



Phoenix

December
2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



He mihi nui ki te whanau o te Kura o te Pou Hoia.

As a school community we can be very proud of Freyberg High School. I have been pleased with the leadership opportunities offered to our senior students and the school Assemblies, annual Ball and school activities are a real tribute to them. This year we have had 26 Year 12 students apply for Head Boy and Girl – this indicates the willingness of our seniors to contribute and their overall calibre as future leaders. I am delighted to report a significant improvement in academic results and am especially pleased with our targeted Year 11 group, who have progressed academically so well. Recently, NZCER (Educational Research) did a survey with our Year 9/10 students on their engagement levels at school. The results were very impressive compared with other schools and amazingly, 86% reported that they loved going to Freyberg (imagine 13 and 14 year olds enjoying school!!)

The growth in sport has been good and I'm pleased to see the increased numbers participating in tournaments and Central 6. The school does well on an individual level (the Sports Academy is very good), so it's pleasing to see sports teams doing well too. We have always been strong in Performing Arts and this trend continues. Our Concert Bands excel and the standard of musicianship is very high. Kapa Haka has grown incredibly strong and our role with Te Piringa's success was noted nationally. The Drama productions are a credit to the ability of our staff and students and the annual presentation of Art work by our students is wonderful. Of special note has been the growth in Dance and the talent is most impressive.

Above all else, Freyberg High School is known for its friendly atmosphere. The refugee students have done very well integrating into our school. We cater for diversity so well with the ESOL, Special Education, Independent Learning Centre, Gifted and Talented, Teen Parent Unit and Rumaki.

Overall, the students treat each other with respect. We have had only 3 exclusions this year and I think we have catered very well for the students who struggle with mainstream education. Our attendance rates are well over 90%, so it paints a positive picture of the discipline and guidance structures in the school.

Finally, the school community can be pleased with the standard of education offered. We cater for individual needs. We have quality teachers in key positions (Heads of School, Deans, Heads of Department, classroom teachers and Management) and some outstanding people in the ancillary staff (Office, Student Centre, Teacher Aides, IT Systems Manager, Arts and Sports Co-ordinators, Property Supervisor and Executive Manager). Having the "right people in the right seat on the bus" has made a significant difference and I thank all involved in making Freyberg High School the school it is. My thanks also goes to the PTA and Board of Trustees for their support. I wish you all well.

Michael McMenamin, PRINCIPAL

FREYBERG'S NEW PRINCIPAL



In 2009, Mr Peter Brooks will take over the reigns as Principal of Freyberg High School from Michael McMenamin, who is returning to New Plymouth Boys' High School as their new Principal. Mr Brooks has been at Freyberg since 1998 and was Associate Principal before becoming the Acting Principal in Term 4 2008.

Mr Brooks has played a key role in the development of The Arts, improved student engagement and the celebration of diversity at Freyberg High School. His vision for a future-focused school that builds on the legacy of innovation, caring and excellence, his ability to build teams that strive for excellence and his wide experience in all aspects of education, places the education of our students in strong hands.

Gerrit Bahlman, Chairperson, Board of Trustees

SPORT AT FREYBERG

Once again this year has gone very quickly and our students have been busy and involved in sport. Of course, we are always looking to see more students involved in healthy physical activity, so any students who did not participate in a sport during 2008, we are looking for you to become involved in 2009. It is a great way to meet other students, keep fit and healthy and learn more personal skills.

Once again our sports teams were involved in Tournaments and we had 10 teams involved this year. Our Girls 1st XI Soccer team travelled to Whangarei and came second in their National Secondary School Tournament - we are very proud of them and their Coaching and Managing staff. Our Table Tennis team also took part in the National Secondary Schools Tournament and were placed 2nd in their grade - a great result. Well done to these teams.

At the recent Manawatu Sports Awards, we had 10 entries and won 5 Code Awards – well done to all the finalists, 50% is a great result! Code winners were: Josh Munn (Golf), Natalie Paterson (Table Tennis), Adele Costello (Inline Hockey), Jodi Curtis (Football) and Jess Rowe (Official for Football). Jess was also named The Manawatu Secondary School Official of the Year for 2008.

A new competition was trialed in September and that was the Central 6, made up of six schools in the central part of NZ. It was a fun day for junior sports teams who got to play Hockey, Netball, Basketball, Soccer and Rugby around the regions. A great concept and we look forward to further developments here in 2009.

We are on a big Coach and Manager drive for 2009. Please, if you would like to be part of our coaching and managing team at Freyberg, contact us urgently – we would love to hear from you. We can arrange for coaching clinics for up-

skilling if necessary.

We are also looking for someone to assist with running our many Netball teams during the season. It is a big job for our Teacher in Charge and we would welcome anyone who has a good knowledge of Netball and is willing to be part of our team. Do consider

being a Coach or Manager, the rewards are tremendous and the enjoyment of seeing young people being involved in sport and doing well is a great feeling. Please contact the Sports Room on 358 4971 Ext 763 or email to the above address. We look forward to hearing from some keen parents/caregivers or community members looking to be involved in 2009.



Jodi Curtis receiving the Most Valuable Player Trophy

Rosemary Barsanti, SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR

SPORTS ACADEMY

Roydon Burt

Manawatu Junior Hockey Player of the Year
NZ U16 Hockey team
Manawatu U18 Hockey Captain
NZ U21 Maori team.

Paige Lowe

Named Captain of the Manawatu Athletics team
in the Central Athletics League.

Jodie Wilson

Moto X 2nd NZ Junior Women's Championships.

