



MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

TE KURA TUARUA O TIRIWA

MONDAY NEWSLETTER



274 Don Buck Road
Massey Waitakere City 0614
PRINCIPAL : B S RITCHIE

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Phone : 831-0500
Fax : 833-9200

www.masseyhigh.school.nz

"WE ARE AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL"

Dear Parents/Guardians

Greetings Kia Ora Talofa Guten Tag Bonjour Malo e le lei Dobar Dan Kia Orana こんにちは

Fakalofa lahi atu Shalom Goeie Dag Sawadee Croeso Bula Fáilte Ciao Mabuhay

銘謝指教 | 안녕하세요

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS - 2010

The election of parent representatives to the Board of Trustees of this school for their three-year term is to be held in May 2010. If you are interested in being a Trustee, nomination forms will be available in March. Visit our website for further information.

PARENTS' EVENING

There will be an information and consultation evening for parents **tonight at 6.30pm** in the school hall. This evening is to inform parents about some key features of Massey High School. We will take the opportunity to explain some innovations for 2010 and the future such as Year 11 Graduation and our new senior school structure. There will also be a presentation on NCEA and our students' achievements.

This evening is for parents of students at all levels and we particularly welcome the new parents to our school.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

We welcome parents to contact their child's dean when they have a matter to discuss. If the Dean is unavailable please leave a clear message on the answer phone including your name, your child's name and form class, and your contact details.

THE DIRE EFFECTS OF ABSENTEEISM

A series of winter storms closed schools for several days. A university researcher started wondering if all those days of lost learning would affect students' test performance. The results of his investigation might surprise you. He found that, in a year with five lost school days, the number of children who met learning targets was lower than in years with no school closings. In brief, student time on task at school is important to learning.

Every day your child is out of school, for whatever reason, his or her learning achievement suffers.

Just being in school, however, is only the starting point. Researchers have pointed out a difference between the amount of time that schools allocate for learning, the amount of time during which students are engaged in learning and actual learning time.

Academic year

The amount of time schools allocate for learning is the academic year, the time designated for students to be in school. This is the typical school calendar amounting to 190 days, give or take a day or two depending on where you live. With few exceptions, all schools must meet the regulated number of days.

Academic learning time

The amount of time students are engaged in learning is more variable. Their own attentiveness is a significant factor. Another variable factor is the teaching style. In some classrooms a lot of time can be spent explaining, demonstrating, or doing while students watch. In other classrooms, students are more involved for more of the period. Students also do a great deal of important learning during activities like lab experiments, sports and music practice, supervised study and homework.

What do missed days mean?

So how can missing three or four days of school be so important to their learning? For one thing, missed instruction due to unscheduled school closings affects all students. To make up for the lost time, teachers may hurry instruction or simply skip some lessons. When students miss school due to illness or other reasons, some will fill in the missed instruction on their own, some will stumble but recover and some, unfortunately, will stumble, falter and be confused for the remainder of that unit. Their learning suffers.

Time is important to learning

The amount of time that schools allocate for learning, the amount of time during which students are engaged in learning and actual learning time are so important that students, teachers and their parents all need to take it very seriously.

What can we do?

We can start by eliminating as many classroom disruptions as possible. Every activity will be closely examined for its relevance to good learning. Teachers will ensure time in class is spent in active, engaged learning. You can assist by making sure your child is ready for school every day – rested, well-nourished and equipped – and is absent only when absolutely essential. That way we can all make best use of the learning time we have at our disposal and every student can make the progress we all are striving for.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY

RATIONALE:

From time to time a concern or a complaint will be made by a student, staff member or parent about another student, staff member or parent. This policy is written so that the school can respond to a genuine concern in a fair and consistent manner.

PURPOSES:

1. To treat all formal concerns and/or complaints in a serious and in a fair and consistent manner.
2. To provide the school community with procedures to follow if they have a genuine concern or complaint.
3. To maintain the dignity and mana of all persons involved.

GUIDELINES:

1. Any concern or complaint is treated as strictly confidential to the parties concerned unless otherwise agreed.
2. A set of procedures shall be written and published in appropriate documents e.g. school newsletter for parents and students and staff manual for staff.
3. All concerns and complaints should be acknowledged and documented unless vexatious.
4. In dealing with complaints about staff, the employer must act in accordance with the relevant employment agreements and current legislation.
5. Appropriate action will be instigated to resolve a complaint.
6. Unresolved complaints can be taken further and made in writing to the Principal or Board Chairperson as appropriate.
7. Outside agencies may be asked for advice in any situation where the Board of Trustees thinks appropriate.
8. The complainant is informed in writing of the outcomes by the most appropriate person.
9. If personal information is required to be devolved in order to resolve a complaint, the school's privacy officer (Principal) should be consulted first.
10. Complaints should be resolved as quickly as possible so that parties concerned can move on and the education process continue.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Rationale:

A school should be a safe place for its staff and students.

“Bullying - any behaviour which creates discomfort, anxiety or fear by way of rumour mongering, name-calling, put downs, social exclusion, teasing, intimidation and physical assault, including the use of electronic devices.

Massey High School is committed to meeting the National Education Guidelines requirements and the Health and Safety responsibilities to provide a safe learning environment for all members of the school community.

Purposes:

To create a safe environment within the school in which everyone feels secure and able to go about their daily activities of learning, recreation and socialising without fear or anxiety.

To empower members of the school community to deal with bullying behaviour.

To provide bullies with alternative forms of behaviour.

To ensure the school community responds to bullying behaviour by reporting it.

To develop a philosophy of zero tolerance of bullying behaviour.

Guidelines:

1. To define “bullying” as any behaviour which creates discomfort, anxiety or fear in another person and to publicise this definition.
2. To raise awareness within the whole school community that bullying behaviour is unacceptable.
3. To ensure that acts of bullying which are witnessed or reports of bullying receive a prompt response.
4. To encourage students to report bullying behaviour and to provide a procedure to allow this to occur.
5. To put in place programmes designed to provide bullies with an awareness of the impact on others of their behaviour and to provide alternative behaviours.
6. To conduct surveys at regular intervals to monitor the effectiveness of this policy.
7. Keep parents informed through newsletters and parent-teacher meetings and encourage on-going support for this policy.
8. To use the restorative conferencing practices to resolve bullying incidents.

KEY DATES

March

- 8 Parent Consultation Evening
- 10 Auckland Champion of Champs - Athletics
- 15-17 Rugby Weigh-in - Sports Office.
- 16 MHS Swimming Sports
- 18-21 ASB Polyfest
- 24 Paid Union Meeting - school closes 12 noon.
- 25 Board of Trustees' Meeting 7pm Library

April

- 1 Term 1 Ends
- 19 Term 2 Begins
- 29 Board of Trustees' Meeting 7pm Library