



Tena Koutou Katoa

NEWSLETTER

Friday 23 September 2011 — Issue 26



Selwyn's U15 Basketball Team – one of the BEST in GREATER AUCKLAND!

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the Selwyn College U15 Basketball team who were runners up in the Greater Auckland Basketball Championships held last week. This is a significant achievement and one that everyone in the Selwyn community can be extremely proud of.

The team initially played in the Central Auckland zone competition, in which they topped the table. This enabled them to proceed to the very tough Greater Auckland Championships. In the round robin, they won all of their games against Rangitoto College, Liston College and St Kentigern College. They then met Mt Albert Grammar in the semi-finals. This was a nail-biting experience as MAGs had beaten our team in their previous encounter. However, our boys were up to it and their win took them through to the finals against Glenfield College. Unfortunately they lost the final 50 – 40.



However, to have come so far with just 7 players is absolutely amazing! We are incredibly proud of you: Yuat Alok, Lis Haraqia, Don Xharra, Timooy Llanes, Gabriel Carr, Anil Jashari, Adrian Zuniga and Coach Kenton Biggs.

Left: - Coach Kenton Biggs (year 11 student) talks the team through the next set of offensive and defensive plays

An Extremely Important Notice for Senior Students and their Parents

On Friday 4th November all senior students who have achieved their internal credits and have a large number of external NCEA examinations will go on exam leave. However, this year for the first time, we will not be releasing senior students who are studying largely internally assessed courses and who have not yet achieved the credits required for their NCEA qualifications. We want to support these students to complete their qualification. Therefore, we will be releasing a new timetable with classes specifically focused on helping these students to complete their work. Both the students affected and their parents will be notified well in advance.

Impending ERO Visit

Next week from Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th September the Education Review Office will be conducting a Supplementary Review of our school looking at

- the extent to which we have consolidated and embedded improved teaching and learning practices, including the use of student achievement information and
- progress with building productive partnerships with parents and the wider school community;

We believe the school has made spectacular progress in these areas and we are looking forward to sharing our evidence with the reviewers.

Reflections on my Experience of Working at Selwyn College in the Counselling Department

I live in California. As part of the requirements for my Masters in Education and Counselling Program, I took the opportunity to do some of my field work hours at Selwyn College in Auckland. During my four weeks at the school I have had the opportunity to meet with individual students, do some group counselling, attend Restorative Justice Conferences, Case Management meetings and Co-Construction meetings. While observing and reflecting upon the professional and social relationships, I noticed differences between the way adults in schools here and America relate to each other and the students. Particular points of difference I noticed were the care taken with communication, effortless inclusiveness, effective feedback and shared leadership. I realized I was definitely in another country and that the ways of communication here did not fit with my experiences in America.

As I was reflecting on this I was thinking about some of the dominant ways of thinking in American schools. Phrases such as *Too Many Chiefs and not Enough Indians*, *Stupid Questions get Stupid Answers*, *Expressing Kindness is a Sign of Weakness* are all familiar to me and remind me that I've been used to working in an environment which is generally less inclusive, less respectful and less trusting. People I have previously worked with in schools at home aren't too keen on hearing what's on everyone's mind – it takes too much time, hierarchy is really important and ranking in that

hierarchy defines the importance of your presence and contribution. Not everyone's contribution is valued and I never saw the wrong in this until I worked at Selwyn College where I came to appreciate the enthusiasm coming from the teachers and other administrative members and saw how it supports the learning and development of individual students. I attended restorative justice conferences and other meetings at Selwyn that included a wide range of staff, including janitors, teacher-aides, teachers, Heads of Houses and Senior Leadership Team. Everyone's input was respected and valued and I believe that this sort of process has helped to create a school and student body of great integrity.

I have found the students whom I have had the opportunity to counsel to be very caring, devoted to rebuilding relationships, and extremely calm in comparison to students in my own country. Although I would like to take these practices back to America, I am afraid that my kindness will be mistaken for weakness and therefore I would be disrespected by the students and administrative staff. It is refreshing to have had the experience of seeing people genuinely care about each other and move beyond ideas about position and status. Finally, I'd like to say thanks to everyone at this great school for making me so welcome and giving me this opportunity.

Juanita Williams



SELWYN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

see our website www.selwyncomed.school.nz
or phone 09 521 9623 to enrol

Second Hand Uniforms Urgently Required

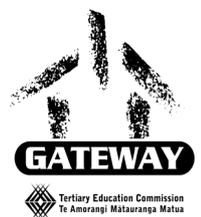
If you are interested in selling second hand uniform items to the school which are in reasonable condition, please bring these into the Student Office or phone us on 5219610 ext 637.



Another Gateway Student Succeeds

This week we highlight our Year 13 student Carl Chung who chose to do work experience in the Sport and Recreation area. Sport is one of Carl's great passions and having this experience with the Olympic Pools – Newmarket not only introduced Carl to the recreation business but it also landed him valuable part-time work. Carl returned to NZ after many years in Hong Kong and introduced Korfbal to Selwyn College. He has also been selected to represent NZ in this interesting sport. Next year Carl plans to start his Bachelor degree in Sport.

Right—Carl Chung working at the Olympic Pool-Newmarket



**SCHOOL
LIFE
IS NOT A
REHEARSAL**