

Principal's Panui

Tena koutou katoa. Nau mai, haere mai, hoki mai mo te 2021.

Welcome back to Okaihau College for 2021. This year promises to be an exciting one with many of the changes that we planned in 2020 being implemented. It was great to see our students back last week and how enthusiastic they were about starting the new year in their new Roopu.

I would like to welcome our new staff for 2021. Mrs Michelle Lawson has been appointed as a Social Studies teacher. In addition, we are incredibly lucky to have Mr Tohu Pou and Mrs Maria Salinas join our staff as guidance counsellors part time to support Mr Patrick Sharp. Both are experienced counsellors and we are looking forward to them helping our students with their wellbeing. Maria will be working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while Tohu will be here on Thursdays and Fridays.

Our new Roopu system is the culmination of meetings we had with whanau, staff and students in 2020. The names of our Roopu link directly to the story of the three waves of Nukutawhiti's journey from Hawaiki to the Hokianga: Ngarunui, Ngaruroa, and Ngarupaewhenua. It is the beginning of a process of our kura better utilising the resources and stories of our rohe to improve learning for our tamariki. I would particularly like to congratulate the year 13 students who were elected by their peers and teachers to be the Roopu Leaders for 2021. For Ngarunui - Samuel Williams and Madelene Clunie, for Ngaruroa - Tessa Flood and Tohu Harris, and for Ngarupaewhenua - Grace Hamlin and Elsie Quarrie.

Another exciting development for 2021 is the beginning of the Lunch in Schools programme. Our providers Libelle are producing lunches for our students and those from Okaihau Primary School out of our old tuckshop. At present, this means that there is no food being sold at school during interval, but we are working with Libelle to provide an alternative so that students can access food at morning interval too. Feedback from the students about the lunches has been overwhelmingly positive. You can access the revolving menus they are using by going to the Libelle website <https://www.lunchbylibelle.co.nz/>.

Our NCEA results were not as positive as we'd hoped for 2020. All of our pass rates dropped from our 2019 results. We are working hard to review what happened last year and to improve our outcomes for our students. We recognise that while NCEA is not the only measure of success,

attainment does allow our tamariki to have more control over their future. Like the rest of the country, our Maori students are still not achieving at the same level as our non-Maori students. Again, we are working hard to try to change this and close the gap. Wanting to improve the achievement of our Maori students is at the heart of the changes we are making to the way we run our kura. I want to thank those whanau who participated in the process of planning these changes with us and want to encourage all our whanau to participate in helping us improve the outcomes for our tamariki/mokopuna.

Whanau may be aware that the social media activity from 2020 of one of our support staff has been recirculated online over the past week and reported on by the media. Thank you to those who have raised their concerns about this.

I thought it would be useful to touch base and reaffirm that last year when we first learned about what had happened, we acted immediately and worked very hard to make certain that we took the most appropriate actions. While you may have seen the social media side of the story, I would like to note that there is always more than one side to every story.

It is important to know that our actions at the time followed advice received from both the New Zealand School Trustees Association and the Ministry of Education, ensuring the process we followed was robust and fair. At all times the health, safety and wellbeing of our tamariki remained our absolute priority.

At the conclusion of that process we were confident that there would be no recurrence of this activity and the staff member was given the support they needed.

I trust this provides you with some additional information and reassurance as we continue to work through the current situation with the support of NZSTA and the Ministry.

If you have any concerns or questions, I encourage you to contact me through the school office. It is really important to me that you feel confident in the school's actions.

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

Lunches in Schools

This year we have opted in to the Ministry of Education's Lunches in Schools programme. This means that an outsider provider (Libelle Group) will be based here at school to make healthy fresh lunches for all students each day. Lunches will be delivered to students in their Whanau Rooms just before lunchbreak each day. Consequently, we will not be operating the Tuckshop or taking orders for the Village Cafe. Up until now we have not kept records of students with food allergies, gluten intolerance etc. If you have any concerns around the food not being suitable for your student/s please make contact with us so that we can help the provider source an alternative option for your child (email admin@okaihau-college.school.nz).

Lunches in Schools Vacancy

Those tummies are rumbling and school's back! Libelle Group are looking for motivated and sunny people with food handling experience to work in this exciting Lunch in Schools programme.

Food service assistants to prepare, plate and serve lunches, 15 hours per week (three hours per day), Monday to Friday, during term time.

If you have food service experience (eg café, rest home, marae) please send your CV to anna@personnelresources.co.nz as soon as you can!

College Calendar

Tuesday 16 February

- Swimming Sports

Friday 19 February

- Whanau Drop-In Afternoon

Tuesday 23 February

- Geography Poor Knights Trip
- Swim for Life – Year 7 & 8

Thursday 25 February

- Athletics Day

Friday 27 February

- Staff Only Day

Wednesday 3 March

- RYDA Programme – Year 11

Thursday 4 March

- Class Photo Day

Friday 5 March

- Swim for Life – Year 7 & 8

Attendance

If your student is away from school, it is really important that you let us know. You can do this via:

Phone: (09) 401 9030 extension 200

App: Okaihau College App

Email: absences@okaihau-college.school.nz

Text: 021 0258 3715

Or reply to automated texts which are sometimes sent out.

Instrumental Music

We are offering instrumental music lessons again this year. If your student is keen to learn an instrument, encourage them to come and see Music Teacher Mr Paul Zeedijk.

Board of Trustees

The Okaihau College Board of Trustees meet once a month, usually on a Monday night. If you wish to make contact with the chairperson of the board you are able to do so via email - boardchair@okaihau-college.school.nz or phone the school and we can pass a message on. Board members include Mr Thomas Davison, Mrs Michelle Harrison (Chairperson), Mrs Fran Clayden, Mrs Andrea Donalson, Mr Alex Graham, Mr Mark Clunie, Mrs Karlene Kitchingman (Staff Representative), Miss Grace Hamlin (Student Representative) and Mr Osgar Gilbert (Student Representative).

School App

We operate a school app. If you go to the Google Playstore or AppStore, search for SchoolAppsNZ then look for Okaihau College. The app has lots of useful little features including calendar, term dates, absence notification and an alert system in case we need to get a message out to our school community urgently.

Datzus Netball Rally

Monday 15 February, 5.30pm

Kaikohe Netball Courts

Bring Shoes and Drink Bottle

Contact: Tracey Albert 027 492 1878

Tug of War



Students began the year in their new roopu and had their first competition, a Tug-of-War, on Thursday last week.

Sports Days

School Swimming Sports

Tuesday 16th February

Year 7 & 8 starting at 9.00 am

followed by Year 9-13.

Relays after lunch

More details will be on Facebook on Monday.

Whanau are invited to come along to the sports days to support the students and enjoy the competition

School Athletics Day

Thursday 25th February

Whanau are invited to come along to the sports days to support the students and enjoy the competitions

