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Lynfield College

newslink

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Will my child be safe at Lynfield College?

Many parents ask me this question when enrolling their child with us. The answer is that we have developed a reputation as a safe, caring, positive environment which equips students to make the most of life as mature young adults.

Our code of conduct affirms respect for other people, zero tolerance for bullying of any sort, and non-discrimination.

Specifically, a safe schools group made up of students, guidance counsellors and teachers meets twice a term. Senior students are trained to act as contact people for others to talk to if they are being harassed or bullied.

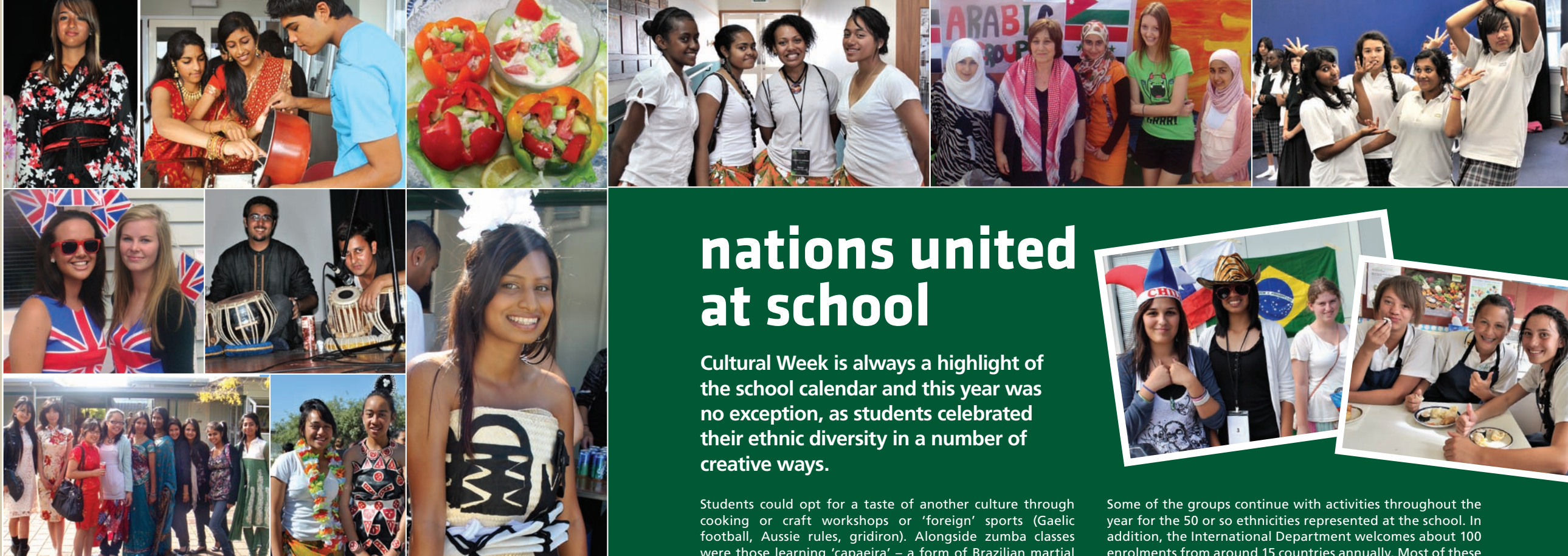
Cyber-bullying *is* a problem for many schools, largely because it is sourced from outside the school. The misuse of technology can cause major strife and stress for young people, but we do our best to make sure that, whatever happens elsewhere, our school is a safe place for students.

A special student action committee was formed earlier this year to help raise awareness of cyber safety. Members are working on an educational video and represent student perspectives through NetSafe's Cyber Bullying Taskforce which includes telecommunications companies, the Police and other community agencies.

The College also uses restorative practices to enable students to take responsibility for the results of their behaviour when disputes and conflict do occur. This is based on the idea that equitable relationships are a key component of living in harmony as a community.

We are extremely proud of our students and their successes across all aspects of college activities. I'm sure you will enjoy reading about many of them in this special edition of Newslink.

