



Phoenix

April
2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Nga mihi ki te whanau nui o te kura o te Pou Hoia.

As a school community, we can be very proud of our first term. On the sporting front, we have seen terrific participation and House spirit in our swimming and athletic sports and excellence as we competed against other High Schools. Our school leaders have been to a training day and to National Young Leaders Day in Wellington. Students have gone out of the classroom on trips in geography, history, biology and integrated studies and the arts continue to flourish.

It was exciting to have two television crews in the school. The first were from the Arts programme on Channel 6, who were making a programme on an ex-Freyberg student and now prominent artist, Karl Maugham. (I encourage you to go to Skoglund Park, where you can get the best view of the building he painted with our students) and the second from TV3's "60 Minutes", who were making a documentary on our Teen Parent Unit.

Stage Challenge rehearsals are in full swing, the concert band has attended the Hawkes Bay Festival, a Wellington dance troupe was in our school for two days working with our dance students and Holly-Rose McIntyre won the Regional Spelling Bee.

We welcomed nearly 400 new students to Freyberg at the start of the year and they have settled in well to Freyberg's friendly culture and have come to learn that the Freyberg way is all about respect. We encourage positive relationships but we insist on regular attendance, punctuality, pride in our uniform and engagement in class.

Our management team has worked on the draft of a new Charter and strategic aims for the next five years. We want to be the best Secondary School for each of our students. We will achieve this by examining ways we can extend, support and enhance student learning through innovation, caring and excellence. I have included these draft aims with the Newsletter and encourage your feedback.

Peter Brooks, PRINCIPAL



Karl Maugham, an internationally-recognised New Zealand artist, attended Freyberg from 1978 – 1982. The Artland programme filmed Karl painting this mural, with the help of Freyberg students. It is expected to screen on TV6 in June.



ART

Freyberg artists gain success in the Van Uffelen Mixed Media Art Competition, celebrating Palmerston North's Festival of Cultures.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Senior School (Y11 – 13) Nivesh Kumar

Junior School (Y9 – 10) Claire Beale

PTA

Next meeting and AGM **12th May at 7pm** in the Staff Room.

Come and share your views on the direction Freyberg should take in the next five years.

RELAY FOR LIFE

A fantastic team effort by Freyberg saw us win the prize for the most laps by 60 laps.

Team Captain Charlotte Temple-Camp, ably assisted by Hilary Ngan Kee, had everything well organised and built a real team spirit for a good cause.



Hamish Major, a Transition student at Freyberg, cleaning a van as part of his job at his work experience placement.



YOUNG LEADERS DAY

On 23rd March, the Senior Leadership team were given the opportunity to go down to the National Young Leaders' Day in Wellington. At the lovely time of 6.19am, the Senior Council and Mrs Rhodes boarded the commuter train bound for Wellington City.

Despite the two hour train ride ahead of us, we passed the time by sleeping, (in Jordannah's case) and telling jokes with Awatapu students.

The Conference was held in Wellington Town Hall and our early departure allowed us all to sit together. The Conference itself was great, as we got to hear from speakers such as Katherine Switzer, the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon and Jehan Casinader, a young news reporter who has interviewed people from John Key to David Beckham. The Conference was very useful in developing our leadership skills but the day itself was an amazing experience.

Some of the boys got up to the tallest tower in Wellington and Sonny won the inter-school dance competition, making the talent of Freyberg students look amazing compared with the other schools. All these things added to the fun atmosphere of the day and I know I speak for all of us



when I say that we had an awesome time and the rest of the year promises to be just as entertaining and exciting.

Sofia Harley, Head Girl

VEGEMITE SPELLING BEE

This is the fifth year the New Zealand Spelling Bee has been running. For the first time Freyberg High School was represented and achieved great results. "Beginners' luck", you may say, but I believe it was sheer hard work and determination by our students that saw us achieve such fantastic results.

