

MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TUARUA O TIRIWA

TE PAANUI RAHINA

274 Don Buck Road

Massey Auckland 8

PRINCIPAL : B S RITCHIE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Greetings Kia Ora Talofa Guten Tag Bonjour Malo e le lei Dobro Dosli Kia Orana こんにちは
Fakalofa lahi ATU Shalom Goeie Dag Sawadee Croeso Bula Fáilte

18 June 2007

MONDAY NEWSLETTER

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www.masseyhigh.school.nz

"WE ARE AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL"

ASSESSMENT WEEK

Last week, 11-15 June, was Assessment Week for all students at Massey High School. We arranged a special timetable for the week where students had a double period for each of their subjects during the week and were released each day at 1.05pm. This seemed to work well and many senior students in particular have commented positively on this arrangement where they had some extra time each day to prepare for their NCEA internal assessments. For various reasons, some assessments for both seniors and juniors have had to carry over into this week.

We thank the parents for their understanding during this week and their support for this rearranged timetable. We also thank the Board of Trustees for their support in approving this. For these last two weeks of Term Two, we are back to our normal timetable with school starting at 8.35am and finishing at 3.10pm each day.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Joshua Ioka (11PLE) who competed at the North Island Boxing Championships in Taupo and is now the Golden Gloves North Island Intermediate 91kgs Champion for 2007. Last year Joshua was the New Zealand Amateur Boxing Champion for Junior Male 80kgs.

Congratulations to Victoria Wilshire (12MBW) who won a National Dance Competition in Wellington last October and won a Dancing Scholarship to Los Angeles in July. Victoria will have 10 days of dancing classes in a Hollywood studio and will be in a show on Sunset Boulevard. This includes accommodation and having auditions and meeting with dance agents.



Congratulations to Joshua Tagaloa (9TGO) who won the Duet U-16 Section of the Auckland Brass Band Competition.

CHANGE IN PAYMENTS FOR BUSES 5 & 6

From the beginning of Term 3, Massey High School will be using a 20 pass clip ticket for bus routes 5 & 6. This is due to compliance issues and improving the efficiency in how we manage these routes.

The ticket will cost \$20.00 and have 20 clips on it. The main benefit for students is that they will only be paying for the trips they take on the bus. Overall, this will cost the same as the \$90.00 per term. Many students will benefit from not paying for a term pass they are not using when they are involved in extra-curricular activities.

Students will need to purchase their first ticket before the end of Term 2, so they can catch the bus on the first day of Term 3.

Mr Dooley, Bus Controller

ROAD SAFETY

CYCLE HELMETS

You must wear a helmet when you are riding your bike. Some students have been seen riding without helmets. Don't put yourself in danger. Follow the law.

If you wear a helmet when cycling, you will substantially reduce the risk of being killed or suffering serious head injuries.

Helmet-wearing was first promoted in 1986, and was made compulsory in New Zealand on 1 January 1994. Since then, hospital admissions for serious head injuries have declined by nearly 50%. Prior to the law change, 66% of cyclists were wearing helmets. This increased to 96% following the law change but has since declined.

Always ride with a properly fitted helmet.

If you ever crash while you're riding, your cycle helmet may save you from serious head injury. That's why it's compulsory to wear one, every time you're riding. But just wearing a helmet isn't enough. Unless you wear it properly it won't be of as much use at the critical moment. Never ride with a wobbly helmet. A proper fit is a firm fit. You'll know it's right if your helmet doesn't wobble or move around. First your helmet must be the correct size. Then, it has to be in the right position on your head; flat and square.



THE HARRY POTTER EFFECT

The seventh and last Harry Potter book will be released in July. Millions of Potter fans won't have another book to look forward to after that. But Harry's effect on many young people – and their love of reading – may be magical enough to last a lifetime.

