



Greymouth High School

Te Kura Tuarua O Mawhera

"Strive for Success"



Peer Support Leaders with a group of Year 9 students.

Parents' Newsletter – No. 1

Term 1 – Thursday 2 February, 2012

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Kia Ora

Welcome to the 2012 academic year.

We have had a busy and positive start to the year and I would like to offer my congratulations to our senior students who have achieved success in NCEA and University Entrance. We are extremely proud of you and it is pleasing to see further improvement in our NCEA Level 1 results with a pass rate of 65.7%.

The staff have started the year with two Teacher Only Days where the focus was on differentiation in the classroom and school wide expectations.

Over the last few days as students have returned we have talked to each year level about our expectations and the importance of working together to achieve success.

2012 is going to be an exciting year as we implement changes and address concerns raised in the ERO report. We want our students to take pride in their school and for the school community to be proud of our achievements.

We want to work with parents to meet the learning and pastoral needs of every student and I look forward to working with you in my role as Acting Principal.

Roz Stuart

Acting Principal

Communication

Our relationship with parents/caregivers and the wider school community is very important to us. One of our goals this year is to improve communication with you.

We have started **distributing our newsletters** at various locations around town. Got ideas? Let us know.

You may have heard us on **Classic Hits 93.1FM**. We are committed to trialling the radio to reach parents who don't buy the **Greymouth Evening Star**.

Our **website www.greymouth.school.nz** is being updated daily and can link you to **School-links** (from the parent page). School-links lets you receive text alerts from us – or email if you prefer – for example when your child appears absent.

We now have **Facebook!** This is a rapidly updated forum for anyone involved with Greymouth High School. Make sure you get the official page.

Of course, you can **phone** us on **768 0472** or come in and see us!

Greymouth High School Parents' Association

The first Parents' Association meeting is on **Wednesday 8 February @ 7.30 pm** in the Staffroom. ALL parents/caregivers are welcome.

Kia Ora
Greetings Parents and Caregivers

Happy New Year everyone! I welcome returning students and staff for what we know will be a rewarding and exciting year. A very warm welcome to all our new students, their families and of course our new staff members. We appreciate the enthusiasm, talents and ideas that new people bring and look forward to your contribution.

Our focus is on our students striving to be the best they can be. My role as Commissioner is to ensure the whole environment at school supports the best possible learning outcomes for our students. In this I work closely with the Principal to ensure governance and management structures support and enable students to reach their potential. The interim report from NZQA shows a marked improvement in our NCEA results. This is great news for our students and school. Well done and congratulations to students, teachers and parents.

I encourage you to become involved in the school whenever possible to support your students in their studies and in the various activities and events that they can become involved in. It's great to see our student's display their tremendous talents across the whole spectrum of school life.

There are some changes to staffing this year. I have agreed to the Principal, Mr Luders taking a year's study leave from his position at the school so that he can study towards his Master's Degree in Education. This is a great opportunity for Mr Luders and I wish him well with his studies. Roz Stuart will be Acting Principal during this leave of absence.

I welcome comments on any matters relating to the governance of the school and encourage you to contact me to discuss any school related matters.

The Greymouth High School website is a valuable source of information for parents and caregivers as well as students. www.greymouth.school.nz

Yours sincerely

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Commissioner
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Year 9 Parents Meeting

Thursday 9 February, 2012 at 7.00 pm

Year 9 students and parents/caregivers are invited to our Year 9 Parent Meeting at Greymouth High School. Year 9 students will escort their parents/caregivers to the whanau class to meet the whanau class mentor and this will be followed by a meeting in the Hall. Our Health teachers will present the Health curriculum and seek your feedback. Our 'core class' teachers will be available for you to meet, so you can put faces to names.

Mufti Day – Friday 3 February

This Friday we will get behind the Crusaders vs Highlanders game with a 'Red and Black' mufti day. Gold coin donation payable at whanau time. Proceeds going to Student Council for student projects.

Lockers

\$50.00 per year or \$200.00 for five years. Forms available from the school office.

Update Contact Details

Please advise the school office if contact details have changed over the holidays – especially cellphone numbers and addresses.

Stationery

Paper Plus, Take Note and the school website have our stationery lists for 2012. Please ensure that your child has the stationery required for all subjects by Tuesday 7 February. Items purchased through the school eg Homework Books, workbooks, calculators, printer credit, etc can be paid for at the school office. Any questions, please ring the school.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Students have been asked to return a signed copy of the Parent/Caregiver Agreement. Please ask your son/daughter for this form.

Dates for February

- Friday 3 – Mufti Day.
- Monday 6 – Waitangi Day.
- Wednesday 8 – Parents' Association meeting.
- Thursday 9 – Year 9 Parents' meeting.
- Friday 17 – GHS Swimming Sports.
- **Monday 20 – Early Closure, 1.20 pm** (teachers studying techniques for improved student outcomes – mixed ability classes and SOLO taxonomy).