



NELSON COLLEGE

Newsletter

NELSON COLLEGE
pictas probitas et sapientia

Private Bag 16, Nelson
Tel: 03 5483099 • Fax: 03 5466932

Email: enquiries@nelcollege.school.nz • www.nelcollege.school.nz

2009 Calendar Term 1 (Weeks 0-3)

Jan 27	Deans' Day -by appointment only
Jan 28	Deans' Day -by appointment only
Jan 29	Deans' Day -by appointment only
Jan 30	TEACHER ONLY DAY
Feb 2	NELSON ANNIVERSARY All Boarders in by 8pm
Feb 3	School Timetable <u>Year 9 and Year 13</u> 8.30am -Powhiri, Hall 10am-3pm Camp at Rabbit Island <u>International Orientation</u> 9.30am -Sir Wallace Rowling Centre <u>Years 10, 11 and 12</u> No school on this day <u>Preparatory School begins</u>
Feb 4	Start Times <u>9am</u> Years 9 and 13, Hall <u>10am</u> Year 10, Hall <u>10.45am</u> Years 11 and 12, Hall All Students leave at 11.30am
Feb 5	Year 13 Leadership Normal School for Years 9 to 12
Feb 6	WAITANGI DAY
Feb 9	Year 13 Leadership Normal School for Year 9 to Year 12
Feb 9-12	Year 9 Parent/Syndicate Meetings, 7pm, Staffroom
Feb 10	Year 13 to Hall Period 1
Feb 11	Normal School Day
Feb 16-19	Year 9 Parent/Syndicate Meetings, 7pm, Staffroom
Feb 17	Presentation of Leadership Badges at assembly, 11am, Hall

Management Team Contacts

Headmaster, Gary O'Shea

Email: oe@nelcollege.school.nz
• general + curriculum

Deputy Principal, Tim Tucker

Email: tk@nelcollege.school.nz
• discipline + property

Assistant Principal, Ron Kelly

Email: kl@nelcollege.school.nz
• discipline

Assistant Principal, Annette Taylor

Email: ta@nelcollege.school.nz

Message from the Headmaster

It has now been two years since I formally took over the reins as the Headmaster of Nelson College. At times the transition has been difficult and the College has faced considerable challenges particularly in terms of its management of physical resources.

The core business of the College is to equip young men with the social and academic knowledge, skills and attitudes which enable them to make considered and safe choices in their transition into adulthood - the enormity of this important task has been brought home to me on several occasions this year.

Academically and in co-curricula activity we excelled in 2007 and 2008 and have enhanced our reputation as one of the leading schools in the country.

In NCEA last year

- 78% of Year 11 students gained a NCEA Level 1 certificate
- 84% of Year 12 students gained a NCEA Level 2 certificate
- 68% of Year 13 students gained a NCEA Level 3 certificate
- 68% of Year 13 students gained University Entrance
- We sent one of the highest percentages of boys to tertiary study in the College's history.

These results position us as the highest achieving state school in the South Island and on a par with the top state schools in the North Island, such as Wellington College.

Traditionally this final newsletter for the year contains excerpts from my address at Senior Prizegiving. This year I focussed on 'education and its core purpose(s)'

Excerpt from Headmasters address 2008

"As we introduce a new national curriculum in 2010, we need to be mindful that equally important to innovative teaching is the integration of those values which

have served us well throughout the centuries.

Paul Johnson, the English historian, puts it this way:

The demands of ordinary people are not exorbitant.

They want all children to read, to read easily, accurately and sustainedly;

They want all children to be taught to write, legibly, fluently and grammatically, to acquire a reasonably wide vocabulary and to spell correctly.

They want all children to be numerate and to handle proficiently the elementary instruments of a modern electronic society.

Children, they think, should be taught about their country's history and geography ... and learn to value its qualities. ... and, not least, they want the schools to provide, for all children, a moral education: to instil, not just directly and specifically, but through all the school structures and procedures, clear distinctions between right and wrong, good and evil, decent behaviour and wickedness.

Much has been made of a return, particularly in the United States, to the three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic. I would like to add two others: responsibility and resilience.

Responsibility

Many students live voyeuristic lives. They like to watch. Watching is safe - you bear no responsibility, accept no accountability. "Spectatoritis" is rife and many of today's teenagers are screenagers. They look, comment and criticise from the comfort of the couch. This child can become an adult who finds it difficult to do much other than to watch and excuse themselves from accepting responsibility.

Students need to be taught how to take ownership of their own behaviour, how to be leaders, how to make appropriate decisions, and how to serve others well.

