

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa

Congratulations to Zoe Harrison and Nick Harrison (pictured right) who last Friday competed in the Grand Final of the Junior Young Farmer National Competition. This was the culmination of a week's worth of practical activities, modules, and a written exam. The final itself consisted of a six round quiz against the other four teams moderated by Te Radar. With an array of tough questions based on various farming modules, the competition was fierce. Zoe and Nick did an



outstanding job and finished third in New Zealand. It is the first time in the school's history that Okaihau College has had a team in the grand final and also in the top three. Well done Zoe and Nick, you should be proud of your achievements.

Thank you to the whanau who attended our first hui at Parawhenua Marae about some proposed changes for our timetable in 2021. During Alert Level 2, we trialled some new ways of doing things. We gathered feedback from our students and staff and now it is your turn to tell us how it was from your perspective. It is also important to give us an idea of what you value for your tamariki/mokopuna. We need to know what is important to you so that we can deliver what you want from us for our students. Parawhenua Marae is the first of hopefully many hui that we hold to get your input about any major changes about which we might be thinking. I would like to acknowledge Parawhenua for allowing us to use their facilities as we embark on a journey of doing things different for our whanau. We would like you to be with us on the journey, not just reading about it afterward. We intend to hold at least two more hui in the near future, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more details.

Earlier this week, Mrs Nicholson and I had a meeting about our special needs students with the Ministry of Education. It saddens me to say that all

indications are, the funding for our special needs students will be reduced from Term 4. This angered us on a number of levels. One, that the government was very clear in saying that funding for special education would be increased and this news is not consistent with that message in the slightest. Two, the students who need it most do not get the money for the support they need as it is - the school supplements what the Ministry of Education gives us to ensure that students with high needs can be at school full time. The cut that has been indicated would increase the financial burden on our school which, I believe, the Ministry of Education has an obligation to be funding anyway. Three, I believe that this decision has the potential to compromise the health and safety of our most vulnerable students and this is unacceptable. Our whanau already make sacrifices for the wellbeing of their tamariki and this comes as another barrier to getting them the support they deserve.

We are currently working out the best way to fight for our students and when we have a plan we would appreciate our whanau/community support in putting pressure on the Ministry of Education and the government to ensure our students get what they need to learn effectively.

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

Thomas Davison
Principal

College Calendar

Friday 3 July
- Last day of Term 2
Monday 20 July
First day of Term 3

Whanau Ora Packs

Many thanks to Whanau Ora who have provided the school with sanitation packs to distribute to any of our families who may need them. Whanau Ora can provide further financial support to families who may be struggling following the Covid-19 lockdown. Contact them via 0800 875 663 and they will be able to put you through to their local branch.

Te Puna Hauora

Te Puna Hauora have gifted the school lots of boxes of tissues and 45 litres of hand sanitiser for use in classrooms. This is a very generous donation and will help keep our tai tamariki healthy and well over the next few months. Kia ora Te Puna Hauora.

AgClub National Finals

Here are a few more pictures of our talented students in action at the AgriKids and Junior Young Farmer National Final. Congratulations to Zoe Harrison and Nick Harrison on their third place in Junior Young Farmer, and also to Ben Quarrie, Grace Sanders and Gemma Harrison who placed in the top five in New Zealand for the AgriKids.



Year 7 Whanau Breakfast

Ms Henderson's Year 7 Food Technology class prepared a wonderful brunch menu for their whanau. Parents, caregivers and grandparents were all invited in to participate, and we were thrilled to have fourteen parents come in to share in their students' successes.



Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year Reports are being issued to all students in the first week back next term. Keep any eye for these in school bags, or feel free to contact us to send / email you a fresh copy.

Special Olympics

Our Rangimarie students recently enjoyed a session with Scott from Special Olympics New Zealand. The students were taught a new game of target golf and followed this up with some basketball. It was great to see lots of enthusiasm and encouragement for each other. Well done to Gabrielle, Tyler and Justyce.

