IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 9th April - Last day of Term
Tuesday 28th April - Student free day
Wednesday 29th April - Start of term

PRINCIPAL’S PRINT

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the first Manea Senior College newsletter for 2009.

I am delighted by the start we have had to the history of our College. The official handover of Manea Senior College from Perkins Builders went very smoothly and on schedule. Staff and students are enjoying and making the most of the outstanding educational facilities on offer at Manea. It has also been a pleasure hearing the positive feedback from staff about the high standard students are setting and the environment, while a significant number of students have told me that this is the first time they have enjoyed coming to school.

The message about Manea Senior College is getting through to the community, as we have now passed 150 enrolments, well above the anticipated 120. I have even had enquiries about enrolments for 2012!

Our first day with the students was highlighted by an assembly, with Dr Ernie Manea providing an inspiring address to the students. Other speakers and guests included Robert Irvine, Dean of Edith Cowan University Bunbury Campus, Wendy Burns, Managing Director of South West College of TAFE, Colin Pettit, Executive Director of the Department Of Education and Training, Neil Milligan, Director of Schools Bunbury and D.O Managers and staff. Charmaine Bennell, presented the “Welcome To Country”.

Mentor Group 11.02, led by teacher Russell King, won the Manea Senior College Foundation Day Challenge and have etched a place in history by becoming the first students to have their photograph in the College trophy cabinet.

I have been very pleased with the manner in which students have responded to the message of trust and the young adult ethos at the College. The very high expectations Manea has for its students and staff are continually reinforced on a daily basis and support from parents about the standards at Manea will assist students making the transition into the adult world.

The same expectations are required by TAFE lecturers and it is important that students make sure their attendance is regular and all set work is completed.

An average attendance target of 93% has been set as the benchmark for Manea Senior College students. To achieve this target, students cannot miss more than 3 ½ days during Term One. Students attending between 95-98 % for the Term will receive a Certificate of Merit for Attendance and students attending at over 98.5 % will receive a Certificate of Distinction for Attendance.

College Mission Statement

The College Board has been busy ratifying College policies, fees and charges and working on mission and vision statements. My thanks to the Board members for the hours they are putting in. The Board consists of:

Chair - David Trench - Industry Representative
Deputy Chair - Susanne Rodwell - Parent Representative
Secretary - Ashlee Milkins - Student Representative
Kiara Dawson - Student Representative
David Kerr - Industry Representative
Matt Grainger - Industry Representative
Paul Mathews - Principal Manea SC
David Milkins - Parent Representative
Sian Watts - Student Representative
One teaching staff member to be elected.
The draft mission statement reads as follows. Manea Senior College will empower young adults to advance in their careers and lives by creating a learning environment built on trust, respect and support.

If you have any feedback on the mission statement, please let me or one of the Board representatives know.

**Bus Issues**

I am aware of the issues related to buses, particularly for students living in Donnybrook, Australind, Treendale and Dalyellup. Kaye Scanlan and myself have been liaising daily with the various companies to get this situation resolved. The bus arrangements had been organised prior to Manea setting its start and finish times at the end of last year, but due to circumstances beyond our control, this situation changed unexpectedly, causing the bus issues.

Please contact South West Coach Lines on 9791 1955 or Public Transport Authority (School Bus Services) on 9326 2576 if you have any concerns about the bus situation.

**Country Week and The School Ball - Help Needed!**

Two significant social functions that Manea Senior College students will be participating in this year are Country Week and the inaugural College Ball.

Training and fund raising will soon commence for Country Week, which will be held during the last week of Term 2.

The students have formed a committee to begin the planning for the Ball, which will be held later in the year.

School balls, while very glamorous, require significant behind the scenes efforts to be successful and Manea staff are already involved in numerous activities in addition to delivering their teaching and learning programs. On behalf of the Ball Committee, I am requesting the support of parents/care givers to join the Committee. Please contact me via phone or e-mail if you would like to be involved in the organisation of the College Ball.

**College Open Day**

Tours of the fantastic facilities on offer at Manea Senior College are to be held on Monday, March 23rd. Please take the opportunity to have a look at the College and observe some of the outstanding teaching and learning activities. To cope with the demand, we are organising set tour times. If you would like to visit, please contact Cathrine at the front office and arrange a booking.

**Parent Evening**

Our first Parent Evening will be held on Tuesday, March 31st from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. A brief interim report will be sent out before this date. This is a good opportunity to begin establishing a strong partnership with the College staff to support your student’s senior schooling.

**Student Councillors**

I was impressed by the quality and number of students applying for positions on the Student Council. An election was held to shortlist the candidates and then the top ranking candidates were interviewed as the final part of the process. My thanks to all students who took the time to apply for a position and my congratulations to those selected. The Student Councillors are going to ensure the student voice is well represented.

The selected members of the Student Council are:

- Samantha Baxter
- Tyler Bysouth
- Kiara Dawson
- Aimee Harris
- Ashlee Milkins
- Jennifer Murdock
- Sarah Myles
- Cynthia Sugianto
- Ben Symons
- Jen Thiangthae
- Emma-Rose Tolmachoff

**Feedback Welcome**

Manea Senior College recognises that parents/care givers are a crucial part of the team that supports our students as they strive for success. I value your opinion and involvement in the College and look forward to feedback, positive and otherwise, to ensure the College continues to progress and establishes itself as the leading Senior College in the state.

