



# Otamatea High School

*Te Kura Tuarua o Otamatea*



Claude Smyth  
Proxime Accessit

Ewan Smith  
Dux



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## Principal's Comment

Term four has been action packed and this newsletter highlights many of the positive things which the students have been involved with. The junior exams and NCEA external exams went off without a hitch and additional study classes have enabled a number of students to secure their qualification before the break.

The inaugural My Iwi Rules the Kitchen and the quiz were great additions to the inter-iwi calendar this term. At Junior Prizegiving it was announced that Ngāpuhi won the overall house competition for the third year in a row. There were over 90 prizewinners at Senior Prizegiving and over 130 at Junior Prizegiving with many families attending to celebrate the achievements of their children.

The OTA Fun Day was a resounding success and has enabled our new year 6 students to feel ready for their big step into high school as well as giving leadership opportunities for our junior students. A new initiative this term was that selected year 12 students attended the Kaiwaka School noho marae at Otamatea Marae to run some adventure

based learning games. This was a fantastic morning where new connections were formed. We were also treated to hearing the wonderful waiata from the Kaiwaka students. A highlight for me was seeing the winning Kaiwaka team take on our year 12 students in tug o' war and actually beating them; the faces of delight was just awesome to see, as was the look of surprise on the faces of the year 12s!



Leadership training day for next year's year 13 students allowed the students to begin preparing for the year ahead, discovering their strengths and learning some adventure based learning activities which they will use during year 7 camp next year. We have an awesome bunch of students ready to take up the leadership challenge that year 13 brings.

The camps and activities were a wonderful way to end the school year. I had the opportunity to visit the year 8 and 10 camps and was impressed by the way the students interacted with each other and the staff, and got involved in everything that was on offer. Watching the year 8s having a blast on the water slide and witnessing how waterproof the bivouacs were was my highlight from the year 8s. At year 10 camp I enjoyed watching the teamwork demonstrated by the students who were building their raft. It was just stunning how they all worked so well together.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and new year. See you in 2019.

*Rachel Clothier-Simmonds*

## 2018 Senior Prizegiving Special Prizes & Cups

Kia Maia – Be Brave in Learning	<i>(Te Uri o Hau Development Ltd)</i> <b>Callum McConchie</b>
Peer Support Award	<i>(Kaipara District Council)</i> <b>Chantel Shadbolt</b>
Best Aggregate of Science Subjects in Year 13	<i>(Fonterra Cup)</i> <b>Ewan Smith</b>
Jessie Vaughan Trophy for Senior Citizenship	<i>(Ferguson and Oldham Trophy)</i> <b>Matthew Riddlestone</b>
General Excellence by a Senior Student	<i>(D A Finlayson Cup)</i> <b>Claude Smyth</b>
Exceptional School Supporter	<i>(K &amp; N Trophy)</i> <b>Anthony Kim</b>
Student Exhibiting School Spirit	<i>(Te Jay Cup)</i> <b>Maggie Hames</b>
Best All Round Maori Pupil	<i>(Rennie Trophy)</i> <b>Quintin Brown</b>
Fair Play & Sportsmanship Trophy	<i>(Engraving Systems)</i> <b>Rubin Paikea</b>
Outstanding Sporting Achievement	<i>(Haydn &amp; Mary Hutching Cup)</i> <b>Annmarie Holst</b>
Excellence in Level 2 English & Science	<i>(R &amp; F Tornquist Trophy)</i> <b>Mya Lawrence</b>
Most Promising Student Returning to School	<i>(Thompson Trophy)</i> <b>Mya Lawrence</b>
Senior Victrix Ludorum	<i>(Karen McNay Cup)</i> <b>Ocean Shadbolt</b>
Senior Victor Ludorum	<i>(Webster Brothers Cup)</i> <b>Brady Foster</b>
First in Year 11	<i>(OHS Board of Trustees)</i> <b>Maggie Hames</b>
First in Year 12	<i>(Neil McKay Trophy)</i> <b>Mya Lawrence</b>
Proxime Accessit	<i>(Mr &amp; Mrs J Morrison Cup)</i> <b>Claude Smyth</b>
Dux	<i>(Mr &amp; Mrs L Mitchell Trophy)</i> <b>Ewan Smith</b>





Mya Lawrence  
1<sup>st</sup> in Year 12



Ocean Shadbolt  
Senior Victrix Ludorum



Maggie Hames  
1<sup>st</sup> in Year 11

### 2018 Junior Prizegiving Special Prizes



First in Year 9	(OHS BOT Trophy) Alana Yardley
First in Year 10	(OHS BOT Trophy) Amy Lawrence
Second in Year 9	Billie Le Mesurier-Cowbourne
Second in Year 10	Sophie Gribble
Junior Victor Ludorum	(School Cup) Joshua Sheppard
Junior Victrix Ludorum	(J & E Saunders) Grace Kemp

Thank you Claire and Craig for your generous sponsorship of our Golden Kauri draws

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## 2019 Student Leader Group

Starting Otamatea High School in year 7 and gradually making our way up to year 13 next year, we have experienced many great leaders who have done many great things for us and our school. Now, being one of these leaders, it is easy to say that being voted for by our fellow students and staff is a major privilege and shows great support which will encourage us to be like the leaders we have looked up to for so long. We can feel grateful for all of the friendships we have made over the years that have given us, and our team, the opportunity to guide and represent our amazing school and whanau over the next year.

