



## Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Important Notices

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Matariki Public Holiday
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Term 2 - 2:20pm Finish
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	School Reports Emailed



## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Matariki emphasises reflection, renewal, and learning, which positively influences both academic and personal improvement. Setting goals and planning for the future, helps our students to develop independence and enables them to successfully balance their many commitments.

Our midyear assessment week has gone well. Like always when students get their results (and staff get their results) there will be things which have gone well, and areas which need improving.

Sometimes, I forget how fortunate I am to be working at Otahuhu College, indeed take it for granted the politeness, friendliness of our students. the dedication and expertise of our staff and the great support from our families. With everyone committed to creating the best possible future for our families and our wider community. Otahuhu College is truly a special place to be part of.

## Commitments

For our students to be engaged in their own education, they must be encouraged to read, ask questions, actively engage in discussions, write and learn to think critically about challenging material. Every mistake our students make, every question they ask, and every time they successfully struggle with a concept, their brain grows a little bit stronger and smarter.

### Japan Trip July 2026

Thank you so much to the 45 students who applied to go to Japan in July 2026. Decisions are currently being made. We can only take 29 students with us. The remaining students will be placed on a waitlist in case things change. We will have a confirmed list on Monday 1 July. A letter will go home Monday outlining the process from this point.



## Curriculum News

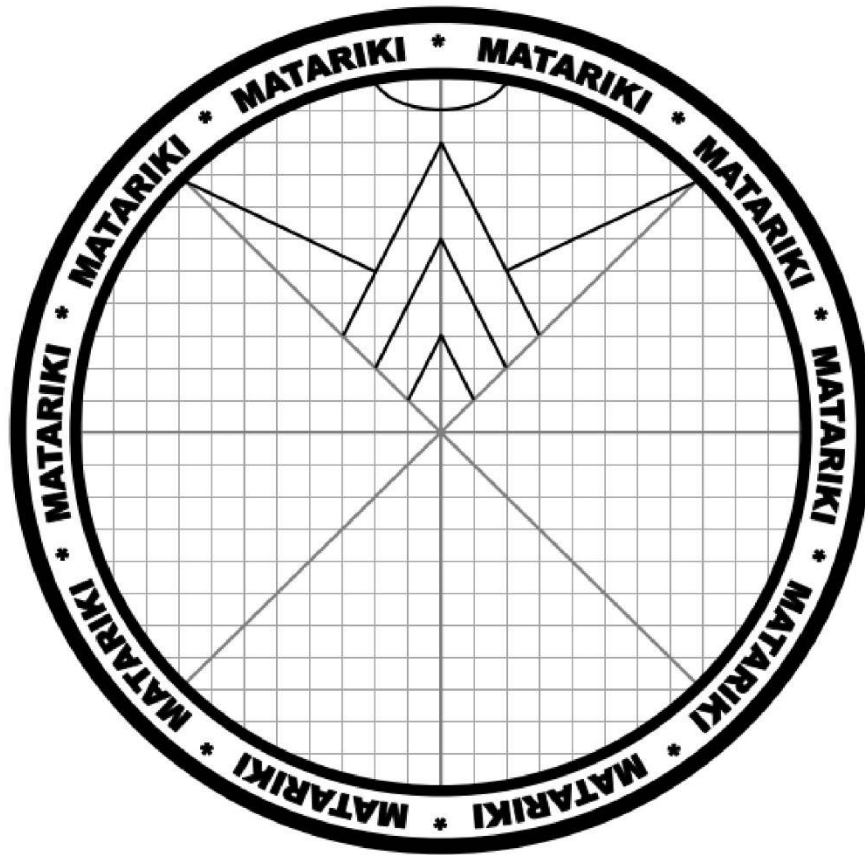
Numeracy @ OC

# Matariki

Use the template to rotate and reflect the image to create a pattern which you can then colour in and decorate in celebration of Matariki.

Rotation and reflection are key skills needed in numeracy.

Where might we see this skill being used in everyday life?





