



NELSON COLLEGE

Newsletter

NELSON COLLEGE
pictas probitas et sapientia

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Calendar Term 1

March 4-5	Marlborough Boys College Sports Exchange
March 11	Mufti Day Nelson College Athletics Championships
March 13	Senior Dance
March 16-17	Sports Weekend
March 16	Sports Night Variety Concert, 7pm, Hall
March 17	House Sports Boarders Parent Interviews
March 21	Good Friday
March 24	Easter Monday
March 25	Easter Tuesday
March 27	Parent Interviews 4-8pm
March 31	Parent Interviews 4-8pm
March 31- April 4	Summer Tournament Week
April 10	Mufti Day
April 11-15	Burnside High School Visit
April 18	Last Day Term 1

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, Samme Harris

Email: sh@nelcollege.school.nz
■ pastoral + boarding

Headmaster's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome all boys back to the College and a special welcome to new boys.

The year has started very well with boys settling into the routine of classes quickly and the summer/winter sports selections, trials and competition games are now in full swing.

I would like to thank all parents for their positive support of the behaviour boundaries, uniform requirements and routines we have set in place. I can assure you that these are a major contributor to ensuring that we have a calm and focussed atmosphere both in and out of the classroom.

Our predicted roll for 2008 was 890 boys; at this time we have 960 boys enrolled. This is a strong indicator that we are providing an educational structure and culture which is endorsed by the community and we take this as encouragement for us to maintain current standards and continue to seek ways to improve what we have to offer your sons.

Boys Performance and NCEA 2007

The apparent widening gap between the achievement levels of boys and girls has held a prominent place in the articles and reports presented in all media forms over the past few years. When we examine national trends on the differences in academic achievement based on gender:

a) both boys and girls have improved significantly in all areas of academic achievement particularly literacy and numeracy.

b) both boys and girls are staying at school longer and more are leaving with higher qualifications.

The increased 'gap' which currently exists in achievement levels is due to girls having improved more than boys across most statistical measures. However, the 'gap' between the performance of our boys at Nelson College and girls from similar or higher decile schools is very small and has, in fact, diminished over the past two years.

Many factors play a part in this success -

- the College's philosophy of providing multiple course options with many pathways to success
- the experience, calibre and commitment of the teaching staff to the special needs of boys
- the College's strong culture of belonging and commitment to excellence in all aspects of what constitutes a well rounded education
- strong parental support for the caring but firm boundaries that we believe are essential for boys to realise their potential

The following two charts (see overleaf) illustrate the performance of Nelson College boys in the 2007 NCEA examinations. These results are compared with the performance of boys and girls nationally and in higher decile single sex & co-educational schools.

Regards

Gary O'Shea MEd (Admin)
HEADMASTER

GENDER COMPARISONS 2007

(Nelson College with Girls and Boys in Decile 8-10 schools performance)

	Nelson College Decile 7	Boys Decile 8-10	Girls Decile 8-10	% GAP Nelson College with Boys (Decile 8-10)	% GAP Nelson College with Girls (Decile 8-10)
Level One (Yr 11)	75%	67%	80%	+8%	-5%
Level Two (Yr 12)	80%	66%	80%	+14%	0%
Level Three (Yr 13)	68%	54%	71%	+14%	-3%
University E (Yr 13)	68%	53%	69%	+5%	-1%

Explanatory Notes:-

- a) Boys Decile 8-10 results include boys achievement in single sex and co-ed schools (State & Private schools)
Girls Decile 8-10 results include girls achievement in single sex and co-ed schools (State & Private schools)
- b) NZ High schools are ranked for funding purposes from Decile 1 to Decile 10
Decile 1 schools are found in socio-economically 'poorer' areas (eg Otago / Porirua)
Decile 10 schools are found in socio-economically 'richer' areas (eg Remuera / Fendalton)

GENDER COMPARISONS 2007

(Nelson College with Girls and Boys performance)

	Nelson College	Boys National	Girls National	% GAP Nelson College with Boys (Nationally)	% GAP Nelson College with Girls (Nationally)
Level One (Yr 11)	75%	57%	67%	+18%	+8%
Level Two (Yr 12)	80%	59%	69%	+21%	+11%
Level Three (Yr 13)	68%	45%	59%	+23%	+9%
University E (Yr 13)	68%	43%	55%	+25%	+13%

Explanatory Notes:-

- a) These results are a comparison with national figures which include all schools (state & private)
- c) The national 'gap' between boys and girls achievement (across all deciles & qualifications) varies from 10%-14%

Nelson College Scholarship Recipients 2007

Congratulations to the following students on their scholarship results

Mark Cleghorn -Biology, Chemistry, Science (Outstanding)

Richard McNamara -Maths, Statistics

Elijah Burton -English

Michael Johnston -Visual Arts

Jonti Griffin -Visual Arts (Outstanding)

Jonathan Stubbs -Visual Arts

Sam Drew -Accounting

Jared McIntosh -Classical Studies

John Sharland -Economics

Scholars (3 Scholarships)

Mark Cleghorn will receive \$3,000 per year for 3 years.

