



Otamatea High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Otamatea



**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Group
Waikaremoana July 2019**

Principal's Comment

Many of the achievements highlighted in this newsletter have already been celebrated through assemblies and through the school's Facebook Page. It is always good though to take stock and reflect at the end of each term at the achievements of our students.

In the last school holidays the senior students ran an awesome school ball 'A moonlit dream'. The school hall looked spectacular and the students rose to the occasion, looking and conducting themselves fabulously.

At open day many of our students hosted the incoming year 6s and 8s through a range of activities in each of the curriculum areas showcasing not only the departments but their leadership capabilities.

Senior students travelled to Reporoa to take part in the annual sporting exchange. The students played with pride and mana, bringing the trophy home. This is the fourth win in a row for us.

Students participated in the school's science fair and a number of junior students also attended the Northland Science Fair. We won the South Zone debating trophy through carefully articulated arguments. The senior music performance evening was stunning with the senior music students each performing their assessment items to a captivated audience.

Many of the winter sports seasons came to a close with the Otamatea Hawks Under 14 team making the semi final and the mixed hockey team placing third in their league. The move to the Whangarei competition was certainly a good one for Otamatea Netball Club with all four netball teams making the finals. Otamatea is certainly on the map now! Team one not only won their final but also did very well in the UNISS competition. The junior AIMS team also did very well at the AIMS games as did the mixed hockey team in Taupo.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication of the school staff and other volunteers who give up many hours of their time to ensure that our students get to best possible opportunities. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

As mentioned in Te Panui and at a recent assembly I am on sabbatical leave in term four. In my absence Dirk Smyth will be Acting Principal, Paul Chambers will be Acting Deputy Principal and Bruce Alison will be assisting on the Senior Leadership Team.

As part of my sabbatical I will be visiting schools in the UK to interview staff and students about what strategies they have in place to support wellbeing and resilience. I will bring ideas back to Otamatea in 2020 as we continue one of our strategic goals of creating and embedding a whole school, strengths based wellbeing framework for the school. I will also be doing some travelling and visiting family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff and families for their support of the school over the last 6 years whilst I have been Principal. I feel very proud of the progress that the school has made in all areas. It is also incredibly reassuring to be able to leave the school in good hands knowing that the students are in the centre of any decisions that are made. See you all in 2020 and wishing all the seniors well in their upcoming NCEA exams and all students well in the respective prizegivings.

Rachel Clothier-Simmonds, Principal

Year 13 Hospitality Trip to MIT

We had another successful Level 3 trip to MIT with our year 13 students. They were a credit to the school and worked really diligently. All passed obtaining the full course credits for the year.

Well done Tayla Allardyce, Jayme Curtis, Georgia Denton, Piper Hastings, Julia Mickell, Renee Paterson.



Mythical Diorama's Year 7

7S have been focusing on writing their own myth this term. The students have looked at structure, the back story of a myth and different phenomena of myths whether they be natural, spiritual or moral based. Once they had written their own myth they had to create a main scene using their character, setting and phenomena in their own myth. The students created a Diorama to portray this then had to present them to the class.

A very creative bunch who thoroughly enjoyed the freedom of imagination.



OTAMATEA UNISS NETBALL TEAM 2019

Our focus for the UNISS 2019 campaign, after winning the College A1 Grade in the Whangarei competition was to make the top 16 of our UNISS grade and to lift our ranking achieved in 2018.

We smashed our goal, making the top 16 and improving our ranking and placing 14th in C grade – a huge improvement.

Despite a number of challenges through the week (accommodation issues, van issues) the team worked tirelessly as a unit to get some well-fought wins.

The versatility of the players to give strong performances in more than one position on court and their never give up attitude, saw the team come from behind on more than one occasion to steal the win with a couple of very close losses.

We congratulate the Otamatea 2019 UNISS team for their hard work, resilience, support and positivity through the week. We are extremely proud of all players and their efforts.

Special congratulations also to Renee Allen for being identified for the C Grade UNISS Tournament Team. Way to go Renee!!!

Thank you to Jodie Bennetto for her tireless dedication as our nominated umpire and her sideline support – with special mention to Leabourn Passenger services as our main sponsor.

To our parents, family and friends who stood courtside in the wind and rain – we certainly appreciated your support.

Special thanks to Martyn Kemp, (our driver, cook, cleaner, official scorekeeper, van packer and unpacker) and Wiki Curtis (time-keeper, scorekeeper and fill-in laundry person), you both were amazing in support of the team and we acknowledge you both for going over and beyond the call of duty.

Lastly, best wishes to Jayme Curtis who celebrated her last UNISS campaign with the team in 2019.