S.W. Bovaird,
Principal



nations united at school

Cultural Week is always a highlight of the school calendar and this year was no exception, as students celebrated their ethnic diversity in a number of creative ways.

Students could opt for a taste of another culture through cooking or craft workshops or 'foreign' sports (Gaelic football, Aussie rules, gridiron). Alongside zumba classes were those learning 'capoeira' – a form of Brazilian martial arts. In the kitchens, pasta making and Asian taste sensations were on offer. Others wrote pop songs, tried instant opera, watched foreign films or had their hands tattooed with henna. The fashion show proved as popular as ever, as did the cultural market day, a new addition this year.

The week culminated in the Cultural Food and Performance Festival, held on Saturday 9 April for the whole community. Festivities began with a midday powhiri and continued all afternoon with food stalls and performances from at least 14 different cultural groups.



Some of the groups continue with activities throughout the year for the 50 or so ethnicities represented at the school. In addition, the International Department welcomes about 100 enrolments from around 15 countries annually. Most of these students are on short-term exchange programmes but others stay for the full five years at Lynfield College.

International Student Representative Kshusha Vistovskaya is one of those who is grateful for the care and welcome she receives at Lynfield College.

"A big thank you to all the students who reach out and make friends with international students! You make their stay in New Zealand so much more enjoyable."

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enrolment dates

5-6 July	Open Day – guided tours of the school
11 July	7pm Enrolment information evening
12-15 July	Home zone Year 9 enrolment
15 July	Term 2 ends
1 Aug	Term 3 begins
6 Aug	9am to 12noon Year 9 enrolment
1 Sept	Year 9 out of zone applications close
8 Sept	Year 9 ballot
3 Oct	Years 10-13 out of zone applications close
7 Oct	Years 10-13 ballot
	Term 3 ends
25 Oct	Term 4 begins

Note: Enrolments can be made each morning, 9am to 12noon on weekdays during the holidays (18-29 July). No appointment necessary.

Cover: Shomal Kumar, Year 13, enjoys some work experience with Air New Zealand.

On a musical note...

Opportunities to cultivate or extend musical talent abound at Lynfield College.

A good place to start is the Year 9 performance course, says Head of Music, Lisa Norman. This class is for students with little or no previous experience who want to learn a wind instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet or trombone). After two terms some students join the junior Jazz Band or Concert Band, and there are plenty of opportunities to perform, both within and beyond the school.

Lynfield College is renowned for the high calibre of its extra-curricular music. For the first time this year, two Lynfield College jazz combos attended the Tauranga National Jazz Festival – and promptly won two silver awards in the youth section. Michael Howell was awarded best youth guitarist overall.

Congratulations also go to Michael and fellow musician Charlie Isdale (saxophone) for their selection in the NZ Youth Jazz Orchestra, held annually in Wellington. The band will spend two weeks rehearsing and performing under the direction of Rodger Fox, and New York City trombonist John Fedchock. Both students play in the college's premier jazz



groups – the Big Band and Jazz Combo A – as well as in the semi-professional Queen City Big Band outside of school.

The annual KBB Music Festival will be on the school's musical calendar again this year. The Concert Band and the Orchestra have both consistently won bronze awards at this event. Last year, the Big Band reached new heights with a gold award as well as the prize for 'most outstanding performance by a jazz band'.

This year Lisa Norman has also started a choir which is open to everyone.

careers



stepping into the future

Year 9 students at Lynfield College begin to design their future careers from Day One.

Every student is given a 'Pathways Folder' in which to create a profile of themselves by recording their goals, interests, skills, personal values, motivators and lifestyle. The folder builds a picture of career options and helps students create a step by step plan to achieve their goals.

"The aim is that students become competent career managers, learning how to shape their identity, become resilient, and construct their career in relation to their achievements," says Careers Advisor, Wendy Keir.



At junior levels, career guidance focuses on self-awareness and goal-setting. Teachers are encouraged to show students the value of learning by relating subjects to the working world.

