



Tena Koutou Katoa

I would like to request assistance from parents/caregivers with the following three vital matters:

### 1. Influenza A (H1N1) or Swine Flu Precautions

Although the issue of Swine Flu has featured less prominently in the media in recent weeks, the Ministry of Health has advised us that it is expected to increase significantly.

It is of particular relevance to schools. So far most cases around the world have involved children, and the spread of the virus in countries like Japan and Australia has been linked to schools. Transmission between people who have not travelled to countries of high risk, or do not have direct contact with someone who has, is now confirmed in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. Since the beginning of the outbreak 12 schools have already closed at times in Victoria, Australia.

First then, I would appreciate if all **parents/caregivers could ensure that students who are sick with flu symptoms stay at home and do NOT come to school.** You are also strongly advised to call your doctor whether you have been overseas to affected areas or not.

Second, I would like to remind all families and whānau about the importance of personal hygiene – especially vigorous hand washing. Remember, you should keep washing your hands for as long as it takes to sing Happy Birthday!

Finally, the Ministry of Health advises that everyone should be aware and on the look out for flu symptoms especially if they or their families have travelled in affected areas.

### 2. Regular Attendance and Punctuality is Crucial

As long as a student does not have flu symptoms they should be **at school on time!** I cannot emphasise enough the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and I ask all parents/caregivers to assist us in this regard. I am very concerned about the number of students who are arriving late. The findings of every rigorous academic study are that **attendance is one of the most critical factors in advancing a student's learning and achievement.** Absences mean students develop gaps in their understanding and skill development. They make it more difficult for students to join together the various pieces of knowledge they are being taught and therefore, hinder their progress. Furthermore, just as you have to practice driving a car before you get your licence, academic success is not achieved without plenty of engagement and practice. Absences from school remove these practice opportunities.

### 3. NCEA Entry Fees 2009

All students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be entered in NCEA this year. The fee for New Zealand students is \$75.00 and for International students it is \$375.00. I would like to ask all parents/caregivers to ensure that this is paid to the Selwyn College cashier at the Student Office well before the deadline of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. It is a huge job for the college to chase up people who forget to pay and it takes our energies away from other more important business. I will keep reminding you of this deadline in the weeks ahead in order to help you meet it! Make

your cheque out to 'Selwyn College' not NZQA and please do not pay NZQA directly. If you do not pay your fees NZQA will not report any results on your Record of Achievement and you will not get any certificates. If you pay late a penalty fee of \$50.00 will apply.



### Financial Assistance to Pay NCEA Entry Fees

To apply for financial assistance, the applicant (normally the parent or caregiver of the candidate) must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- be receiving a Work and Income or Study Link benefit.
- have a joint family income that would entitle the applicant to receive a Community Services Card.
- have more than one child in the family studying for senior secondary school qualifications and their total fees are more than \$200.00.

The fee is then reduced to \$20.00 per student or a maximum of \$30.00 per family. (*International fee paying candidates are not eligible for financial assistance.*)

If you think you should get financial assistance you must complete a form which can be collected from the Student Office or downloaded from the NZQA website, [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)

The completed form must be returned to the Student Office by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.**

### Farewell to Long-serving Staff Member - Helen Graaf

Last week the staff had a special morning tea to farewell one of our long-serving Selwyn teachers. Helen Graaf taught in the Physical Education & Health Department for 19 years. This is amazing service! Helen has retired to pursue other interests. We wish her all the very best.



### A Successful Ngati Whatua Initiative Encourages Maori Students' Achievement

This week several of our junior Maori students were invited to participate in a live-in hui at the Orakei Marae. Its purposes were to improve retention and achievement, engage whanau in their students' learning and strengthen and support the relationship between the school and whanau. The hui culminated in an information session for parents, which was also attended by Sheryll Ofner, Denise Edwards and Milton Henry from our senior leadership team. Parents learnt about NCEA from Te Mana staff and there was an engaging presentation from the Liggins Institute focussing on Science careers for Maori. Thank you to Ngati Whatua's Education Officer, Clay Hawke for this outstanding initiative which further strengthens the partnership between our school and Ngati Whatua in working together to foster the achievement of our young Maori students.



Sheryll Ofner, Principal

# Careers Expo

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June—9:00 – 12:30

Open to all

Year 11, 12 and 13 students

This is an annual event for senior students where they have the amazing opportunity to meet and listen to people from a vast range of industries and learning providers. Some are even travelling from other parts of the country.

This year Selwyn will host over 60 different visitors during the morning. Students will be given a comprehensive programme from which they can choose to attend up to 6 different presentations. At the same time the library will be transformed into a Careers Expo Centre where students can gather information directly from the specialists.

Students will receive the programme on Monday and are encouraged to discuss it with their parents and teachers before selecting which presentations to attend.

Presentations last 30 minutes and students must not enter a room after a presentation has started. This means each student must plan their morning carefully.

Jeremy James - CAREERS ADVISER



## The Artists In Schools Program

Last week saw the end of a successful five weeks for the Selwyn Art students who had the privilege to work alongside Dr Victoria Edwards and Ina Johan. The time was packed with activities, starting with visiting Edwards + Johan's work exhibited at MIC Gallery on KRd, through lunch time performances, creative workshops and ending with a collaborative exhibition last Friday which showcased everyone's interpretation of the theme 'Navigating Histories'. The media included sound art performances, drawings, moving images, photography, paintings, installations and sculptures.

Congratulations to all of the students who were involved. We are very proud of the quality work you produced. Thanks to Peter and Amanda Worrall who are allowing us to trial their new virtual gallery which will display images of the students working alongside the artists and will also exhibit the final work seen last Friday. This can be viewed online at Gallerycentric.com.



### SELWYN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

There are still places in the following courses:

Saturday June 13th

**Painting Mixed Media** 9am—4pm

**VHF Radio Operation** 8.30am—3.30pm

**Family History** 9.20am— 3pm

**Paella** 10am—1pm

**Soft Stone Sculpture** 11am—4pm

Also

**Winter Soups and Salads** 9 June 7–9pm

**Child First Aid** 7 June 9.30am—2.30pm

**Vegetarian and Gluten Free Cooking**  
20th and 27th June 9.30am—2.30pm

See our website for details

Phone: 521 9623

or visit [www.selwyncomed.school.nz](http://www.selwyncomed.school.nz) to enrol

## Winter Sports Results

### Basketball

U17 girls vs Onehunga High School won 33—14

U17 boys vs Auckland Grammar lost 44—29

### Football

Girls 1st XI are top of the table. Last week they scored an amazing 15 goals, **Hanna Kelly** (below) scored 9 of these. Well done!



**SCHOOL  
LIFE  
IS NOT A  
REHEARSAL**