Relay for Life is an amazing community based charity raising money and supporting New Zealand's cancer society. We are all excited at the opportunity for the Year 13 group to participate and help raise money for such a great cause and continue to support the event. Relay for Life is also an excellent opportunity for the senior students to grow their team building skills and learn to work together to the best of our abilities by encouraging and motivating each other to keep going for the 18 hours we will be walking/running around the Relay for Life track.

For 2019 we have an amazing team of student leaders with which we expect to put our mark on many great events like the senior ball, Health Council and Relay for Life. We anticipate reaching our goals due to being a group of dedicated, hard working team players who will all collaborate our ideas and listen to everyone's opinions, finding the best solutions and making 2019 a great year for everyone. Without the people who believed in us, we would not be here and for that we thank you.

We can't wait for the year to begin. We have a lot planned through our many councils and committees. We aim to engage both the school and community in learning, sports and leadership to ensure everyone has a chance to excel in life. As a great team of prefects backed by the rest of the seniors we strongly believe this year will be one to remember. Ka awhina mātou i tēnei kura i puāwak me he kauri. He waka eke noa.

*Quintin, Emma, Alex and Georgia*





## International Students

Term Four has been a busy term for our students at OHS receiving not one, but two international groups. First came the Thais:



Thai Group Visit, 9th-28th October, 2018

15 Thai students and their chaperone received a warm welcome from both our school and wider community and were treated to experiences including surfing, horse riding, snorkelling at the Poor Knights Islands, Cooking with Ms Gee and Patchwork Classes with Mrs Van den Berg. Their host families and buddies were invited to a Thai dinner and cultural performance prepared by the students themselves. It was such a positive experience that at least two of these student have already booked to come back to NZ next year and the Thai organization is looking to send another group to us in March 2019!





The Thai group was followed two days later by a Chilean Group:

Chilean Group Visit, 31<sup>st</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2018

The Chilean students, with their warm smiles and outgoing personalities, caused a real stir amongst our student body. Language barriers were put aside as our students made every effort to include the five Chileans in any and all happenings in



the school. The Chileans responded in kind sharing a traditional dance with us at assembly, giving our students an insight into their country and culture. Whilst here, the Chileans partook in surfing, horse riding, a farm tour at the Smales property, golf, bike riding, a cultural performance at the Auckland museum, a swim at Kai Iwi Lakes, a trip to see Tane Mahuta, shearing at Sheepworld, they saw glow worms at Kawiti Caves, spent time in Paihia, saw Kerikeri's Stone Store, almost missed the light house at Cape Reinga due to fog, went sand dune surfing, ate fish and chips at Mangonui, and went snorkelling at the Poor Knights Islands. In addition, their host families treated them to activities such as the Super Cars in Pukekohe, sports events, tramping in the Tangihuas, the sights in Opononi, and a hangi meal.

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved in making these exchanges possible and so memorable for all involved, this includes all the incredible host families who were willing to share their homes and time with the students, all of our fantastic students but especially those who gave up their time and showed real commitment to be buddies to both the Thai and Chilean students, and lastly to all of our staff at OHS who are so accommodating and especially those who gave up their time to run special programmes for the students.

If anyone is interested in hosting an international student in 2019, short or long term, please contact Heather McDonnell: [heather.troost@otamatea.school.nz](mailto:heather.troost@otamatea.school.nz) 021 08098222





## Thai and Chilean visiting students experience sewing

When visiting the school and surroundings touring students spend some time in the classrooms with their student buddies. They are also given the opportunity to be hands-on in some subjects and experience typical New Zealand food in the food room.

While few of them have had experience in sewing, they are offered a number of periods to make a patchwork teapot stand which they can take home.

The Thai group of 15 students varied in ages from 12 to 16. Some of the younger ones ended up making a small cushion but they were all very proud of their creations.



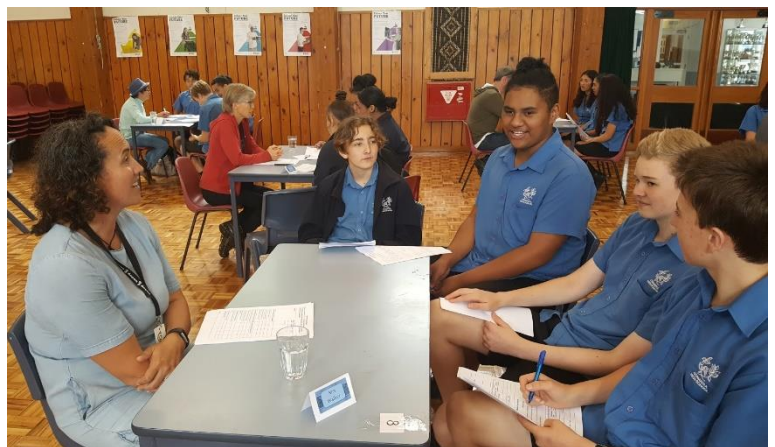
The Chilean group was much smaller and all about the same age, buddied with our year 10 students. They also enjoyed making their patchwork projects and went on to make some travel neck cushions and teddy bears too.

