



Ōtāhuhu College Newsletter

Friday 25th October 2024

Important Notices

Monday 28 th October	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Thursday 31 st October	Sports Awards
Tuesday 5 th November	NZQA Exams start
Friday 8 th November	Option Selection for Y10 2025



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

This week has been a celebration of the arts. Otago College has a national reputation for being one of the top art schools in New Zealand. This year alone we were awarded the top Whakairo award, had students' artwork touring the country as a showcase of excellence. Thursday night was a fantastic event as we both showcased and acknowledged the hard work and determination of our art students.

Congratulations to all our senior students, their families for what has been our most successful academic year so far. NCEA internals are showing the highest pass rate, and more Merit and Excellence grades than ever before. Preparation for exams are well under way, and it is great to see so many students taking advantage of the tutorials available and most importantly making time to study and revise at home.

Our Commitments

The behaviour focus for next week is on being supportive. This means more than just talking to our children about treating others like they would want to be treated. It also means being supportive in learning. School is, and should be challenging, the work must require thought, and mistakes have to be made if learning is to happen. A key part of being supportive at Otago College is based around supporting each other in our learning, making mistakes and working hard to do better next time.

Community News

Year 9 Leadership Camp

A number of extra spaces have become available on this term's Year 9 Leadership Camp! This event involves an exciting and varied programme designed to develop our youngest students' leadership skills in the outdoors. Activities include bivouac building, archery, hiking, first aid, orienteering, and teambuilding. The cost to families is \$170, which includes food, activities, transport, and two nights of accommodation at Port Waikato. The camp will take place from Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 November.

Those students who attend leadership camps in the junior school often go on to become prefects, sports captains, and other important leaders in the senior school.

If you have a child in Year 9 who might like to participate in this special opportunity, please contact Ms Norgate (ENorgate@otahuhucollege.school.nz) or Mr Hart (JHart@otahuhucollege.school.nz). Places on camp are subject to meeting criteria such as attendance and engagement, which Ms Norgate can clarify.

Here are some photographs of last year's camp!







Arts and Culture News

Otago College Annual Arts Awards

On Thursday of this week, our school hosted its annual Arts Awards evening. The purpose of this evening was to celebrate excellence in the visual and performing arts and to acknowledge the contribution that our young artists make to our school and wider community.

The evening commenced with the Art Department displaying portfolio work by all of its year levels featuring painting, print making and photography. This was followed by our ceremony which was attended by a large audience comprising of whanau, students and staff. In between the awarding of the badges and major trophies to our top students there was a range of memorable and highly entertaining performances in dance, drama and music. Among the many highlights, one of the stand out moments was the dance performance by our Yr 11 Female Dance Crew 'Members Only'. We also introduced a very special new award called the 'Angelina Pierre Personality Plus Award' to recognise a treasured former student.

The Arts Faculty wish to congratulate all of the junior and senior students who received either a badge or personally engraved trophy. Our Faculty also wish to thank everyone who contributed to making this such a fun and rewarding night. We would also like to congratulate our 4 Supreme winners ...

Jena Kuinimele Te'o - Art

Albert Hafu – Drama

Matalupe Teputepu – Music

Naharah Crawford – Dance

Kia Tamatane and 'Viva the Arts!'

Fijian Language Week

Otago College celebrated Fijian Language Week last week. It was a wonderful three-day event that truly showcased vibrant Fijian culture and the spirit of our community. The celebration started with a traditional kava ceremony, setting a warm and welcoming tone for the week. It was heartening to see our students and staff come together, embracing Fijian Heritage with such pride.

On Thursday and Friday, the school was treated with captivating performances by our talented students. Their hard work and dedication shone brightly through. Each performance celebrated the beauty of our Fijian language and culture, making these days truly special. Additionally, Fijian team organized workshops as well, where students created beautiful Meke bracelets and did some stencil paintings. It was a fantastic way for everyone to express their creativity while learning more about Fijian traditions and artistry.





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Overall, the outcome of our Fijian language Week celebration was amazing. Some Glimpse of Fijian Language Week.





Sports News

Our Senior boy's rugby 7's team competed in the Auckland secondary school's championship grade. An awesome day show casing schoolboy rugby across the city which was hosted by our college at our War Memorial grounds. The team used this as motivation and represented themselves and our school very proudly. After last year's defeat in the Plate semifinals our boys were driven this time around to go one further, with 7 boys from last year's 12-man squad returning.



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The team went through unbeaten in pool play advancing through to play in the Cup finals in the later stages of the day. First up, the semifinals against Howick College, this game didn't get off to a good start for us as Howick took a very quick 3 try lead in the first half. Regardless of the score, the team remained positive at the break. Showing determination and huge character to come back, scoring 5 unanswered tries in that second period and securing a place in the cup finals vs Pakuranga College.

After a great start and holding the lead at 12-7 with time running out on the clock, Pakuranga College made one last effort down the sideline eventually scoring and converting to finish the game at 14-12. Our young men that represented our college in that 7's team can be very proud of themselves, although falling short of 1st place there is strong belief that they can come back and go one further next year. Thank you to the staff, parents and families who attended the day supporting our boys from the sidelines.

Pacific Advanced Secondary School 12 vs OC 34

Selwyn College 0 vs OC 22

Avondale College 7 vs OC 24

Edgewater College 14 vs OC 34

Semifinal Howick College 19 vs OC 31

Final Pakuranga College 14 vs OC 12





Netball Notice

Can all students who borrowed a netball uniform for the 2024 netball season please return this by Week 8, 2024. All netball uniforms should be given to Mrs Va'aelua. Please ensure your full name/netball team/whanau class is recorded on a piece of paper and attached to the dress with a staple or paper clip. Mrs Va'aelua will keep a collection box outside her office (located in M Block right next door to M4).

Thank you so much girls! Enjoy your long weekend!