



## Ready For ERO

### Reminders—

- \* Please send an email to advise of student absence to: [note@howick.school.nz](mailto:note@howick.school.nz)
- \* Students who leave the school for an appointment must bring a note and sign out at the student office.
- \* Students who arrive late to school must sign in at the student office.

As part of our regular communication to you we have introduced a new termly newsletter which will be emailed to all parents at the conclusion of each term. You will have also noticed that our web site has undergone a major transformation and our hope is that information will now be of greater interest. Our weekly 'next week' email communication will continue to keep you informed of future school events and dates with all other information, including student achievement highlights occurring on our main school website page or termly newsletter.

As you read through our newsletter I'm sure you'll appreciate the sheer busyness of our student body who are involved in, and successful in a wide range of activities. Looking back on first term of the year, students have not only settled well but are well on their way to achieving their goals for the year.

As a school, it is business as usual but with the Education Review Office returning within the next two terms, we have worked hard to close some 'gaps' first identified by their visit in 2010. I am pleased with the progress we have made to date and while they noted plenty of key areas of good performance, one of the areas of concern for them was our 'downward' trend in NCEA results. As a consequence, and over a period of two years we have deliberately targeted our effort to improve and are now above

national averages for NZ. We are now aiming to be equal to or better than other similar decile schools. I have attached some graphs which show our historical position and the significant progress we have made over the last few years.

I am very conscious of our student effort and desire to be the best they can be but also want to thank and pay tribute to all of our staff who continue to do a great job in the interests of our students. Over many months the staff have spent many extra hours assisting students to optimise their results and ensure they are fully prepared for the challenges of both learning and assessments. I want to express my appreciation for the great staff team and the work they do in serving and supporting a wonderful student community.

My thanks to all parents/caregivers who attended the conference days. A summary of the review has been included in this newsletter. The next meeting will be with subject teachers and this will be held in Term 2; May 30 and 31.

I wish all students a fulfilling April term break and an enjoyable holiday.

I L Ropati

Principal

Howick College

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## NCEA Results 2011

Analysis of last years NCEA results show that the school has increased its achievement levels for the second year in a row.

At Level 1, 2 and 3, Howick College achieved significantly higher than the national average. Progress toward our aim of equaling other decile 8-10 schools is also showing positive improvement—gaps have been reduced by 9.1% in Level 2 and 1.3% in Level 3.

As well as the excellent results in Level 1 (79%), Level 2 (84.5%) and Level 3 (79.8), we had twenty students who gained a Scholarship level pass—an increase of 5 students.

Two of our Scholarship students gained an Outstanding grade and one Year 12 student topped New Zealand in Scholarship History.

These improvements are the result of the hard work done by both students and staff throughout the year.

Our aim for NCEA 2012 is for continued improvement across all levels.

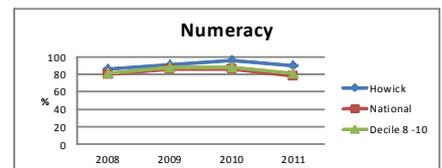
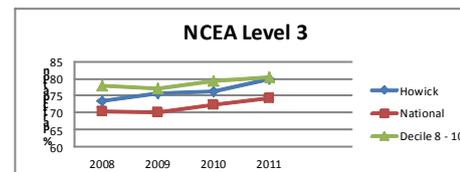
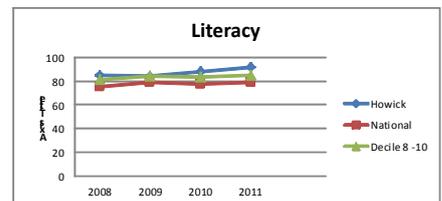
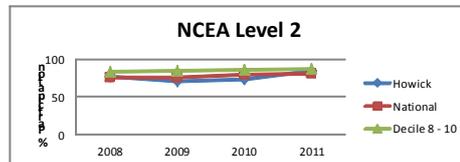
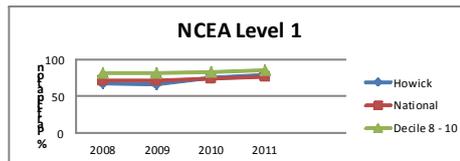
**Summary graphs follow on page 2.**

