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SMALL SCHOOL ~ BIG HEART ...

GARIN COLLEGE

Welcome back everyone

Staff are getting ready for 2010, and it looks like getting off to a great start. We have had some great results from the exams—so far just individual results, but we will get the statistics out to you over the next few weeks. Congratulations to all the students who did so well—and it is great to see the Merit and Excellence passes—and Certificates endorsed with Merit or with Excellence!

Our new staff are settling in—and spending a lot of time this week finding out about Garin. Please make them feel welcome when you meet them. (And remember that we have a meet-the-teachers barbecue on Friday 26 February.)

Opportunities for new parents

We do everything we can to help new students (and new parents) feel at home at Garin. One of the main reasons we put so much time into our Calendar and newsletter is to give parents the very best chance of knowing what is happening—and coming along to join in. Parents are welcome to the *powhiri* on Tuesday 2 February. New parents come into the gym as *manuhiri* with the new students.

Some Reminders

Some things parents could set up for a good start to the year ...

Calendar

A lot of work goes in to making our school calendar as complete as possible. We do this so class time is not interrupted by last minute unplanned events—and also so parents know what is happening and can join us whenever there is an event that lends itself to partnership.

Stationery List

Families probably put the stationery list from our Christmas mailout safely to one side when they received it just before Christmas. However, students will need to fill it in and bring it (and a cheque) to school on the first day (Tuesday 2 February). Or you can contact our Business Manager Ron van Drunen to set up an AP or organise split payments.

Free Music lessons

We have free music lessons for year 9 students for at least the first term. Come and find out more—and meet the tutors at the Music Information Evening on Tuesday 9 February. Contact kyleproffit@garincollege.ac.nz

Bus forms

You will find bus forms to be completed. Students wanting get a ride on the Garin Express will need to confirm that they need a ride—and we have also included forms for *new students* on rural buses. All forms need to be back to us before the end of JANUARY please, so we can make final arrangements.

Uniform reminders

Senior students: remember that we have two formal uniform days in February: Day 1 (3 February), the Opening Mass (Friday 27 February). And remember that when you are buying sandals, we need them to be black and leather.

Hats: the sun-safe option

Several years ago students designed a hat they were happiest wearing—so now all students outside at breaks or during class-time need to wear our hat.

Senior Course confirmation

All senior student have slips from last year informing them of their courses for 2010. However, in the light of exam results and to allow students the possibility of considering their career choices over the holidays, Year 12 and 13 students need to confirm their classes with Mrs Mead and Mr Stock this week.

The Calendar specifies the morning of Wednesday 28 January. So please make a point of seeing them. Some classes are very close to maximum size, so late-comers could well miss out on first choices.

Calendar on-line

Our 2010 Calendar is on our website www.garincollege.ac.nz

Just click the *Calendar and Mail* tab. You can also find links to our Prospectus and our Curriculum Booklet in pdf format at the foot of every page.

GARIN NOTICEBOARD: events, advertisements & information

Garin Express 2010

Despite the rising cost of transport being passed on to us, the Garin Board has managed to maintain its commitment to keep the Garin Express charge under half the best concession rate parents are able to get from Nelson.

Now due: \$130 for term 1 (The same for 2 and 3—and \$65 for term 4.)

We issue tickets when students pay.

Absence-line

New parents: please let us know about absences by leaving a brief phone message (on the masthead of every newsletter: 543 9490).

Dispensing Medicines

Because our staff are not medically qualified, they do not dispense medication of any sort (including *Panado*).

Parent partnership

Thank you to the parents who pay the voluntary "Parent Partnership". We are a small school and try hard to provide all the things you want for your children, so that makes a real difference—even if you can only pay part of it. It all helps. Thank you.

Let us know ...

There are so many great things Garin students achieve—and it is good to be able to let others know. Let us know.

CALENDAR

Wednesday 27 January

♦ *Course confirmation day. All senior students need to check in 9am-12 noon.*

Tuesday 2 February

♦ *Day 1: 8.35am Powhiri & Assembly*

Thursday 4 February

♦ *Whanau photos day*

♦ *Applications for School Captains close at our Office at noon.*

Week 2: Year 13 Journey

Week 3: Year 9 Journey

Opening Mass: Friday 26 February

Starting Garin in 2010

We will start the year with the same pattern we have used over the last few years.

You will see in the calendar that in the week before school starts there are a number of things that students need to check on—especially seniors confirming courses: on Wednesday 27 January all year 11-13 students need to come in to re-confirm courses confirmed in November this year: 9am-12noon for everyone.

Boarders may need to email tracystock@garincollege.ac.nz

The first morning

On Tuesday 2 February we all start at the normal time (8.35am) with a *Powhiri* and then assembly (in formal uniform for all students) in the gym. Parents (especially the parents of new students) are welcome. We won't begin classes until 11am—and many parents join students in *whanau* classes after assembly—or drop in to the staff-room to have a cup of coffee with teachers.

- ✓ 8.30—students and staff new to the school assemble on the cobbled drive outside the library. Mr Moriarty will meet you there and explain what will happen next. Then we will all walk over to the gym for a welcome that will make all newcomers part of our school.
- ✓ 9am—around this time all students will have *whanau* time—a chance to meet your *whanau* and your *whanau* teacher. This will last for about 80 minutes. Parents of new students are welcome to join or visit the *whanau*.
- ✓ 10.25—first break of 40 minutes. The Canteen will be open. Students will need to think about how they will refuel during the day. The second 40 minute break will be at 1.40pm. New students need to bring lunch—or money to buy lunch from the canteen. Other than year 13, our students do not leave the grounds at lunchtime.
- ✓ 11.05—classes start for the day with period 2 of week one.
- ✓ 1.40—second break.