Thank you everyone. *Melissa Watts & Nikola Kemp*

Player and positions played at UNISS		Results	
Jayme Curtis	GS, GK, GA	Mon – Loss to Paeroa	28-37
Paris Rika	WA, C, GK	Mon – WIN against Te Puke	34-33
Cassidy Allen	GK, WD	Tue – WIN against Kings	26-20
Renee Allen	GS, GA	Tue – Loss to Te Awamutu	24-39
Grace Kemp	GD	Wed – Loss to Onewhero	27-39
Sophie Gribble	C, WA, WD	Wed – WIN against Huanui	41-35
Maia Fairburn	WD, C WA	Thu – Loss to Nga Taiatea	37-38
Sara Anderson	GA	Thu – WIN against Otorohonga	32-29
Leonie Beyer	WD	Fri – WIN against Paeroa	40-29
		Fri – LOSS to Bethlehem	32-33

Otamatea High School UNISS team 2019



Year 10 Bay Of Islands Trip

On Tuesday 17th September, year 10 social science classes spent all day in the Bay of Islands. We took the ferry across from Paihia to Russell and visited Pompallier House, the first catholic printing press in NZ, which printed religious stories and hymns in te reo. We were taken on a guided tour of All Saints Anglican Church and graveyard, where many famous people including Tamati Waka Nene are buried.

We then crossed on the ferry to Waitangi, seeing the new museum and the old Treaty house and flagpole.

Down below we saw the ceremonial canoe and part of the kauri stump it was carved from.

On the way home, we visited the battle pa of Ruapekapeka with the British cannons and the Maori trenches and pallisades defending against the British attackers.

From past history to modern times, we finished the day at McDonald's before getting back to school at 8-20pm.

Thanks to staff - Ms Bosch, Mr MacLennan, Ladene, Kath and Eric Hansen.



Morning tea / Lunchtime Activity

With Minecraft Education edition now available at school, and only the year 7's doing it formally, an opportunity is given to other students to use this and other programs that have building elements to them, during either morning tea or lunchtime each day. Students are very keen and most times the computer room is filled to capacity. As students join each others worlds this is an interesting, surprisingly interactive, time with students discussing what and with what they would build.



Year 11's visit NorthTec

To know what a tertiary education environment looks like and how it is different from school is the main aim of the trip to NorthTec. Students were formally welcomed and then introduced to the facilities by the student relationship team, of which one is a former Otamatea High School student.





Options Afternoon

On 28 August, on the options afternoon, the new Bring your own chromebook policy and the way NCEA works were discussed in detail, while the heads of the different learning areas had time to introduce the subjects in their area that are available in the senior school. This comprised the first part of the afternoon which was aimed at year 10 students and their parents.

During the second part of the afternoon, aimed at year 11 to 13 students, three providers, NorthTec, BCITO and Massey University represented their different parts in tertiary education with general presentations.

There was a really good turnout of parents and students.

The displays and discussions around the displays were also very fruitful for students and parents to help decide which subjects to take.



The Readers' Cup 2019

On Wednesday 21 August Vicky and I took a team of Year 9 students to Whangarei Girls' High School to defend the Readers' Cup. The team consisted of Rikki Beazley, Morgan Bull and Kyin Smith; unfortunately Elsie Holcroft was ill on the day and couldn't attend.

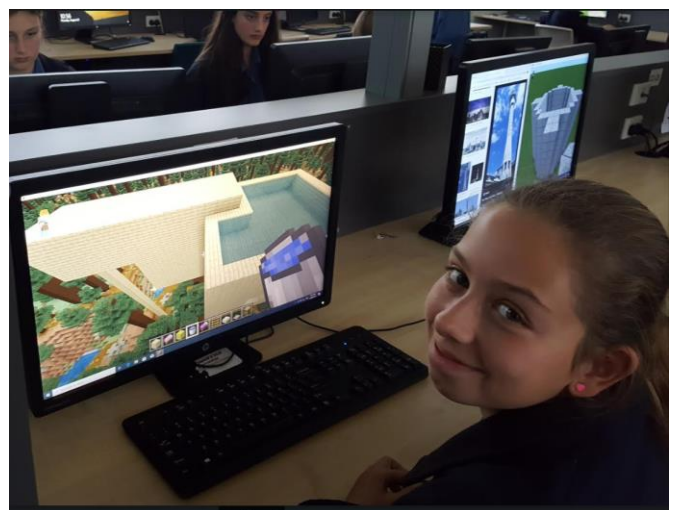
All of the entrants had to read six books and were questioned on their knowledge and understanding of the characters, plot, setting, and details of each book. The books were enjoyed by all the students and were chosen by school librarians from around Northland. The winning team was from Whangarei Girls' High School, however the results were very close so it made for an exciting contest.