## Year 9 Careers speed dating event

Finding out about the careers of members of the community and parents of year 9's was the main aim of the Careers speed dating event on Tuesday 4 December. There were people representing all six of the Vocational Pathways, which are Primary, Service, Creative, Community and Social Services, Manufacturing and Technology, Construction and Infrastructure Industries. Students had ten minutes to talk to each person and according to the adults, they asked in-depth questions and were interested in how different the careers and backgrounds were. For the first time we also had a university student, one of our alumni, here, telling younger students about the ins and outs of university life and study.

The adults also rated the students' skills in meeting people in a formal situation and asking questions to elicit information. Students will receive feedback on their performance next year to help them when they start applying for part time jobs.

Feedback from students after the event was very positive.







## Yr 8 Social Science!! Term 4 8S

This term the year 8's have been working hard on an assignment to do with different cultures around the world. The four cultures they were looking at are; Spain, France, Aboriginal, and Native Indian/ American.

We had to talk about and research some of the traditions and religions to do with our culture and why they do these things. We researched about how they pass on their traditions to their children through storytelling, dance, and many other interesting ways for example Dreamtime in Aboriginal cultures.

We focused on some interesting facts to do with our culture, like the Native Indian dances, and more unpleasant facts, like the reservations in America for the Native Indians and the Bullfighting in Spain.

The students chose some kind of cultural object to create for example, some chose to cook, and some were working in the wood room to create weapons like Aboriginal boomerangs and staffs. Two students also painted their horses as war horses from Native America. Spanish food like Cheerios were also being created in the food room.

By Ella Baker



**8N students** have also been studying culture, and Chloe Millard made a Mongolian horse from paper mache. Elsie Holcroft created a piece of Aboriginal art



## Rainbow's End Rewards Trip

What an awesome day! - the weather even held out until the last few moments. Our students were amazing on the bus and enjoyed singing with Miss Haines, her rainbow, rainbow. rainbow, rainbow song is still stuck in my head. When we got there students ran straight to the scariest rides fueled by lollies, ice creams and candy floss; they looked fairly ill upon return from the stratos-fear ride!

A huge thank you to Teresa Brown and Amanda Haines for their help on the day.

B. Alison



On the 27th of November a heap of kids travelled to Rainbows end for a fun day. I went and it was awesome all the rides I went on were extremely fun especially the power surge, definitely the best ride there. The fear fall wasn't actually as scary the only thing was you couldn't breathe the split second you went down. Unfortunately I didn't get to go on the stratosphere but other than that it was a really fun day.

Vraj Patel (Year 7)







‘RAINBOW RAINBOW RAINBOW!’

Our voices bounced around the bus as it  
Hauled down the highway. Pulling in to...  
rAiNbOwS eNd!

I made a great leap off the bus.

Jeeez that felt like Forever!

I skipped around to see a HUGE colourful  
rainbow with the words

R A I N B O W S E N D, waiting to greet me. After  
a looooooong wait we finally were set free! The  
first ride I went on was the

**FEAR FALL**

Thank god the line was short. I patiently waited  
underneath the tower. Up up up we went and  
then down so quickly I couldn’t even scream.

The roller coaster was my favourite!

The day was awesome.

I didn’t want to leave.

Tayten Smart (Year 7)

## Year 9 & 10 Touch Rugby Team

With limited practice our year 9 & 10 mixed touch team represented Otamatea in showing their talented skills and keeping to the structured play which then helped them achieve. Smashing their competition.

The other teams in the grade were Mangakahia, Kerikeri, Panguarua and Kaikohe.

The team: Maia Fairburn, Grace Kemp, Paige Harris-Hurinui, Tamati Phillips, Tawhetu Phillips, Wayan Pitman-Dodd, Puckey Tepania, Kyron Harris, Joe Rose





## Year 7 End of Year Activities

Year 7 students participated in a range of great activities organised by Ms Alcock. On Monday we all loaded ourselves onto buses and traveled up to Glenbervie Forest, where we visited the Adventure Forest. This was a tree-climbing extravaganza, during which students demonstrated the OTA way by giving things a go, even when it was a bit scary, and supporting each other to test their limits. The teachers were almost as brave as the students, but it was hard to match the fearlessness of Jackson Lambert or Sophie van Harlingen. We then had a very busy Tuesday, with an energetic walk down Mt Parihaka (with only a very slight accidental detour!) followed by a wonderful time at the Aquatic Centre, where the wave pool and the hydroslides were the highlight. More than a few of us fell asleep on the bus trip home! Wednesday was a relaxed day at school, with a range of activities including archery, clay shooting, calligraphy, paper-dart engineering, cupcake decorating and toilet paper costume design. It was awesome that the students still had enough energy at the end for a swim in the school pool. It was a really fantastic few days, and the teachers all really enjoyed seeing our students shine.



## Year 8 Camp- Tangihua Lodge

Setting off to the long awaited Year 8 Camp we were excited and ready to go. After a tedious bus trip we arrived full of energy at the Tangihua Lions Lodge location Tangihua Ranges.