Bus students

Our final bell rings at 3.13pm, and the buses leave at 3.18pm. It is important that you move quickly over to the bus bay.

The feeder buses will take you to the Waimea College busbay and there you catch your bus home—if you don't know which bus to catch, try to find someone from your area to tell you. If you miss your bus, come to the office so you can call home.

Bring a cheque

Also on Day 1 all students should have the money for their stationery—you will find the details in the Christmas mailout. If you need to set up an automatic payment, please talk to our Business Manager Ron van Druenen. Students will be called over to the library class by class to get issued with the equipment they need. This is really important to us, because it means that teachers can start work knowing that all students will have the stationery and equipment that they need from the start.

If anything goes wrong

The first day at a new school always causes some anxiety. If anything goes wrong on Tuesday, let someone know. We can help. See a teacher, go to the staffroom door and ask to speak to your *whanau* teacher (that is a name to learn as quickly as you can!) or ask a senior student.

If you get lost or lose your timetable or get an injury, go to the Office and ask for help. Our Office staff are very friendly and helpful. Remember: we can't help if we don't know you have a problem.

Student Leaders at Garin 2010

Year 13 students will find the nomination forms at the school office right through this week and the first week of school.

We are continuing with the same pattern as last year—each term a pair of our School Captains become Head Boy and Head Girl for the term. Teams are really important at Garin—but the leadership role is very busy and intense so

having two to share it takes a lot of pressure off the head students and helps them keep up with their studies.

Our Captains of Christian Service have already been selected: this year we will begin the year with Jared van de Geest and Rianna Farr—and over the next few weeks we will select our other Head Students, then our House Captains,

and then our House teams.

The nomination forms for the School Captains of Sport, Arts and Learning are available now at the Office counter. Students will need to fill in the one-page CV, and ask a teacher or year 13 student to nominate them. Nominations for other Captains close at noon on Thursday 5 February 2009.

School Council

At the same time we will be selecting our School Council reps from each year level. The School Council was a new venture at Garin last year: each year level will vote for a boy and a girl to represent them on the Council.

Nelson Youth Council

Caitlin Haslam is our only rep on the Nelson Youth Council. Anyone else interested in making a difference for Nelson youth please contact Rach Large 545 8746 for more information. The first Youth Council meeting will be on 8 February.

The Journey Programme

This month we have year 13 and year 9 out on their Journey. New parents may wonder why we place such emphasis on the Journey, so here is an outline.

The Journey logo below reminds us of the development of our students. We use the image of a mountain climbing expedition:

Year 13: The Summit

Year 12: The Ascent

Year 11: Expedition

Year 10: Navigator

Year 9: Base camp



The Journey at Garin has evolved into a strong curriculum—starting in year 9 on a challenging physical programme with elements of spiritual development meeting the students where they are—and culminating with the year 13 experience that has very strong spiritual challenges with elements of physical experience.

By the end of his or her time at Garin a student has grown through adolescence to adulthood—and the Journey has kept pace with that growth in self-awareness and spiritual consciousness. By year 13 we see students able to sit comfortably in silence, able to meditate, pray in different ways, and discuss the real spiritual and personal issues they face in their lives.

They participate in the experience as young adults aware of their whole selves, and keen to be self-critical and responsible for their own growth.

This growth has happened as a

result of a planned programme in our RE classrooms, a graduated set of experiences and skill development on their Journey programme, and as a result of constant exposure to the Catholic and Christian culture of the College.

They have been lucky—in a new College we have had to be even more thoughtful and aware of the culture we develop, and we have not been able to take that for granted as might happen in a longer established Catholic school.

So it is no surprise to see our senior students able to see and appreciate our Creator in the environment at French Pass, in themselves and in their community.

As a Catholic school we work to do more than educate the intellect of each student: our goal is to help each student become the person he or she was created to be.

That means intellectual maturity—but also spiritual, physical, emotional and relational maturity.

Our Journey is a key strategy in our holistic educational programme.

Changes for 2010

The new timetable

In 2010, we are moving to a new structure for the Garin day. You will see the details in the calendar, but the major changes are a rolling assembly that will equalise time lost from subjects, allow a longer *whanau*/careers slot each week and allow for two 40 minute breaks during the day for meetings and lunch (so students can eat more regularly and maintain their focus for the whole school day).

Rolling Assemblies

As you will see in the calendar, assemblies are on different days this year. This means that the same subject is not badly affected over the course of the year.

Lunch time(s)

This year, there will be two 40 minute breaks at 10.25am and 1.40pm. Student meetings will normally take place at the beginning of the first break.

Students will now have the opportunity to graze—but will need to manage their time (and their food) to ensure that they have the energy they need to learn right through the day.

The canteen will be open during both breaks and, as usual, students will not be allowed to leave the school grounds during breaks.

Year 13 students will be allowed to walk across the field in the second break.

Take a Moment...

... to join Catholic Aid Agency *Caritas Internationalis* in its prayer for Haiti ...

God of all creation, as we weep with our family in Haiti, console us. In this time of crisis, open our eyes to look beyond the disaster to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in Haiti, as Christ sees us. Be with all creation; strengthen us in solidarity with those living and working in Haiti. All creation turns to you in mourning and your grace guides our efforts to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the grieving and stand for justice.

With your mercy, sustain us at this time as we continue to work for peace and justice. Amen.

