

## Principal's Panui

As is detailed in this edition we have a number of new staff this year. While it is sad to lose staff who have served our school so well it is also great to welcome fresh faces and fresh ideas.

It was also great to welcome our new students with our powhiri last week. This special occasion is made even more special by the large number of whanau who turn up and support their youngsters as they embark on another stage of their life-long educational hiko.

## 2016 Dux of the School

Congratulations to Virginia Park who was named Dux of the School at the Senior End of Year Prize-giving. Virginia has studied hard in all the seven years she attended Okaihau College; she was a very deserving recipient of the award.

Virginia is on her way to Victoria University in Wellington where she will be studying architecture. Best wishes Virginia, we know that you will achieve all that you set your mind to.



## Attendance

Students need to be aiming for 100% attendance, with a minimum of 90%. If they are struggling to meet this target, then feel free to come in and talk with one of us about this (Form Teachers, Deans, Deputy Principals).

The more days your student has here each year, the more likely they are to succeed at school and in further education and the workforce.

If your student is away, either phone (09) 401 9030, email [absences@okaihau-college.school.nz](mailto:absences@okaihau-college.school.nz) or reply to the text which is sent home.

## NCEA 2016

Congratulations to all our students who achieved NCEA qualifications in 2016

66% of Year 11 students achieved Level 1 – 43/63 students.

Congratulations to the students who got Merit and Excellence endorsements on their Level 1 NCEA Certificates.

5 students gained Level 1 Excellence – 50 plus credits at Excellence:  
Claire Graham, Jackson Haynes, Chelsea Karl, Jasmine Quarrie, Dion Wharerau.

18 students gained Level 1 Merit – 50 plus credits at either Merit or Excellence:  
Ava Adams, Conor Bolton, Thomas Bolton, Ivan Erstich-Coles, Rawhiti Erstich-Coles, Sarah Hamlin, Miriama Harris, Tumai Kaukau-Troughton, Shanti-Ray King-Puru, Phoenix Littin, Jenay Maihi, Forest Martin, Kieran-Jade Nelson, Emma Pinkney, Liam Richards, Tyriek Roberts, Emmanuel Taliauli, Jaimee Whittaker.

81% of Year 12 students achieved Level 2 – 41/48 students.

Congratulations to the students who got Merit or Excellence endorsements on their Level 2 NCEA Certificates.

2 students gained Level 2 Excellence – 50 plus credits at Excellence:  
Carym Wharerau and John Cooper.

7 students gained Level 2 Merit – 50 plus credits at either Merit or Excellence:  
Caitlin Adams, Rebekah Clunie, Kathy Kopa, Sienna Munford-Stokes, Craig Nelder, Aimee Walden, Olivia Walden.

40% of Year 13 students achieved Level 3 – 19/49 students.

Congratulations to these two students who achieved Level 3 with Merit endorsement – 50 plus credits at either Merit or Excellence:

Virginia Park, Keani Erstich-Coles

## FaceBook Group

All students, parents and caregivers are welcome to join our FaceBook group - Okaihau College Official. This is a great way to keeping in touch with what is happening at school and is also used in situations when we need to get a message out to parents quickly (ie school closure, early closing day etc).

## College Calendar

### Monday 13 February

- Head Student Applications  
Close

### Tuesday 14 February

- Swimming Sports Day

### Thursday 16 February

- University of Auckland Liaison  
Visit

### Friday 17 February

- Head Student Interviews  
- Student Leader Applications  
Close

### Thursday 23 February

- Athletics Day

### Wednesday 1 March

- Senior Curriculum Day Line 3

## OKAIHAU COLLEGE SWIMMING SPORTS

### Tuesday 14th February

Year 7 & 8 - 9.15am - 11am

Year 9 -13 11-30 - 1.15pm

Year 9-13 25 m freestyle  
finals and House Relays -  
2pm - 3pm

Students are encouraged to wear House colours and cheer their house on.

**Rimu – Red**  
**Totara – Yellow**  
**Puriri – Green**  
**Kauri - Blue**

Parents and Whanau are welcome to put in a relay team and join the Senior/Teachers Race.

**We encourage Students to be Sunsmart - bring a hat and wear Sunscreen please.**

Everyone welcome to come along and support our students.

## Staff Moving On ...

At the end of 2016, we had a number of experienced and valued staff retire or move on. Thank you all for your contribution to the teaching and learning of Okaihau College students.

### **Retirement of Mr Stuart Ward**

Mr Ward taught here for thirty five years and had been Deputy Principal since 1997. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his fantastic Blue Card Prize-givings at the end of each term, his candyfloss caravan, the radio scanner in his office and his love of technology.

### **Retirement of Ms Penny Rowland**

Ms Rowland taught here for twenty seven years as a Social Studies and Geography Teacher. Senior Geography students have great memories of local field trips, particularly beautiful Tapuaetahi to learn about coastal processes.

### **Mrs Sharon Nolan emigrates to the UK**

Mrs Nolan taught Digital Technology / Practical Computer Skills here for fourteen years and moved to England to be closer to family. She also oversaw our computer network and Student Management System.

### **Retirement of Mrs Barbara Cole**

Mrs Cole had taught at Okaihau College for thirteen years, and was, for many years, the Year 7 and 8 Dean. In recent years, Mrs Cole taught in a number of different departments. She will be remembered for her firm, fair and fun teaching.

### **Mrs Sharon Oliver moves to the Waikato**

Mrs Oliver was the Head of English for seventeen years, and has moved to the Waikato to be closer to her family. Mrs Oliver always brought a sense of fun to her lessons, and will forever be remembered for referring to her students as "petals" and "toads".

## Staff we are welcoming ...

As a result of staff leaving, we are pleased to welcome a number of new faces to the staff: Mr Tom Davison (Deputy Principal), Mr Merv Ellis (HoD Social Sciences), Mr Mike Donaldson (HoD Digital Technology), Mrs Sue Megginson (Art, DVC, Drama), Mr Brian Dunckley (Business Studies), Ms Marie Reid (Special Needs Teacher Aide) and Ms Jackie Henry (Special Needs Teacher Aide)

## Teachers are Lifelong Learners!

We are undertaking 18 months of professional learning and development (PLD) involving all teachers and beginning this term. Our facilitator is Megan Peterson from Evaluation Associates in Auckland. The aim of the PLD is to raise achievement for all of our students. There were two workshops on our teacher only day on Tuesday 31/1 introducing the PLD, followed by two others on Wednesday and Thursday. All of our teachers participated including our regular relievers.

We aim to meet every Thursday after school to share information as a whole staff and also to discuss strategies in relation to the classes that we teach in smaller professional learning groups.