At senior levels, students learn to manage change, make choices and act on their decisions. They have a number of opportunities to experience life in the working world or to find out about further study.



workchoice day

On 17 May, 50 senior students visited eight different workplaces in their area of interest. This year's host organisations offered experiences in ICT, customer service, media, engineering, hospitality and tourism, and the students came back buzzing:

"Watching and sitting through a TVNZ News Update 'live' in studio was so cool."

"It was awesome to be able to sit down with the heads of the company and departments and listen to their career stories and advice."

"Well worth it, learnt a lot, great experience, seeing 'behind the scenes' was very interesting."



get motivated

Motivation Day, held early in the year for Year 13 students, helps fire them up to make the most of their final year at high school. 'Shape your Destiny', presented by Darren Pereira and his 'VJ the DJ', is an entertaining seminar designed to clarify students' career pathways, passions, talents and ideals – and how they are all linked in creating the future.

Amie Mellor, BOT student trustee, said it was a great way to kick start the year. "He had us yelling, engaged and singing along and we left, well ... motivated! Some even decided what they wanted their careers to be because of that session."

gateway to working life

The Gateway programme offers senior students work experience one day a week for ten weeks. Students are not paid but earn credits for NCEA unit standards and gain valuable insights into the relevance of their classroom learning. Some have been offered part-time work or apprenticeships through their links with employers.



New workplaces are constantly being added to the programme, thanks to support from local industries and companies. Students have been placed in hospitality, engineering, early childhood education, retail, fashion design, hairdressing, automotive engineering and oral hygiene. Coordinator Raewyn Fairley said the programme was for all students, whatever their academic ability or achievement.

"We do our best to match students' interests but if we can't, we look at other options. It's all about offering experiences. Life is costly beyond school so we want to work with students to prepare them well for the future," she said.

Currently, she has students needing placements in plumbing, electrical engineering and tourism. If you can offer work experience in these fields, contact Raewyn Fairley on 627 0600 ext 653.

the Lynfield learner

Excellence is encouraged right from the beginning at Lynfield College. Students are awarded a Junior Diploma on the successful completion of Year 9 and Year 10 with regard to both behaviour and learning.



The school follows the principle of 'identifying what works and why' when it comes to academic achievement. NCEA results each year undergo intense analysis which is then used to review the teaching programme. The aim is to make sure all students are achieving to the very best of their ability.

Deputy Principals Murray Black and Cath Knell do most of the number-crunching, which also allows them to track the progress of particular cohorts, and tailor the curriculum accordingly.

"The analysis we do helps us become aware of areas in which students could be missing their potential and fall through the cracks. We need to make sure that we're supporting learning by providing opportunities that motivate students to achieve," says Cath Knell.

Academic results from 2010 show that Lynfield College students continue to perform well. Percentages achieving certificates at each level were at their highest yet, and overall a greater proportion of students gained Merit or Excellence endorsements than in 2009. Sixteen scholarships were awarded, including one outstanding scholarship.

creative robots



Robotics students enjoyed success at the Vex World Robotics Championships in Orlando, Florida. One team reached the final of their division and won the Create Award for their innovative design. A second team reached the quarter-final of their division.

Delayed flights, 12-hour days and lack of sleep made it a full-on trip for the students, who joined more than 10,000 representatives from 16 countries at the competition.

Robotics combines technology, engineering and maths skills to programme and drive customised robots. Teacher Sarah Allfrey said the students worked well under huge pressure at an incredibly high level of international competition. After three days relaxing at the Kennedy Space Centre, they returned home exhausted but keen to start dreaming up designs for this year's competition game Gateway.

from blackboards to computers

School ain't what it used to be...at least not at Lynfield College where blackboards and chalk are rapidly giving way to computers.



'E-Lync' is now in place via the school's website, providing students and staff with an interactive information portal that enhances the day-to-day processes of teaching and learning.

The site is an 'online learning environment' that allows teachers to post class notes, assignments, course outlines, calendars and revision activities. Students can log in to take part in discussion forums, while parents can also access e-lync to communicate with teachers or find out about student activities.