Well done to the team, they worked hard and had to give many hours out of school to prepare for this competition.



Year 7 Minecraft Class

This year, for the first time, year 7's take a class called Minecraft. Since Minecraft Education Edition became available and the government and Microsoft came to an agreement that allows students to access this Minecraft on their school accounts there has been a growing trend of using it as a tool to teach students. It is an excellent, engaging way to teach soft skills such as collaboration, team work and creativity. It is also still evolving and the opportunity to teach coding with it is something that is being developed at the moment. A unique world that focus on New Zealand's Māori heritage Nga Motu has just been released and used for the first time this term. This is an amazing world built by game designer Whetu Paitai, of Coromandel-based Piki Studios. It was released for this year's Te Reo Māori week. Our students enjoyed discovering the world and finding the piwakawaka, moa, kiwi, waka, taniwha, pa and taking pictures of those to make up their Minecraft books. Students also built their own creations, as shown in the pictures.



Badminton Singles Tournament

On Thursday 1st August Mr Alison took 6 OHS badminton players to Whangarei for a day of intense competition. 70 students from all round Northland battled it out for supremacy on the court. Tyler Young made it into the boys semi finals and lost in a tough match to the winner of the boys competition. Chloe McGowan came 3rd in the girls section and Maggie Hames narrowly lost her 3rd set in the girls final coming away with second place overall. Some great games to watch and awesome talent displayed.



Picture Back row - Jeff Smith, Cory Browne, Maggie Hames, Tyler Young
Front row - (two rising stars from WBHS) Sharon Sun, Chloe McGowan

Level 2 PE

Throughout Term 2 the Level 2 PE class has been training for the 9KM run in the NorthCloud run/walk festival. This event provided 4 practical credits for the Achievement Standard as well as evidence and examples to draw on for a further 4 credits in the Achievement Standard. The students had a great day and enjoyed the experience of being part of an competitive race. Thank you to Lana Parkinson and Samid Buksh for the help on the day.

Anna Liddington



L2 Primary Industries courses

This year, the L2 Primary Industry class has been able to do three outside courses: Pest Control, Fencing and Quad Bikes. The pest control course was run by the Northland Regional Council and was held at Kai Iwi Lakes. It involved three days at Kai Iwi Lakes learning how to trap pests and pluck and skin possums. We also did further possum trapping at the Maungaturoto Country Club over the course of several weeks trapping approximately 20 possums.

The fencing course was also run by the Northland Regional Council and was held over the course of two days at two different locations. In order to hone their skills the students did several hours of fencing at Ashley and Karen Cullen's dairy farm.

Kevin Mitchell from Training Ventures ran the quad bike course over two days at the Maungaturoto Country Club. Students learned how to ride a quad safely on a variety of terrain in a variety of weather events. Thanks very much to the Maungaturoto Country Club for allowing us to use their facilities.

Through the three courses students were able to gain various credits and certificates.

M Troost

L1 Primary Industries

On Wednesday 12th June the L1 Primary Industries and Year 10 Green to Gold classes travelled to Hamilton in order to attend the National Field Days at Mystery Creek. To break the journey we stopped at Zealandia Horticulture in Clevedon and were given a fascinating tour of the facilities by a former employer of Jay Simmonds. We arrived in Hamilton late afternoon, had dinner in Cambridge and stayed the night at the Narrows Christian Park just two minutes drive from Mystery Creek. After an early 7am breakfast we arrived at the gates to the Field Days shortly before opening and then became part of the 32 000 crowd visiting the more than 1 000 sites. In



addition to browsing all the sites we visited the education hub and competed in an interactive challenge. Mid afternoon we assembled ready for the trip back to Otamatea and managed to negotiate the various traffic jams back to OHS. By all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about what fuels the agriculture industry. Special thanks to Sam Phillips and Ladene Hunter for assisting and looking after the girls. A big thanks also to Rob from Leabourns for doing a fantastic job driving us there and back.

Marco Troost



Rural Design trip Primary Industries.

In term two the Level 1 Primary Industries and Year 10 Green to Gold classes visited the Worsfold family farm and their Rural Design nursery. Former Otamatea High School student Blake Worsfold, who is a director, hosted us showing the nursery operation and the sustainable philosophy behind their beef farming operation. The students were impressed with the entire Rural Design operation. They also appreciated the knowledge passed onto them by Blake. On behalf of Rural Design, Blake presented our class with two native trees (Puriri and Makomako) to pass on to Otamatea High School.

