ŌTĀHUHU COLLEGE



Ōtāhuhu College

Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2026

Important Dates

27th November	Yr 11 Last Day Yr 11 and Yr 12 Prizegiving
28th November	Yr13 Graduation (10am – 1pm)
4th December	Last Day for Yr9 and Yr10 Junior Prizegiving 9.30am

From Our Principal

As we say farewell to our Year 13 students, we do so with gratitude for all they have given to Ōtāhuhu College and pride in the young men and women they have become. They have been an outstanding year group, and their contribution will be felt well beyond their final moments at Ōtāhuhu College.

The character of a school is shaped, in no small measure, by its senior students. Through their example, their relationships and the standards they uphold, they help establish what matters and what is expected. This Year 13 group has embraced that responsibility. They have helped set a positive tone across College, showing our students what it means to participate, support one another and take pride in their school.

Some of their achievements have rightly attracted recognition. Other contributions have been quieter. These moments matter because they help create a school in which all feel valued and have the confidence to give their best.

To our Year 13 Graduates wherever life leads you, you will remain part of the College community. We look forward to welcoming you back and hearing about the lives you are building.

Thank you for all you have given to Ōtāhuhu College .You leave it stronger for having been here.

Kia Tamatane

Sports News

Last week, our Junior Premier Girls and Boys 3v3 Basketball teams competed in the Northern Secondary School Tournament. We are incredibly proud to have entered the Premier competition for the first time, marking an exciting milestone for Ōtāhuhu College basketball. Both teams delivered outstanding performances, demonstrating determination and teamwork throughout the tournament. We are excited about the future of basketball at Ōtāhuhu College and look forward to building on this success!






BUILDING BETTER PLAYERS, STRONGER PEOPLE.
OC
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2K27
COACHES
INTEREST
FOR 2027
WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR:
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🌞 AVOIDING THE "SUMMER SLIDE"

Simple Ways to Keep Learning Alive Over the Break

Over the long summer break, many students naturally lose a bit of the learning momentum they've built during the year. This is sometimes called the **"summer slide."** The good news is that research shows even small, everyday learning activities at home can make a big difference, and they don't have to feel like schoolwork!

For whānau in our community, the most powerful things you can do are **FREE, SIMPLE, and can be woven into normal life**, whether at home, at the park or beach, at work, or spending time with wider whānau. Here are some fun and practical ways to help children build their confidence and stay connected to their learning in **reading, writing, and numeracy** over the holidays.

📚 READING

Everyday ways whānau can support reading

- Talk to your child about what *you* read, whether it's recipes, news, sports updates, or social media. Seeing you as a reader matters.
- Read in the language that feels most natural for your family.
- Visit the local library together and let your child choose anything that interests them: magazines, graphic novels, game guides, travel books.
- Ask simple questions after they read: *Who was your favorite character? What surprised you? What might happen next?*
- Watch a movie together, then read the book version and compare.
- Listen to audiobooks (you can get them from the library app called LIBBY) while travelling or relaxing; great for sparking discussion.
- Look up topics your child is curious about online and talk about how they know the information is reliable.

🌼 Things students can do on their own

- Read for just **30 minutes a day**, before bed works well.
- Mix it up: news articles, blogs, reviews, recipes, or short stories.
- Borrow what friends are reading or try an audiobook.
- Research a favourite celebrity or interest, then check if the sources are trustworthy.
- Try free reading resources such as: https://pathwaysawarua.com/pathways/literacy

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✏️ WRITING

Easy ways whānau can build writing into daily life

- Let your child see you writing (emails, lists, messages) and involve them where possible.
- Do crosswords or word finds together.
- Give them real reasons to write: the holiday shopping list, captions for whānau

photos, a shared family blog, or a message to relatives.
- Sell unused items online on TradeMe or Marketplace and let your child write the description.
- Ask them to show you writing they're proud of from school.
- Choose a **"family word of the day"** and see who can use it the most.

🌟 Things students can do on their own

- Keep a journal, diary, or simple to-do list.
- Write song lyrics, poems, or comics or whatever feels fun.
- Write a persuasive letter explaining a request (and follow up with a "contract" if parents agree!).
- Write to a teacher, principal, or MP about an issue they care about.
- Use random word challenges to build creativity.
- Try online puzzles and word games: https://www.stuff.co.nz/puzzles https://pathwaysawarua.com

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🔢 NUMERACY

Ways whānau can build math into real life

- Compare prices while grocery shopping and talk about best value for money.
- Look at labels and discuss sugar, fat, or protein content.
- Talk about sales and discounts and make quick estimates together.
- Ask your child to teach you a math method they've learned at school.
- Look at graphs, tables, or statistics in the news and ask simple questions.
- Notice patterns in weaving, carving, buildings, or the natural world.
- Talk about technology use and calculate hours spent online.
- Be positive about math and show how you use it every day.

🌟 Things students can do on their own

- Play online strategy games or number puzzles.
- Play card or board games that use math.
- Create symmetrical art or designs.
- Make a simple budget for holiday earnings.
- Calculate their own tech usage and compare it to recommended hours.
- Bake or do DIY crafts to sell and work out costs and how much a 25% profit would be.
- Try free online numeracy tools: https://pathwaysawarua.com/pathways/numeracy

A LITTLE LEARNING GOES A LONG WAY!

Keeping learning alive over the summer holidays doesn't need to be formal or stressful. **Small, fun activities done regularly help students return to school confidently, settled, and ready for a strong start to the new year.** Thank you for everything you do to support your children's learning, your involvement truly makes a difference.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, thank you for your support this year. Wishing you **a happy and safe holiday season, including precious time with whānau**. I look forward to seeing all our students return refreshed and ready for an exciting new year of learning in 2026!

Melinda Christensen
Academic Navigator | Senior School | Ōtāhuhu College
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School Filming Notice

Please be advised that filming for a NZ movie will be taking place at school on Wednesday 2nd December. Students may be captured in footage.

If you do not wish for your child to be filmed or photographed, please inform the school office at your earliest convenience so we can ensure appropriate arrangements are made.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FAO – Further Assessment Opportunity

📚✨ It's been wonderful seeing our OC library filled with students working hard, supporting one another and persevering with their learning this week! From Monday to Thursday, students were busy tackling their Numeracy assessments.

📊 Statistical Investigation!

Students explored the relationship between hand span and height through a statistical investigation, asking questions, collecting and analysing data, identifying patterns and trends, and drawing conclusions from what they discovered. It's all about using data to investigate real-world questions, uncover relationships and make sense of the world around us! 🔍📈

A big well done to everyone for their effort, persistence, collaboration and hard work this week! 👏✨