Nesting in - we got organised for the day ahead. Camp cooking, possum and eel trapping, hiking (it was super steep), games, confidence course and spot light to name a few were all on the list of adventurous activities that we needed to participate in. The lodge was beautiful and had loads of space for all of us to spread out and and relax, when we were not tramping up vertical hills. The food was top notch thanks to our top chefs and Year 13 leaders Anthony and Cat. Everybody was exhausted from a tiring but challenging and awesome camp.





## Year 9 Activity Week

### Day 1

Adrenaline Adventure Park: Monday was awesome! We headed up towards Ruatangata (past Whangarei) for an epic day of fun. The main part of the park was the inflatable obstacle course that had many challenges we had to face. The course was super slippery which ended up with lots of falling into the water and face plants. It was based on a lake and the water was surprisingly warm so we spent a good couple of hours having fun (and getting slightly sunburnt). There was also basketball connect four, a water trampoline, a waterslide and kayaks. It was an awesome day that everyone took part in and worked as a team to help each other out.

### Day 2

Monster scooters: On Tuesday we went to HeadsUp Adventures on the outskirts of Onerahi, Whangarei. It was heaps of fun. The park included a cafe, a playground, a BMX track, and (best of all) multiple monster scooter tracks including beginners, intermediate, advanced, and the jump track. Our favourite trail was definitely the jump track even though it was also the most lethal, it more than made up for it with the excitement of sailing through the air. It was a great day despite a few cuts and bruises it is something we would definitely do again.

### Day 3

Team building challenge with Jason Kingi from level movement Wednesday was really physically and mentally challenging but that was the fun of it. We got to work with people we didn't normally work with. We were able to use our leadership skills.

Summing up the 3 days it was all really fun doing things we normally wouldn't do.

*By Alana and Billie.*





## Year 10 Boys Camp / Year 10 Girls Camp

The Y10 boys went back to Lake Waikare. We were fortunate enough to have the old ski club building this year. The boys set up tents quickly and sorted out the best place to jump into the lake within minutes! Dave Burnell and Colin Storey led the sailing with their regular enthusiasm and this remains one of the boys favourite activities on camp. It also must be noted that it is quite cathartic watching students tip out of a boat after a long year of teaching them. The highlight of any Year 10 boys camp is the out-camp. Boys construct a bivy in the bush and sleep outside for a night. The boys kayaked around the lake with Mr Troost and built rafts with Mr Davie-Martin. On Tuesday the boys experienced paddleboarding and tramped to the beach with Mr Alison and Mr Troost for a fish. This year the boys shared their roast sheep on a spit with the girls, who they invited over for dinner. Overall a great camp and a reminder to this teacher of just how awesome our students really are, certainly a great way to end the year.



Early on Sunday morning the year 10 girls excitedly left Otamatea for an adventurous four-day camp at Kai Iwi Lakes. On arrival the girls outdoor education skills were put to the test as they set up their own campsites which was followed by a hike to a nearby beach. Here, the girls creativity and teamwork excelled as they constructed sand sculptures and villages. The heat of the day saw swimming in the lakes a favourite within the group and the pontoon was the perfect spot for diving and bombing. Throughout the camp the girls had the opportunity to sail, paddleboard, ski biscuit, build rafts, and complete a challenging orienteering course. The grand finale being our amazing race. This was a high-intensity, competitive course where the girls had to sing, swim, eat a special concoction, complete memory games and more! As always, the food was great, the students were awesome, and everyone (including the adults) had a lot of fun! Memories and friendships have been made that will last a lifetime.





## 'Thrills and Frights' Film Festival

On Thursday 1st of November the senior Media Studies students hosted their first ever 'Thrills and Frights' film festival and screened their short films to a large audience of family and friends. The level one and two students have been producing paranormal horror films this year and shot their films on location at the creepy old Warkworth Cement Works earlier in the year. The level three students have been studying film noir and produced exciting noir crime thrillers with devious femme fatales and flawed antiheroes using expressive cinematography. The films were an impressive, collaborative project that students had to write, design, plan, shoot and edit. We were excited to showcase our films to such a large crowd and relieved to see the audience engage, gasp, laugh and sit on the edge of their seats. At the end of the screening we held an 'Academy Awards' ceremony and presented awards to:



Best director: Julia Mickel, Georgia Denton, Hannah Cant for 'Got Ya'

Best Picture: 'The Dr will see you now' Molly Curnow, Curtis Stanaway and Caleb Hayes,

Best Actor: Benicio Van Zwijndregt

Best Actress: CJ Smart

Best editor: Ayla Driver for 'Fireworks'

And the crowd voted for 'People's choice': Openly Entombed produced by Zoe Meehan and Erin Corbel.

It was a great night and we look forward to making this an annual event for our talented Media Studies students.

*Tracey Christie, Teacher  
in Charge of Media Studies*





## Striving for Excellence

On the Tuesday morning before Senior Prizegiving, year 12 and year 13 students who had been gaining excellence endorsements in subjects or year levels took the opportunity to share their wisdom with a group of invited year 10 and 11's.



They answered questions such as: what do I do in the upcoming study week, what do I do the night before writing an examination and what tips can you give for actually writing the exams.

Year 10 and 11 students talked to a pair of more senior students for about two minutes and then moved on to another pair to ensure that they get different viewpoints and approaches. It was hoped that every student got to learn from someone with a similar approach to their own in the eight groups they talked to.

