



HCS WEEKLY NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Hamilton Christian School
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25 February 2010

Dear Parents and Supporters, greetings in His Name

We are already in Week 4 of term 1 – it has been a hectic time for staff as we get routines going, and do a lot of ‘year start’ jobs. This week we hosted the quarterly Christian Leaders’ breakfast here at HCS. Mrs van Woerden and her team did a fantastic job providing an outstanding breakfast to a group of about 32 Christian pastors and other leaders from the Hamilton area – we received very positive feedback and it was a great privilege for us to talk about our school and extend hospitality to those involved in Christian ministry in our lovely city.

National Standards are a hot topic of discussion in the news media at the moment. Viewpoints are being strongly expressed at the moment and we thought we would keep you informed as to what is happening at HCS. We are fortunate, as an independent school, in that we are able to formulate what we believe to be the best approach for the school rather than being compelled by political decisions – to this end we are gathering information from a number of sources including attending workshops run by School Support Services. We will then, over the course of the year, begin to work on putting into place a “custom built” benchmarking system for Hamilton Christian School.

Mrs Carina Wassenaar has informed us that she will be resigning as one of our receptionists as from the end of term 1. Carina has given a lot to the school over the years she has worked here, and her contribution will be missed. We wish her the Lord’s blessing as she moves into other areas of service.

At our secondary assembly this week, we were pleased to be able to honour the four House Captains (Louizanne Allers – Carey, Stefan van Woerden – Judson, Sarah Farmer – Rosevere and Lisa Hemmes – Townsend) by giving them a school tie which they will wear to mark them as part of our Student Council along with the four Head Students. Mr Bezuidenhout and the Student Council had a very profitable time on their ‘retreat’, and there are some great initiatives that will be starting to flow out into the life of the school. Student Council members are helping as a liaison between the student body and school management, and are also taking an active role in things such as supervising skateboarding and detention work around the school as well assisting teachers on duty during breaks.

We are holding an information evening for parents on the secondary (Yr 9-13) programme on Thursday 4 March starting at 7:00pm. We would love to see parents come along as we explain our programme, including information on the NCEA qualifications system and how we operate correspondence courses.

We have scheduled two working bees for maintenance and other work around the school each term. We would love to see parents, and other volunteers who want to help out, join us as it helps keep our maintenance costs down. Our volunteers are looked after well in terms of food and fellowship and it also helps build community spirit. Our main task is completing the painting of A block at the moment though there will be other jobs that need doing. We start at 8:30am on each Saturday, though helpers are welcome any time for as long as can be spared. The two dates for term 1 are Saturday 6 March and Saturday 13 March. Those wanting to help with the provision of food and refreshment for the workers can contact Nica van Woerden who is coordinating that side of things while our Caretaker, Quentin Lukey, is taking care of the maintenance programme.

On a final note, I have been mentioning to students the four main ways of how to be a genuine student as part of our focus at school assemblies recently on aiming excellence. Those characteristics are something we encourage our children to work at, but the fruit from diligent application here is potentially tremendous. A genuine student makes their education their own project; they are willing to admit their own ignorance; they don’t allow themselves excuses for not learning; and they commit their work to the Lord. Our text of the week gives good solid motivation for putting the effort in. We hope you have a blessed week.

Yours in Him

Martin Keast, Principal

Upcoming Events

25 Feb Board Meeting 7:30pm

MARCH

- 1-5 Y1-8 Aqua Ed at Waterworld
- 1 Y8 HPV dose 1/Y7 Boostrix vaccine
- 4 Y9-13 Information evening
- 5 Y8 HPV catch-up
- 6 Working Bee – painting A block, 8.30 am
- 8 - 11 Y7-8 Bush camp
- 12 **Y1-8 Teacher Only Day**
- Yr 12 surf awareness & Biology trip to Raglan
- 13 Working Bee – painting and other work, 8.30am

Text of the week Col 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

WORKING BEES

to finish the painting of A Block 6 & 13 March

Welcome Back

Laura Hutchison Y12



EBBETT

MARQUE OF EXCELLENCE

Prayer points

- For Mrs Cunliffe and the baby she carries.
- Our thanks for the safe delivery of a son to Mrs Raewyn Wheeler (our previous HoD Science) on Tuesday.
- Our search for a good and godly replacement for Mrs Cunliffe.
- That the Lord would move Christian parents to use HCS for their children.
- For a growing sense of community and harmony amongst us all.
- Thanks for the successful Christian Leaders' breakfast this past Wednesday



WORKING BEES – to finish the painting of A Block 6 & 13 March.

