Dear Parents,

Kia ora tatou.
Over the last six or so months there have been more news items relating to our schools than at any other period I can remember. Sadly, the stories have not been about learner achievement, excellent teaching, community relationships, or accomplishments in sport and performing arts. Sadly, the stories started last September because of concerns with a new payroll system. Sadly, because of the monumental stuff-up we know of as the NovoPay fiasco, the stories have not stopped. I want you to understand that the media have not given an accurate sorry – the situation is much, much worse.

At Whangaparaoa College alone we are dealing with the following, and more:
- Up to 40 staff each fortnightly pay period have payroll errors.
- Non-payment of staff; our priority is to cover this asap.
- Under payment of staff; again we cover shortfall.
- Over payment of staff; by many thousands in some cases, and the staff member’s details are sent to debt collectors by NovoPay.
- It commonly takes months to sort out an error, eg, it took six months for NovoPay to make an adjustment for an overpayment, and immediately made the same error with the same staff member.
- Accumulated sick pay lost, or even showing as a deficit.
- Staff randomly deleted from system.
- Very difficult to communicate with NovoPay. We are commonly on hold for an hour, calls are cut off, and when we get through we do not have a ‘case worker’ who knows our situation.
- No meaningful follow-up (and in some cases we don’t get the courtesy of a reply), when calls are made to Ministry officials about possible solutions.
- Payments into a staff member’s bank account have been different to the amount on their payslip and different again to the information on the summary statement received by the College.
- Financial statements and summaries don’t balance and cannot be reconciled.

To try to cope with this debacle:
- We first ensure staff are paid.
- Hundreds of extra hours have been allocated to try to sort out the errors.

Special thanks must go the Ginny Catterall (our HR Executive), Debbie Plant (our Finance Executive), and their teams who have done an amazing job to minimise the impact on staff members. The Board of Trustees have also been active as options are considered, eg, we have written to the Secretary of Education informing him that we will manage the payroll for support staff ourselves if our investigations prove this is the best option. A decision will be made about this in the next week or so.

This week the Ministry announced that schools would receive ‘compensation’ for our extra work. In our case we will receive about $8,500. This is much less than the $28,000+ we have so far invoiced NovoPay for our contribution to fixing their mistakes.

Continued over page...
Please be assured; despite the challenges of this situation, our focus is on providing a great teaching and learning environment so that your daughters and sons will achieve their educational potential.

One other very important matter: On Monday afternoon one of our learners was hit by car when he got off his bus and crossed the road. Fortunately he will be OK; but the situation could easily have been fatal. Please, please, please - stress with your children the importance of road safety.

I trust you and your family will have a chance over Easter to relax and enjoy each other’s company and the long weekend.

He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!
(What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!)

All the best for the weeks ahead.

James Thomas  
Principal

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**Whangaparaoa College 2013**  
**Important dates to remember...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>Summer Team Photos</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>HPV Immunisations (Year 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-2</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>Easter Break - <strong>Return Wednesday 3 April</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mufti Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Staff Only Day</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS**  
This year Whangaparaoa College photographs will be available for you to view and order Online with PhotoLife Studios.

Your son or daughter will shortly bring home an Online slip with their unique **Shoot Key** detailed on it. This Shoot Key will display all the photographs of your child. It is then an easy process for you to shop on-line and purchase the photographs you want.

If you place your order within two weeks of receiving your Shoot Key, you will receive free delivery for your photo orders. PhotoLife has agreed to despatch all the orders back to the school and your child will bring their photographs home.

Any orders placed after this two week period will be sent directly to your specified delivery address and will incur a $5.00 Postage & Packing charge.

You will see this message when you go Online to view and order your photographs.

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**International News**

We welcome **AKATSUKI GAKUEN High School** to Whangaparaoa College on Thursday 21 March. They are with us until Friday 29 April. They have visited us previously and we look forward to having them in our school and sharing their culture with us.

We also have a group of learners from **NZ Study** (an Educational Organisation based in Thailand) with us at the moment.

Both of these groups will add much to the culture of our school in their short time here.
Year 8 Te Hana Trip.
Last week a group of Year 8s visited Te Hana Marae. The Marae was a great learning opportunity to experience Maori culture and how they used to live. It was interesting to learn all about village life. It was set up as a replica of their past. We tried amazing fried bread and learnt lots of significant Maori names relating to the village and meeting houses. It was a great learning experience and an amazing, fun-filled day for all of us.