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# NCEA Results 2011

## NCEA Summary—

- Higher passes across all levels against national average
- Increase of 5 students achieving Scholarship
- Achieving aim of closing gap between Howick College and other decile 8-10 schools



## Celebrating Student Excellence

**Lydia Wilson**— topped New Zealand in Scholarship level History and also gained an Outstanding Scholarship result in English. She is currently in Belgium on a Rotary Exchange. You can follow her adventure in Belgium via her blog: <http://lydiawilson.posterous.com/>

**Hanzhi Wang**—won the top New Zealand mark in the ICAS Mathematics examinations in 2011. Hanzhi was presented with his award at Auckland University. Congratulations Hanzhi.



**Jemma Manchester**— won the New Zealand U17 Mountain -bike Cross Country Championship held in Rotorua.

**Sean Pyke**—is currently representing New Zealand in U21 Wrestling competitions in USA—good luck Sean!

**“Congratulations to Lydia Wilson—top in New Zealand in Scholarship History”**

**Chris Ryan**—has been acknowledged for his excellent performance in the Auckland Schools debating competitions by being named a member of the tournament ‘dream team’

**“Congratulations to Ms Julia Breen—Microsoft’s New Zealand Innovative Teacher of the Year”**



Ms Julia Breen has been named **New Zealand’s Innovative Teacher**. This award is given yearly for the most innovative use of ICT within the classroom. Later in the year, Ms Breen will travel to Athens to represent New Zealand in the World Innovative Teacher award.

Ms Breen received her award at the recent Microsoft Asia Pacific Forum. As a Pathway school, Howick College hosted 65 international teachers attending this conference, to share some of the innovative ways technology is being utilised at our school.



Ms Sharon Meffin is producing great historians with seven of the 2011 NCEA Scholarship passes coming from her history students; including the top student in New Zealand.

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## The Big Stand Week

During this week long, student-led campaign, students support and encourage each other to make a stand against bullying and anti-social behavior.

New Zealand musician, Annabel Fay got behind the Big Stand and entertained students with a lunchtime concert on the field. Other special guests were Olivia And Ben Bray who inspired everyone with their moving tribute to their sister and her positive attitude. Natasha Bray has inspired them and others to look for the best in people and make the most of every opportunity.

Well done to the Big Stand committee for all their hard work in organising this successful event.



**“it takes real courage to jump in a puddle and make a stand”**

## Tutor conferences Summary - March 2012

As part of the school wide AME High initiative, Tutor conferences were held with the purpose to raise student achievement by helping them to set an academic pathway that suits their interests and ability. Another important aspect of the conferences was opening a clear channel of communication between home and school.

We are grateful to all parents and students who attended, particularly as the timing required time off work and school.

Feedback has been reviewed with most parents, students and tutors reflecting positive comments. Parents almost unanimously felt the meetings

to be worthwhile and should be repeated next year.

Tutors also appreciated the value of the meetings and desire to repeat the initiative next year, with some modifications.

### Some feedback comments:

“We like to feel we are all working together for the students and the conferences showed that”

“I thought that feedback form the tutor was excellent and I had the opportunity to ask questions which were answered”

“I feel that the school has a genuine concern for the students and I congratulate the school management and staff for their efforts.”

### **Next steps -**

These include providing caregivers with the booklets via the school web site; reviewing the students' Term 1 goals in tutor time; and preparation for Subject Interviews in Term 2 (week 6).

We are also introducing a web based academic and career path mentoring programme called “Dreamcatcher” to Year 9 and 11 students, which will enable students and caregivers to enter and access information on-line to supplement the work done in the tutor group.

A more in-depth report on the conference feedback can be viewed on our website.



Daily & weekly notices now on-line:  
[www.howickcollege.school.nz](http://www.howickcollege.school.nz)



## International Students

Several of our new students enjoyed an official welcome at the Town Hall which was hosted by the Mayor of Auckland and included students from other schools in Auckland. They were introduced to New Zealand's culture with Kapa haka performances, music and songs.