Resilience

Life cannot be expected to provide a constant stream of undiluted fun,

praise and success. If students crumple because they do not get an hourly fix of praise, they may not last long. Self-esteem needs to be built up, but never to a stage that ordinary performance is exalted as extraordinary. "Warm fuzzies" are good, but so too are words of correction if they are shared with wisdom and understanding. Disappointment happens, so do discouragement and distress, and thus some inner courage is always required. It might be as well to remind some that if the world didn't "suck", they would fall off! As it is said, we are all born naked, wet and hungry, and things then get worse. Fortunately, things also often get better."

Special Thanks

The Parents Teachers Association, under the committed leadership of Mrs Brenda Black has flourished this year. A strong link with the College's Management Team has been maintained with the presence of Deputy Principal Tim Tucker at PTA meetings. The Association has and is contributing to a significant number of infrastructure projects such as the upgrade of the Broads changing rooms, the provision of computers for the new Graphics rooms and its continued support for our teams travelling nationally and internationally. We regard parents as genuine partners in their son's education and we are committed to continuing to improve our communication and links with our parent body.

The Runanga Matua

At a time when many schools have struggled to maintain contact with their Maori community our Runanga Matua has shown considerable goodwill and support for the College. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can announce the recent co-option of Mrs Carolyn Mihaere as their representative on the Board of Trustees.

The Nelson College Old Boys Association & Trust Foundation

The Nelson College Trust Foundation and Nelson College Old Boys Association have both provided wonderful support for the College during the year, with Mr John Towns taking over the reins of both organisations. I look forward to a continued strong relationship with our local and international Old Boys.

The Sale of the Braemar site/Art Works & Books

One fundamental role I have as Headmaster is to ensure that the educational experience for our boys

is the best I can provide. State schools are funded by the government to provide a 'basic' education; this is not acceptable to this community and to me as the leader of this school.

Much has been made about the loss and dishonouring of our heritage by the sale of artworks and books. There has also been a considerable level of misinformation, not only about the process followed in determining the sales, but also the fate of the funds which have been raised. I have included an excerpt from an open letter to all Old Boys which hopefully will clarify the current situation.

Excerpt from Headmaster's letter to Old Boys

Up until the involvement of the Trust this year, the College has had no significant endowment fund behind it. In addition, confidence in the Trust Foundation as a vehicle to support the College was low, mainly due to the Trevett fundraising problems some years ago. The importance of a protected endowment fund cannot be overstated if the College is to sustain the quality of education it currently offers.

The decision by the Trust Foundation to sell the Braemar land and to auction art and book assets was made in consultation with the PTA, the Board of Trustees and the Old Boys Association Nelson Executive. The decision to sell the art and books was not taken lightly, or with haste. All those involved were conscious of the importance of these items in the history of the college. Full size digital reproductions of the major art works remain on display and reinforce the college's dynamic and pervasive culture of honouring its history.

The books, acquired by various of the college's librarians, had been stored in very inadequate conditions for many years and were beginning to deteriorate badly. The art was similarly endangered. It is worth noting the considerable effort that was made to secure Professor Mary Fowler Rutherford as this year's Senior Prizegiving speaker. She is Lord Rutherford's great grand daughter and brought with her Rutherford's original mortar board from Cambridge University to 'cap' this years dux. She gave us unqualified support for the decisions made with regard to the art works.

All the money raised has been responsibly protected and has not been, and will not be used by the

current College administration to pay for day to day operations.

Other Challenges

The College has needed to radically restructure itself in order to meet the financial constraints of government funding coupled with a drop in Boarding and International numbers over the past few years. This has not significantly compromised the quality of education we offer. In particular class sizes remain at a level significantly lower than the national averages with 25 in Year 9/10 classes and 21 in Year 11-13 classes. It has, however, meant that some programmes have not been continued into 2009 and some of the student support structures have had to be cut back.

The process of identifying 'surplus' teaching staff involves a meticulous and open process which analyses all subject areas and pupil numbers over a 2 year period.

This process is supervised by the teachers' union representative and is carried out by a Board of Trustees sub committee. This year the subject areas of German and French were disestablished and will not be offered at the College in 2009. I am well aware of the benefits of studying another language and find the loss of the European languages from the College particularly distressing. Option class numbers in year 10 of fewer than 12 students are not sustainable, and, were they permitted to run, would result in 30+ students in other subject areas. This would be completely unacceptable.

All alternatives were considered, including Correspondence School and the use of Nelson College for Girls. The College does recognise the necessity of offering languages and is committed to the eventual removal of our current Year 9 option structure (½ year) and replacing it with a compulsory programme of second languages and/or literacy. We hope to have this in operation in 2010.

