

Principal's Panui

It was as, always, 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 hikoi.

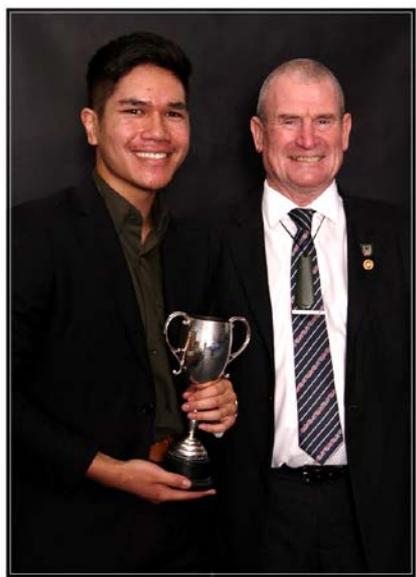
We start the year fully staffed, with 3 new teachers: Alan Carson (HoD Science), Elke Fox (Biology and Science), John Laue (English for Miss Wadkins). Our current roll is 467, but this will no doubt change.

With a new government and Minister there have already been significant changes in education and I will try to keep you informed on these.

I'm looking forward to the new year and I trust you are as well.

2017 Dux of the School

Congratulations to the 2017 Dux of the School, Carym Wharerau. Carym completed all of his secondary schooling at Okaihau College, and in his time here illustrated what all our students should be aiming for. He worked hard, had fun, and was a role-model for others around him. As Dux, Carym received a \$6000 scholarship from the P and SM Bullen and Sons Family Trust. Best wishes for the future Carym, we know that it will bring you great things.



School App



The school has a mobile app that can be now downloaded.

Among other useful features it will allow parents and students to receive alerts (e.g. sports training, meetings, cancellation of games) as well as absentee reporting to the office.

To download the app just search **SchoolAppsNZ** in your phone's app store, and then enter....*Okaihau College*.

We encourage all students and parents to download our school app. It is free from the app store, and will be a great tool in keeping communication going between school and home.

Attendance

If your student is absent or is going to be away, please let us know. You can do this either by phone (09) 401 9030 ext 700, email jennyc@okaihau-college.school.nz or via our new Okaihau College app.

If we do not hear from you, then we send out a text, and you can reply to this text (there is a small charge which is why we encourage you to use the other methods which are all free).

College Calendar

Monday 12 February

- Head Boy/Girl Applications Close

Wednesday 14 February

- NSSSA Equestrian Showjumping

Thursday 15 February

- Head Student Interviews

- Year 8-10 Whanau BBQ 5-7pm

Friday 16 February

- Student Leaders Applications Close

- Year 7 EOTC and Whanau Lunch

Tuesday 20 February

- Senior Curriculum Day Line 2

Friday 23 February

- **School Athletics Day**

Monday 5-9 March

- Swim For Life Programme

Friday 9 March

- Class Photo Day

Tuesday 13 March

- Senior Curriculum Day Line 6

- RYDA Programme Year 11

Wednesday 21 March

- Attitude Report Evening

Friday 23 March

- **School Swimming Sports**

Support Staff Vacancies

Laboratory Technician, Science Department.

Permanent position, 14 hours per week. Award rates.

Some experience desirable.

Starting as soon as possible.

Applications close 16 February 2018.

Phone or email for application pack.

karen@okaihau-college.school.nz

Teacher Aide, Rangimarie.

One year fixed-term position, 5½ hours per day, Monday to Friday.

Award rates.

Starting 21 February 2018.

Applications close 16 February 2018.

Phone or email for application pack.

karen@okaihau-college.school.nz

Facebook Group

There is an Okaihau College Facebook Group called Okaihau College Official Page. Any current students (aged 13 or older) as well as all parents and caregivers are welcome to join. This has up-to-date information about what is happening at school but also information about school closures, celebrations, event notifications etc.

Fuel for Schools

Northfuels has advised us that the target of \$1000 has been reached for Okaihau College to receive a Fuel for Schools reward. A further \$203.28 towards the next reward has also been reached. Our school has received this donation through being nominated by local business/farms that receive bulk fuel deliveries from Northfuels, meaning that for every 2 litres of bulk fuel they purchase 1 cent is donated to their nominated school.

We would like to take thank those members of the community are that have contributed: Driver Whitehills Farms Limited, Okaihau Pastoral Limited Partnership, Headway Forestry Limited, Aratoro Farm Limited, M & T Clifford and Alexander Ag Ltd.

For more information about the programme, call 0800 4 THE KIDS (0800 484 3543) or visit the website www.northfuels.co.nz.

Top Energy Scholarship

Congratulations to Craig Nelder who completed Year 13 at Okaihau College last year and who is now studying at the University of Waikato.

The Top Energy Engineering Scholarship provides \$8,000 per year of study, for a maximum of four years. Craig is grateful that his mother drew his attention to the scholarship as it will help him achieve his goal of becoming an engineer.



He warmly acknowledges the huge support he had received from his family and his small knit community in Kaikohe. On completing his degree in engineering, Craig wishes to return to the Far North to find a career in engineering to give back to the community.

Top Energy's Engineering Scholarship aims to assist Far North students who wish to study an engineering (honours) degree, and who have already achieved an excellent academic record. Applications are welcome in August 2018.

Okaihau College Community Survey

In 2017 the college community was invited to participate in a survey about learning and the current learning environment at Okaihau College. Below is listed a summary of the main findings.

The Positives:

The three main categories reported by our community were –

1. Learning Environment

The teaching places were reported as positive, as was the campus as a whole. Teachers were commended for fostering classrooms where learning was seen to be valued.

2. Encouragement of Students

Students were encouraged to be involved and to participate in activities, both curricular and extra-curricular. There was also mention about students encouraging their peers.

3. Curriculum Diversity

The range of subjects, particularly in the junior school, has created a positive impression. Less so in the senior school, and the lack of progression of Te Reo Maori was mentioned.

The Negatives

The three main categories reported by our community were –

1. Smoking/Negative Behaviour

This was noted by parents, but even more so by students who were highly indignant that their college's reputation was being continually tarnished by students flaunting the school rules so obviously.

2. Physical Environment

Students in particular were concerned about the lack of basic hygiene necessities like soap in the toilets.

3. Academic Focus

This was largely two fold. Students bemoaned the lack of academic focus and drive by what they saw as a large proportion of the student body. There was also a feel that there was a disproportionate drive towards university/tertiary study at the expense of trades/apprenticeships and more practical qualifications.

Next Steps:

The next phase for the board is discussion on these findings – affirming which have merit and what strategies need to be employed to make the best use of the information and to address community concerns. We trust that this reinforces to our community the importance of their input. The overwhelming response to the question "What do we want our students to be like when they leave?" was to have good values. This will need to be integrated into the learning culture of the school as well.