

# EAST OTAGO HIGH SCHOOL

Stour Street  
P.O. Box 58  
PALMERSTON 9443, Otago

Phone: 03 4651 513 Fax: 03 4651 605  
Email: office@eohs.school.nz



# E O H S

Ahakoia he iti, he pounamu - *SMALL BUT PRECIOUS*



Mr Rick Geerlofs - Principal

## Principal's Comment

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

### Gratitude

Oprah Winfrey suggests, "Keep a gratitude journal. Every night list five things that happened this day that you are grateful for. *It will change your life.* If you concentrate on what you don't have, you'll never have enough. If you focus on what you have, you will always see that the universe is abundant and you'll have more." Selfish people never think they get as much as they deserve. Continually expressing gratitude helps break that kind of pride!

### Student Elections

Over the last few newsletters we have been promoting the student elections. I am very pleased to announce the re-election of Paige Aitcheson as the student representative on our Board of Trustees. Paige held this position for the past twelve months and it is great to see her re-elected. This is a clear vote of confidence in the job she is doing. Michael Lister who also stood for the Board received large support and will be co-opted to the Board for 12 months. This is a unique practice at East Otago High School that has proven to be very successful. Congratulations to both of these students, and I look forward to working with them in this important role. Our thanks go to Kelyn Witehira who has served on the Board for the past 12 months as a co-opted member. He has brought much to the table.

### Managing National Assessment

On Tuesday of this week the School's Relationship Manager (SRM) from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority) visited the school to conduct a Managing National Assessment (MNA) audit. The purpose of this visit is to review the systems in place and evaluate the following:

*Assessment practices* - how effectively the school's assessment practices ensure quality assessment for National Qualifications

*Moderation* - how effectively the school manages the quality assurance of assessment practices

*Communication* - how effectively the school maintains the currency of assessment policy and procedures, and communicates them to staff, students and families

*Data* - how effectively the school ensures the accuracy of assessment-related data and makes use of that data

The school underwent its last MNA audit in 2008. The nature of these new visits is far more robust and rigorous now and looks in greater depth at all things linked to assessment in schools. The possible outcomes of these audits is for the school to be placed on a 1 to 4 year cycle for the next scheduled visit, 4 years being the ultimate tick of approval. We are very pleased to report that East Otago High has been placed on a 4 year cycle as a result



Our Values are based on the acrostic - '*RELATIONSHIPS*' where R = Respect towards self & others, E = Empathy for others, L = Loyalty to family, friends and school, A = Acceptance of those around you, T = Tolerance of other opinions, actions & differences, I = Integrity towards all aspects of life, O = Ownership of actions and change, N = Nurturing skills, talents and attributes, S = Sensitivity of any situation, H = Honesty in thought, word & deed, I = Inclusiveness of all, regardless of age, ethnicity or characteristics, P = Patience with and to those around you, S = Support for fellow students, family & teachers