Special thanks to Blake and the Rural Design team for hosting our class so ably and enthusiastically.

Marco Troost



DOE Silver Waikaremoana July 2019

Waikaremoana was a really great tramp. On the drive in towards the lake, we saw quite a few horses grazing freely along the sides of the road. The Tuhoi that look after Lake Waikaremoana gave a talk before we started and told us a bit about the history of the land. The track was quite muddy in places and the trees were very mossy. We saw deer along the track.

We walked about 50km of hills and flats over the 3 days and stayed in bush huts. It was a fun tramp, and we have some great leaders in our group.

I have now finished my Silver award, and am looking forward to Gold next year.

Natalia Orchard

DOE Bronze Pinnacles July 2019

On Saturday July 6th a group of Bronze DOE students tramped to the Pinnacles Hut in the Coromandel Forest Park following the Webb Creek Track. They were met at the hut by a DOC ranger, allocated bunks for the night and got ready to climb the Pinnacles (759m) with out their packs. The steel ladders and rungs were challenging for some, as was the muddy, rocky terrain and the height. The views from the top, however, were some of the best any of our groups have had complete with a setting sun.

Sunday at 5.30am saw Mrs Baker make the most of her sleepless night by taking the group up to the top of the Pinnacles again to see the sun rise.

After looking at the Dancing Creek Kauri dam, we headed to the Hydro camp track junction and along the Billy goat Track. The air was crisp and as we descended into the Billy goat basin, the track was still covered in heavy frost. At the sunny camp site, we cooked lunch on our hiker's stoves.

We then followed the old tram line to the Kauaeranga River where we chose a safe place to cross, using our river crossing training.

The weather had been perfect all weekend and a HUGE thank you must go to our shadow party, Mrs Baker, Mr Troost, Mr McKenzie and Mrs Bruce.



Kiwi and ICAS competitions

For the second year, the University of Canterbury offered schools a Kiwi competition in Maths, Science and English for year 7-10's. This year 13955 students from approximately 400 schools answered questions designed by New Zealand teachers for New Zealand students.

33 of our students took part, some in more than one competition. The best result was gained by Sophie van Harlingen (year 8) who achieved excellence in English. The following students achieved at merit: Luke Weber (year 7) in Science and English, Noah Martin (year 8) in Maths, Billie Le Mesurier Cowbourne and Alana Yardley (year 10), Callum Smith (year 8), Liam van Harlingen, Sarah Millard, Adriana Mclennan-Slack, Connor Alcock and Jessica Evans (all year 7) in English. An excellence means that the student gained above 85% and a merit above 70% for the test.

According to the organisers' report the competitions were designed to motivate average students but include sufficient tough questions to challenge the top students.

The annual ICAS competitions which are organised by the University of New South Wales are taken by students across New Zealand, the Pacific, Australia and South Africa. They made the huge change this year to go from paper based examinations to a digital platform and while this posed a number of technical issues that had to be worked through, it worked well in the end and students enjoyed doing the test. Because the university had to postpone the closing dates, the results are not yet known. 12 of our school's students participated, again some in multiple subjects. The subjects offered in this competition were Digital technologies, Spelling, Writing, English, Maths and Science.

Maths Week

During week 8 this term we celebrated Maths Week. On Friday the Year 7 to Year 10 students participated in an Otamatea Inter Iwi Mathex challenge. The winning iwi was WHATUA! The Year 7 and Year 8 students participated in a Maths Bake-off competition and showed off their creative baking and measurement skills.

Well done to all students who participated and congratulations to our winners.

Cake category

1st Shania Mickell, 2nd Logan Tracey,
3rd Jess Ewen

Cupcake category winner

Lisa van Blerk

Cookie category

1st Sarah Millar, 2nd Connor Alcock,
3rd Manaia-Lee Puke

(Absent for photograph: Logan Tracey)



