

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa,

Thank you for all the feedback we had on the proposed changes to Whanau Time. Having looked at all the feedback (from staff, students, and whanau), we have decided to keep Whanau Classes of the same level but with the whanau teacher following them through from Year 7 - 13. This will enable you to develop a deeper relationship with your student's Whanau Teacher over their time at school.

During the holidays, I attended a conference in Auckland for beginning principals. One of the speakers particularly, left me plenty to think about in terms of how we do things at Okaihau College and how that affects the outcomes for our students. Dr. Hana O'Regan, is the daughter of Sir Tipene O'Regan the ex-Labour MP. She shared a story about her own son when he was 6. He came home from school and said that he wished he was 4 again because that was before he "turned bad". In the space of less than two years at school, he had already picked up that the narrative around Maori students was that they were "bad" or "always in trouble". She also talked about the construction of the image that "Maori are good with their hands". This was the result of a piece of legislation in the 1800s that expressly forbid the teaching of "academic subjects" to Maori because they were not equipped for it. This social engineering has stuck with us for 150 years, so much so that many Maori themselves repeat it.

So what does this mean for us as a kura? It means that we have a responsibility to change the narrative as a school. It means we need to value Te Ao Maori and the role it plays in the lives of the vast majority of our students. It means that we all (whanau included) need to educate our students about the great Maori scientists and mathematicians not just the singers and sports stars. Being Maori is more than "being good with your hands". We need to be open to learning more from our students and whanau about Te Ao Maori in and around Okaihau and how it is relevant to us all. It means that we and all our students need to be truly bi-cultural in the spirit of te Tiriti o Waitangi - able to confidently walk in both worlds, Maori and Pakeha.

This is not a short work, nor an easy one, but one that I believe is really important for our students and community as we define what success is and how we achieve it for our tamariki / mokopuna.

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



Colour Run!

Okaihau Primary are hosting their first ever colour run this term on Friday 29th November. They have created a facebook event and are advertising EARLY BIRD deals valid until 4pm Thursday 31st October.

\$15 per person (down from \$25)
\$55 per family of 4 (down from \$80)
\$65 per family of 5 (down from \$90)

College Calendar

- Monday 21 October**
 - Level 1 Art Folios Due
- Friday 25 October**
 - Level 2 Art Folios Due
- Monday 28 October**
 - Labour Day Holiday
- Thursday 31 October**
 - Special Olympics Athletics
- Friday 1 November**
 - Swim for Life Dryland Sessions – Yrs 7 & 8
- Monday 4 November**
 - Level 3 Art Folios Due
- Tuesday 5 November**
 - Last Day for Seniors
- Friday 8 November**
 - NCEA Exams Start
- Tuesday 12 November**
 - Year 9 Vision and Hearing Tests

Future Leaders at Parliament

Inspiring Stories reported that a number of our [Future Leaders](#) from the regions recently toured Parliament, where they got to spend some time with MP Kiri Allan, as well as Speaker of the House Hon Trevor Mallard. As part of the weekend hui, they worked to strengthen their connections, develop skills, and share the ideas and projects they're all working on to make a difference in their backyard.



Students from our part of Northland at Parliament. Okaihau College students who attended were Emily Beggs, Shaun Reeves, Edith Langford, Siakini Taulangau and Linda Johnston.

ASB Northland Secondary Schools Sports Awards

From over 350 nominations, 150 individuals and 3 team finalists we wish to congratulate 5 Okaihau College students for being named as Code finalists at this year's awards being held on Thursday 24th of October at ASB Stadium in Whangarei. It is a good recognition for these students who have competed at a National and International level for their sport - Kodi Chamberlain - Showjumping, Jhontae Rameka - Basketball, Jayden Edmonds - Ki o rahi, Alyssa Williams - Ki o rahi and Gabriel Reweti - Touch. Good luck for the awards and enjoy the evening!