The year 12 and 13's were well prepared for the day and came to the activity with a lot of enthusiasm. Listening to them sharing their experience was a real pleasure.

This is the start of a mentoring group that is envisaged for next year where any student who are striving for excellence will be able to participate in various activities led by senior students and supported by teachers.

## Year 11 Trip to North Tec

Year 11's were welcomed in the Apprentice Restaurant at NorthTec and given information about the benefits of studying and especially at North Tec. Then they were treated to a morning tea.





The group interested in Trades training was then taken to the Future Trades campus and shown all the different areas they can be involved in. The second group were shown the hospitality, tourism, hairdressing and beauty therapies areas and the respective tutors told them what they could expect going into these types of careers. The third group was the ones who are interested in attending university courses of which some are available at North Tec. They also went on a campus tour seeing the different facilities and the canteen where students were preparing to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival.



### Year 9 Speech Competition

On Thursday, 15th November we held the annual Year 9 Speech Competition in the school library. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their writing and speaking skills, and for their peers and whānau to listen to speeches on a vast range of topics, from the risks of marijuana to the finer points of aviation. The participants were all nervous, but each of them stood up and exhibited their own unique styles of presentation and impressed their classmates. This event was judged by our Principal, Mrs Clothier-Simmonds, and our HELA English, Mrs MacLennan. They had a tough job deciding due to the high quality of speakers, but Alana Yardley ultimately took first place with her speech on why students shouldn't do homework - we're hoping she wasn't too persuasive! Congratulations to all of our speakers; Alana Yardley, Alfie Vinnels, Billie Le Mesurier-Cowbourne, Gypsey Harvey, Joshua Sheppard, Michael Ferguson, Radelle Thompson, and Sarah Campbell-Winter.



*A Bosch*



## Debating at Huanui College

Six Year 7 students and three Year 8 students who have proved themselves in the inter-iwi debating competition went to Huanui College for a whole day of debating.

Students had the moots beforehand but didn't know whether they would have to affirm or negate the moot. Before every debate the draw was done and then students had about three quarters of an hour to prepare and then they were debating their point against a team from another school.

Debating was at a high standard and usually closely contested. The two year 7 teams both won one of their two debates, losing narrowly in the second.

"Debating was the bomb, Otamatea 1 won the first round against Huanui as an affirmative team. With the moot 'This house thinks we should close down all zoos'. Representing Otamatea really was amazing. I'm proud of my team - Matai Hartles and Margaret Dunn, along with me, Zoe Hiini."

The photo below shows students preparing for their debate.



## OTA Fun Day

On Tuesday November 13th all of the future Year 7s came to Otamatea High School for the OTA Fun Day, a day of tremendous fun, sizzling heat and crazy activities. The day started out with the Year 6s arriving and a sort of school reunion for the existing Year 7s.

Once everyone was sorted into groups, we all headed down to the field, everyone buzzing with excitement. The first hooter went and all of a sudden the only thing you could focus on was the activity you were on. This wasn't all for nothing, there was a prize that everyone wanted to win.

As the day went on, you could tell all the groups were getting more competitive and it was good to see everyone getting involved.

All too soon the activities were over and it was time to get together, have an ice-block and talk to your fellow teachers and school mates. A definite highlight of the day for most people was Ki-o-rahi as lots of people found the game very competitive and enjoyable to play. Group by group everyone had a swim and enjoyed themselves very much with laughter and screams of excitement. After everyone had settled down there was a prize giving and the winning team was awarded their prize, a bar of chocolate.

Soon everybody was on their buses going home. It had been an exhilarating day filled with fun and laughter.

By Noah Martin and Sophie Van Harlingen



## Whakairo at Otamatea High School

Whakairo students 2018 have been studying pattern and designs from the Te Tai Tokerau region of Aotearoa. They have learnt some carving techniques which has helped them to complete 5 carved projects for this year. The class have gained some understanding of names and meanings of their chosen patterns used in their work.

Most of the class have whanau links outside the Tai Tokerau region so this gave their research more depth and relevance to their design. The highlight of their research was looking at the story, The Naming of Whangarei, Te Tauwhanga a Reipae, The Waiting Place of Reipae. This story lead the students in their interpretation of creating a Manu.



Jenna Swadling



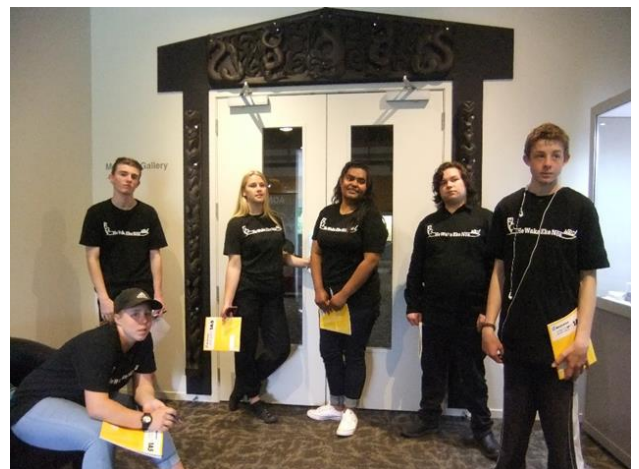
Brandon Roberts- Murphy

The students also gifted 6 carved pieces to Maunu Primary School in Whangarei, they will join together to form a Waharoa at the Primary School. The Concept was lead by a small group of students from Maunu. The kaupapa is Ngā Waiata o Tānē, the songs of Tānē, through this project the whakairo students have learnt the art of collaboration and Koha.