Bronwen Wilson leads the development of e-lync by providing workshops for teachers and a fortnightly 'Friday tip' to promote the use of ICT in classrooms. She says e-lync has already improved communication in the school, helped support professional development of staff, and has the potential to boost positive results from students.

To browse around e-lync yourself, go to the 'e-learning' tab of the school website www.lynfield.school.nz or directly to <http://moodle.lynfield.school.nz/> and log in as a guest.

sports



a sporting school

Lynfield College has a proud tradition on the sports field, with teams and individuals who excel across the range of 20 sporting codes on offer.

An unprecedented six teams are preparing to go to secondary schools' tournament week in August to compete for national honours in football, netball, basketball and hockey at the upper North Island championships. Another highlight is the traditional sports exchange with Mount Maunganui College, to be held on 11-12 August this year. The rugby team have won the Lyn-Mount trophy three years in a row and aim to make it four.

Basketball thrives at Lynfield College with strong coaching, large numbers of students, and some high scores being achieved. Netball is also riding a wave of success, building on the experience of playing in Australia last year.

The High Performance Unit (HPU) continues to develop students' fitness, skill level and mental approach to their sports by running specialised training sessions, particularly in football this year. Many junior players go on to play for 1st XI teams after taking part in this programme in Year 9 and 10.

individual achievements

As this goes to print, two Lynfield College students are representing New Zealand at the highest levels of women's sport in world cup events. These outstanding young women display the right mix of sporting determination and skill, academic drive and humility.

Katie Bowen (pictured right) is in the New Zealand Football Ferns (senior women's) squad, competing in the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany this month after qualifier matches in Australia and China. Katie has been training with this elite squad since the beginning of the year.

Tyla Nathan-Wong is playing for the Touch Blacks, the New Zealand open women's team, at the Touch World Cup in Scotland. Tyla is a superb multi-sportswoman with a red belt in taekwondo and her eye on the Black Ferns and the 2016 Olympic rugby sevens as well.

A number of other students have done well at national levels or won selection to representative teams, including: **Danielle Bradley** who was accepted into the new Zealand Football National Talent Centre. She is hoping for a place in the U17 squad to train for the 2012 World Cup in Azerbaijan.

Nataly See who won gold, two silver and bronze medals at the recent New Zealand open taekwondo championships (an annual Oceania event).



leading through service



A group of Year 10 students enjoyed teaching older people how to use mobile phones so much last year that they have decided to continue running 'Terrific Technology' workshops with Age Concern.

The first workshop was part of 'Caring for the Community' last December when 900 students from the junior school spent two days working on a range of projects, all with the common theme of practical service to the wider community. Ideas included: teaching flax skills to preschoolers; making cakes for the City Mission; tree-planting; painting a peace banner; and musical performances for senior citizens.

Project coordinator Bronwen Wilson said the project linked with the curriculum by encouraging students to contribute to the community.

"It helps them see the bigger picture and realise they are part of the wider world. It also teaches valuable skills and shows students how they can make a difference by helping others."



"It was an amazing experience for me. It was awesome because I met one of the best (old) people that I'll ever meet."

"Helping make things for kids in Starship has been a great experience."

lend a helping hand

Service to others continues throughout the year through the Community Support Committee which involves about 75 students in fundraising.



The Christchurch earthquake was a major focus in the first term. The committee's bucket appeal raised \$3000 in two weeks and Head Girl Rachel Nabalarua organised a gold coin appeal. A small group of friends made cupcakes and cookies for sale and others ran fundraising concerts.

Deputy Principal Leisa Munro said senior students in particular show a strong social service ethic. About 80 regularly give up their study periods to help with Learning Support classes or adult ESOL students.

Students can also join community groups like Amnesty International, World Vision's 40 hour famine, TravelWise, SADD (Students Against Drink Driving), the Nutrition Committee and the Environmental Group.

living life to the full

Penelope Walbran-Oakley has made the most of the opportunities Lynfield College provides for leadership and community service.



