



Welcome back! I thought our *powhiri* on Tuesday was a great event with so many parents coming in to support their students, and Sam and Joseph Tamihana-Barr joining Jared Altmets to lead the singing. I always find it quite moving when students who have left school make the time to come back and stand with us. We welcome them back every year to Masses and prizegiving and milestones like this. And, of course, it was great to have Matua's calm and expertise back again!

Although I am neither a confident nor fluent speaker of *Maori*, I really get a lot out of our *powhiri*. Just about everyone is on the same footing: year 9 students are unsure and anxious—but many of the rest of us are also outside our comfort zones. I think that is a good thing.

Another good thing is the formal welcome of newcomers to our community—and the opportunity that comes with the *hongi* to greet each person individually. Again—there may be some awkwardness, but if we did not have the *powhiri* would we ever get to welcome each person?

And I also like the symbolism of outsiders coming in—but leaving at the end of the ceremony as insiders. Many of the students and parents I spoke to on Tuesday reinforced that: in the course of half an hour they felt they had become part of the Garin *whanau*.

And as part of our family it is important that new students stay alert for opportunities to join in. Today they were offered the chance to join a summer sports team—and soon we will want them to commit to winter sports codes.

Next week we have our offer of free music lessons to year 9—have a go.

In another week we have our Year 9 Journey.

Half-hearted people watch sadly as life passes them by—but all of these things are opportunities for students to throw themselves whole-heartedly into life at Garin.

Tom Ashley sets New Record in Cycling Race

Last Saturday Thomas Ashley road in the Lake 90 race held up at Lake Rotoiti. The hard 90Km race saw riders race from Lake Rotoiti down to Kikiwa before turning left onto the State Highway at Korere. They then rode over the Hope Saddle continuing down to Kawatiri Junction before turning left again for the home straight back to the lake.

Tom dominated the race from the start and pushed the main pack up the Clark Valley at a fast clip. On the Hope Saddle he made a break bringing four other riders with him. With 5km to go he broke from these with another rider and won the sprint.

Tom broke the previous record by six minutes coming in at a time of 2 hours 22 minutes with an average speed of 38Km/hr. He's in dominant form as he attempts to make the New Zealand U19 team later this year in the Te Awamutu tour.

Summer Sport Sign up and Fees

During the week students interested in participating in Summer sport during Term 1 should have taken home an information sheet giving details of the sports available, the practice times and playing times. On Friday they should have signed up after Assembly for their chosen sport/s. Those that signed up will have been given a permission/payment slip for parents/caregivers to sign and return.

These forms need to be returned to the College office by Thursday February 11 together with payment. If you would like to arrange for direct credit of these fees, please ring Ron van Drunen Phone 543-9488. As outlined in the Sports booklet sent home at the end of last year, Garin has a "no pay, no play" policy for sport.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Thanks to everyone who came last Saturday to the second-hand uniform sale. This first one was a learning experience and we will refine things for next year and advertise it better!

If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact Joan Panzer 543-3825.

Cervical Cancer Immunisation for Girls

The Cervical Cancer Immunisation protects against the virus that most commonly causes cervical cancer. It takes three injections in the upper arm over six months, and is free to girls born after 1989.

This year the immunisation is available to all girls from Year 8 upward through the school-based immunisation programme. Information will be sent home from schools in February. Girls who are not in school can access this free immunisation through a family doctor, practice nurse or health clinic.

Exam reconsiderations

The final date for receipt of any applications for NCEA Levels 1-3 reviews and reconsiderations is 19 February 2010, but candidates should be encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Scholarship answer booklets will be sent to candidates with their result notice in mid-February. The final date for Scholarship reviews and reconsiderations is 12 March 2010.

Applications received after these dates will not be considered.

Answer booklets sent back to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority for a review or reconsideration will be processed in batches. If a candidate's result changes as part of this process, they will be able to access their results on the website and a revised result notice will be sent in April 2010. Full details of these processes were included in candidates' results packages. Assessment Schedules and Assessment Reports will not be published until after all reconsideration processes are complete. These will be published as soon as possible after 19 February for NCEA and 12 March for Scholarship.

Chalk it up!



As part of a Year 10 Unit of work on 'Identity' students participated in a pavement art activity to excite their interest in the topic. After 'striking a pose' students traced each others outlines and then 'filled themselves in' with a design that featured symbols of the things they love most.

Opera in the Park

If your family and friends are going to Nelson Opera in the Park on Saturday February 13 make sure they drop their free tickets, with our school's name on the back, into the Schools Competition boxes at each entry gate. It gives us a chance to win one of three BioPaints provided, or \$500 sports or art equipment vouchers. One prize is awarded for the most tickets for a secondary or intermediate school, one for a primary school and a final prize for the school that collects the greatest



- ★ *Special thanks to Dakota Sigley (supported by Cheyenne and Jaydene Staunton-Nepia) and Lisa Tamihana for a powerful and expressive karanga at our powhiri.*
- ★ *Benedict Morrissey was one of 24 top mathematical students from throughout New Zealand who attended the residential Mathematical Olympiad training camp held in Christchurch in January. Benedict has been selected for the NZIMO training squad and the final team of six students to represent New Zealand at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Kazakhstan in July will be announced in April. Fantastic Benedict and we wish you all the best for selection for this event.*

percentage of tickets based on their roll.

Athletics

Athletics Nelson will offer a track and field programme for the first term and take athletes through their school athletics championships, Nelson-Marlborough Championships and the South Island Secondary Schools Championships in Dunedin.

Athletes will be instructed by experienced coaches in any or all phases of track and field - sprints, middle and long distance running, jumps, and throws. The first workout and informational meeting will be held Monday, February 8 at 4.15 pm at the Saxton Field Athletics Track.

There also will be training sessions on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4.15pm at the Saxton Track. The fee for the term is \$10, unless you are already a member of the club. For more information, call Athletics Nelson Head Coach Greg Lautenslager at 547-5514 or send him an e-mail at greglautenslager@hotmail.com.

EOTC permissions

EOTC stands for "Education Outside The Classroom" and covers all school activities outside the classroom. We know that these events can be the most memorable things in a student's education, so we want them to be an integral part of education at Garin. We also know parents get tired of filling in the same health information for each activity.

New students for 2010 have already filled out their forms—and our other students filled them in last year.

But things change—so please let us know if there is new medical information we need to know about.

Take a Moment ...

... with C S Lewis

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