## Kiwi North Trip

These students also got to hear stories about old carved pieces at Kiwi North in Whangarei, these pieces are usually not on display. The archives curator explained the importance of preserving such old toanga. These whakairo class saw a range of carved forms from different areas around Aotearoa. This trip supported the final assessment for this year.





## Alt Ed Whakairo

This whakairo class has been running for 3 years, with the delivering a hands on approach program. Their ability and understanding of whakairo practices have improved. The new classroom has helped these students to gather a sense of Whakairo Tikanga and Tapu (respect). The students have carved 2 pieces, with the final one being the largest and more challenging, they are almost finished. It is great to see these young people change and mature throughout this year.



## Kaipara Festival 2018



Otamatea High School attended the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Kaipara Festival held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Warkworth School.

An amazing turn out for this school's inaugural hosting of the event. This year 24 schools from around the Kaipara performed kapa haka and pasifika items.

Our roopu performed to perfection and in honour of our beautiful kuia, Auntie Tally Te Aroha Shelford (nee Paikea) who sadly passed away this year. With the majority of the performers and kaiako, Nga Roimata Morgan being her whanaunga it was a very special performance.

Further, acknowledgement to our kaitataki, Jader Fairburn, whose dedication and leadership for our kapa haka roopu has spanned 7 years. We acknowledge her as well.

This year we offered a performance with all waiata having been composed by local whānau.

This was acknowledged by the hosts and a point of difference from all the other roopu. We are rich in talent on and off the stage! Ka pai to all the students who performed and committed to the entire year of kapa haka. Lastly, full acknowledgement to our Kaiako Nga Roimata Morgan – talent and passion epitomised.

Nga mihi ki a koe.





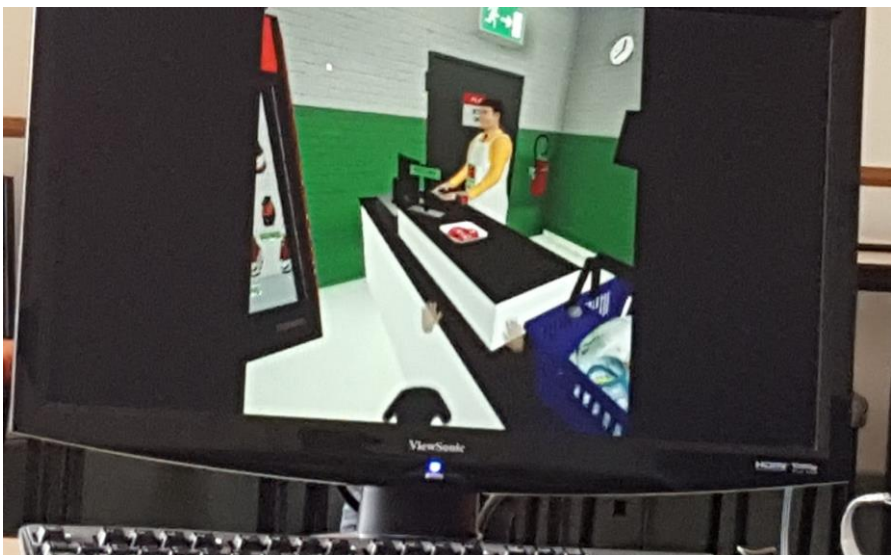
## Massey University Taster Day

Massey university offered 10 year 10 students the opportunity to take part in their Taster Day this year. With fierce competition for the places the first 10 students who put their names down were able to select the two workshops they wanted to attend. It was a early start to be in Auckland before 09:30. After introductions and housekeeping students were taken to their first workshop which ranged from Creative writing and communication to Ecology/Biology and Nursing.

In the Human Nutrition workshop students weighed out how much sugar is in popular soft drinks. Then they calculated how much fruit, bread or eggs could have been eaten for the same amount of kiloJoules and how much exercise is needed to offset the kiloJoules consumed in a single bottle.



After lunch there were a variety of other workshops such as English Literature, Food technology, Media Studies and Business. The Business workshop centred around artificial intelligence and virtual reality. Each student was hooked up to a computer and could buy crackers and other groceries from a virtual store, paying for it virtually.



Students were also shown how a computer can be controlled by thoughts when wearing a specific headset and could explore other virtual settings.



## Year 9 Digital Technologies Class Trip to Experience Virtual Reality

On 30 November the year 9's who took digital technologies this year went to Auckland to Gameon and the Odyssey Sensory Maze. The sensory maze is made up of several room with various sensory features such as boxes emitting smell, grass underfoot, a cupboard full of balloons and a mirror room which is the most difficult to find your way in. Ideas were gathered about how this can be adapted for a project.

The main feature of the trip though, was the virtual reality experience where student chose between an alien invasion game in a space station and a tour through a Mayan village over scary boulders and a narrow ledge with a waterfall to the side.



And all this while from the outside, looking in the person is in a glass walled room with a flat carpeted floor.