Hannah Filmer 8CON

Te Hana te ao Marama
On Thursday 7 March our classes 8WIL and 8BLK took a trip to Te Hana. At Te Hana we learnt about Maori culture in the early 1700s.
Matu Tom and Firē Annie gave us a tour of Te Hana. We also enjoyed a meal of fried bread and juice and fruit. The tofu was very educating and it was also fun to learn.
Things we learnt at Te Hana to ao Marama...
~We learnt that the early Maori chose a baby that had something wrong with him (deaf/ blind or mute etc) and took him away from his parents, and locked him away in a secluded hut. He had no human contact unless he was getting fed. From an early age he was taught the ways of medicine...
~Early Maori lived on a hill surrounded by wooden spikes to keep out unwanted visitors...
~You are to always take off your shoes in a Marae so your feet can massage the earth...
~If you look up when you’re in the Te Hana Marae you will see 114 stars on the ceiling...
~They passed the deceased through the window of the hut and left them there for 6 or 7 days so people could come and pay their respects throughout the week....
~They always lived by a water source so they could gather water all the time, they also believed that the Taniwha of that water source would look after them always...
~The special grass they used for their huts would keep them warm in winter and keep them cool in the summer...
We enjoyed our trip at TE HANA very much. It was an amazing experience that has taught us many useful things.

Written by Sophia Trimble and Jenny Abraham
Auckland Arts Festival
On Wednesday 6 March a select group of lucky Year 7 and 8 learners went to the opening of Tiffany Singh’s flag project for the Auckland Arts Festival.
Mrs Karen Turner had organised for Tiffany to come into Year 7 classes at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, to encourage them to think about their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and their communities. Then they printed their ideas onto a dream flag (based on the Tibetan dream flag principle) which is currently hanging with 5000 flags in Aotea Square until 24 March. Collaboration is the key in Tiffany’s work and the more who take part, the clearer the message.

The last day to see the installation will be Sunday 24, which is our Family Day.

From 10.00 am – 4.00 pm the Festival Garden and Aotea Square will be humming with things for families and children to see and do: clowning, music, dance, a Boy–Eh flashmob, flag painting, comics drawing, ta moko, poi-making, etc!

http://www.aaf.co.nz/events/family-day--wh%C4%81nau-wh%C4%81nui.aspx
In Year 8 we are learning about plants and what keeps them alive. As part of this work we visited Arataki. It was a really long bus ride through thick forests. The bush was very interesting. We passed through younger and older parts of the forest and saw the change between them both. When we went into the oldest parts of the forest, it was harder to see through as they had developed bigger trees like Kauri, Ti-tree, Manuka and lots more. When we returned from our bush walk we had lunch and headed off for our second activity in the classroom where we identified each part of the plants and learnt about all the different types of plants like angiosperms and gymnosperms. To finish the day we went into the information centre and viewed the gymnosperm and angiosperm plants. We had a wonderful day. 

By Ben and Sam 8WIL.

Our day at Shakespear Park
J19 went to Shakespear Park. It was an awesome day, and we cleaned up the beach and also walked the waterfall gully track - which was very interesting. We have written poems about the day.

Sam Creevey

Nature’s favourite song
The wind plays a tune,
Others hear it
They start to dance
Along with the music
The leaves start to play
Rattling along
Swaying to and from
Others join in
Really grooving to the beat
Silence listens in defeat.

Shakespear Park Itself
The soft sand against my feet
The smell of water tastes so sweet
Shells glistening in the sun
Birds flying it looks so fun
The noise of nature in my ear
This park has nothing to fear
Waves flipping onto their back
I can’t wait to have my snack
Peacocks so beautiful and bright
It really is an amazing sight
This is a place for all to see
Especially for people that are like me

Nicholas Bailey 7FRA
J18 and J17 were the classes that went to Muriwai that day.

Muriwai, on the way to the surf club everyone was so excited, we were already for a great day at Muriwai beach. We were talking about how to get out of rips and to spot them, there were three life guards that were helping us, there names were Billy, Andy and Mandy.

After we went over a few rules about the ocean, we had a snack and got into our togs. They told us to be sun smart and not to wear heavy clothing. When we got to the beach they told us to stay between the two flags. We lined up by our class rows, and we had to run into the water. A lot of us got tumbled and turned under water, but it was really cool.

When we got dressed we said thank you, on the way to the bus we saw the life guards and JR5 boats going past us, they were in an really big rush and everyone was wondering what was going on! When we got back at school we sat down and the teachers told us that there was a shark attack. We were all really worried
‘All Shook Up’ is based on multiple love stories set in the 1950’s mid-west America using classic Elvis hits! There are loveable stock characters and moments of pure delight. It is a comedy musical that will have you laughing loudly and will bring a tear to your eye. Don’t miss out on this fabulous show!!

15 - 18 April 2013

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT LEARNER ACCOUNTS

Hurry! Monday and Thursday nights selling fast.

