



Congratulations Emily

Each year, the RSA holds one of its most prestigious speaking competitions where students have to prepare and deliver an 8 minute speech on the subject of New Zealanders at War. It is many years since Garin was awarded a placing in this contest but this year Emily O'Connell, our current Head Girl, won the regional heat. Emily spoke very movingly about Edward Fitzgerald, her Great, great Uncle, who was killed in WW1 at the age of 25 and the three judges were really impressed with the quality of both her subject, and her delivery. With a regional prize of \$1000 for herself, and another \$1000 for the school, Emily now goes on to the national final at Government House in Wellington on 4th April where she will deliver her speech to the President and other members of the RSA, as well as Jerry Mateparae, our Governor General. If she wins this, she will receive a further \$1000 as well as a laptop and camera to record the experience of the main prize which is to accompany the official RSA party to Gallipoli for the 2014 Anzac Day commemorations. This has been a fantastic achievement for Emily so far and we wish her all the very best for the national final.



Parent Teacher Interviews

Interviews for Years 11, 12 and 13 students are coming up on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 March at 3.00pm. This is an important stage of the year in terms of your son/daughter's progress. Teachers will have a really good perspective on how students are performing and can supply you with some quite specific details of this. You are encouraged to bring your son or daughter along to the interview as it is an important part of reporting on academic progress.

To make things easier, parents are able to make their interview times on-line: The website address is www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

2. The school code for booking on line will be MHNPB. Bookings will not be available until Wed 19 March at 9.00am.

3. Just follow the instructions and you will be emailed confirmation of your times.

4. Where there are no check boxes to tick, the teachers are unavailable at those times.

5. If the teacher's name does not show on the website, that means they are unavailable.

NB: Bookings are not available until 19 March.

If you miss out booking an interview online you can email your son or daughter's teacher to discuss their progress.

Garin Code is **MHNPB**.

Reports

Progress reports have been posted for all students this week. Students in years 10 to 13 inclusive will also receive a "Student Guide to Assessment Procedures". To ensure that the rules are understood you are requested to sign and return the accompanying reply slip. This should be returned to whanau teachers by Wednesday 26 March.

Puffer Jackets

Students can wear puffers to and from school and even outside during breaks but not in class under any circumstances. Jackets worn in class will be confiscated. The first time students get it back at end of day, second time they have it returned to them at the end of week and third time end of term. Students should ensure their jackets are named or they might have a difficult time identifying which is theirs if confiscated.

GARIN NOTICEBOARD: events, advertisements & information

Long term and short term Homestay families needed

Do you live in Richmond and have a spare room?

The International Dept. has a need for some new Host families, some long term. We have a group of 24, 14 year old Japanese students coming to us for the month of August and need to place these students by the end of May. There is a payment of \$215 a week to cover your costs. For information call Jacqui on 5439498 or e-mail jacquicleary@garincollege.ac.nz

Can you help?

We are missing a few books in the library from popular series, and wondered if anyone in the Garin

community would have a copy in excellent condition at home that they would be willing to donate to the Garin College library. The titles we need are:

- Twilight & Eclipse by Stephanie Meyer
 - Eragon & Brisinger by Christopher Paolini
 - The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.
- Many thanks. Mandy Ditzel, Librarian.

Richmond Youth Group

We have had two youth gatherings which have been very successful with lots of young people turning up. In an attempt to ensure continuity of our student leaders, some of your Year 12 students have stepped up to

help the Year 13 leaders and they are all doing a great job. Our next gathering is on Friday 21st March and because there is no school that day we thought we could go to the movies together. If interested look for details next week.

CALENDAR

- 19 March
- ♦ Start booking senior interviews
- 20 March
- ♦ Teacher Only Day
- 21 March
- ♦ School Closed
- 25-26 March
- ♦ Years 11-13 Academic Interviews
- 29 March
- ♦ Slum City, Mass 7pm in the Gym

... from the Head Teacher John Boyce



Next week all of the Nelson schools are have a staff training day on Thursday (followed by a day when the school is closed on Friday). On Thursday we will be renewing our training on differentiation. That is a word that I don't like – but it covers a concept that I like very much indeed. Historically teachers often taught to the middle of the class or to the top of a class. This means that struggling or very bright students were often ignored or characterised as slow learners whom no-one could help. That was an unchristian attitude – and also wasted a huge amount of human potential. Education can never be "one size fits all". It must be about the learning of each person – individually. When I began teaching it was all about IQ and academic ability. Those not blessed with academic ability were expected to struggle on quietly and then leave school as soon as possible to get an unskilled job. There are not many unskilled jobs these days – and the country cannot afford to waste the gifts of so many citizens!

And what did that style of education do to the confidence of all those children as life-long learners? These days teachers are employed to teach each one of their students and identify students of different academic ability. Sounds like a huge task – and it is – but in a way that is the easiest part of the job because we can at least recognise the academic ability of each student through some form of testing programme.

