

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa,

Obviously, the events on Friday last week in Christchurch have had a huge impact on our country. Many people are struggling to understand how this could have happened in Aotearoa/New Zealand. What it has made abundantly clear though, is the experience that many groups within Aotearoa/New Zealand have to deal daily with prejudice and discrimination.

As much as we like to think that we are a multicultural country with good race relations, the atrocity in Christchurch should persuade us otherwise.

Quite rightfully, what happened in Christchurch will cause some questioning in our communities. We had an assembly on Wednesday and our head students spoke well about what it means for us in Tai Tokerau.

What does it mean for us? It means we need to acknowledge that discrimination exists. We need to ensure that we focus on being kind to each other. We need to teach our tamariki/mokopuna to think for themselves. To not accept what they see on social media without questioning the agendas of those behind them. There is a saying that "all evil needs to triumph, is for good people to do nothing". We need to teach our tamariki/mokopuna to act if they see things that are wrong. We need to model this as the important adults in their lives.

This experience will be in vain if nothing comes from it. In this instance, we all need to be learners.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

Mufti Day

Monday 25th March - Gold Coin Donation

On Monday we are holding a Mufti Day to help our kapa haka roopu raise funds. The money raised will go directly towards our participation at this year's Te Tai Tokerau Festival (including accommodation, food, transport and registration fees) which is being held in Whangarei on 10 and 11 April. Gold coin donation. Many thanks for your support.

Northland Secondary Schools Track and Field Championship

Ten of our top athletes competed at ASB Sports Arena in Whangarei against students from throughout Northland. The day was hot, and competition was tough but our students competed well.

Our team was Benjamin Clunie, Tupari Cowan, Nikau Donelley, Roma Edwards, Kowhai Harris, Cameron Jobe, Charlee Littin, Manaia Mackay, Laura Walker and Moeke Williams-Cooper.



College Calendar

Monday 25 March

- Kapa Haka Mufti Day

Wednesday 27 March

- Whanau Learning Hui

Monday 1 – 5 April

- Year 12 Gateways Week

Tuesday 2 April

- **Senior Curriculum Day – Line 3**

- Duffy Book Assembly

Wednesday 10-11 April

- Tai Tokerau Festival

Friday 12 April

- Last day of Term 1

AgriKids and Junior Young Farmer Competitions

The Northern Regional Finals were held at the Warkworth A&P Show last Saturday. This year we had an impressive 18 students competing over the two competitions; two teams in the AgriKids and six teams in the Junior Young Farmer.

The teams included

AgriKids -

Beau Edwards, Madison Jay-Johnson, Ehlana Reid
Isaac Quarrie, Grace Sanders, Gemma Harrison

Junior Young Farmer -

Aimee Lawson and Nick Harrison
Benjamin Clunie and Bohemia Sanders
Elsie Quarrie and Oceane de Reuck
Madelene Clunie and Hayley Bradley
Cody Ott and Max Thomas
Harry Harrison and Zoe Harrison

In the AgriKids race-off, both of our teams made it through (and were in the top 7), with Gemma, Grace and Isaac making it through to Nationals coming in second place. In the Junior Young Farmer face-off were Harry / Zoe and Madelene /Hayley. Madelene and Hayley came third overall which means that they are first reserves to go to the nationals.

Many thanks to the four parents who gave up their Saturday to take our students to the regionals; Michelle Harrison, Nigel Harrison, Sharon Clunie and Tanya Quin. They reported back to us that they had a really good day with the kids who were really well behaved and a pleasure to take away for the day. Also the lady who ran the NAIT module for Junior Young Farmer made a point of coming to speak with our parents to say how well all our kids did at the module and that they were all polite and well mannered. At the end of the day, our students also helped officials carry away the firewood that the competitors had split during a module. Thanks for being such great ambassadors for our school.

Whanau Learning Hui Parent-Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 27 March

On Wednesday 27 March, we are hosting whanau learning hui all day. Classes will not be running as normal, so you will need to keep your student/s home when they are not here for the interview time. This is a change from how we usually do parent-teacher interviews. Instead of "speed-dating" with all your student's teachers we would like whanau to book a time with your student's whanau teacher to talk about your hopes and aspirations for your student. The 20-minute slot will also mean you have time to set some goals with the whanau teacher and your student while also planning to achieve those goals.

How to Book Your Interview

Follow these instructions to make a 20-minute booking for your child / children. Your appointment should be made with the Whanau Teacher only.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Click on Make a Booking

Our Event Code is 5jx3f

Enter your details to make the booking and click Go

You will be sent a confirmation email

If you have any problems with the booking process, please contact us. Your child's Whanau Teacher or Jenny at the Main Office can assist you with making a booking. Either ring (09) 401 9030 or email jennyc@okaihau-college.school.nz

Measles - Message from the Northland Public Health Unit

With 28 cases of measles in Canterbury, and two new cases in Auckland, now is the perfect time to make sure your child is up to date with their immunisations against measles.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed for maximum protection. If you are not sure if your child is fully immunised, check in your Well Child book, or talk to the Practice Nurse at your usual General Practice.

If your child is unimmunised, or has received only one dose of MMR, they are at higher risk of contracting measles.

Unimmunised children who are even only exposed to measles could face up to two weeks off school while they wait to see if measles develops, causing enormous disruption in families.

Those who actually contract measles fare worse, as measles is a very unpleasant illness.

Make sure your child has had two MMRs. We suspect cases in Northland soon, so please don't delay.

You can find more information on our website – www.northlanddhb.org.nz.

Senior Geography Trip to the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve

It was a beautiful day on Monday 11th March, when the DIVE! Tutukaka boat pulled out of the marina at Tutukaka with the senior geographers on board. The sea was calm and the excitement was brewing. Dolphins joined us on the way out to the Poor Knights and gave us quite a show. The snorkelling was amazing, with schools of snapper, kingfish, blue maomao, banded wrasses, red moki, and trevally just to name a few of the fish we saw. We got to go paddle boarding and kayaking. We also saw the amazing volcanic landscape of the Poor Knights. We went into the largest sea cave in the world and tried out the amazing acoustics. The boat squeezed through sea arches, and tunnels. It was a perfect day, the drivers were 'fantastic' and everything went swimmingly.

Thanks to Mr Fulton, and Mr & Mrs Kitchingman. Thanks also to those who have supported our fundraising efforts by buying raffle tickets.



Waka Ama Champs

We wish Ngāreta Teira-Tuiloma all the best for the NZ Secondary Schools Waka Ama Championships next week in Rotorua.