MUSIC GROUPS SHOWCASE

There will be a short performance by Whangaparaoa College’s bands and choirs in the Auditorium on Thursday 4 April at 4.30 pm.
The event will showcase work which learners have achieved this term.
All are welcome and entry is free. Hope to see you there.
YEAR 13 PERFORMANCES

GROUP PERFORMANCES

SHOWCASING THE
FINEST MUSICAL TALENT

FREE TO WATCH

YEAR 13 PERFORMANCES

APRIL 4TH

IN THE

COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

A ONE NIGHT ONLY SHOW!

STARTS 7:00 PM
## Year 7 - 8 Sports

### Zone Days Term 1 and 2

#### Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys Cricket</td>
<td>20 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Cricket</td>
<td>27 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>17 April</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Boys Soccer</td>
<td>13 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 Boys Soccer</td>
<td>15 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Boys Rugby</td>
<td>29 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Girls Soccer</td>
<td>20 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8 Girls Soccer</td>
<td>30 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Girls Rugby</td>
<td>12 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Squash</td>
<td>19 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Girls Hockey</td>
<td>25 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Boys Hockey</td>
<td>27 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Table Tennis</td>
<td>27 June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like to sign up for any of the zone days, come into the Sports office.

Badminton is held in the gym on Tuesday at 3.30 pm, if you would like to have a go, come along.

### SPORTS FEES 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUGBY 1ST XV</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIOR RUGBY</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIRLS RUGBY</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NETBALL NORTH HARBOUR</td>
<td>$115.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NETBALL HBC</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOTBALL</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SQUASH</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACROSSE GIRLS</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>LACROSSE BOYS</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOCKEY</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Year 9 – 13 Sports

Inter Zone Swimming Results
On Monday 11 March our swimmers went off to compete in the Inter-Zone Swimming Competition held at the Millennium Institute in Mairangi Bay.
Congratulations to: Emma Clarke, Caitlin Windress and Finn Kennard-Campbell.

Finn Kennard-Campbell
1st place U13 50meter butterfly
1st place U13 50meter backstroke
1st place U13 50meter backstroke
3rd place U13 50meter freestyle

Caitlin Windress
1st place U14 50meter breaststroke

Basketball
Congratulations to Jordan Wilson Yr9 GOF who has been selected to play at North Harbour U15 Boys A team basketball this year.

Winter Sports Teams
Most of our winter sports teams have been selected or are still in the process of selection. Most of our sports teams will be starting their competition in the first week of May - which is only six weeks away, two weeks of which are the school holidays.

Coaching opportunities are now available in the following areas: Netball, Football, Hockey, Lacrosse. If you are interested, please contact Ray Garrett phone 4249177 ext 3221 or email Rayga@wgpcollege.school.nz

Year 12 & 13 Students: Holiday Course:
‘You Make the Call’ (Introduction to Rugby Refereeing)
Dates: Tues/ Wed 23rd/24th April
Venue: Takapuna Rugby Club
OR
Dates: Wed/Thurs 1st /2nd May
Venue: Harbour Sport House
The following NZQA standards will be available:
Level 3: Unit 20673 (4 Credits)
Level 3: Unit 26223 (6 credits)
Applications close: Friday 12 April
For more information do to the Sports office or contact Mr Garrett email rayga@wgpcollege.school.nz
Winter sports uniform is available at the uniform shop. All sports fees must be paid before the first day of play to Learner Accounts.

Websites for results and fixtures:
www.asbcollegesport.co.nz  www.hbcnetball.co.nz
www.harbourhockey.org.nz  www.netballnorthharbour
www.hibiscusnetball.co.nz  www.northharbourrugby.co.nz
www.harbourbasketball.co.nz  www.nzssfootball.co.nz
Senior Girls Volleyball Team 2013
*From the team;*
At the beginning of this year, half of the team had never played volleyball before. Now we are looking at being in the finals and love playing the game. Considering we have only been together for a short time, this team has done very well. Our Senior Girls Volleyball has come such a long way. We all have improved so much and everyone should be proud. Being a part of this team has been such an awesome learning experience, thank you so much to Miss Chrysler and Mr Watts especially, for coaching us in the early hours of the morning before school. This term volleyball has been so amazing and such a great experience. From the start to the end, we have all improved dramatically. We have learned so much thanks to our coaches. It has been great just knowing how to hit the ball right, and we have learned lots of other techniques. We have worked with a good bunch of girls, and have improved over the weeks, winning, losing and some close games. From the first game we played, we have improved dramatically and it shows - as we have got through to the finals. Being a part of the Whangaparaoa College Senior Girls Volleyball team has been such a good opportunity and experience at this college, even when we lost, we still enjoyed the games.

Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball
This term Miss Brown has coached a group of some 20 learners from Year 7-9 Girls and Boys in volleyball. They have enjoyed games against the senior girl's team and each other while learning new skills in how to play volleyball. We look forward to seeing a number of these students representing the college in Term 3-4 junior volleyball competitions.