In attempting to function at the highest level we can expect many ongoing challenges (particularly financial). Your support of the direction we are taking and the pride we have in the achievements of your boys is heartening and I thank all of you. This is a College which will always put the needs of the boys ahead of all other considerations. Without their dynamism and enthusiasm we would have an 'empty heritage shell', our overriding

purpose will continue to be to explore all avenues to excel as a school and send the boys into life as adults well equipped to make a difference.

Merry Christmas to you all and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Regards

Gary O'Shea MEd(Admin) MEd (Tech)
Headmaster

Prizegiving Accolades



Nelson College Dux

Dux Colin Neale Memorial Trophy and Board of Trustees Medallion
Joseph Craig

JG McKay (leadership, character and scholarship)
Nick Bell

Nelson Science Scholarship

(Studying for a BSc at Canterbury University)
Charles Smith

Year 13

Network Tasman Award
Matthew Chamberlain

Year 12

Blick Cup (Best All-rounder)

Steffan Fastier

Network Tasman Award (Science, Electronics, Business)

Liam Beaumont

Richmond Scholarship (For General Excellence)

Ewoud Noordeloos

Year 11

Murray Fantham Memorial Award (Best All-rounder)

Scott Kearney

Network Tasman Award (Science, Electronics, Business)

Oscar Barkle

Newcombe Scholarship (For General Excellence)

Owen Connors

Board of Trustees

Medallions 2008

Medallions are awarded for outstanding achievements in 2008. To receive a medallion a student must win a National Title or gain National Selection.

Basketball

NZ U15 Championship Tournament Team

Oliver Shallcrass

NZ U16 Team

Michael Karena

NZ U19 Team

Joshua Bloxham

NZ U19 Team

Adam Rainbird

Cross Country/Road Racing

NZ Secondary Schools 3-man road relay team

Donald Hilson

NZ Secondary Schools 3-man Road relay team and NZ Cross Country Club Championships

Ewoud Noordeloos

Peter Meffan

Film Making

Royal Society Big Science Adventure Winners

Oliver Neas

Ross Inness-McLeish

Jack Tippler

Football

Solomon Island U23 Team for World Cup

Joachim Rande

Future Problem Solving

NZ Senior Team Winners

Samuel Bigwood

Ellery Daines

Edwin Glossop

Simon Hillier

NZ Individual Middle Winner

Timothy Leaper

Hockey

NZ U16 Team Captain

Scott Kearney

Motorsport

NZ U21 Clubsport Champion

Ethan Curtis

Physics

Energise Your Future Challenge Winners

Kevin Doran

Finnian Lawrence

Timothy Grunshaw

Rugby

NZ Secondary Schools Rugby

James Hadfield

NZ Secondary Schools 7-a-side

Thomas Marshall

NZ U17 Rugby Squad

Mitchell Thwaites

Sailing

NZ Optimist Development Squad

Ryan Amlehn

NZ Laser Youth Champion

Cameron McKee

NZ Starling Champion and Laser Team

Matthew Vincent

Softball

NZ U16 Academy Team

Jack Fletcher

Student News

Winners of Energise Your Future Challenge 2008



Nelson College students **Finn Lawrence, Kevin Doran** and **Tim Grunshaw** (above), won 1st place in the EPECentre ENERGISE YOUR FUTURE CHALLENGE 2008 "Renewable Power on Mars" for designing an energy system for a habitat on Mars. They each win a \$4000 scholarship to the University of Canterbury.

Maths success at University level

This year two Year 13 students have completed a University of Canterbury 100 Level Mathematics paper by distance learning. They achieved great results with **Tim Grunshaw** gaining an A+ and **Kam Tse** an A-.

Year 10 Accounting Business Enterprise

Enterprising Students Week run by the British High Commission challenged teams of students to come up with a business idea to help their community and develop a plan to make it happen. Congratulations to **Ash Lindup, Brook Robertson, Daniel Blacktopp, Sam Deaker, Trung Quang, Tang Siripanich, Judd Munro** and their teacher **Bernard Downey** whose Waitangi Sports Day Entry was the winning Social Enterprise entry. They were awarded \$1000 to put towards their project.

Sir Wallace Rowling Scholarship

Congratulations to **Tim Grunshaw** on winning the Sir Wallace Rowling Scholarship which will assist him to continue his studies at a tertiary level.

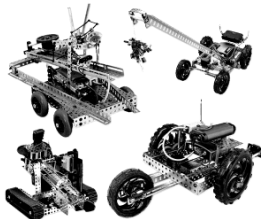
Rex Lucas Memorial Trust Flying Scholarship

Congratulations to **Matt Vincent** who was awarded this scholarship in 2008.

