

# TERM 1 2016




Newsletter to Parents, Caregivers & Friends of the School • 5 April, 2016

As the term nears to an end it is timely to reflect on the beginning of 2016 and introduce myself as Principal. For those who do not know me, I grew up in the Manawatu region and attended Bulls Primary School, Rangitikei College, Massey University and Epsom Teachers College. I taught at Mangakino High School in the central North Island and in Reefton (Inangahua College) on the West Coast. I was originally a Biology teacher, then in 1993 I accepted a position as Science and Physics teacher at Queen Charlotte College and moved to Picton with my



husband Andy and my two young children, Libby and Lex. I went on to become Head of Science and Director of the Aquaculture Academy at QCC before promotion as Assistant Principal and then Deputy Principal in charge of curriculum. Outside of school life, I have a lifelong interest in horses and can often be seen towing a horse float around the countryside and competing in, or officiating at, equestrian events.





While I have done much of the Principal's job in the past, it is surprising just how much paperwork and how many e-mails pour across this desk. Most of it is very interesting but also very time consuming. I like to get out and into the classes as much as possible to see what is happening at the chalk-face but have to conscientiously extract myself away from the desk at regular intervals.

There are a few directions I am keen to implement for our school and staff are working hard to help me bring about these changes. The first focus is one I have mentioned in earlier newsletters. That is to embrace the Independent Learning Environment - ILE also known as Modern learning environment or 21st Century learning. This is a move to teach students in a way that is far more driven by their needs and interests and yet still able to achieve the qualifications needed for later in life. The amount of knowledge out there is now seen as so vast it is better to teach students how to find out facts and problem solve, then to communicate their results, rather than teach them the facts they may need to know at a later date. This requires a lot of personal skills such as; working together, analysing data, managing their time and using a variety of technologies.

We have invested a lot of time on Professional Development of the staff as well as changing the school day to make the most of learning opportunities. I encourage you to discuss with your child how they are learning and encourage them to develop skills such as time management, relating to others, problem solving and creative thinking. These skills are very much in demand in the modern work force.

The second area I am keen to develop is Global Citizenship starting at home. I would like the students to become connected with their community. This is being achieved

through using "our place" as the focus for study, and has involved a number of class trips to places of interest in the area. We are encouraging students to involve themselves in community projects, making the most of what is available in this area and supporting initiatives. We already work closely with the aquaculture industry and are working on having closer ties with Waikawa Marae. A number of students completed a great day's work on our official Workday out in the community and we had a Services Week to raise the profile of a number of voluntary services in the area. We are looking at other projects for the future. If you have any suggestions or are willing to support a project please contact the school with your ideas.

If you did your mathematics earlier, you will have calculated that I have been a teacher at Queen Charlotte College for 23 years. My children were raised in our community and both attended this school. My commitment to maintaining high educational standards and whanaungatanga, caring for each other, is strong. Over the years I have seen many Queen Charlotte College students fulfil their potential and this is a particular source of pride. I look forward to leading our school into the future and enabling our current students, your children, to fulfil their potential.

Te whakatauaāki o Kuini Harata:

Mā te whanaungatanga e ora ai te tangata mō ake tonu.  
Positive relationships are essential to lifelong learning.

*Please join me for an informal morning tea at Queen Charlotte College on Thursday 14 April from 10.30am to 11.30am.  
I look forward to getting to know you all better.*

Betty Whyte  
Principal



# notices

## Informal Morning Tea with Principal

Please join me for an informal morning tea at  
Queen Charlotte College on  
**Thursday 14 April from 10.30am to 11.30 am.**

## **Important Notice** **QCC Staff Professional Development Day** **No School for students**

Staff will be involved in a PD day on **Thursday 12th May** and as such school will be closed for teaching. Students will not attend school that day. However, Trades classes will still proceed and Trades students will be expected to attend.

This will mean the **school will now be open on Friday June 3rd** and it will be a normal school day.

## Calendar

Informal morning tea with Principal  
End Term 1  
Start Term 2  
Board of Trustees Nominations  
Golden Bay Sports Exchange  
School closed – Staff PD  
12 Biology Camp  
  
Board Election Day

Thursday 14 April  
Friday 15 April  
Monday 2nd May  
Friday 6th May  
Wednesday 11th May  
Thursday 12th May  
Monday 16th –  
Friday 20th May  
Friday June 3rd