #1
	30	Board of Trustees meeting
June	3	Queen's Birthday Observance
	14-17	Deep Cove camp - 8BY
	16-18	Tautuku pre camp
	17-20	Deep Cove camp - 8CL
	24	Incubator #2
	24-27	Year 9 Tautuku camp
July	1	Market Day (YES - Young Enterprise Studies & Business Studies)
	3	Incubator #3
	5	Last day of Term 2
	22	First day of Term 3
	31	Campion College Rugby visit

Menzies College

Board of Trustee Elections

Do you believe every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential? Are you passionate about the education of our children? Please consider standing for the Menzies College Board of Trustees in the upcoming elections. Five parent trustees and one staff trustee will be elected. For further information please contact Menzies College or carlynstewart@menzies.school.nz.

Election timeline:

8 May	Nomination forms distributed
24 May	Nominations close
29 May	Voting forms distributed
7 June	Election Day
14 June	Elected trustees take office



Carlyn Stewart
Acting Chairperson

Board of Trustees Election Information

Nominations are invited for the election of five parent representatives to the Menzies College Board of Trustees. A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations have been posted to all eligible voters. You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed. Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office. Nominations close at noon on Friday 24 May 2019 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement. The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours. There will also be a list of candidate names as they come to hand for inspection at the school. Voting closes at noon on Friday 7 June 2019.

Sue Dyer
Returning Officer

Menzies College Netball - Support our School



OUR SCHOOL PROMO CODE: Menzies

Learning Conferences

Week 5:

27-31 May for Year 7 & 8

Wednesday 5 June for Year 9-13

Conferences about student learning will be held for Year 7 and 8 students in Week 5 of Term 2 starting on 27 May. These conferences will be with the Year 7 or 8 Home Room Teacher and run during the school day. Parents or caregivers will come to the classroom to meet the teacher and their child, then they will go to the library for the conference. Each conference lasts 30 minutes. All other students will have Whanau conferences on Wednesday 5 June from 3.40pm.

These Whanau Conferences are 20 minutes long and involve a discussion about the learner as a whole, information will be shared from subject teachers and student reflection, as well as data on Attendance, Managing Self and Relating to Others. There will be an opportunity to discuss student learning as a whole and set goals that the Whanau teacher will help the student monitor as the year progresses. If there is a need to meet with a particular teacher this can be discussed at the Whanau teacher conference. If you are unable to attend either conference, teachers will be in contact with you to arrange another time to meet.

Please follow the instructions below to make bookings.

To book the conference for parents and caregivers of Year 7 and 8 students:

1. Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz (also available through the school app)
2. Click on 'Make a Booking'
3. Use the code **tbp6u** – all lower case
4. You will be asked to enter an email address; this must be the same as the address that the school uses to communicate with you
5. Fill in caregiver and student details
6. Select your child's teacher 7ER - Emily Radka, 7LL - Lesley Lee, 8BY – Barbara Cowley, 8CL – Carl Lambert
7. Select a time to meet (conference times are 30 minutes in length)
8. Bookings close on Thursday 23 May to give the school time to organise relief teachers
9. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the school office and they will book a time for you

To book the conference for parents and caregivers of Year 9 -13 students:

1. Go to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz (also available through the school app)
2. Click on 'Make a Booking'
3. Use the code **kcmwk** – all lower case
4. You will be asked to enter an email address; this must be the same as the address that the school uses to communicate with you
5. Fill in caregiver and student details
6. Select your child's Whanau teacher (students know which Whanau teacher they are meeting with)
7. Select a time to meet (conference times are 20 minutes in length)
8. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the school office and they will book a time for you

English Department

At our English department meeting this week we discussed our philosophy around text choice and how we decide what we teach. Often this is done through discussion and negotiation with our classes. Gone are the days where teachers (of any subject) regurgitated the same unit of learning year in-year out. Teachers now understand the importance of pairing topic choice with the unique group of students sat before them in class. In English we are lucky. We have literally hundreds of thousands of choices available to us. Students in our department can at any time be studying texts as diverse as 'Marvelling at Marvel' (a unit created by Mrs Knapp for our Level Two class) to 'The Greatest Showman' (currently taught by Mrs McKelvie to Year Nine) and contemporary novels such as 'Wonder' and 'The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian' (from Mrs Williams and Miss Egerton respectively). What we agreed upon this week was an undeniable need that we focus on two diverse areas of literature: NZ and Pacific writers and also William Shakespeare. As teachers of English we feel it our responsibility to introduce our students to these (very different) genres. Our students deserve to hear the stories of fellow 'Kiwi' writers and our Pacific brothers and sisters. We feel it also important that they learn at least one Shakespearean text during their time at Menzies College. We really do embrace diversity within our Department; we thrive on enabling our students to hear different 'voices' and hope that these resonate with them.



Level Focus: Level Three

One of the most daunting Achievement Standards we teach in Senior English is commonly known as the 'Portfolio'. In order to gain this assessment, students must produce two pieces of writing with high quality ideas and technical accuracy. This year, the Level Three class are embracing writing in different genres. As such, and in order to produce a film review which might be added to their Portfolio we ventured to the SBS St.James Theatre in Gore last week where we viewed the film 'The Aftermath'. This is a period piece based in post-war Hamburg. The students enjoyed this film and will now write a film review. We are really grateful to the theatre for scheduling the film in order to allow our students to return to school in time for the buses. Poetry is a more challenging genre and some members of the the class have been working through the process of writing poetry. Here follows one of three poems written by Taylor Stewart. I think you'll agree, she has mastered this genre beautifully!

for hope - inspired by 'hope is the thing with feathers' written by emily dickinson.

