

***Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers***

Tena koutou katoa

**With Pride and Respect. Ma Māruwehi, ka Rāhiri.**

The phrase above in both English and Maori, is our school motto. As part of a fresh look at our branding, the Board of Trustees decided to adopt a motto to go with our existing logo and college name. We are currently investigating ways of putting all three together in the form of a new crest or masthead. This is part of a bigger push to get our message out there, to ensure that the community here and further afield know what we are achieving, and what we stand for.

A group of staff and students worked together to decide upon our core values and this is what they arrived at. Many positive behaviours drop out of these values and students and staff are very quickly learning what it means to behave with pride and respect about our school.

We are proud to be part of our school and of our achievements and we respect the differences in ability, ethnicity, gender and age that abound amongst us. Respecting others' right to learn and right to be different, can be a challenge for some but it is a clear expectation of ours. Any students who are prone to distracting others in class or giving put downs, are on a steep learning curve at present, so that they can behave in a way consistent with our motto.

Feel free to remind students of our motto, our core values, while at home. To be a member of our school community means to behave in a certain way.

**Movie Stars - Permission**

As part of getting our message across to a wider audience, we are producing a promotional video. Filming will take place later this month. The video will feature students, some close up with brief speaking roles and others in the background. On enrolment, you gave permission for your child's image to be used "individually" or as part of a "group". If you would now have a problem with that, please advise us. We will however, contact the families of students who may feature close up in the video.

**International Week**

This is **Week 8 of the term or the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June**. During this week, we highlight the diversity of cultures that we have amongst our students and the two big events are the **Food Fair on the Tuesday at lunchtime (1:30pm)** and the **Cultural Concert on the Wednesday (12:05pm)**. Both events have frequently had parent help. The Food Fair highlights the traditional foods of a culture and students and parents are welcome to book a stall with Ms Ferguson. The Cultural Concert highlights traditional song and dance from our many cultures. Sometimes parents need to assist as tutors for a group. If you can assist and will have a group, please contact Ms Gray.

For Food Fair, contact Ms Ferguson [g.ferguson@gc.ac.nz](mailto:g.ferguson@gc.ac.nz)

For Cultural Concert, contact Ms Gray [s.gray@gc.ac.nz](mailto:s.gray@gc.ac.nz)

Or phone the school office on 444 9066 and leave a message with reception for a return call.

**Long Weekend - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

Queen's Birthday weekend is longer for us this year because we are taking Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May as well. This becomes a longer weekend for us in a longer term than usual. **There will be no school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May.**

**School Ball**

This will take place at **The Spencer on Byron Hotel on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. This is a heads up for parents of students in Years 11 upwards as there may be requests to empty your pockets over tickets, dresses, hairdo's and suit hire. Joy!

**Ted Benton**  
Principal

## Important Information for Parents and Caregivers

### What you need to know about the Student Centre

- Entry through the door on the **left side** of the main office block. You will see a blue sign on the building wall.
- Services provided for parents and students:
  - Late sign-in to school
  - Early sign-out from school
  - Lost property
  - Information to reach your child

### Wednesdays - Bell times

On Wednesdays, school starts at 9:00am and finishes at 2:30pm. Bell times can be found in the Student Diary and the school website.

### Absences

Please phone the **Attendance Office** on 441-9773 or 444-9066 ext 909 or email the attendance administrator on [absences@gc.ac.nz](mailto:absences@gc.ac.nz) to report your child's absence. This email address is now available on the school website for your convenience.

### Parent Portal

This provides parents up-to-date information about students' achievement, attendance and pastoral record. To receive your log-in information, please send an email to [reply@gc.ac.nz](mailto:reply@gc.ac.nz) and type in the subject area 'PARENT PORTAL – CHILD'S NAME'.

### Sick Bay

If students are sick for any reason and need to be sent home, the school nurse will contact parents directly.

### Payment Centre

The centre is open from **10:00am to 2:30pm, Monday to Friday**. Students can make payments during interval and lunch times. For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kilroy, the School Bursar on 444-9066 ext 612 or email [j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz](mailto:j.kilroy@gc.ac.nz)

### Dates and Events

Wed, MAY 20	Year 10 Tree Planting
Fri-Sat, MAY 22-23	MUNA
Wed-Thu, MAY 27-28	Year 12 Drama Performance
Mon-Fri, JUN 8-12	International Week
Mon-Fri, JUN 8-12	Services Academy Trip
Wed-Fri, JUN 17-19	Junior Midyear Exams
Sat, JUN 20	School Ball
Fri-Sun, JUN 26-28	Mountain Biking (Outdoor Ed)
Mon-Fri, JUN 22-JUL 3	Lumino Visit (Seniors)
Fri, JUL 3	Last Day of Term 2
Mon, JUL 20	First Day of Term 3
Tue-Thu, JUL 28-30	2016 Enrolment Evenings
Thu, JUL 30	Careers Expo
Fri-Wed, AUG 7-12	Senior Entrance Exams
Mon-Fri, AUG 10-14	Services Academy Trip
Mon-Fri, AUG 31-SEP 4	Tournament Week
Tue, SEP 8	Year12 Academic Interviews
Thu, SEP 10	Year 11 Academic Interviews
Mon, SEP 21	Year 10 Academic Interviews



Sea Kayaking - Outdoor Education



Girls Football

