



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President's Comment 20



President
Peter Gall
Papatoetoe High School

Dear Colleagues

An announcement on the 2011 term dates was made on Tuesday and as many principals were consulted on this matter the final decision doesn't come as a surprise. By having the details of the 2011 dates so far in advance this will allow us to make suitable plans for what is traditionally a very busy time for secondary schools in late October/early November. I know that this issue is hardly one of major educational significance but the ministry has asked that we provide the following details on the 2011 term dates to our members.

"After consultation with the education sector, the Minister of Education has agreed to adjust the timing of the 2011 third and fourth school terms to accommodate the final games in the Rugby World Cup. The change will mean a slight lengthening of terms one and two and a shortening of term four. The overall length of the school year will not change.

Dates for 2011 will be:

- *Term One: Between Monday 31 January and Monday 7 February to Friday 15 April.*
- *Term Two: Monday 2 May to Friday 15 July.*
- *Term Three: Monday 1 August to Friday 7 October.*
- *Term Four: Tuesday 25 October to Tuesday 13 December at the latest for secondary schools, and Tuesday 20 December at the latest for primary schools.*

The change means that Labour Weekend will fall on the last weekend of the school holidays, and will be the likely date of the World Cup final.

The World Cup is an important event that will have huge economic benefits, not only for the Auckland region, but for New Zealand as a whole.

Why make the change?

Having the school holidays during the World Cup will mean less pressure on traffic flows and public transport, which will mean increased capacity for the 50,000 or so visitors we are expecting. In addition, buses and drivers normally taken up with school transport will be available to transport visitors around. Demand for business travel and accommodation drops during school holidays, freeing up capacity for the visitors and fans.

School holidays will also mean that parents, teachers and older school children will be available to volunteer their help with the Rugby World Cup."

Those of us who are keen rugby followers and live in the Auckland region will be well prepared for the inevitable anti-rugby/anti-Auckland barrage. Let's hope that 2011 will see the All Blacks successfully defend the Rugby World Cup!

Peter Gall
President