



Message from the Principal

Kia Ora

This edition of Connect has a curriculum focus, and will provide you with information about the learning that is occurring across a range of learning areas within the school. As a state school, we have to provide all students with access to the NZ Curriculum. This curriculum has a number of components that include values, principles, key competencies and the 8 learning areas (English, Mathematics, Social Science, Science, Arts, PE & Health, Technology and Languages). There is also a significant focus within the curriculum document on effective teacher action that promotes learning. Learning is viewed as a process of inquiry and collaboration, where students are active and engaged with their learning. I encourage you to read more about the NZC.

www.nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz

We have taken the approach of creating a learning environment that integrates learning across many curriculum areas, that is based around a theme and an inquiry unit for each term. This means that student learning activities are related directly to a context that is student centred and at the learning levels of individual students. For this to occur well schools need to, understand students (relationships), have capable teachers (including specialists) and create a learning culture of high expectations and achievement.

We will be providing both general and specialist learning in the delivery of the curriculum at Papamoa College. While learning in an integrated context is core to student learning at Papamoa College, specialist learning opportunities will also occur, especially in year 9 and beyond. We are committed to our students achieving at the highest level both now and in future national qualifications.

We are lucky to have employed teaching staff that bring a wide range of expertise to the learning environment. At the specialist learning end of our school, we have teachers who have expertise (curriculum and NCEA), in Science, Chemistry, History, Geography, English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Media Studies, Business and Technology. Clearly as the school grows in size, the breadth of this expertise will increase.

Year 9 students are largely learning in an integrated environment and we are committed to make sure that they are well prepared for their year 10 learning and beyond. We are working hard to ensure that all year 9 students have access to all areas of the curriculum throughout this year. The year 10 programme next year will include a range of elective subjects for students to choose from. With approximately 160 year 10 students expected next year, the range of electives on offer will be dictated by the staffing we are entitled to for 2012.

I know many of you are asking questions about further pathways for your child's learning at Papamoa College. Planning is underway for what the learning environment will look like in the senior school (Year11-13). We invite you to attend upcoming information evenings and participate in opportunities to provide us with feedback. Your views and ideas are important to us.

Regards

Steve Lindsey

Inspired Learning. Exciting Futures.

What's Happening?

Board of Trustees Elections

The upcoming Board of Trustees elections will be held on 8 July 2011. As a parent of a student at Papamoa College, you are entitled to nominate yourself or another person as a candidate for the Board of Trustees. By no later than 10 June 2011, you will be receiving a Nomination Form and a letter in the post explaining the process in further detail. If you wish to know more please feel free to phone Kerri Turanga (Returning Officer for the BOT elections) on 542 0676.



New Website

The new website is online! It has taken a lot of time and effort to get the website up and running, with many people working closely together. As with all websites, it will be continually developed to ensure that it provides the right information for users. Any comments and suggestions are welcome.

www.papamoacollege.school.nz

Student Bus Access

From Wednesday 1 June, only students with a bus route printed on their student ID card will be allowed on the bus. The staff bus monitor will be checking the students' ID before they get on. This is to prevent ineligible students from using the bus service. Students have been informed of this in the school daily notices and in the learning commons meetings.

School Cross Country

The school cross country is being held on the 21 June. Students can either run or walk the 3km course and earn points for their Whanau group.



Visual Arts

The Visual Arts learning area welcomes year 9 and 7 students for their term 2 programmes, which have been designed around the theme of Leadership.

Year 7 students are learning about 'Contemporary Kowhaiwhai.' This project immerses the students in a design process that involves their research of traditional and modern artists, enabling a greater understanding of the Arts in context, through to the development of their own symbolic motif and visual narratives. They also learn about the geometric conventions of pattern, which reinforces their learning in the learning commons. 'Leadership' will be addressed thematically in the form of contemporary Waka installations that incorporate their developed designs.

The year 9 classes are exploring the theme of 'Leadership' through 'Pop Art.' They look at the popular culture of the 1960's and the iconic artist, 'Andy Warhol.' Leading modern pop artists are also referred to and students create both digital and painted artworks, learning practical and compositional techniques. Their inquiry unit presentations will address their own popular youth culture and 'Leadership,' in the creation of modern Pop Art of their design.

Below is the wonderful artwork of some of our talented year 7 students from Term 1.



Maya Greet 7MTU



Ashleigh Sweet 7MAU



Courtney-Eva Van Aslst 7MOT



Visual Arts Learning Area News: Congratulations to all of those students who were involved in the design and creation of our first contemporary mural, in term 1. An excellent effort was put in by these PAC (Papamoa Art Crew) members and shows that through perseverance and enthusiasm, great things are possible. Stay tuned for our next arty project...

Mrs Helen MacDuff
Visual Arts Coordinator



Loredana Kint 7MTU

ICT

The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an important part of learning at Papamoa College. With the emphasis on student-centred learning, students are using ICT to access, manipulate and analyse information on a daily basis. The main tools that students are currently using are laptop and desktop computers. All of our student computers are Apple Macs, however all desktop computers can also run Microsoft Windows 7, so students have the best of both worlds. iPod touches and Vado cameras are also in demand for digital photography as well as recording video and sound. Interactive whiteboards have been distributed to each learning commons and are gradually being incorporated into learning by teachers and students.

We have designed our computer network to also accept students' personal devices such as smart phones, ipads, laptops and ipod touches. As students become more aware of how to use this technology appropriately in a classroom setting, we will eventually invite students to bring their own devices to use on the school network. Until this happens, we are asking that students keep their own devices at home.

