

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa,

I want to acknowledge the tragic passing of the young man in Kaikohe during this week. He was known and well-liked by many of our students and our thoughts and condolences are with his whanau and Northland College as they deal with their loss.

We presented our Head Students for 2020 to the school on Monday at a full school assembly. It was a great occasion and all the students spoke extremely well. Their messages about taking opportunities, being enthusiastic about learning, and not conforming to the stereotype that society often has of young people, in particular young Maori, was really powerful.

On Wednesday we held our annual Athletics Day and it was great to see so many whanau there to support our students. The relays were an exciting end to the day, and again, the staff team came out on top in the final event of the day. Congratulations to the winning house - Rimu!

Thank you to all the whanau that attended our whanau learning hui last week. I trust that you were able to have some worthwhile conversations with your student's whanau teacher and set some worthy goals for 2020. Our plan is to revisit these goals at different times during the year to evaluate your student's progress towards them and how we can continue to work together to achieve great things.

Attendance is a really important part of achievement at school. I would like to shed some light on why we need our students to be at school as often as possible. There is a well-researched link between attendance at school and achievement in all sorts of areas. It is recommended that students have an attendance rate of at least 95%. To put it in context, an attendance rate of 80%, which seems really high, still means that over 5 years (year 9-13), a student will have missed an entire year of school, 70% would be 18 months of school missed, 60% is 2 years of school missed. It is difficult to make progress and build momentum with learning if that is the amount of time students are out of school. Can I encourage you to ensure that your students are at school as often as humanly possible. It will make their likelihood of gaining academic success that much greater.

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



Okaihau College 2020 Head Boy Shaun Reeves and Head Girl Alyssa Williams



Okaihau College Head Students with Mr Davison (Principal) – Kodi Chamberlain and Daylon O'Brien (Deputy Head Boys), Shaun Reeves (Head Boy), Alyssa Williams (Head Girl), Freda Blaikie and Zoe Harrison (Deputy Head Girls).

College Calendar

Friday 28 February

- PPTA Paid Union Meeting

Monday 2 March

- Year 9 Vision and Hearing Testing

Wednesday 4 March

- Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Programme

Thursday 5 March

- Senior Curriculum Day (Line 4)

Tuesday 10 March

- Year 7 Vision Testing

Thursday 12 March

- NSSSA Track & Field Champs

Monday 16 March

- School Photo Day

- Swim For Life Programme – Year 7 & 8

Wednesday 18 March

- Senior Curriculum Day (Line 2)

- Year 8 HPV Vaccination 1

Thursday 19 – 20 March

- Swim For Life Programme – Year 7 & 8

Monday 23 March

- Year 11 Activities Day

Monday 30 March – Friday 3 April

- Year 12 Gateways Week

Wednesday 1 April

- Senior Curriculum Day (Line 5)

Monday 6 April

- Academic Excellence Assembly

Thursday 9 April

- Last Day of Term 1

Monday 13 – 15 April

NZSS Ki-o-Rahi Nationals @ Waitangi

Tuesday 28 April

- First Day of Term 2

Civil Defence Water Message

Civil Defence are inquiring about water levels for students at home. They are wanting to know if there are any student's whanau that have run out of water (tank or bore) so that they can support them. If you know of anyone who needs assistance can you please let Deputy Principal, Mrs Jordan know.

Vision and Hearing Testing

Northland DHB staff will be in school to do vision and hearing testing for Year 9 students on Monday 2 March and vision testing for Year 7 students on Tuesday 10 March. If you have any concerns or requests please contact Mrs Crystal Jordan, Deputy Principal, 09 4019030 x.201.

Hockey 2020

Are you interested in playing hockey this season? Would you like to know more? We welcome new and returning players to a meeting on Tuesday 3rd of March at the beginning of lunchtime at the Gym. All year levels.

Northland Secondary Schools Showjumping

Our first competition for 2020 in Week 3 was a successful one with Deputy Head Boy Kodi Chamberlain and his pony Pipi representing the College at the Northland Secondary Schools Showjumping event held at Barge Park Whangarei. Kodi placed 2nd in an individual event and was a member of a combined team that placed 3rd out of 26 teams.

Kodi travels widely to compete on the Showjumping circuit with his next major event being the NZ Horse of the Year Show in Hastings. This weeklong national event is the pinnacle of equestrian events and Kodi will compete each day. We wish him good luck and safe travels.



Okaihau Rugby Club

Okaihau Junior Rugby Dates 2020 Season:

- * **5th and 12th March** - Weigh in @ clubrooms 3:30pm to 4:30 pm (no training, only weigh in and registration, every child must be weighed at the start of each year).
- * **19th March** - First training begins 3:15pm to 4:30pm ish (depends on teams but lets go with that for a start).
- * 2 x rally days start the first week after the school holidays
- * Online registration will be opening shortly and links will be posted on Connections with Okaihau facebook page and the Okaihau Rugby Club website so stay tuned.....