We would also like you to mark 22 & 29 May; 21 & 28 Aug; and also 13 Nov & 20 Nov as dates for future working bees. Starting 8.30 am

NITS!! Could ALL PARENTS, please check to see that their children are free of these. If everyone is checking, the quicker we can be rid of them. Nit Kits are available for loan from the office.

Proposed Missions trip to Samoa in July Many students have indicated a wish to go on this missions trip during the school holidays. However, **definite numbers are required now** for the flights to be booked. Any queries, please contact Mrs van Woerden by email nicav@hamiltonchristian.school.nz **NOW!!**

It's **Aqua Ed** time again!

Y 1-8 will be travelling daily to Waterworld next week.

TOGS & TOWEL NEEDED **DAILY**.

The timetable is below should any parents would like to visit. The lessons are at Waterworld, Te Rapa.

9.00 – 9.40am	Year 7/8 DS
9.45 – 10.25am	Year 4/5 MB
10.35 – 11.15am	Year 7/8 CE
11.20 – 12.00pm	Year 7/8 CC
12.30 – 1.10pm	Year 1 JD & Year 2 RS
1.15 – 1.55pm	Year 5/6 KH
2.00 – 2.40pm	Year 3/4 CB

Summit Holiday Programmes are high quality experience based programmes beginning this April school holidays. We have three programmes to choose from; the Young Adventurers' Outdoor Programme, the Young Creative' Arts & Crafts Programme and the Young Sparks' Junior Programme. We will be using smaller age brackets and progressive skill learning in programmes with a whanau environment where your children will be encouraged, inspired, motivated and most of all have fun. For more information please visit our website at www.summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz or you can contact Kelly on 856 5935 or 027 355 9252 or admin@summitholidayprogrammes.co.nz.

TV and DVD/VCR Player for Bible Class Any parents seeking a home for their spare and unwanted TV or DVD/VCR should be aware that a safe haven awaits in the D2 Bible classroom. While we have a small unit available to share, a permanent TV and player for regular use would be a blessing. If you can help, please contact Bryan Martin 855-1268 / 021-205-1720 if you are able to help.

HCS Parents' Weekly Prayer Meeting each Tuesday morning from 8:45-9:30am in C1. Come each week or even just occasionally — just drop in on the day. If you have any questions call Linda Dowling 853-7662 / Jackie Hemmes 855-0684.

Uniform Shop Now open on Tuesdays 8.30am—3.45pm, or by appointment. Students may purchase uniform with parental permission before and after school, and during their breaks. You can sell your second hand uniform items on our school website, email details of items, and contact details to reception@hamiltonchristian.school.nz

There are many Christian parents who want to educate their children at HCS, but who struggle to afford the full cost of doing so. Several years ago the Board set up the Student Sponsorship and Fee Assistance Committee, to provide a means for helping such families.

Board members interview parents to verify their need and provide practical help or advice where possible and in many cases families have been able to arrange things to fully fund school fees and other associated costs.

However, there are still some families whose funding options are severely limited and who seek financial help from the wider school community through the Sponsorship and Fee Assistance Fund. The Board relies solely on the Lord to provide the funds needed each year; none of the school's operating income goes into the Fund. Through prayer and letting those in our school community know that funds are needed for student sponsorship, by faith we seek to draw the Lord's attention to the need and wait on Him to provide; recognising that He most often provides through donations given sacrificially by members of the wider school community.

2010 has begun with the Fund assisting several families and additional requests for help are still being received.

The Committee asks you to please prayerfully consider if you are able to help others in our school community who are finding things tough financially right now by way of a one-off or regular donation to the Fund. Donations are treated in the strictest confidence and are tax-deductible. Even small amounts can make a difference and all gifts are gratefully received.

If you would like to contribute to the Fund or if you would like any more information, please contact the school's Bursar, Gavin Baxter, or Jackie Hemmes, Sponsorship and Fee Assistance Committee Convener.

CADETS AND CALVINETTES

Fun, games, activities, badges, camps! Our next club night: will be on 8 March. Club nights are Mon. 6.30 – 8.30pm every fortnight.

Children 9 – 14 years (children can start the year they turn 9).

Hamilton Reformed church, 11 Aberdeen drive, Hamilton.

Numbers need to be known (if at all possible) by 1 March, please contact Lynda Kamphuis for more information ph 858 2200.

Sponsors to:

HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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