All others will receive a one off payment of \$500

Staff News

Welcome to the following new teaching and support staff in 2008.

Simon Powrie (Social Studies/English)

Simon is a first year teacher having graduated from Christchurch College of Education in 2007

Jarrah Haldane (Drama/English)

Jarrah is also a first year teacher having graduated from Christchurch College of Education in 2007

Patricia Arends

Part time Art Teacher for 2008

Caroline Tarling

Part time Food Technology/Science teacher for 2008

Ashley Thesen

Part time Social Studies teacher for 2008

Richard Nott (Head Teacher, Nelson College Preparatory School)

Previously Principal of St Peter Chanel School, Motueka

Dian Edmondson (Year 7 Prep Teacher)

Previously teaching in Australia

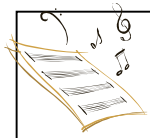
Welcome back to **Ken Ross** (Geography), **Kevin Burgess** (Art) and **Jill Dickinson** (Science Technician)

Support Staff

Vanessa McDonald (Librarian)

Debbie Baxter (School Nurse)

Upcoming Events



Sports Night Variety Concert

Sunday March 16, 7pm
Nelson College Assembly Hall

Choirs ▪ Bands
Cultural Groups
Theatre Sports ▪ Pyramids

An evening of great entertainment!

Tickets: -available from the
Finance Office
-door sales on the night
-\$10 Adults, \$5 children

Fa'a Samoa 2008

▪ 10 nights
▪ July School Holidays

There are **limited places** still available on this exciting trip, where you will learn about Samoan history and culture. Secure your place immediately by paying a deposit of \$250. For further information please contact Tim Tucker on email, tk@nelcollege.school.nz.

Trip Highlights

- ▶ snorkelling tropical reef
- ▶ rainforest walks
- ▶ swimming with turtles
- ▶ Island tour

Student News

Nouveau Design Awards



Hiroshima Skies

Ross Inness-McLeish placed 1st for Photography in the Visual Art 'open section' at the Nouveau Design

Issue 1 February 2008

Awards held in January with his entry *Hiroshima Skies*. The photograph was taken on the school's Japan trip in 2007, and Ross also placed 1st for Photography and 1st for Painting in the Young Designers (aged 11 to 15) category.

Sports News



Proud Sponsors of Nelson College Sports and Physical Education Departments

Congratulations to the following:

Basketball

Josh Bloxham has been selected in the New Zealand Junior Tall Blacks team to play in Germany in March. **Adam Rainbird** has been named as a reserve in the same team.

Swimming Sports



Junior Championship

1st Misha Sinner
2nd Kaiori McGuinniety
3rd Isaac Johnston

Intermediate Championship

1st Austen Dean
2nd Matt Laird
3rd Jonathan Ball

Senior Championship

1st Jack Armstrong
2nd Joe Thornton
3rd Loui Harvey

House results

1st Chaytor, 2nd Monro, 3rd Rutherford, 4= Fell and Robinson
6= Kahurangi, Barnicoat & Domett

Touch

The Nelson College Touch team won the regional secondary schools touch tournament held at Tahunanui in February. They will represent Tasman in the South Island Championships in March.

Softball

Jack Fletcher and **Masa Tamura**

were part of the Nelson U17 boys' softball team that placed fourth at the national tournament in January. They were also named in the 'rest' team on the last day of the tournament.

Yachting –Two National Titles



Cam McKee (pictured above) won the national laser radial youth yachting title in Taupo this month, having already won the North Island and South Island titles. His focus is now on the world youth regatta to be held in Takapuna at Easter –his last as a youth sailor.

Matt Vincent is the new national starling champion. He improved on his 3rd placing in the qualifying series held in January at the North Shore's Torbay Sailing Club to secure his first national title.

(Photo and stories courtesy of The Nelson Mail)

2008 Rugby Season

Wanted

Rugby Coaches ▪ Managers First Aid Persons

- Rugby coaches and managers are needed for all age grades. Experience is not essential and some training will be given.
- Competent qualified first aid persons who can help on Saturdays with sports strapping and injuries are also needed.

Parents, Old Boys of the College or anyone who wants to be involved in rugby at Nelson College please contact Rowan O'Gorman by telephone on 03 5483099, cell 0210792375 or email: rg@nelcollege.school.nz.

PTA News

The PTA is a group of parents and staff who meet on the fourth Monday of each month in the staffroom. We encourage any interested people to come along and see how the PTA and College work together, to improve life for the students.

Our funding comes directly from the Uniform Shop profit. This enables us to donate significant sums to large projects, support individuals and groups of students in cultural and sporting activities, and purchase items not otherwise funded by the College. We also hold social functions during the year for parents to meet each other.

Please feel free to contact the PTA Chair, Brenda Black on email: mbfc@xtra.so.nz, should you wish to find out any further information.