Three of our six students were in the top 12 and two in the top 8. What could have been a better way to end such a great day but have our own Holly-Rose McIntyre come first out of the 63 competitors? I still haven't come up with the appropriate adjective to describe how I felt and still feel about this outcome. For the time being, let's

just say I was and am happy. I will update you when I finally get the right adjective.

I would like to thank Heather Grady, a parent who kindly helped with transport to and from Wellington and Rachel Shepherd, who helped organise the whole thing. We hope to make this a regular event for our students and have already started working on strategies to get one of our students to Washington DC next year.

For more information on the Spelling Bee please read the article by one of our talented spellers, Alice Olynsma from 9RA.

Mabel Msopero

YEAR 9 ASHHURST TRIP



Earlier this term the Year 9s went on an environmental trip to the Ashhurst Domain as part of our Integrated Studies and Science classes. On the Science part of the trip we worked on testing the Manawatu River for clarity, PH, and animal and plant life. We also looked at the wetlands where we thought about how the river used to flow, when the river was in flood and the animals that lived there.

For the Integrated Studies part of the trip, our aim was to see how the environment had changed. We went to the wind farm lookout and found out some interesting information about the wind turbines. We also analysed a poem which we related to the river and did cool things like treasure hunts and listening to the bushes and birds so we could write our own poem.

Everyone had a really fun time learning and exploring around Ashhurst Domain. A big thank you to all the Science, Integrated Studies, and other teachers who made this trip possible for us.

Charlotte Cook 9DL

NZ ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009



Paige Lowe won a Bronze Medal in the NZ Track and Field 400m Hurdles and **Andy Kruy** won a Bronze Medal in the NZ Track and Field Long Jump competition.

FREYBERG ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 2009

Courtney Walker: 1st place JG; Ariana Blackwood: 1st place IG; Paige Lowe: 1st place SG; James Ayres: 1st place JB
Matt Noble; 1st place IB; Andy Kruy: 1st place SB

FREYBERG SWIMMING CHAMPIONS 2009

Greer Mahoney: 1st, 13yrs and under Girls; Cameron Schaw 1st, 13yrs and under Boys; Tessa Field: 1st, 14yrs Girls
Sam Seumanu: 1st= 14yrs Boys; Trent Munn: 1st= 14yrs Boys; Larissa Flutey: 1st, 15yrs Girls; Luke Hiscox: 1st, 15yrs Boys; Emma Finlay: 1st, 16 and over Girls; Kent McIlraith: 1st, 16 and over Boys

SPORTS - SPORT@FREYBERG.AC.NZ

Term one is drawing to a close and it has been full of action for sporting students. Firstly, we have had the school Athletics Preliminary Championships, followed by the school Athletics Finals at the Massey track. Those who gained a placing at the Finals Day then represented Freyberg High School at the Manawatu Inter-Secondary Schools Champs, where Freyberg students achieved to high levels.



Also during March, the Manawatu Inter-Secondary Swimming Championships were held at the Freyberg Pool. We had a large team and our supporters were probably the most vocal, encouraging the Freyberg team. Again, Freyberg students achieved highly and were a credit to our school.

Summer sport has been a hectic time with Cricket and Touch. Our senior girls' team qualified at the Zones

Tournament to be part of the Nationals Championships to be held in December this year.

Archery has been a new sport that we have tried this term. A very enthusiastic group of students have been taking lessons from the Manawatu Archery Club, who have been great with training on a Wednesday afternoon. It is great to see students enjoying a sport and picking up the skills so quickly. (Not as quickly as Mrs Barsanti who scored a 'x' first try!)



During the last week of March, the National Secondary Schools Volleyball Championships were held in Palmerston North and we entered a girls and a boys' team - a great opportunity to gain experience against teams from all around New Zealand.

We are now preparing for winter sports which will be underway immediately after the school holidays. We are also searching for coaches, the main area we are short is for Junior Boys' Rugby, Junior Boys' Football, Hockey, Basketball and Netball. We would really love to hear from parents who would be willing to look after any of our teams. As we have mentioned in past newsletters, it can be a very rewarding experience to work with young people and we do encourage assistance from parents or other family members. Coaching courses can be arranged, so please do consider being a part of Freyberg sport.