George McConachy
DIRECTOR, SPORTS ACADEMY



THE GIFTED & TALENTED IN ENGLISH

Although the group started off late in the year due to the lengthy identification process, we managed to have some very inspiring and enriching moments. The group met regularly on Tuesdays at lunch time. The group activities were student-directed and I acted as a facilitator.

The group focused on enrichment in the study of literary texts as well as extension in curriculum coverage. Students discussed books that they were reading in their own time, talked about their favourite writers and discussed different genres and their merits and/or demerits as well as read and discussed a common text. The common text; **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Seabold generated a lot of interest and therefore discussion. Below is part of a reader's review of the book. This book is definitely a must read:

The book's lead character Susie Salmon is a 14 year old schoolgirl who is murdered by her neighbour.

The book is written from Susie's point of view from her vantage point in "her" heaven. She looks down on her family and sees how her untimely death affects them all in different ways. The book is written over a period of many years and we see how her parents, sister, small brother and her friends evolve in the wake of her murder.

The book is superbly crafted and Alice Seabold creates a lovely, realistic heaven. The characters are extremely believable and Alice Seabold paints a clever and ultimately real picture of a family torn apart by grief.

This is not, however, a depressing book. There are many sad parts, of course, but "**The Lovely Bones**" is a book about how people get their lives back together after tragedy, no matter how hard it is. This novel even manages to have a happy ending (as much of a happy ending as you can get with a book like this) and you go away feeling exhilarated, even happy afterwards.

For extension work the students attempted a Level 2 Achievement Standard 2.1 – creative writing. One student Achieved with Merit - she produced what one teacher called 'an amazing piece of creative writing'. The students will have the opportunity for reassessment next year if they wish to improve their grades.

I hope next year will see the students doing more work for both enrichment and extension.

Mabel Msopero

DRAMA

The Senior Production of "Daughters of Heaven" by Michelanne Forster was staged in the Auditorium from Thursday 23 October to Saturday 25 October. A gripping drama based on the infamous Parker-Hulme case of the 1950s, "Daughters of Heaven" is a moving and intense play, which the students carried out with skill and impact.

Cast List

Juliet Hulme	- Stephanie Velvin
Pauline Parker	- Tessa Richards
Bridget O'Malley	- Charlotte Smelt
Hilda Hulme	- Sarah Oliver
Dr Henry Hulme/ Justice Adams/Prison Officer	- Cam Clarke
Honora Mary Reiper/Matron	- Caitlin Hall
Alann Brown/Police Detective	- Sofia Harley
Herbert Reiper/ Terrence Gresson	- Jesse Lowndes
Walter Perry/ Dr Reginald Medicott	- Terry Kerr

Thanks also go to Leigh Scott, Matt Saunders, Sarah Gordon, Hayden Kirk, Josh Olson, Paul Anderson, Heather Velvin, Glenys Hewetson, Roger Buchanan, Lucy Pearse, Robert



Elder, Pam Cresswell, Tamzin Darragh, Ron Paddock, Monica Simmons, Verity Elder, Sam McIver, Bill Sutton and Mishy's Kitchen for their valued contribution to the success of this Production.

Directed by Zoe Brooks, HOD Drama

ESOL

COMPUTERS IN HOMES PROJECT

Freyberg High School is hosting a Ministry of Education Computers in Homes Project, coordinated by Pauline Goetzlof, Refugee Co-ordinator and HOD ESOL, tutored by Mike Herring, HOD Computing, and helped by Yuzana Than, Bilingual tutor. Guy Luck, our Systems Manager, will be the Technical Consultant. The course is to introduce refugee parents to some basic computer skills so that they can more easily help their children to use a computer safely in their homes. Members of the Burmese, Bhutanese and Congolese communities of Palmerston North are involved.



ESOL KNITTING WORKSHOP

Please could the ESOL Department have any knitting wool donated to our Knitting Club which, after a very successful start, has gone in to recession for lack of wool. Any donations can be left at the ESOL Department (J3), or at the Office.



Pauline Goetzlof
HOD ESOL/Refugee Co-ordinator.

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL'S NOTEBOOK



The senior students leave for exams and the staff seem to be even busier than usual with report and testimonial writing, preparation for Prize Giving, Year 10 Work Experience, Year 9 and 10 Tennis championships, Junior Splash Carnival, Year 10 exams, the Rumaki trip to the East Coast, senior clearance, NZ Track and Field Championships and planning for 2009.

The timetable is well under way with increased options, more teachers and new initiatives to support student learning. I hope you will have a safe and happy Christmas vacation and I look forward to meeting you in my new role in the New Year.

Key Dates:

December 08	- Senior Clearance
December 09	- Senior Prize Giving
	- Morning 10.00am (all students)
	- Evening 7.30pm (students and parents)
December 10	- Y13 Leavers' Dinner – Coachman
December 13/14	- NZSS Track and Field
December 17	- Junior Prize Giving
December 19	- School Office closes

2009

January 20	- School Office opens
January 29	- Pre-enrol Y12 and Y13
	- Peer Support training Y13
January 30	- Peer Support training.
February 04	- Y10/11/12 students – morning only
February 05	- Y9/13 students 9am – 3pm.
February 09	- Day 1 Normal Timetable
February 23-27	- Y13 Ruapehu trip

Peter Brooks
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL



FROM THE FLAT

Mr Mac called in to the Transition Flat to say "Goodbye" to Piripi and Hazel on their last day at Freyberg High.

Pictured from left to right: Katrina, Stephanie, Mr Mac, Ashley, Piripi, Hamish, Sarah, Hazel, Andrew.



PEDCO

L.M.V.D.

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