



APARIMA COLLEGE

Year 7/8 Newsletter No1:07

Welcome to the beginning of a new year. This year we welcomed 36 Yr 7s to Aparima College, a big class in the context of recent years, and we are delighted they are with us. Class sizes this year have approximately 24 students in each homeroom class.

We have four teachers associated with the Junior School, three homerooms and four teaching areas. The proportion of male role models/teachers in our area is comparatively high, a situation few schools are lucky to be in. Mr Guyton has a new role within the school, he is leading the college to Enviro-school status, working with Yr 7-8 in reading and mathematics, and teaching Te Reo Maori. Telfar is a home room teacher, with a lot of enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities, an active leader for the School Council, and responsibilities for health and mathematics. Mr Fraser is our second homeroom teacher, teaching more Phys Ed, enthusiastic and always looking for ways to enhance student learning. I am the third homeroom teacher with my roles as Dean, Head of Junior School and Head of department -Visual Art continuing.

Introductory programmes are in action and beginning of the year assessment tasks are underway. This includes asTTle, a standardised national test for all students in Reading and Mathematics, and initial reading and spelling tests to get classroom programmes started.

Results are of positive benefit for the school and students in that they come from standardised tests and we are able compare our standings with other comparative schools, and quickly identify

learning needs and teaching paths for individual students. The progress of groups of students and individuals will be easily monitored also.

This does not negate the importance of individual student results in internal assessment. Students will have record of the results kept in the their logbooks as they occur throughout the year.

Logbooks

Logbooks are a vital part of our parent/teacher/student communication network. It is important that parents view these daily. Comments from teachers are made weekly in logbooks but may also be made as necessary to note concerns and matters of interest.

Students will be working on tartans that will help individualise the logbooks and make them easier to identify.

Homework

Parents can expect that there will be regular spelling, mathematics and English based work. This may relate to learning objectives or current themes of learning.

Stationary

Parents who have not purchased their stationary at the college will need to phone the office to arrange for payment of the logbook and school fees.

Current Learning Units

The term begins with an integrated inquiry theme that provides the context for our learning this term – Making the Best of It,

with particular emphasis on how Riverton people have adjusted, and used resources to make the best of it.

<u>English</u>	Close reading with small groups Journal writing Personal reading
<u>Mathematics</u>	Number system Addition/Subtraction
<u>Social Studies</u>	Riverton and resource use through the ages.
<u>Art</u>	Logbook identity tartan Portraiture
<u>Options</u>	Yr 8 - designing a camp cooker Investigating means of preserving food Yr 7 - Music Te Reo
<u>Science</u>	Introductory laboratory routines Harakeke/Estuary

Year 8 Trip - Announcement to be made shortly ie this week!!!!. Be prepared for the last week of term -1-4 April (note the change of date). **Deep Cove.**

Life Education Trust

The Life Education trust bus will be at the college this week. Students will be meeting with Barbara to learn about Health issues that concern them. This year's focus includes the functions of major body organs and drug use and misuse. For many students the major learning points include defining a drug and then discovering the impacts of drug misuse on their young bodies.

These sessions are always interesting and invaluable. The presentation of information is appropriate, interesting, at times amusing and always provoking more discussion and questions.

Coming Events

Week 2	Standardised Testing
	Life Ed Trust
4	Athletics day
3	Meet the teachers meeting

Meet the Teacher Afternoon Tea

Parents and caregivers are invited to share afternoon tea with the current Year 7 & 8 homeroom teachers. This is an informal meeting designed for parents and teachers to meet each other and for a brief progress catch-up.

This will be followed by a meeting for those parents who wish to accompany year 8 students to camp or would like more information about this years EOTC adventure.

Thursday 22 February
3.30pm
Rm 5 (Beside the Library)

Camp meeting to begin at approximately 4.30pm