Winter sports that are available at Freyberg are:

Girls' and Boys' Hockey, Football, Rugby, Basketball, Badminton, Squash, Table tennis, Small bore rifle shooting and Netball. If your child is keen to be involved in any of these sports, they need to come to the Sports Room immediately after the holidays and register.

Football - we have been asked to mention the Shane Rufer School of Football. They will be holding school holiday and after school programmes. Contact Shane on 021 622101 or email shane.rufer@inspire.net.nz if you are interested.

If parents have any queries or concerns regarding sports please contact the Sports Room between 8.30am and 2.30pm.

Rosemary Barsanti, Sports Co-Ordinator

YEAR 13 TONGARIRO GEOGRAPHY AND BIOLOGY TRIP



In late February, 85 of Freyberg's Year 13s headed for the hills, literally and figuratively; specifically for the Tongariro National Park. This was in order to appreciate and learn about the natural landscape and themselves. This was the opportunity to begin to develop new friendships for the rest of their last year at school.

This year there was a keen bunch of campers, much more than in previous years. Mr Collier was so concerned that he was marketing the chance to stay in a lodge or cabin very heavily in order to balance the spreadsheet!

The three groups, named after the main volcanic rock types, split into three different activities, each participating in

rafting the Tongariro River, completing the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and spending time completing Biology fieldwork.

The weather played its part well this year, with all but the first Tongariro crossing group having to deal with any rain at all.

There were of course many highlights: Mr Collier's impromptu Geo lessons of river erosion while the boys attempted to divert a small stream. The skits presented by each group and of course the magnificent Gumboot throw by Matt Flemmer that made it all the way to Auckland (on the roof of a train!).

A big "thank you" must go out to all of the staff that made this trip possible.



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY - HIMATANGI BEACH TRIP

On Wednesday March 11th, 50 students travelled out to Himatangi Beach to investigate and observe coastal processes in action. Even in inclement weather, brooding skies and a rising tide, Mr Collier, Mr Cresswell and Ms Hope did their best to impart new Geographic knowledge to their students.

While the weather was a challenge, all bore up to it well. They paid attention and completed all of the required tasks as asked; developing their understanding of the role that these processes have on coasts prone to tropical cyclones.

Mrs Barsanti, who also came along, played the role of Camp Mother, cooking the BBQ sausages to perfection for lunch. We were somewhat amazed to realise that she had been turning the sausages with her fingers! This represents a new level of "tough" from her.

This trip runs every two years, alternating with a trip to study the impacts of the Napier Earthquake in the Hawkes Bay.

Kieran Collier, HOD GEOGRAPHY

CALENDAR - TERM 2

| | |
|-------------|---|
| April 28 | Ugly Shakespeare |
| May 5 | School Cross-country (1 – 3pm) |
| May 7 | BOT meeting 5.30pm Year 12/13 Girls' Gardasil vaccinations |
| May 14 | Year 12 Tourism trip |
| May 16 | North Island Swimming Championships |
| May 20 | MISS Cross-Country, Foxton |
| May 22 – 23 | 40 Hour Famine |
| May 24 | Rockquest (Heats) |
| May 28 | Kapiti Sports Exchange |
| May 29 | Curriculum Jumbo Day (Students not required at school) |
| June 1 | Queen's Birthday Holiday |
| June 2 – 5 | Year 12 Geography Trip (Waitomo) |
| June 4 | BOT Meeting at 5.30pm |
| June 6 – 8 | Cheerleading Nationals |
| June 8 – 15 | Year 9 Integrated Studies trips |
| June 24 | Senior Reports posted |
| June 29 | Vietnam Trip departs |
| June 30 | Taradale Sports Exchange |
| July 1 | Senior Parent-Teacher Interviews |
| July 2 | BOT Meeting 5.30pm Dance Showcase |
| July 3 | Last day of Term 2 |

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