## Library News

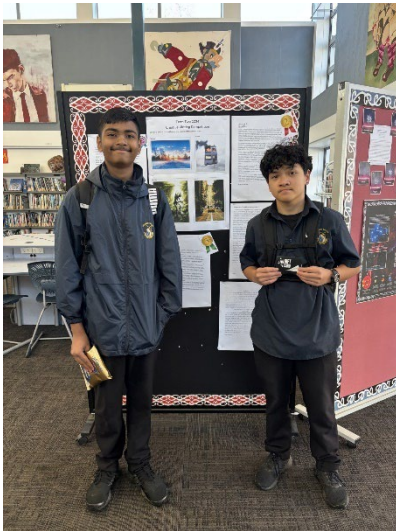
Congratulations to the winners of the Term 2 Creative Writing Competition!

First prize – James Grant (M10)

Second prize – Avishek Prasad (G7)

Third prize – Markle Ossamang (H3)

Highly Commended: Judge Taufelila (H2), Mohammed Khan (G1) and Llewa Lesatele (M1)



### **First Prize: The Colossus of The Wilderness by James Grant**

No one would think that a terror of this scale would be found on Earth. Such a thing could only exist on the outskirts of the universe in a sci-fi story, yet amongst the harsh greenery of the deep wilderness stood a beast that shouldn't exist. A creature that most would be blind to amongst the foliage, but would strike out at the faintest hint of threat. In ancient times it would've been interpreted as a biblical figure, an entity that would have been scribed into texts that would be taught for generations, a divine monster that would smite humanity for its wrongs. This deity appeared as man-made; a mechanical titan blinded by an iron hood with spikes protruding out its head and back, but there was also something organic about it; as if it had been grown from a sapling, a walking tree that trotted through its sacred garden closed off to those with a heartbeat. Such a thing was considered an abomination unsuitable for existence on this planet. Such a thing had to be removed.

Many a fool would wander into the beast's domain in an attempt to be humanity's hero, delusional enough to believe they could slay the goliath being that inhibited the wilderness only to be slain themselves in a matter of seconds. Various methods were deployed and many more were overruled, as reducing a protected area to ash in an attempt to kill a forest creature would only cause unnecessary damage to the environment and reputation of world leaders. Many protested the mere notion of hunting a one-of-a-kind specimen that overtook humanity as the leader on the food chain, that surely something of that magnitude would be better kept alive and analysed to better understand such a phenomenon. Scientists and governments disagreed at this notion, and the one-sided war continued.





It took months for someone to finally put an ugly dent into the colossus, which many had nicknamed “Woody” for the sole purpose of advertising. A band of six men and women had each taken a sheaf of arrows, wrapped in rags and doused in ethanol, and intended on firing them whilst ablaze at the titan. Why no one had tried this machination sooner would be due to the fear of the surrounding nature becoming an inferno while Woody goes unscathed, but at this point most people just wanted to be rid of the half-tree half-machine barbarian. The vast majority of the hunting troop were wiped out upon entry, with another two tripping into a river and then subsequently picked out, like a bored child ripping at grass. The sole soldier, hid behind a thick trunk, frantically ignited a singular arrow and shot it directly at Woody’s whirring chest, creating an ear-piercing cry of shock followed by a frantic scurry to obliterate the one who created its first and final sensation of hurt.

All traces of Woody have since vanished. The monstrosity now reduced to a mere fable, a fairytale to stop children from wandering too far into the wilderness unsupervised. Many are baffled as to how such a divine beast could emerge and vanish in the span of a few months, but perhaps, for the sake of remaining sane, it was best to have the virtue of ignorance.

## Culture News

### Student Council

At the initiative of Manuia Pelu Vaipuna (Year 13), we have established a student council. The purpose of this council is to represent the voice of the student body in discussions with the school’s senior leadership team. Members of the student council will also access opportunities to implement their ideas and bring their aspirations to fruition to make Otago College the best that it can be.

We would like to congratulate the following students for their election to the student council:

#### Grey House

- Gabrielle Veiqaravi (Year 9)
- Colenso King (Year 11)
- Avishek Prasad (Year 12)

#### Hobson House

- Judge Taufelila (Year 9)
- Mele Kaloni (Year 10)
- Meliame Mafoa (Year 11)
- Oceania Collier (Year 12)
- Raina Raman (Year 13)

#### Massey House

- William Finau (Year 9)
- Joel Taime (Year 11)
- Sunaihri Lata (Year 12)
- James Grant (Year 13)





## Seddon House

- Sabrina Oneone (Year 9)
- Feagiai Sefo (Year 10)
- Taanvi Pratap (Year 11)
- Luana Patelesio Peteru (Year 12)
- Monalisa Tupou (Year 13)

## *Sports News*