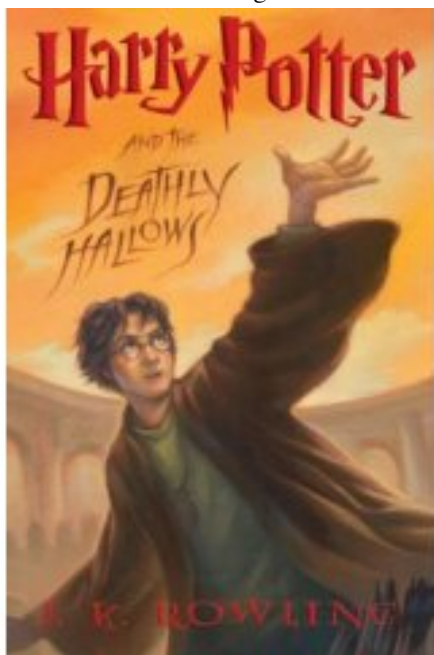
A 2006 study by Scholastic and Yankelovich found that the Harry Potter books have had a positive impact not only on children's attitudes toward reading, but also on the quality of their schoolwork. The Kids and Family Reading Report surveyed 500 children ages 5 to 17 and their parents and guardians. More than half of Harry Potter readers said they hadn't read books for fun before the series, and 65% said they have done better in school since reading the books.

The study also found that the reading habits of boys – who consistently have lower literacy test scores than girls – changed the most as a result of reading the books.

Finding a book that can engage a reluctant reader is not easy. Children can feel defeated if by age 9 or 10 they haven't found a book they can connect with. There is something about the way the Harry Potter stories are told that captivates children. Harry Potter books are not written in advanced language but neither are they 'dumbed down'. Children like it when authors take them seriously and JK Rowling does that while still making the books comprehensible. The Harry Potter books hit on major themes that children commonly like in fiction books. These include being special, going from poor to rich, and knowing more than adults.

Peer pressure is not uncommon among Harry Potter readers. The report showed that 63% of boys and 44% of girls say that it was important to read Harry Potter to feel 'in' with their friends. Reluctant readers are more willing to make an effort with a book when they see their friends reading it as opposed to a teacher handing out books.

Some 325 million copies of the books (hardback, paperback, and in translation) have been sold worldwide. For a decade, they have been enthralling readers of all ages with wizardry, endearing characters, suspense and countless quirky facts and oddities that fans relish discussing.



Acknowledgement: Harry Potter and the magic of reading by Shayna Garlick, The Christian Science Monitor, May 2, 2007.

ANXIETY AND ITS EFFECT ON STUDENTS' MATHS PERFORMANCE DO STUDENTS WORK BETTER UNDER PRESSURE?

Not in maths, according to new studies.

A number of researchers theorise that anxiety undermines students' maths performance by disrupting their working memory – their ability to keep numbers in their head and block out distractions and irrelevant information. Maths entails certain conceptual barriers that lead people to read the same passage over and over again and not understand it. The effect is worse in maths than other subject areas because maths has so many concepts and procedures that are foreign to students. Anxiety is most destructive when students are working on maths problems with large numbers, multiple steps, carrying, borrowing, and long division, all of which require working memory to be functioning well. The more anxiety there is, the more students tend to rush through problems, which produces errors and more anxiety. Once students think they aren't grasping a maths concept, the internal pressure peaks and their working memory goes to pieces.

When anxiety strikes, students with the best working memory suffer the worst deterioration in working memory. When researchers put students under extra pressure (harder problem, timed tests), these students fared worse than students with less impressive working memories. Anxiety increases when parents and teachers put unreasonably high demands on students, or get annoyed when students don't immediately master new concepts. But the news is not all bad. Students can learn to overcome maths anxiety. One strategy is lots of practice with maths problems, which makes it easier to retrieve answers from memory. Another strategy is to have students take frequent timed tests so they get used to pressure.

Acknowledgement: 'Math Anxiety' Confuses the Equation for Students" by Sean Cavanagh in Education Week, February 21, 2007 (Vol. 26, #24, p.12)

THE BIG SING 2007

The Massey High School Choir participated in The Big Sing last week. The event attracted 56 choirs from secondary schools around Auckland. A group of 40 students was involved and they performed exceptionally well. Massey High School is very proud of their achievement, preparing difficult repertoire to a high standard over the past few months. Their stage presence was excellent and they certainly sang their hearts out.

You have the chance to watch them perform and other ensembles during a musical evening concert on Wednesday 27 June at 6.30pm in the school hall. It is a free event.

KEY DATES

June

28 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
29 **Term 2 Ends**

July

3 School Ball
16 **Term 3 Commences**