Department News

Robotics

Students, parents and local engineers are being encouraged to join robotic



teams which will design and build robots from VEX robot kits to perform certain tasks so that they may enter into a national Vex Robotic Competition (19 - 21 March 2009) in Auckland. (The winning team of this competition goes to the USA).

These and other students will also be attending a **robotic "boot camp"** in Auckland in April to learn how to build and control 1 metre high FIRST robots. Following the boot camp they will then have 6 weeks to prepare their robot for a competition in July in Auckland.

Interesting websites:

[VEX Competition](http://www.vexrobotics.com) www.vexrobotics.com
[FIRST NZ Competition](http://www.firstnz.org) www.firstnz.org

There are still places on this rollercoaster of excitement!

Contact Des Duthie, on phone: 5483099 x 832 or email: de@nelcollege.school.nz

Sports News



Proud Sponsors of Nelson College Sports and Physical Education Departments

Volleyball

South Island Junior Volleyball Competition

The Nelson College Year 10 team finished 3rd in the South Island. Congratulations to **Marco Edwards, Mack Delany, and Jackson Gregory** who were named in the Tournament team. **Jackson Gregory** was also named MVP of the tournament.

Representative Honours

Marco Edwards, Mack Delany, and Jackson Gregory were

selected in the Tasman U15 team to play Canterbury.

The Nelson College Year 9 team finished 3rd in Division 2.

Notices

School Stationery

To purchase stationery, please go to the school website, click on the **Uniform Shop** tab at the top, then the **Stationery** link near the bottom right hand side of the page.

Year 9 and 10 start-up packs will also be available at Paper Plus Nelson.

Full instructions and a leaflet will be posted out to your home in January.

Bus changes for 2009

As a result of new Ministry of Education contracts, there has been some re-arrangement of bus services from Richmond South. **There will be no late afternoon Waimea College bus run from Richmond south in 2009.**

SBL will offer a fare paying service from the College to Wakefield but there will be an increased cost for this service. For further information please contact Chris Lawton, on phone 03 5483099 ext 852.

Office Hours

The School Office will be closed from December 17 and will re-open on Monday 19 January. The Finance Office will be open until December 19 for payment of any outstanding accounts.

Nelson College Old Boys' News



Pictured above: Rear Admiral Peter McHaffie CNZM, OBE (NC 1961 - 1966) presenting the Spenser Tewsley Cup and Tankard to Ordinary Marine Technician Simon J Shirer (NC 1998 - 2002) at a Graduation Parade held at the Naval Base in Auckland on 19 September 2008.

Peter retired as the Chief of Navy in 2004 and felt particularly honoured to be invited to return to the Navy to review the parade of the newest sailors to join. His duties on the day included a formal inspection of those on parade, the presentation of

prizes and an address. On presenting the final prize, awarded to the best all round Basic Common Trainee, Peter was thrilled to learn that the recipient Simon was from his old school Nelson College. Both Peter and Simon also now share something else in common as both have been awarded best all round trainee awards after their first common training courses in Royal New Zealand Navy service.

Prizegiving Thank you

The Nelson College Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their generous support of Senior Prizegiving and Junior Prizegiving in 2008

Also Nelson Laundry, Aon New Zealand, Bin Inn, Cleaning Technology, Taylor Timbers Ltd Dutch Rusk Ltd, Fulton Hogan Nelson, Gen-I Nelson, Hay and Associates, Mitre 10 Mega, Nelson Coachlines, Neltech Communications Ltd, Network Tasman, Prices Pharmacy, Red Box Architects, Richmond Office Products, Richmond Sports Power, Rollos Outdoor Centre, School Supplies, Stewarts Avanti Plus, Wadsworth Motors Ltd, Waimea Electrical Ltd, WHK West Yates and Westpac

PTA Uniform Shop Holiday Hours

January/February 2009

15 January	12	- 4pm
16 January	12	- 4pm
20 January	12	- 4pm
21 January	12	- 4pm
22 January	1	- 7pm
23 January	12	- 4pm
26 January	12	- 4pm
27 January	12	- 4pm
28 January	12	- 4pm
29 January	1	- 7pm
30 January	12	- 4pm
2 February	12	- 4pm
3 February	8.30am	- 4pm

Contact Details: Jill Heath

Phone/Fax (03) 546 3265

After Hours (03) 548 8961

PLEASE NAME YOUR UNIFORM

Term Dates 2009

Term 1: 3 February	- 9 April
Term 2: 27 April	- 3 July
Term 3: 20 July	- 25 September
Term 4: 12 October	- 10 December