

Hewett House Newsletter

26th March 2010

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Another busy Friday is upon us with the Junior Social at Napier Boys tonight. The theme of this social is Angels & Demons, so I am looking forward to seeing some of the costumes, as the girls get ready tonight. I am really impressed by the effort the Hostel girls put into creating their costumes. They all pitch in and help each other and it is really wonderful to see. We have had some interesting creations starting to emerge!

This Sunday is our Hostel Open Day. It will be lovely to see some of you there who have daughters beginning next year. I know that the girls who will be in on the weekend will be a wonderful assistance, keeping the Hostel tidy and helping with tours. Again, I have been impressed by the girls and their willingness to put their name forward when help is asked for.

The achievements from our Hostel girls keep rolling in and we love to hear of their successes. This week:

Maire Morton, who is a member of the Buckingham Guards Marching Team, placed 1st in both the technical section and the display section, at the National Championships held in Rotorua last week. This was an awesome achievement for the girls and represents hours and hours of training and commitment to reach that level. Congratulations to Maire and her team!

Nancy Crawshaw has been selected for the under 15 Hawkes Bay hockey team. Again, this is a result of hard work and determination. Nancy has spent many very early mornings training at park Island while the majority of us are still sleeping. Great effort Nancy!

Next week, is our last week of term and will be a busy one for the girls. They will have two nights of prep and then on Wednesday night they will be packing and cleaning their rooms. For some this will be a quick job but for others it will be a major. Some parents may need to bring a truck when they collect their daughter!

This brings me to subject of gear. While we really want the Hostel to have a 'home' atmosphere, we do have the very serious issue of space – particularly in the units. The girls well know how difficult it is to keep their space tidy when they have huge amounts of 'stuff'. The senior girls (Years 11 – 13) have individual common rooms for their Year group. In these common rooms are a fridge, toaster, kettle and basic cooking facilities. I would therefore, like to suggest that the units be kept clear of such items. I am sure that parents of senior girls have seen the small sink/bench space in the units. Each unit

is supplied with a kettle for the girls to make hot drinks, however, the kettle alone pretty much fills the bench space. Any other appliances that the girls bring just clutter the bench. I have also noticed that many of the girls are very slow to clean their dishes and often leave them in the sink or even put dirty ones back in the cupboard. This creates a real hygiene issue.

The Hostel provides plenty of good food. If our girls want to be independent and make their own snacks or added extras, they do have their common room for this. I would really appreciate it if we could reduce the clutter and the mess by leaving extra appliances at home next term.

On a VERY positive note, following on from last week's school day 'lock out' from the Hostel, the girls have been making a real effort and it has been a pleasure to walk around the Hostel in the morning and see such great tidy rooms. The standard has really lifted. Some girls in particular have taken real pride and their rooms have blown me away. Consequently we have been issuing quite a few house points this week.

On that note, the leading house is now Clyde House (Green). The other houses are going to have to make a huge effort to catch them by Tuesday, when the winning house for term one is announced and given the night off prep to watch a movie and enjoy an ice-cream.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards

Lianne Parkinson
Hostel Manager