Mr Dave Ballard



Sports uniforms are nearly here!

Winter sports codes are underway for this term. We thank those of you who have come forward to be coaches and managers for our teams. It is great to see the large number of parents on the sidelines for both competition games and practices. The official school uniforms are nearly here. We have asked for a refundable \$40 bond for the issue of uniform items. While it is important to ensure that all uniform items are returned at the end of a season, we do not wish for this bond to be a barrier for any student to be involved in sport at Papamoa College. If affordability is an issue, please contact us at school so that we can make an alternative arrangement.

Accelerate Programmes

Accelerate Programmes

We have just started the accelerate programmes for students who have demonstrated outstanding ability in either, Science and Maths or in English and the Social Sciences. Students have been selected for each programme based upon schoolwide testing results, teacher input and student interest. These classes will occur during one teaching block a week with the Deputy Principals: Ms Neidhardt and Mr Ballard.

Mr Ballard guides the scientists in solving authentic science problems often incorporating technology and maths. Students have a range of problems to choose from, most requiring a significant amount of time in the community. Experiences such as investigating the management of the Kaituna Wetlands, beach erosion, or making biofuels, glass or perfumed soap from raw materials, are just some of the challenges in store for students.

Ms Neidhardt's programme is exploring and analysing the historical impact of significant leadership decisions. Students will be taking a virtual tour of history investigating events from the ancient world to the present day. Each student will evaluate and synthesise research on their leadership choice and present their findings at the end of the term at a Community Presentation Day.

Ms Catherine Neidhardt
Deputy Principal

Mr Dave Ballard
Deputy Principal

Pastoral Care

We will be appointing a Guidance Counsellor very soon to support both students and staff with counselling. In addition, the Board of Trustees have entered into an agreement with Western Bay of Plenty PHO for the provision of a school based health clinic. This is a service that will provide student health care from a nurse during school time. This also includes a doctor being available for approximately 2 hours a week. It is important that parents are fully informed about the health care service and therefore a special information sheet will be sent home very soon that will provide an explanation of how it will operate at school.

Campus lights at night

Some people have commented that often at night there are lights on in the learning commons. There are a few reasons for this occurring. Unfortunately from the start of the year, we have been having difficulty with some of the light sensor units that automatically turn the lights on if you move past them. Some were faulty and therefore the lights remained on permanently. These sensor units have mostly been replaced and therefore lights should go off after approximately 20 minutes of no movement. The more likely reasons for the lights being on at night are: if staff are working late, or there is a meeting or function on campus, or the contract cleaners are cleaning the buildings. Cleaners are on campus usually until 9 pm and sometimes later. The school may look like all the lights have been left on at night, but it may be because someone inside has activated the light sensor unit.

Physical Education & Health



This term, all classes are participating in a leadership certification course appropriate to their year level. Students will be exploring, developing and applying leadership skills in a variety of settings.

The course is designed by SPARC (Sport and Recreation New Zealand) and to gain their certificate, the students must demonstrate improvement in their communication, organisation, group management and a wide variety of interpersonal skills.

The students will be assessed in the following manner:

Year 7: 1 x 15 minute sports leadership assessment.

Year 8: 3 x 15 minute sports leadership sessions.

Year 9: *3 hours of leadership in action sessions in a variety of settings. (*3 more hours to be completed at Year 10).

Through a combination of learning, observing, leading and reflecting, students will potentially become effective leaders, which will have obvious benefits to individuals, the school and the community as a whole.

These courses will also prepare students for future NCEA leadership assessments.

Mr Paul Bricklebank
Physical Education Coordinator



Music

Currently, we are setting up our Itinerant Music Programme, which will provide students with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. This will be an exciting and valuable learning experience for students involved. There has been considerable interest from the students and while it would be fantastic to be able to offer tuition to all students, at this stage this is not possible. It is for this reason that we are asking parents and students to commit to either owning or hiring the required instrument.

In the interest of fairness, if the number of students interested exceeds the number of spaces available, we will be using a 'name out of the hat' system. Students not successful will then be placed on a waiting list and will be accommodated as opportunities arise. Parents and students will be notified shortly as to their placements. As the school grows in size, we will have both the facilities and funding to offer increased opportunities.

Mr Shane Burgess
Music Coordinator



Learning Support



Papamoa College is committed to raising the achievement of all students and to giving them the tools to be independent lifelong learners. The Learning Support area of the school collaborates with all teaching staff to provide meaningful learning opportunities for students who, for any reason, have difficulties with their learning. This may include students for whom English is a second language, students with physical or cognitive difficulties or students who are having social or emotional problems.

The Learning Support area is well staffed with a Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO), a part time learning support teacher and four teacher aides. All learning support staff work with teachers in an inclusive and collaborative environment to ensure good outcomes for students. Together we provide individual or group programmes in literacy, numeracy and interpersonal skills, together with individual support in all classes for students who have high levels of need.



We are currently working as a whole staff to provide for students who are gifted and/or talented. One of our students has been selected to take part in an after school programme currently being run by Mt Maunganui College on Wednesday afternoons. This term we have also started regular extension classes for students who show high ability in Science / Mathematics or English / Social Studies.

As the school grows there will be changing needs, increased programme development and more personnel.

We are at an exciting stage of our development and it is a stimulating, uplifting experience to be able to work with staff to shape this learning area of the school.

Miss Maureen Verstegen
Special Education Needs Coordinator

