

# Hewett House Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a beautiful week of settled summer weather we have had, even though we stepped over into autumn on Monday.

This week we had the school swimming sports in Hastings at The Frimley Park Aquatic centre. Again, our Hostel girls did us proud! It was great to see so many girls participate and their efforts are to be commended. I was especially proud of our senior girls who stepped up and earned many points for their houses through their participation. They showed wonderful leadership and set a great example for our junior girls. It is not about being the best - just giving your best! Well done to all our girls.

Now that we are half way through the term I have come to the conclusion that there is no quiet time within the school year. This is particularly true in the Hostel and our girls seem to be getting busier and busier. Please keep this in mind when making after school arrangements for your daughter. Although we try, we are not always able to provide her with transport. As most of you know, we do try our best to be fair but there are times when it is impossible to accommodate everyone and your daughter will be required to take a taxi to her activity or appointment.

I have approached a local company who call themselves "Driving Miss Daisy". They were formed to provide a service specifically for Senior Citizens and school age children who needed safe transportation to appointments but who were unable to either drive themselves or have their family drive them. While Napier Taxis do provide us with an excellent service, 'Driving Miss Daisy' may be another option for some. I have met with the owners who are currently providing a service to other local boarding schools. They do claim to be cheaper than the taxis, especially over longer journeys and they would commit one female driver to our school runs should we wish to use their service. This would provide continuity and familiarity. This could be another option for some and I hope to start trialing them shortly. After-school transportation can be expensive but please be assured that we are doing our very best to keep these costs down for you.

Linda Henderson leaves us this week to head across the Tasman. Both the staff and the girls gave her a lovely send off and I know that she will be missed in the Hostel. Linda Hikaka has spent this passed week working alongside her and learning the ropes; she is very much looking forward to working with the girls and will be a great addition to the Hostel team.

Next week is going to be a very busy week for the girls. We have been invited to spend Wednesday afternoon with Napier Boys High School.

Our entire hostel has been invited down to theirs for an afternoon of sports and activities and a BBQ dinner. We were delighted to receive such a generous invitation and I know that many of the girls are really looking forward to it. Next week will also be our Hostel Social with Napier Boys. This will be on Friday night (March 12), so please talk to you daughters over the weekend and decide on the logistics of getting them home for the weekend. Any 5 day girls who wish to stay in on Friday night will need their parent's permission as this will incur an extra cost on your account.

The theme for this term's social is "High School Cliques". When deciding what to wear we will be encouraging the girls to keep their outfits modest – fun but not too revealing or provocative. Your support on this would really be appreciated.

This morning I met with the Hostel Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is a small group of parents, usually with a representative from each of our Hostel catchment regions, who meet once a term to discuss Hostel matters and who work together to assist and promote the success of our hostel. They reminded me today that each year parents are sent a list of Hostel families' contact details. This of course is a public list available to each of you, should you wish to contact any one from our Hostel community. I will be updating and publishing this list early next week with the hope of sending a copy out to each of you at the end of the week. If you DO NOT wish to have your name in this directory please let me know by Wednesday, if I do not hear anything from you I will presume that you are happy to be in the directory.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend!

Kind regards

Lianne Parkinson  
Hostel Manager