As a member of the Environmental Group for most of her high school years, Penelope has helped organise beach cleanups, planted trees on Motuihe Island and joined trips to the Waitakeres with Dawn Chorus. This year the group restarted Wai Care to test the Margaret Griffin Park stream every fortnight for clarity and pollution. They also take an active part in plans for landscaping and plantings around the school. The group achieved an Enviroschools Silver Award last year and their work was filmed recently to promote the programme among other schools.

Penelope is also an Auckland City Youth Councillor, a school Academic Captain and a member of the Student Executive which organises events and plans ways to improve student life. Recently, Penelope helped represent Lynfield College at the Mt Roskill ANZAC Day remembrance service.

"Being involved with the community when you're at school gives you lots of life experience and confidence. I enjoy the opportunity to work with a variety of different people."

international exchanges

Friendship with schools in other parts of the world is an important aspect of life at Lynfield College. The school alternates visits with Germany, Japan and China on a yearly basis. By both hosting and travelling, students broaden their understanding and appreciation of other cultures.



Students made 1000 paper cranes for Japan in two weeks. Their efforts brought smiles to children at an accommodation centre supervised by their friends from Shinagawa.

paper cranes for Japan

Unfortunately, this year's April trip to Shinagawa had to be deferred because of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March. While no-one associated with the school there was directly affected, officials have been helping with relief efforts and accommodating evacuees at a facility in Nikko, halfway between Shinagawa and the troubled Fukushima nuclear power plant.

To show they were thinking of their Japanese friends, Lynfield College students made 1000 paper cranes – a traditional gesture for peace and healing – and sent them off to Shinagawa, along with messages of sympathy for the evacuees in Nikko.

Their efforts were much appreciated, and students have continued to stay in touch with their Japanese friends. Japanese teacher Adam Burden said the episode has given students a clearer picture of the value of such international connections.

"It's brought the relationship much closer, especially for this group. The students now appreciate how people on one side of the world can help strangers on the other side of the world in a time of crisis, simply by sharing their thoughts."

from Hangzhou to Lynfield



The school hosted 20 students from Greentown Yuhua school in China for a very successful visit in May. After a powhiri welcoming them to the school, the group took part in art, music, English, cooking and

Chinese language classes. Later, there was time for shopping and sightseeing. New Zealand's green spaces and clear skies were a definite attraction, and the students enjoyed their programme plus the time spent with home-stay families. Planning is well underway for a return trip to Hangzhou, Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai in April 2012.

auf wiedersehen



Falling snow, brätwurst, nuclear bunkers, giant bonfires and Berlin train announcements have etched themselves on the memories of 25 Lynfield College students and teachers who visited Germany for three weeks in April. The trip included time with host families in Werder and day trips to Berlin, Salzburg, München, and the Königssee where they explored castles and marvelled at the elegance and age of European cities.

One highlight was the 'Osterfeuer' – huge bonfires to celebrate Easter and the coming of spring. Another was the warmth and generosity of their hosts, the Ernst-Haeckel-Gymnasium (high school). Students recorded their experiences in a blog <http://nz-to-germandy.blogspot.com> and look forward to welcoming their hosts to New Zealand next year.



New York of the late 1940s was recreated for the school production *Guys and Dolls* this year, with the addition of a few modern touches. The story of unlikely romance among petty criminals, professional gamblers, nightclub singers and mission sisters provided the cast and crew with plenty of opportunity to showcase their talents with comedy and panache.

The show is about a gambler who falls for a Salvation Army lass and is eventually cured of his evil ways. Instead of a small pop band, a 20-piece jazz orchestra provided musical accompaniment. Head of Music, Lisa Norman, said the show's 'classy, swing style' was technically demanding but provided a good challenge for young musicians.

A chorus and dance troupe filled out the 55-strong cast, led by Shawn Cleaver, Chantal Van Weelie, Dion Pritchard and Holly Stokes in the main roles, with side-kicks Arneet Singh and Billy Scarfe providing comic relief.

Technology was well-employed with an industrial-looking set and projected backdrops. Design students created posters for the show and beauty therapy students helped with makeup. There were three matinees for local primary and intermediate pupils and four evening performances.

guys and dolls