A warm welcome to all our new students from around the world—Pedro Abreu Teixeira, Martin Chow, Samira Fries, Jenny Gao, Valentina Gonzalez Camacho, Annemarie Hann, Sho Higashibeppu, Sofia Hilzendegan, Nils Kull, Eric Lau, Ryan Lee, Sam Liu, Ro Ohisa, Jordan Park, Olegs Plocins, Ricardo Ruppel-Gonzales, Juila Seiburg, Kenny Tam, Wilson Ye and Ray Zhang.

We encourage you all to get involved in the many opportunities here at Howick College and enjoy your time with us.

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## House Leaders for 2012

Our student House Leaders are selected by their peers and are heavily involved in organising and leading a variety of activities throughout the year. Each week, they meet with Mr Ropati and Mr Morrison to review school progress and to raise topical issues that arise from time to time. Joined by the student trustee one of their many tasks is to plan for 'Leadership Week' which takes place in June. This initiative requires students to identify a NZ leader and to invite them to speak to an assembly and to run a leadership workshop.

The student leadership group, like many other student focus groups are increasingly critical in providing student perspectives.

The house leaders for 2012 are:

Bell—Renee Fuller & Ira Upadhyay

Minerva—Liam Broughton & Bridget Keene

MacDonald—Joe Kinsler & Maxine van Rooyen

Irvine—Siobhan Archer & Alwin Strydom

Bacot - Natasha Unkovich & Yasteer Basdew

Ingham—Dylan Giles & Shayna Ravji



### Coming up in Term 2:

Mon 23 April—first day

Wed 25 April—ANZAC Day

Fri 4 May—MacDonald house  
"Talent Quest"

Sat 26 May—School Ball

Mon 28 May—40 Hour Famine

Wed 30 & Tues 31 May—  
Parent Teacher Evenings

Fri 1 June—Teacher Only Day

Mon 4 June—Queen's Birthday

Week 10—Leadership Week

### Please note:

We have a new cashier at the College and you can send any queries regarding your account to [cashier@howick.school.nz](mailto:cashier@howick.school.nz)

Queries received during term one are being worked on and replies will be sent as soon



## Board Of Trustees Message

Dear Parents,

The Board is looking forward to building on the success of last year and is challenging Mr. Ropati and his team to continue to deliver improved academic outcomes for our students. This year brings another ERO review and we are confident this will also show further positive improvement within the school.

As we look to the future we, as a Board, need to challenge how we do things. We have identified a need to alter the way our Board is structured and the election process. Currently, we have seven parent representatives who are up for election once every three years. Should an entirely new Board could be elected, a number of potential problems arise in this situation; the Principal and Board lose continuity, effectiveness is compromised as new members of the Board pick up the history and strategic direction, and we can potentially lose momentum on strategic initiatives and projects.

We propose that, at the next election in May 2013, the Board structure moves to a split term which will allow for continuity and succession planning. This means we would hold elections every 18 months with half the Board being put up for election.

Howick College is pleased to announce a new relationship with Corporate Traveller.

**From every booking made by families from Howick College, Corporate Traveller will donate a percentage back to the school, which will be used for purchasing resources.**

As part of the Flight Centre family, Corporate Traveller has access to all Flight Centre advertised travel specials, and can book for business or leisure travel. Please support them, and Howick College, when making your travel or holiday plans.

Call Corporate Traveller East Auckland on **0800 327 874** and let them know you are from Howick College.

**CORPORATE  
TRAVELLER**

Bring an expert on board



Each term would remain three years. The only exception would be next year where all Parent representatives will be up for election, however four parent reps would be elected for the full three year term whilst the remaining three positions would be elected for 18 months, after which each term will be for a three year period. Which means the cycle will commence around October 2014.

The Board would welcome any feedback on this proposal to change the Board structure and terms and you are invited to send any feedback or comments to;

[BOT.Chairperson@howick.school.nz](mailto:BOT.Chairperson@howick.school.nz)

Please have a safe and happy Easter.

Regards,

Wayne Johnson

BOT Chairperson

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