

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa,

We have many long-serving teachers at Okaihau College and when they leave, they take a piece of us with them. Karen Campbell has decided that the time is right for her to retire from Okaihau College. On behalf of the school and community, I would like to thank Karen deeply for her service to not just our kura but also to the Okaihau Community. She has served the school in a variety of roles, most recently as Deputy Principal, a role she has held for 16 years.

Consequently, the Board of Trustees went through an appointments process at the end of last term to find two permanent Deputy Principals who will start in the new year. We had many high quality applicants from which to choose and the appointments panel deliberated extensively before they settled on the successful applicants. I am pleased to announce that the successful applicants were Crystal Jordan and Cameron Flude. Crystal is currently working for the Ministry of Education as the Regional Facilitator for PB4L in Tai Tokerau. Cameron is currently Assistant Principal and Head of Math at Mt. Aspiring College in Wanaka. He will be moving north with his family over the Christmas holidays.

As this is a time of change in the life of the school, we are reviewing a number of things within the school. One conversation we are beginning is whether the curriculum (subjects) we offer is fit for purpose. We intend to establish a class for year 11s in 2020 which would be a bit different to the "traditional" way of teaching and learning. Students would opt into this class and have more control over what they learned. The learning would be directed by "passion projects" devised by the students from which various Achievement Standards would result. Students would be in the class for three lines of the timetable and have 3 teachers helping to guide them in their projects. Entry into the class will not be based on current academic achievement but how self managing students are. They will need to apply for this class and have parent support for this. Keep an eye out for more information about parent information evenings and interview times for those students who wish to be involved. This is an exciting trial and I look forward to seeing it develop over 2020.

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

Kā Kata Ngā Puriri Ō Taiamai "Good News"

Each week whanau teachers choose 1 - 2 students to receive a certificate in Year 7 and 8 assembly. Students can also choose a Duffy Book. Well done to this week's students: Madison Lewis (7MB) always has an awesome attitude, 7SB: Kiarn Henry and Katie Graham (7SB) for displaying our school values and being so willing to help in class, Heavenly Howai (8WH) for having a great attitude and willing to try her best, Rangimarie Croft (8MH) for her focus and determination to improve and Dylan Quarrie (8PA) for displaying our school values.

College Calendar

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 External Exams Start

Tuesday 12 November

- Year 9 Vision and Hearing Tests

Thursday 14 November

- Year 6 Transition Day 1

Wednesday 20 November

- Rural Health Presentation – Year 9/10

Friday 22 November

- Year 6 Transition Day 2

Wednesday 4 December

- Learner Licence Course

Thursday 5 – 6 December

- Peer Support Training

Monday 9 December

- Senior Prizegiving

Tuesday 10 December

- Year 7 – 10 Prizegivings

Wednesday 11 December

- Last Day of Term 4

NorthTec Sport and Recreation Open Day

Last week 9 of our senior students attended the North Tec Sport and Recreation Open Day held in Whangarei. The students learnt about the programme offered in Whangarei with the 3-year degree course plus the options of a Diploma or Certificate course. Past graduates spoke on the course and the career path it has put them on and our students experienced some of the hands-on activities. The support NorthTec offers students wanting to study in the North is great and any student interested in this course now or in the future are encouraged to contact them to learn more.



Inventionator

During the final week of last term, 9 students travelled to Whangarei to be part of the first Inventionator. Over two days, students were challenged with presenting in front of others, coming up with problems that affect our world, and possible solutions to these problems.

Our students made up 3 of the six teams present: The Affordables (Cyrus Loke, Rico Nisbet, Max Penney and Bohemia Sanders), Figure of 8 (Sofia Le Noel, Chloe Porter and Grace McDonald), and Trash for Cash (Tamania Hickman-Kaka, Drezique Moeau, and 2 students from Kamo School).

They did a fantastic job working with each other and the adult mentors from various businesses and education institutes around Tai Tokerau.

Philip Alexander-Crawford from North Tec was so impressed with the creativity, ingenuity, and detail of each group's pitches that he will be sharing his experience and the student's ideas with a UN (United Nations) committee in New York when he travels there later this year. The judging panel also included Rebecca Varley from Chamber of Commerce and David Templeton from Northland Inc.

Figure of 8 won the Research award, Trash for Cash won the Whanaungatanga award, and The Affordables won the Design award.



Overall winner was The Affordables with a clearly defined problem, detailed and well-designed prototype, and a realistic solution.

Well done to all students that were involved and congratulations for stepping out of your comfort zone and giving it a go even though we had no idea what it would be like.

Swimming

Now that the weather is hopefully warming up our students will be starting swimming in their PE lessons. Their PE teacher will let them know when they will be swimming and this is a reminder that they must bring suitable swimming clothes: this means togs, boardies, or rash tops. No cotton tee shirts/shorts or denim. They must also bring their own towel and plastic/waterproof bag for wet gear as we are no longer able to supply these. The pool is looking great and bring on Summer!!

Gateway and Trades Graduations

Huge congratulations to the following students on the successful completion of their Gateway and Trades Academy programmes for 2019.

Joshua Stoney, Jett Dixon-Komene and Cade Maxwell completed the Level 2 Horticulture programme and gained 38 credits at Level 2. Ihaia Popata completed the Level 3 Horticulture programme and gained 25 credits at Level 3.

Thank you to Plant and Food Research, Orangewood and the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute for their support of this programme.



Our Horticulture students are pictured with Mr Dean Fowler – Acting Deputy Principal, Tara McLeod – Course Tutor, Hone Ropata – Course Tutor and Stacey Whitiora – General Manager, Maori from Plant and Food Research



Waka Harris completed the Level 2 Construction Trades Academy Course in Whangarei and gained 43 credits at Level 2. Waka is pictured with his tutor Roger Rhodes.

Regan Corr, Nathaniel Fyfe, Harry Harrison, Luke Leef and Jacob Titter completed the Level 2 Automotive Trades Academy Course in Kaikohe and gained 59 credits at Level 2.

Jacob Titter was awarded Top Student for the 2019 cohort. Well done!!



Our Automotive students are pictured with their tutor Gareth Edwards.

Thank you so much to NorthTec and the Tai Tokerau Trades Academy for their continued support of both of these programmes. Many thanks to our staff, students and their whanau for their support of our Gateway and Trades Academy programmes.