But students don't find a piece of learning easy or difficult just because of the intelligence potential of their brains. Boys and girls learn differently, but children also learn differently because of their ethnic background, their learning styles, their different intelligences, any learning differences – or because of what happened at home this morning. It is really complex – and that is why we try to have small junior classes.

That is further complicated by the teaching tools and the assessment methods. BYOD gives many students much more control over their learning environment. Data projectors suit visual learners. NCEA favours methodical careful workers willing to repeat work to improve it.

On Thursday we will also focus on the learning needs of boys – who often struggle with the lengthy detailed requirements of NCEA.

Over the rest of the year we will continue our work of building up learning profiles of our year 9 and 10 students. Obviously we need information about any learning differences, but we are also working hard to get to know each of them – so please share information about significant events affecting their learning: deaths in the family, illness, family difficulties.

These things have huge effects on the learning of children – but we can't adjust for them if we don't know. So Thursday is an important day for us as teachers – and at heart it is also part of our Special Character. Each child was created as he or she is by God – and we take responsibility for fostering and developing the gifts God has given us to work with.

Garin Swimmers Excel

Thomas Heaton, Samantha Smith and James Fleury enjoyed success at the Nelson Marlborough Age Group Championships held in Blenheim and Nelson. More than 100 swimmers representing 8 clubs competed in both long and short course events. Thomas Heaton (15) was awarded 5 golds, 2 silvers and 5 bronzes, Samantha (Sam) Smith (13), was awarded 3 golds, 2 silvers and 2 bronzes; James Fleury (14), was awarded 2 golds and 6 silvers.

Samantha and James, along with 2 other swimmers from the Tasman Club, competed successfully to win the Laurie Crabb Cup.



Donations

A big thanks to all parents and caregivers who have already paid the school donations. Schools throughout the country are having to rely more and more on their local community for financial support. For those of you who are still going to pay the donations, it would be beneficial to do so before 31 March 2014. Any donations paid prior to this date are entitled to receive a rebate of 33%. If you paid \$300 in donations to the school you can claim back \$100. Donation statements and a rebate form will be sent out in April this year enabling you to claim the rebate. If you pay after 1 April, you will have to wait till 1 April 2015 before claiming the 33% rebate as we will be in the new tax year. Again your support of the college is greatly appreciated.

Request from the Art Department

The Art Faculty would be grateful for any washed out lidded containers such as ice cream, large yoghurt, margarine, or smaller ones you buy at the Deli counter. We also require more Heinz/Watties sauce tops. Please leave at reception in a plastic bag marked Art Faculty if you have some. Thank you.

University Visits

This term many of the Universities are visiting Garin to give senior students a brief introduction to Uni life in general and what their University offers in particular. So far there have been visits from Lincoln and Otago. Canterbury and Victoria are due before the end of this term. All dates and times are on the Garin public calendar and in the notices.

Next term, on May 27, the Careers Road Show will be at Waimea College. Students will be able to attend during the school day and talk to representatives of other Universities well as a wide range of other tertiary training providers. Auckland will not be providing Garin with an introductory visit this year but will host an evening for all Nelson schools next term. The date is to be advised.



NGAWHETU GARIN stars@garin



- ★ *Fantastic results in the Bunsen Burner assessment - the whole class passed and the following students gained an Excellence grade: Sophie CLEAL, Susannah HILLS, Bridgett JONES, Ella SIMONSEN—well done 9B.*
- ★ *At the Tasman Regional Athletics Championships on Wednesday Jared Lautenslager won the Boys Under 16 3000 metres race, just a few seconds behind the Under 19 winner. Sam Traynor ran a very close third in the 200 meters Under 19 race behind two of Nelson's elite athletes. Sam also came fifth in his 100 metre race.*
- ★ *Congratulations to Aden Groom Baigent who scored 65 runs, not out, in the First XI against Nayland College. Great bowling by Joseph Shadwick, Sam Traynor and Aden.*

Name your gear

As the change of seasons approaches students are bringing warmer clothing to school, some of it expensive, and much of it unnamed.

If teachers take clothing from students it is not their job to name it. If students leave an item around the school, they have a much better chance of getting it back if it has a name on it.



SLUM CITY

When: Saturday 29th March from 5pm to Sunday 5pm

Where: Garin College

What: Sleep overnight in cardboard boxes – Social action to identify with the homeless and raise awareness of the work of Caritas as well as funds.

Process: Set up shelters 5pm to 6.45pm

City wide Mass at 7pm followed by sausage sizzle and entertainment. At Garin Gym. Adults and children welcome.

Coordinated by: Garin Justice and Ministry Team.

Take a Moment...

Ask not to HAVE more but to BE more...

- Oscar Romero