## Stop motion videos in class

Year 10 digital technology students made a stop motion video as their last project of the year. They had to find a background and some characters and then move them to tell a short story. One of the students even give his video a voice over. A chrome app on chromebooks were used to capture the videos.





## Road Race 2017

In October a large number of students and teachers hit the road to push themselves as hard as possible. Year 8 student Morgan Bull won this year's road race, finishing in a time of 19.28 and looking very relaxed. Second place went to Isaac Sheppard with a time of 19.48 ahead of third place getter Joshua Sheppard.

Year 10 student Trista Comer (6<sup>th</sup> overall) took out the girl's race in a time of 22.22. Second place was year 11 student Amyee Sheppard with a time of 24.07 ahead of third place getter, year 11 student Emma Huband.

140 students finished the road race just under last year's 149 students. The day was perfect for running being slightly overcast and only a gentle breeze.

### House results

Entry numbers were just about even for all iwi's with the entry numbers which made for an exciting competition. The winning iwi went to Ngāpuhi who pulled away with points from the girls having 9 girls from Ngāpuhi in the top 12. The remaining three houses only had 14 points between them

1<sup>st</sup> Ngapuhi      2<sup>nd</sup> Maniapoto      3<sup>rd</sup> Whatua      4<sup>th</sup> Arawa

Cross Code Challenge – This year the Hockey Team One were the top school team to have seven of their players cross the finish line before other teams.

Males	Year Group Winners	Females
Max Bull	7	Ella Crum
Morgan Bull	8	Milly Hodgson
Joshua Sheppard	9	Billie Le Mesurier Cowbourne
Jack Hodgson	10	Trista Comer
Brayden Mills	11	Amyee Sheppard
Isaac Sheppard	12	Ocean Shadbolt
Corey Slimo	13	Annmarie Holst

A big thank you to all the teachers, parents and students who helped to make the event run so smoothly.

## Tom Walsh visits OHS

What an absolute privilege it was to meet an Olympic athlete of his calibre. Tom Walsh is a genuine, down to earth and humble man, he chatted with plenty of students and even



taught some of them how to put the shot. He talked to the students about his journey to becoming the current world champion in the shot-put and how he struggled at school with dyslexia and how he overcame this. Tom handed out his Commonwealth gold medal and his Olympic bronze medal he won at Rio for the students to have photos with and admire. A humbling experience for all involved and a huge well done to the Aims Games Netball team that won his visit.



## OTA Teen Ag Club: Trip to Tropical Orchard and Paintball

On Saturday 3rd November the OTA Teen Ag Club travelled to Parua Bay to visit the tropical fruit orchard of Owen Schafli. Owen has created a diverse and unique tropical orchard set within 17 acres of native bush. We were able to see pineapples, bananas, passion-fruit and coffee. At the end of the tour we helped Owen plant some beans and then sampled some of the fruit as well as pineapple beer. The boys were disappointed to find out that the pineapple beer was similar to ginger beer in that it is non-alcoholic.

After lunch in Whangarei we then went to Maungakaramaea for paintball. The Year 11 and Teachers (Mr Buksh and Mr Troost) team completely destroyed the Year 12 team. Mr Troost was unable to take photos of paintball as he was too busy annihilating the opposition.

*M. Troost*



## Year 7 and 8 Careers Activity

In term 4 a special focus on careers has been in place for a few years. This year we had a visitor to the school, Regina Rapata, from NorthTec. NorthTec is Northland's biggest tertiary education provider with over 100 programmes on offer. These range from 7 degree programmes, apprenticeship programmes to short courses such as coffee skills. But for year 7 and 8 it is more about awareness of a variety of pathways following on from school.



After a video and introductory comments from Regina, students went out in the playground to find hidden cards with information about a course and the careers that the course would prepare people for. Year 8 students then had to use playdough to represent the careers on their card and year 7's made drawings.

The colours on the cards correlate with the Vocational Pathways which were discussed in detail to help students think about the subjects they would need to get into a Pathway they are interested in.



## Kerikeri Trip and Alpaca Shearing: Primary Industries

In term 3 the Primary Industries Academy had an overnight trip to Kerikeri to explore various career options in the area.

We first visited a goat milking farm in Maungatapere owned by Allan and Lynne Karels. The goats were very friendly and a big hit with the students, although we weren't able to get amongst them as we did last year due to M Bovis concerns.

The next stop was Okaihau Pastural Ltd, a large scale, high input dairy farm of 1200 cows managed by Joe Foster. We were shown the 60 bail rotary shed in action, covered feed pads where the cows were being fed a mixture which included lemons from the local orchards, and the effluent ponds. The students were able to have a go at putting on the cups, a first time for many of them. Ladene also discovered that high heels are not the most suitable footwear to wear to a dairy farm.

The final stop of the day was at Kainui Vineyard where we were given a tour of the vines and an explanation of the different varieties and processing. Sam Phillips and Ladene Hunter could barely contain their excitement for this visit, but were more than a little disappointed that there was no actual wine on offer.

That night we stayed at Kerikeri Holiday Park and Motels which was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Against all predictions the management of the holiday park are very happy for us to return next year.

The next day before returning to Otamatea we visited Turners and Growers Kerikeri and were given a tour of their various orchards around Kerikeri.