**NELSON COLLEGE
PTA AGM**
Monday 17 March, 7.30 pm
College Staffroom
All welcome

PTA Uniform Shop
Opening Hours –Term time

Terms 1 & 4
Thursday: 3pm - 7pm
Friday: 12pm - 1.30pm

Terms 2 & 3
Thursday: 3pm - 6.30pm
Friday: 12pm - 1.30pm

Contact details:
Jill Heath
Phone/fax (03) 546 3265
After hours (03) 548 8961

Notices

Important Notice

Please contact the school office if you are aware of any student of the College who has contracted chicken pox.

This is very important and would be much appreciated.

Dave Tinker, Yr 9 Dean

An Acknowledgement

Lexia Strategies for Older Students is a state-of-the-art computer programme designed to help students acquire and improve basic reading skills. Nelson College bought and installed the programme in 2007 and has had huge success in improving literacy levels at Years 9 and 10. We would like to acknowledge and thank John Kennedy (Lexia Learning Systems NZ Ltd) for his continued support for the Nelson College Learning Centre.

Homework Support

A senior student will be in the library from 8.15am each school morning to assist with homework problems.

Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for volunteers who can spare an hour or two every week to assist in the Nelson College library with various tasks from covering new books to arranging displays. If you have some spare time and this would interest you please contact our librarian, Vanessa on telephone: (03) 548 3099, ext 841.

Technology Materials

The Technology Department uses a range of materials (wood, metal, plastic etc) for student projects. If anyone has contacts for free, donated or recycled materials, please contact technology teacher, Martin Love, on telephone (03) 548 3099 ext.831.

Mothers Raising Boys Course

An innovative course to support, inspire and inform mothers raising adolescent boys. For further information please contact Anne Harvey on telephone, (03) 548 1235 or email: mo4b@xtra.co.nz

This newsletter is kindly sponsored by

**Looking for a
home loan expert?**

Everyone's different, that's why at Bank of New Zealand we like to talk to you directly. If your fixed rate is about to expire, you are looking to buy a home, or if you simply want to know that you are getting the best deal – call me now.

Steve Parker *Mobile Manager*
p 03 546 3791
e steve_parker@bnz.co.nz





Music Tuition

Free music tuition is available to boys who wish to learn a brass instrument (Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba) or Woodwind instrument (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone) as part of the College's Instrumental Music Programme. Instruction is in small groups and a minimal charge is made if an instrument is hired from the school.

For further information please contact: Mr Paul Brown or Mrs Merle Brown in the Music Department, by telephone on 03 548 3099 ext 836 or email bn@nelcollege.school.nz.

**NELSON COLLEGE OLD
BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Nelson College Old Boys are invited to attend the Nelson College Old Boys' Association AGM

Monday 21 April 2008
5pm
Nelson College Scriptorium

For further information please contact Gina Fletcher - 548 3099, ext 825

John Towns
PRESIDENT

Term Dates 2008

- Term 1:**
Thurs 7 February -
Fri 18 April
- Term 2:**
Mon 5 May -
Fri 4 July
- Term 3:**
Mon 21 July -
Fri 26 September
- Term 4:**
Mon 13 October -
Wed 17 December

DISCIPLINE SYSTEMS AT NELSON COLLEGE

The college works hard to support students in learning appropriate behaviour in and outside the classroom. Young men often need help in developing suitable behaviour and the college discipline systems are designed to support them in this.

We hope the following explanation of our systems will be of help to parents.

Classroom behaviour management

- Firstly, the classroom teacher has the primary responsibility for behaviour management in their classrooms.
- Teachers are able to use a lunchtime detention (of half an hour) for students who do not respond to minor impositions.
- Departments also often use a 'red card' system where a student unable to control their persistent chatter, for example, can be sent to spend the rest of the lesson in another class under the supervision of a senior teacher.
- A more serious transgression (persistent disobedience and/or gross misconduct) means a student will be 'transferred' out of the class to a member of the Management Team.

After school detentions

These are only able to be given by members of the Management Team and Deans. Boys are provided with a letter to take home detailing the reason for the after school detention and parents are able to contact the Management Team directly for clarification and/or concerns.

The great majority of students will respond well to the above processes and we are grateful for the support of parents in maintaining a good tone in the college.

The process for students who repeatedly miss detentions or whose behaviour is not modified by the processes outlined above:

- a) in school suspension for one or two days,
- b) contact home (sometimes a parent conference)
- c) behaviour and/or non association contract with DP or Headmaster
- d) usually, a referral to careers and/or guidance counsellor

Continued disobedience / serious incident(s)

- a) MOE stand down for up to 5 days
- b) Parent interview before the decision to confirm a stand down is implemented. This will occur with the Deputy Principal or Assistant Principal
- c) If a stand down is enforced, then the boy is to meet the Headmaster on his return to school
- d) Second contract + other conditions (eg mandatory counselling) may be imposed

Breaking of contract and/or other serious incident(s)

- a) Second period of MOE stand down for up to 5 days
OR indefinite suspension pending a BOT disciplinary Hearing (options to expel (over 16), exclude (under 16) or readmit to the College with or without conditions)
- b) Parent interview before the decision to confirm a stand down or suspension is implemented. This will occur with the Headmaster or Deputy Principal.