

Okaihau College Ball - "Lost in Vegas"

Okaihau College Year 11, 12 and 13 students celebrated their annual school ball in style on Saturday 19 May with a "Lost in Vegas" themed evening event.

The Year 13 Ball Committee, led by Head Students Willow Rawiri, Thomas Bolton, Claire Graham, Jenay Maihi, Jackson Haynes and Conor Bolton put in many hours of preparation to get the school hall ready for the ball. The room was set up beautifully with a red carpet leading into the entrance-way, lighting (including lots and lots of fairy lights) and playing card-themed decorations around the hall.

150 students attended the ball, and all made an effort to look stunning. The following students are the winners of categories as voted by their peers on the night.

King and Queen: Jackson Haynes and Willow Rawiri

Prince and Princess: Siakini Taulangau and Edith Langford

Duke and Duchess: Tane Johnston and Alyssa Williams

Best Dressed Male: Dion Wharerau

Best Dressed Female: Kerri Johnson

Best Couple: Kerri Johnson and Tai Walmsley

A Hamilton DJ had come up to play for the night and Year 10 students were waiters and waitresses, also dressed in theme.

A number of parents, caregivers, staff, whanau and community members were at the entrance to the hall to watch students arrive. It was great to see this level of support from our school community and was a significant reward for the students who had put so much effort into themselves and the evening.

Thanks to all those people who supported the students to help make this a memorable evening. This includes the Okaihau Volunteer Fire Brigade who provided security during the event and the caterer (led by Rangimarie Wikaira). Year 13 students would like special acknowledgement made of Digital Technology Teacher Mr Mike Donaldson who took all the photographs (and had them available online by 2.30a.m. the following morning!) and Design and Visual Technology Teacher Mrs Karen Paraone who put a huge amount of time and effort into helping students get organised for the ball, ordering supplies and co-ordinating the tickets and decorations.

Head Girl Willow Rawiri said that the organising committee appreciated the support of all helpers including Jaimee Whittaker for her planning expertise, Mrs Karen Paraone, Mr Mike Donaldson, Mr Peter Woodward, Mr Stuart McDonald, Ms Diana Henderson, Mr Brian Dunckley, Mrs Janet Davidson, Mr Tom Davison, Mrs Crystelle Perrin, Mr Graham Sharp, Mrs Thyrl Weber, Mr Alan Donaldson, Mrs Sarah Morgan and Matua Brent Strathdee-Pehi. Without your support and guidance, the night would not be the memorable success that it was.

Year 10 Art Trip to Waitangi

On Thursday the 17th May students from the Year 10 Art class made the journey to the Te Kongahu Museum of Waitangi to view the art exhibition painted by New Zealand artist Nigel Brown. Students enjoyed the robust conversations with each other when trying to analyse and decipher the meaning of the artworks.

The art exhibition explored themes around looking after our New Zealand birds and shellfish so that future generations can enjoy them too. We also had a tour through the Treaty of Waitangi exhibition and surrounding areas.

Thanks for Mr Davison and Ms Moss for coming along to help with our trip.



Jaimee, Claire, Sarah and Emma



Lexus, Caitlin, Atria, Janet, Matthew, Maia and Acacia Tomas, Siakini and Ammon



Celebration of Excellence Assembly

Wednesday 23 May 2018

We held our first Celebration of Excellence Assembly for the year on Wednesday 23 May in the school hall. These assemblies have been held since 2007 and are specifically to honour and acknowledge outstanding students in the fields of academia, sports, culture and service. Head Students Willow Rawiri and Thomas Bolton led the assembly in which students were recognised for their outstanding achievements in service, sports and academia.

Traditionally we have had a guest speaker who addresses students about their achievements, goal-setting and recollections of time at Okaihau (if they are a past student). This time, we asked our kapa haka roopu, Nga Wheinga a Rahiri, to give a special guest performance for the school and invited guests. Their performance was powerful and outstanding, and reminded staff and students why we are so proud of them and the work that they put into preparing for Te Tai Tokerau Festival and other similar performances. Tutors Raechel Kopa and Komene Marino supported the roopu, and were then asked to present the certificates and honours badges to the award recipients. On completion of the assembly, the Head Students presented Raechel and Komene with a gift to thank them for all their efforts with our roopu.

Students were supported by a number of proud parents, caregivers, whanau as well as members of our school community. Awards were given to the following students;

Sporting Excellence

Phoenix Littin (Te Tai Tokerau Under 21 Touch Team)

Service Excellence

Thomas Bolton (Okaihau Volunteer Fire Brigade)

Academic Excellence

Claire Graham (Level 2 Gold – 60)

Emma Pinkney (Level 2 Gold - 50)

Emily Beggs (Level 1 Gold – 46)

Acacia Ross (Level 1 Gold – 46)

Linda Johnston (Level 1 Silver – 35)

Tyla Nisbet (Level 1 Silver – 41)

Siakini Taulangau (Level 1 Silver – 36)

Eilise Te Huia (Level 1 Silver – 43)

Ngareta Teira-Tuiloma (Level 1 Silver – 43)

Maia Whiu (Level 1 Silver – 37)

Thomas Bolton (Level 2 Bronze – 21)

Rawhiti Erstich-Coles (Level 2 Bronze – 34)

Sarah Hamlin (Level 2 Bronze – 24)

Tumai Kaukau-Troughton (Level 2 Bronze – 23)

Jenay Maihi (Level 2 Bronze – 29)

Jayden Edmonds (Level 1 Bronze – 28)

Atiria Pitovao (Level 1 Bronze – 32)

Logan Salmons (Level 1 Bronze – 21)



Nga Wheinga a Rahiri performing at the Excellence Assembly



Phoenix Littin and Thomas Bolton



May 2018 Academic Excellence Recipients



Hospitality and Food Technology Teacher Ms Diana Henderson took on the co-ordinator role for the fifth time in a row for our annual Pink Ribbon Breakfast. Ms Henderson planned the menu, co-ordinated food sales, collected donations of food and organised her NCEA Level 1 class to assist with food preparation on the day and they rose to challenge superbly. They offered fresh fruit smoothies, McMuffins and Cup-Cakes which were all pre-ordered and then collected on the day. Over \$930 was raised for breast cancer research which is a great contribution from such a small school.

Thanks Ms Henderson - it is great to know that your not-so-small part can make a such a difference to a national organisation.

Congratulations also to the pamper pack raffle winners: Lorna Smith and Jake Hatch. We hope you enjoy your goodies!