

## Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa,

Coronavirus is in the news a lot at the moment and we are being updated regularly by the Ministry of Education about what is happening, especially now that there have been some reported cases in New Zealand. The latest information from the Ministry was on our facebook page yesterday. At this point there is very low risk to schools and parents need to be aware that if you plan to keep your student home because of the virus, we have been asked to record that as an unjustified absence as there is currently no reason for students to be kept at home.

We will continue to put the communication we get from the Ministry of Education on our facebook page to keep you updated.

I would like to reiterate my message from last week that attendance at school is very important for academic achievement. At a Curriculum Leaders meeting this week, we evaluated our NCEA results from 2019. The main reason for many of our students not achieving was non-attendance. When our students are here and focussed on their learning they are able to achieve and achieve well. Frequent absences hinder progress and make it hard for students to gain continuity in learning. This impacts on their overall achievement. Please help us work with your student to gain academic success by helping them get to school as close to 100% of the time as possible.

Our three senior Volleyball teams (one boys and two girls teams) participated in the Northland Secondary Schools Volleyball prelims this week. Although none of the teams made the finals this year, they only narrowly missed out. All of our teams won more games than they lost. Thank you to all the staff who transported and supported our students over the two days of competition.

On Wednesday afterschool, our Senior Rugby League team took on Kaitaia College in the Adam Blair Cup. Due to injuries on the day, the team ended up with only 11 fit players but maintained their commitment for the full game. Although they went down, the boys can be very proud of the way they fought against the odds and showed resilience. Thanks to Mr. Atkins, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Kopa for helping out with the team.

Good luck to two of our students, Kodi Chamberlain and Chloe Schischka, who are both travelling to Hastings for the Land Rover NZ Horse of the Year Show. This is New Zealand's premier equestrian event. It features past and aspiring Olympians and we wish them all the best for next week.

Thank you for your ongoing patience with the supply of our uniform items. We are starting to get new shipments in from our suppliers and the Student Centre is distributing this to students who have ordered uniforms as quickly as they can. Thank you again for your patience.

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

## College Calendar

### Tuesday 10 March

- Year 7 Vision Testing

### Thursday 12 March

- NSSSA Track & Field Champs

### Friday 13 March

- Year 7 & 8 Disco

### 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

## Okaihau College School Policies

The Okaihau College Board of Trustees have been working with a company called SchoolDocs to create a website for our policies and procedures. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community.

The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at <https://okaihau-college.schooldocs.co.nz> (note that there's no "www."). Our username is "okaihau-college" and password "puriri".

If you have any questions about this process, or other board-related matters, you are always welcome to email to board chair (Mrs Michelle Harrison) on [boardchair@okaihau-college.school.nz](mailto:boardchair@okaihau-college.school.nz) or make contact with her via the Main Office.

## Geography Trip to Urupukapuka Island

Kaitiakitanga and environments are overall concepts being studied by Level 2 Geography students this term. As part of exploring these concepts the students spent a day on Urupukapuka Island looking at the work Project Island Song has done there. While we were there, we were luckily enough to see Tieke (North Island Saddlebacks), Toutouwai (North Island Robins), Pateke (Brown Teal Ducks), and Popokotea (Whiteheads).

The students also spent time looking at the marine environment and gaining an understanding of how important it is we understand, value and care for the taonga in our backyard. Students swam, did manuz, saw dolphins, snorkelled, ate kina and cockles and swam some more. It was a magic day out in the Bay.

A huge thanks to Mr Fulton for the use of his boat.

Mrs Kitchingman  
HoD Geography



## Class / Individual / Sibling Photo Day

Photolife are coming to take our class, individual and sibling photos on Monday 16 March. Whanau Teachers have given out individualised orders forms to all students in their Whanau Classes, and if students would like to order sibling packs, these order forms are available from the Main Office.

## Northland Water Situation and Drought

Civil Defence are remaining in contact with us around the current drought and lack of water in many areas. If you would like any information on how to receive support, please have a look at the information and links on our Facebook page and website. There is financial support available through Work and Income for people on a benefit, and also help for non-beneficiaries through IRD.

## Ministry of Education Update on COVID-19

The Ministry of Health's Director-General announced the second confirmed case of COVID-19 in New Zealand.

The parent of two students - one at Westlake Boys High and one at Westlake Girls High - has been confirmed with coronavirus (COVID-19). While this is concerning for everyone, there is no risk to students, staff or others at the schools.

We want to reassure you that we will continue to update you with the latest information.

Some people have been asking when a school might close. The answer is that we are a very long way from that situation. At this stage, there is no reason that children should not be going to school. Our Directors of Education will be discussing some key notification and planning protocols with the local medical officers of Health over the next day or so – we will be working very closely together as the situation evolves. Today in Auckland was a very good example of the speed with which we can mobilise to support you if and when it may be needed.

A decision to close a school if that became necessary would be made by the local Medical Officers of Health.

As for the current situation in Auckland – there is no risk to students or staff in either of the schools. The two students have not been infectious while they have been at school, and are not considered infectious now.

In the meantime, we can provide you some further facts from the World Health Organization:

- Evidence from China shows that only 1% of reported cases do not have symptoms, and most of those cases develop symptoms within 2 days.
- Young people 18 years and under represent less than 2.4 per cent of those who have contracted the virus.
- From the data we have so far, COVID-19 does not transmit as efficiently as influenza.

It continues to remain that the best thing to do is to practice good preventative measures, particularly good hygiene:

- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow
- Putting used tissues in the bin
- Encouraging staff and students to stay home if they are unwell

## Glow in the Dark Disco

Year 7 & 8

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Okaihau College Hall

\$5 Entry (includes 1 burger)

See Main Office for tickets

Baking & Drinks For Sale

Games and Prizes Available

Year 13 Fundraising for Senior Ball