'hope is the thing with feathers'
but not all birds are gentle.
hope is a demanding,
hungry
thing.
one must give
more than a crumb,
all
of yourself
to sustain the feathered fiend.

hope is a seagull,
a goose,
a vulture.

hope is greedy.
it is always wanting
more.
it is a weight,
an obligation to maintain
lest it slip through your fingers
or lead you to ruin.

but hope perches in the soul.
feed it well and it is a dove.
a herald of love,
of peace,
of happiness at hand.
but fear the damned life
of neglected hope,
a carrion bird,
shrouded in melancholy,
a void
of desolation.
he will devour you
from the inside
out.

Housekeeping

With Whanau Conferences being scheduled, we encourage all parents/caregivers to reflect with their sons/daughters on their learning experience thus far and perhaps comment on student Learning Logs if there are questions you have regarding progress or the learning environment.

*On behalf of the English Department
Mrs Lucy McKelvie (HOD)*

Sports Department

Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who participated in the school cross country last week. We were very lucky with the weather and it made for a beautiful afternoon out in the sun. Below are a list of the top three placings for each age group:

Under 13 Boys

1st - Reuben Wilkinson
2nd - Hunter Richards
3rd - Sam Ramage

Under 13 Girls

1st - Sophie Ferguson
2nd - Olivia Perriam
3rd - Myah Cameron

Under 14 Boys

1st - Max Bryson
2nd - Braden Poyntz-Roberts
3rd - Jack Ramage

Under 14 Girls

1st - Liana Gauldie
2nd - Josie McLellen
3rd - Naidene Hemara-Wilson

Under 16 Boys

1st - Josiah Ashman
2nd - Keegan Knapp
3rd - Ryan Smith

Under 16 Girls

1st - Brooke Loveridge
2nd - Brianna Ferguson
3rd - Maria Perriam

Over 16 Boys

1st - Caeden McGregor
2nd - Maximus Ashman
3rd - Hayden Stuart

Over 16 Girls

1st - Marina Ferguson
2nd - Beth Scott
3rd - Telly Curtis

Final House points:

Totara	Rata	Rimu	Matai
116	101	96	73

Winter sports

There are opportunities coming up for Southland badminton championships pool weekly coaching at the Gore Town and Country Club and small bore rifle shooting competitions. If any students would like further information on these events please contact Mrs Adam either at school or hayley.chalmers@menzies.school.nz

Southland Cross Country

On Wednesday 15 May we sent a team of 12 students to Te Anau to compete in the Southland Secondary Schools cross country event. The team were lucky to end up with good weather and all ran very well and can be proud of their effort.

A big congratulations to the U16 Boys team of Tom Ayers, Keegan Knapp and Josiah Ashman who all came in the top 20 places for their event and have been awarded the Country Schools Team trophy for their age group. Congratulations also to Reuben Wilkinson who took out fourth place in the U13 Boys age group in a tightly contested race with over 30 competitors.

Thank you to Mrs Dynes and Mr Wilkinson who travelled with the group and to the parents, whanau and friends who supported the students in this event.

*Hayley Adam
Sports-Co-ordinator*



Liana Gauldie (L) & Josie McLellen

Community Notice

Southwood Export Ltd

We have been advised that this company will be commencing log cartage during May in the Walker/Fortification Forest area and will continue until the end of June. Students need to be aware of the caution needed when getting on and off school buses during this time.

What is a school board of trustees?

Almost all state and state integrated schools in New Zealand have a board of trustees. School board membership includes parent representatives, a staff representative, a student representative (where there are students above year 9) and the principal. Your board may also include other types of trustees. Contact your school for more information on the composition of your school's board.

Who can become a trustee?

Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can put their name forward to be on a school board during the board of trustee elections.

What do trustees do?

The board is accountable to its parents and community and for student progress and achievement. Here are some specific things a board does:

- Sets the strategic direction and plans for the school and monitors the school's progress against them.
- Monitors and evaluates student progress.
- Oversees the management of staff, property, finances, curriculum and administration.
- Ensures that the educational needs and aspirations of Maori learners, Pasifika learners and learners with special learning and behaviour needs are identified, planned for and met.
- Fulfills the intent of the Treaty of Waitangi by valuing and reflecting New Zealand's dual cultural heritage.
- Appoints and supports the principal and assesses their performance.

What skills do trustees need?

Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need to work well in a team, ask challenging questions and have good communications skills. Boards need a balance of skills and experiences around the table to ensure effective processes for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the school's performance are in place.

What help do school trustees get?

New Zealand School Trustees Association provides free advice around employment and governance, support and resources. NZSTA also provides a variety of professional development opportunities for trustees.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

School trustee elections are coming up.



Step forward
for our schools



Contact your school for a nomination form or learn more about trustee elections

@ trustee-election.co.nz

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✉️ electionsadvice@nzsta.org.nz

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