All compulsory course fees, must be paid prior to any involvement in trips, sports and other activities. All payments, sports or otherwise, must be made at the Learner Accounts office. “No pay - No play”
Careers

Appointments
Please encourage your child to book an appointment to have a conversation around future career pathways. Do their subject choices match their intended career choice? Do they have a Merit or Excellence endorsement? What scholarships are available, and where do they find scholarship information? How do they work out the ‘Rank Score’, and how many Level 3 credits do they need to enter university? Do I qualify for a student allowance? These and other questions can be answered by typing Careers into the address box and send. No statement or question is necessary. The learner’s name will appear in my inbox and an appointment time will be sent.

Scholarships
Senior learners can login to the Whangaparaoa College Intranet and click on ‘Breakout’. This site offers over 4000 funding schemes, grants and scholarships. With the aid of drop down menus, learners can narrow their search for Faculty Based Scholarships to institution of choice, Auckland/AUT/Massey, course of study BFA/B ED/BA. Ethnicity and including gender choice.

Upcoming Events
• AUT Open Home  Saturday 23 March – view the new Sir Paul Reeves Building 11.00 am – 2.00 pm
• Waikato Open Day  Friday 17 May  9.00 am - 2.00 pm
• Massey Albany  Open Days Saturday 18 May 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Peter Davies - Careers Advisor
peterda@wgpcollege.school.nz
ph. 09 4249177 ext 234

Hibiscus Coast Blue Light are holding a Youth Day on 11 May at Centre Stage, Orewa.

The day will include speakers and a performance group on stage throughout the day. We will have up to 20 stands in the foyer, an outside area for displays along with a band, free BBQ going all day, spot prizes and a free raffle for everyone who attends one of the talks.
The purpose of the day is to provide Youth in Rodney with a place to gather essential information to assist them in life whether it be in sports, community, work, or education. We are targeting Year 9 to Year 13 (age 12 to 19),

There will be some Big prizes to give away on the day.
**Buddy Walk - Sunday 24 March**

The Auckland Down Syndrome Association is organising their 8th annual Buddy Walk at Tahaki Reserve, 250 Mt Eden Road, Mt. Eden on Sunday 24 March. Registration opens at 9.00 am, walk begins at 10.00 am.

Buddy Walk is a 3.5 km walk followed by a carnival with clown, rides, spot prizes, silent auction, raffles, stalls, music, entertainment and more. The goal of Buddy Walk is to celebrate individuals and families living with Down Syndrome and it is a fundraiser for our association. It is a wonderful, heart-warming event that celebrates the many abilities and accomplishments of people with Down Syndrome. Whether you have Down Syndrome, know someone who does, or just want to show your support, come and join us on Sunday 24 March.

**Cost:**
- Family registration (up to 2 adults & 2 children to the age of 15 - under 5’s free): $25.00
- Individual registrations: $10.00
- Group registration (for groups of 10 or more people) $7.00 p.p.

For more information, please call Christel van Baalen on 636 0351 or 021 1362537 or go to our website www.adsa.org.nz - click on Buddy Walk.

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**Homestay Families Needed**

*‘Enjoy the Cultural Experience’*

We are currently looking for Homestay families for Whangaparaoa College with school aged children in their home who are interested in hosting International students.

Attractive remuneration is offered.

If interested please contact homestay@wgpcollege.school.nz or alternatively Ph: 424-9177 Ext: 236 for an application form.

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**Newsletters**

If you do not already receive the newsletter link via e-mail, and wish to do so, could you please e-mail newsletter@wgpcollege.school.nz and advise Learner’s name and class.

*We are encouraging our learners to be environmentally friendly!*
Auckland Entertainment™ Book 2013-2014. Arriving soon from Whangaparaoa College Coast Robotics - 20% of your book purchase goes towards our fund-raising for Robotics resources at Whangaparaoa College. **Available from early April.**

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**About the Entertainment™ Book**

Entertainment™ Books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Available from early April, the new Book is only $65, and you'll receive $15,000 worth of valuable offers which are valid until 1 June 2014.

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**Why pre-order?**

"Last year I saved $100 with the Bonus Offers I received for pre-ordering my Entertainment™ Book, so my Book paid for itself even before I received it!" — Peta, Auckland

---

Each Auckland Entertainment™ Book contains over $15,000 in valuable offers. Here is just a taste of some of the valuable offers in the new Book:
**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ADVERTISERS**

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Come along and see what we have to offer!

- FREE* sessions for 3 to 5 year olds
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*Conditions apply—see in-centre for details

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**Awesome Performing Arts Tuition**

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A/H: 09 428 1522
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