

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 Fáiite

25 June 2007

MONDAY NEWSLETTER

Phone : 831-0500

Fax : 833-9200

www.masseyhigh.school.nz

"WE ARE AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL"

STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Latham Croft (13TLB) who competed in the Auckland Half Distance Cycling Championships and came second in the U-19 Men's category, which is quite an achievement. He was awarded a Silver medal.

Congratulations to Saffron Julian Hunapo (11MGS) who competed at the GKR Karate World Cup in the Junior Female Open Black Belt and above division held in Birmingham, U.K over 2 and 3 June 2007. Saffron did really well achieving a gold for kata (forms) and a silver for kumite (sparring).

STAFF CHANGES

We will be farewelling the following staff at the end of this week:

- Mr Shearer - Hard Materials Technology - 31 years
- Mr Rosie - Maths - Retiring - 12 years
- Mrs Li - Science
- Ms Castle - Student Support

We welcome the following new staff to our school.

- Ms Van Huffel - Fabric Technology
- Ms Swan - English/ESSOL
- Ms Reihana - Dance
- Ms Strother - Maths
- Mr McCracken - Maths

SICK STUDENTS

If your child is feeling unwell in the morning please do not send them to school or to morning sports training.

HAND HYGIENE

The most important thing you can do to not get sick is to wash your hands!

Hand washing is the single most important measure to reduce the risks of transmitting infection from one person to another.

Hand washing with soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic hand wash should be performed regularly. Hands should be thoroughly dried, preferably using disposable tissues or towels. Use the disposable towel to open the door.

Hand washing and drying should always be done after coughing, sneezing or handling used tissues or after touching



objects, materials or hard surfaces that may have been contaminated by someone else with an infectious illness.

Hand-to-face contact, such as can occur during eating, normal grooming or smoking, presents significant risks because of the potential for transmission of influenza from surfaces contaminated with wet respiratory droplets. Hand washing should always be carried out before and after eating, grooming, smoking or any other activity that involves hand-to-face contact.

ROAD SAFETY

FRONT OF SCHOOL

The front of the school is a busy place at the start and end of the school day. The safety of our students is paramount and we request that all students on arrival at school move into the school grounds, vacating the car park area and footpaths area in front of the school. It is also an appropriate time to remind your sons and daughters to use pedestrian crossings when crossing roads.

BRING IT ON

The Bring It On dance team, which has 53 students, had great success winning the West Zone competition on 9 June 2007. The team, lead by Alexander Poualii and Tupou (Junior) Asilusi Farrow, both of 12PRY worked extremely hard to prepare for the competition.

The students were from all year levels and worked together co-operatively, learning and displaying leadership, flexibility, time management and motivation skills. Saturday night's competition was extremely tough, but fortunately the team's performance was amazing and they had enormous support from their peers who encouraged them.

This win enables the team to compete in the Auckland Regional Grand Final to be held on 18 August with a \$5000 first prize. Here they will compete against other schools who have qualified from Central and South Auckland Zone Competitions. All members of the group can be extremely proud of their achievement and we look forward to seeing them in the finals on August 18, along with the support of their family and friends.

Ms Whitehead - Teacher-in-charge

A MILLION FINGERS CHALLENGE THE TYRANNY OF SPELLING

Can texting finally spur a revolution in spelling? Young people have evolved both a new script and a cost-effective reason for using it.

They are breaking free of spelling dogma and expanding the alphabet with emoticons. Texting is the shorthand of the computer age. It is concise, cutting through the verbal jargon by which the professional classes seek to exclude the less educated. The Ttxt's A-Z, a dictionary compiled by



Andrew John, points out that mobile texting literally puts a price on waffle, while "ingenious abbreviations have been contrived to capture a vaguely philosophical thought, a loving sentiment or a beautifully crafted obscenity". The texting generation may yet realise George Bernard Shaw's dream of liberating the English language for all of us.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority, like the New Zealand one, has declared that it will accept text-messaging short forms in school examinations. When the great Noah Webster invented American spelling, it was applauded as the sovereignty of commonsense. For that reason the British treated it as foreign, vulgar and, worst of all, American. Spelling has become a no-go area. While plain writing is considered a virtue, plain spelling is advice even though English spelling is an edifice of unreason. Not to spell properly is a sign of being common, as once was ignorance of Latin.

Across the globe, students of English are driven to distraction by its spelling. While English adapts its vocabulary to circumstance, it has no way of adapting its spelling. Every time I write cough, bough, through and thorough (not to mention write), I think of the teeming millions of students who ask their teachers: why? There is no answer. I suggest they learn American English instead.

In Shakespeare's day, authors conveyed the clearest of messages with random spelling, even of Shakespeare's own name. In 1992 the Guardian reported a Gallup poll suggesting that only one in six adults could spell accommodation, business, height, necessary, separate and sincerely; 10% got them all wrong. This was considered a shocking example of public illiteracy. In truth it was a comment on the archaism of the spellings. Most English words are twice as long as they need to be, staggering under a weight of unvoiced vowels and consonants surplus to requirements. Computer users may be hard-wired to qwerty, but millions still plod across the keyboard searching with single-finger typing. Thousands are disabled by repetitive stress injuries.

The Scottish examiners are adamant that they are not rewarding text spelling, since there will be no marks for it, only for accuracy of meaning. Pupils will be credited for quoting "2b nor not 2b" but will get higher marks if they spell it conventionally. That they should be penalised for an offence that Shakespeare himself committed is strange.

Surely pupils are saving paper and helping examiners by their brevity. All change must start somewhere.

It seems the young will reform English spelling on their own. Already millions of fingers are tapping out a revolution.

Acknowledgement: Simon Jenkins, The Guardian

OPEN NIGHT

Monday 23 July

Two Sessions

3.30-5.30pm and 6.30-8.30pm

Principal's address in the Hall followed by a tour for each session.

ALL WELCOME
especially Year 7 and Year 8 students
and their parents.



- △ Tour the School with the Prefects
- △ Meet the Teachers
- △ Enjoy Interactive Displays
- △ Experience the Technology

ENROLMENTS 2008

In-zone Enrolments for Year 9
Monday 30 July 7pm-9pm

Tuesday 31 July , Wednesday 1 August and
Thursday 2 August
4pm-7pm

Out-of-zone Enrolments
Enrolment packs available from school office -
phone 831-0500 ext. 526

Applications close Friday
7 September 2007

Ballot date - Tuesday
18 September 2007

KEY DATES

- June**
- 28 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
- 29 **Term 2 Ends**
- July**
- 3 School Ball
- 16 **Term 3 Commences**