By all accounts it was a great trip made possible by all the sites who generously hosted us and the assistance of Ladene and Sam.

*M Troost*

### Level 1 Primary Industries visit Kerdon Alpacas

On 6 November seven members of the Level 1 Primary Industries class, accompanied by Mr Troost, went to Kerdon Alpacas to assist with shearing. The students got stuck in and enjoyed themselves and interacted well with both the alpacas and the numerous alpaca owners present. We would like to thank Donna and Kerry Tanion for hosting us as well as for the sensational morning tea and lunch that they provided. Below is feedback we received from the Tanions:

*"Kerry and I want to say a big thank you to you and your group of young men for all the effort put into helping with shearing yesterday." "Once again we were very impressed with the boys and how they worked as a team and supported each other and how respectful they were to the older members in the helpers team".*





**Board of Trustees meetings coming up  
Wednesday 30 January and Wednesday 27 February**

Meetings are held in the Administration Meeting Room starting at 6pm.

**Duke of Edinburgh Gold Pre expedition to the Kawekas**

On 28 Sept to 4 October eight students and their shadow party completed what has to be the hardest gold pre expedition to date. The group was repeatedly climbing 600+m and dropping back down to stream beds throughout the six days. The terrain was varied with river crossings, tramping at night, frosts, snow, shingle, mud, three wire bridge and tree fall to negotiate our way around/through/over! Everybody was physically and mentally 'tested' at some stage!

The group showed amazing camaraderie and their leadership skills became stronger.

The Kawekas provided the perfect terrain to practice in with conditions similar to what the group could encounter in the Nelson Lakes/Lewis Pass area where they are heading in December to complete their gold qualifier.

A HUGE thank you to Stephen Orchard for imparting his 'above the tree line' knowledge to us and for his expertise and guidance throughout the pre expedition.



Also thanks to our other shadow party members : Andrea Orchard, Llew Smart and Robyn Bruce.

We could not complete our DOE requirements with out you!

**Duke of Edinburgh Gold to the Kaimais**

Hayley's gold group travelled to the Kaimais to complete their gold training. We tramped to the Ananui Falls, training as we went and arriving at the Waitawheta Hut for the night. There were several challenging climbs on this route which tested some of our group members.

The next day saw our group do a lot of our training in the Waitawheta hut as the rain was pouring down outside. We left the hut at midday and tramped down the Tramline Track to

the Daly's Clearing Hut where some chose to make bivvys for the night and others put up their tent.

The next day we walked down the Pack Track to the Windows. Here torches were needed to explore old tunnels and gold mine workings.

The group will now complete their pre expedition to the Tongariro Northern Circuit in February. A HUGE thank you to Ken Hames and Robyn Bruce for our bush craft instruction and to Andrew Swadling

for helping us out. We appreciate the voluntary time you put into the Otamatea High School DOE programme



### **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Group Bush Craft**

November 16 to 18 saw 15 students cover the bush craft training necessary to proceed to the silver level of the programme. This is always a very popular training weekend with the 'stream bash' being very popular. Thank you to Ken Hames for stepping into my shoes and taking the training, well supported by staff members Dirk Smyth, Heather Troost, and helper

Michelle Kemp. We appreciate and thank you for your voluntary commitment to the DOE programme. This group will now complete their pre expedition to Cape Brett February 1st to 3rd Their qualifying tramp will be Te Pahi Coastal Track 22nd to 25th March.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Group Bush Craft**

On the weekend of November 16 to 18 a group of eleven bronze level DOE students completed their training at the Tangihua Lodge under the expert bush craft instruction of Stephen and Andrea Orchard, who were well supported by Dave Burnell, teacher in charge and helper, Dominique Corvaia. Thank you very much to these wonderful people. Without you, the programme would not run as successfully as it does. We appreciate the time you volunteer to help the DOE students with their journey. The students covered cooker safety, outdoor first aid, weather, leadership, map reading to name a few topics covered. They are now ready to put the theory into practice. The group was 'the best' Stephen has had yet!! (even if Josh did lead them in the wrong direction with his navigation skills) Well done bronze group! I look forward to working with you on your pre expedition tramp to the Mangawhai Tracks, February 9 and 10 and your qualifying tramp to Mt Pirongia March 9 and 10.







## IMPORTANT DATES FOR START OF YEAR 2019

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January** (Buses will be running) School starts for all Year 7, all Year 13 and all new students to OHS.  
*On the first day of school students should bring pen, paper, morning tea, togs and a towel. Sausage sizzle lunch provided*

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February** Whole school to attend (All Years)  
Senior Course confirmation will take place.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February** Year 7 & Prefect Camp

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** School Swimming Sports

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** Meet the Staff Evening

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** School Athletics Day

### **New Uniform Sales / Year 13 Dress Uniform**

Paparoa Drapery stock a full range of Otamatea High School uniform Phone 09 431 7306

### **PTCA 2<sup>ND</sup> Hand Uniform Sales**

Please contact Karen Flannagan 021 128 1670

The school office opens Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019. Please phone 09 4318230 or 0800 682 628 for any further information.

Please visit our website for 2019 school information including uniform, stationery and school calendar.

[www.otamatea.school.nz](http://www.otamatea.school.nz)