Maths Week Bake Off Entries



Sarah Millard



Lisa van Blerk



Jess Ewen



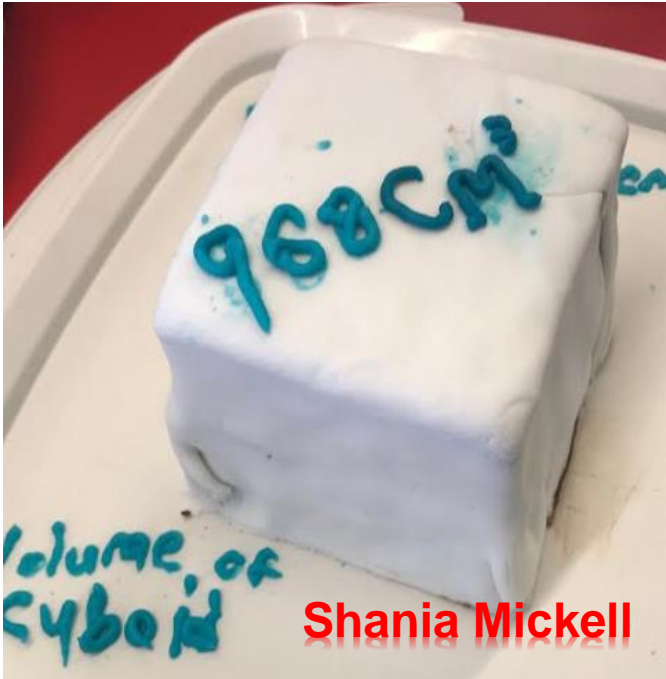
Zeyon Smith



Manaia-Lee Puke



Logan Tracey

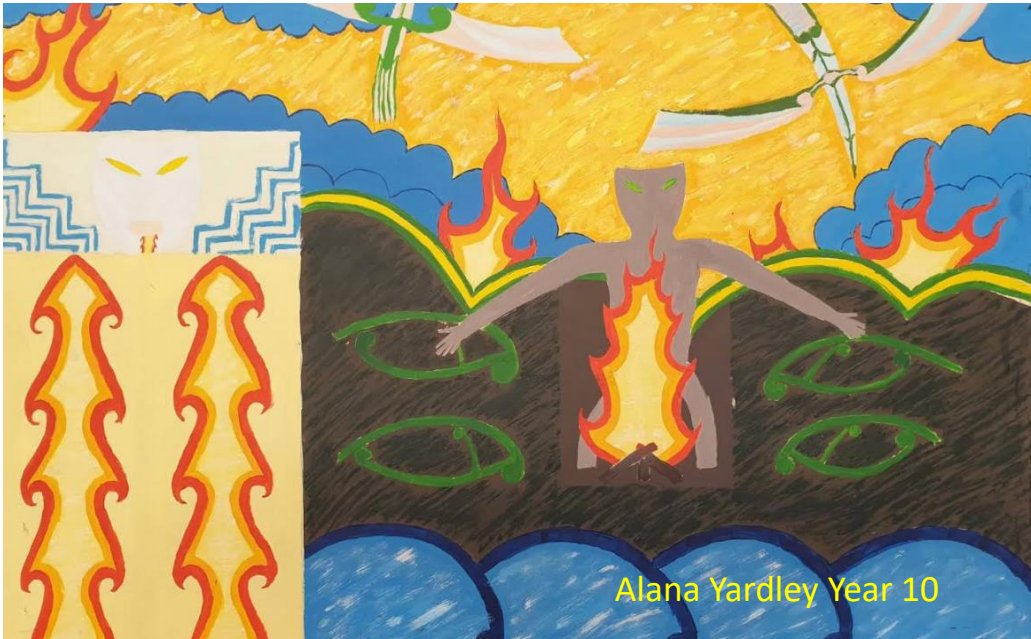


Shania Mickell



Connor Alcock

Otamatea High School Art



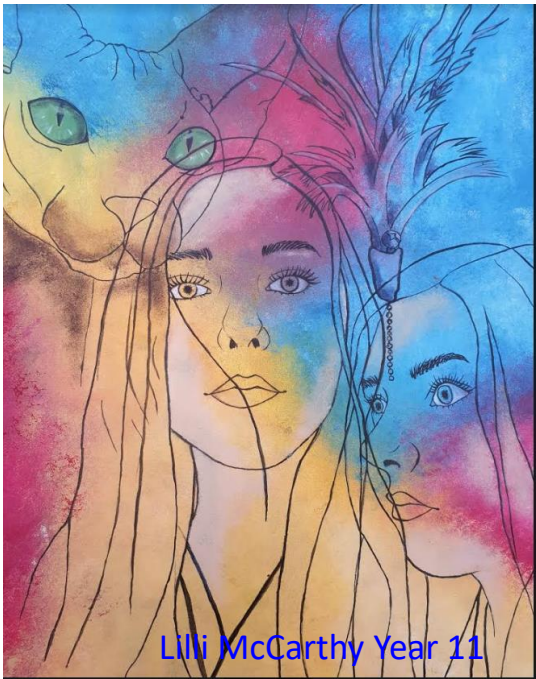
Alana Yardley Year 10



Sophie Gribble Year 11



Khaleah Smith Year 9



Lilli McCarthy Year 11



Shannon Lee Year 10