Regards
Paul Mathews Principal
Paul.mathews@det.wa.edu.au
BUSH FIRE APPEAL

The students of MSC held a Free Dress - Gold Coin Donation Day to raise money for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. We raised $412.50 which has been sent off to the Commonwealth Bank in Victoria. Thank you so much for your generosity.

DET Viewing Policy and Permission

DET policy requires that all teachers should inform parents and guardians of students aged 15 and over of their intent to show any visual text rated M, and must gain permission to show texts rated MA 15+. All students should by now have brought home from their English teacher a consent form for M-rated texts across the curriculum. Unless students have these signed by a parent or guardian and returned to their teacher, they will be required to complete alternative class activities. Individual approval will be sought should students be required to view texts rated MA 15+.

John Taylor
English Teacher

GREETINGS FROM AFRICA

Rod and Natalie Rykers are wishing the staff and students at Manea SC well as they thoroughly enjoy themselves in Africa. Rod is the Associate Principal currently on long service leave.

They visited the elephant orphanage and were lucky to interact with a herd of orphaned elephant babies. They also got to see baby Kimana (the elephant they have fostered). There was a 4 week old orphaned baby rhino as well.

MESSAGE TO ALL PARENTS

Please advise us at Manea Senior College if you are happy for us to email you our news letters, otherwise they will be posted out twice a term.

STRATHAM – GELORUP BUS SERVICE

Manea Senior College Students.

Parents interested in the bus service from Capel, Peppermint Beach and Stratham/Gelorup.

The school bus service will possibly put on a bus for these areas if we can get 10-12 students interested.

Please contact Manea Senior College Administration staff and leave your details. Thank you.

College Charges 2009

College Charges and Contributions Sheets were mailed out to parents/guardians last week. These charges are now due for payment and can be made at the College office between the hours of 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday - Friday.

The following payment methods are available:

- Cash
- Cheque
- EFTPOS
- Telephone Payment (Credit Card Only)
- Direct Credit (Funds Transfer)
- Periodical Payments

Families holding Health Care, Pension or Supporting Parent Cards may be eligible for the Education Allowance. Applications are completed through the College and close on Thursday 9 April, 2009.

The It Pays To Learn Allowance is an annual payment of $200 made to parents for each student turning 16 or 17 in 2009 and studying full time in Year 11 or 12. Information Packs have been sent home which include an application form. Parents are asked to fill out the application form and return it to the College by 20 March 2009. This payment is sent directly to parents.

Please contact Yvette Moulsdale, Business Manager on 97210600 if you require any further information
regarding allowance entitlements or payment options available. If you are experiencing difficulties paying your child’s charges, a payment plan can be arranged through the College to assist your family.

| SMS Communication Implementation |

Manea Senior College will be implementing an SMS system to improve communication with parents and the wider school community. SMS is already being used successfully across Australia to improve attendance in schools and has been endorsed by the Department as an approved attendance strategy for Western Australian schools. The SMS strategy has been shown to encourage parents to be prompt in communicating student absences.

Primarily the SMS system will be used to automatically inform parents via SMS text messaging if their child is absent from school when the school has not already been provided with an explanation. The system can also be used to inform parents of such events as temporary school closure or cancellation of sporting events.

Parents can reply by returning an SMS or contacting the school by phone to acknowledge receipt of the message and provide an explanation for the student absence from school.

It is expected that using automated SMS will reduce the amount of time that Manea Senior College staff spend phoning parents individually each day. Sitting within the schools secure IT network the system has the significant advantage of linking directly to the school’s existing student database, ensuring confidentiality of school information. The SMS strategy aims to target improvements in communication to parents and increase student safety and attendance.

The system will commence operating at Manea Senior College at the start of Term 2.

For further information please contact the College Administration on 9721 0600.

| UNIFORMS |

Unfortunately, with the onset of cooler weather there have been some students starting to wear jumpers/jackets which are non-dress code items. This is not acceptable. Please support the college by ensuring that students are wearing dress code items as this enhances the image we are trying to present.

Manea SC dress code items are available from Totally Workwear and they currently have stock.

| A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL |

This has, without doubt, been the most amazing start to a year I have ever been involved in. With over one hundred and fifty students now enrolled the focus and commitment to learning that is evident is a credit to all. I have been most impressed with the friendliness of our students and their willingness to establish relationships with all the new students. Also the interactions with staff are showing the maturity of the majority of our students.

Nearly two thirds of our students are involved in attaining a TAFE qualification of some sort and the feedback I have received from there has been positive. The university bound students have been setting a good example and it has been great to see so many of them involved in the study sessions and the discussions they are having demonstrate great maturity.

The staff are embracing the facilities available and the use of technology such as interactive whiteboards is enhancing the learning of all. The staff are also talking positively about the relationships with students that are being fostered throughout the College.

Finally, I would like to commend the students on the way they are conducting themselves within and outside the college. We are constantly receiving positive feedback from the community and it is fantastic to see that our students are doing us proud.

Craig Bourne
Associate Principal