

Waihi College Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



I hope this newsletter finds you all well and getting back into the "New Normal". **WOW** the past few weeks have been extraordinary and filled with a mixture of fear, uncertainty and anxiety but also with excitement and joy as we have come down through the Alert levels.

Covid 19 has bought many emotions to the surface as we quickly closed our schools down on 19th March and then opened them again 7 weeks later. Students and staff not only had to deal with the impact of the virus on their families and communities but also the changing learning environment and the variety of tools that teachers used to keep the learning going for students.

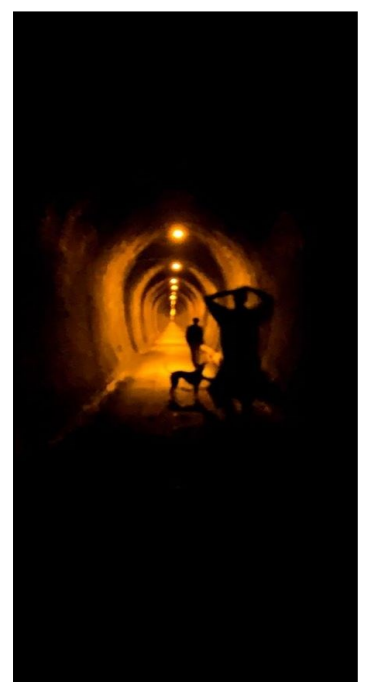
My personal view is that the NZ Government has done a spectacular job managing the pandemic and our current 'Alert Level 2' status is a direct result of courageous, and decisive leadership. But strong leadership is not enough as we have all had to play our part. What I like most is the way we as New Zealanders have owned the potential outcome and all fought to rid ourselves of the Corona virus. I would like to thank you all individually for working collaboratively with the rest of New Zealand to get Covid 19 under control. Big up's to you all.

During these uncertain and unprecedented times we have even managed to increase our regular vocabularies with "new normal" words such as Covid 19, Bubbles, Lockdown, Sanitizer, PPE's, Contact Tracing, Zoom, Social Distancing, just to mention a few!!!! Learning happens in many ways!!!!

With the arrival of Alert Level 2, schools were charged with re-opening and getting our students and staff back to school. We were given 3 primary foci to try and get our schools up and running again. **Hygiene, Contact Tracing and Social Distancing.** We rapidly set about developing plans and strategies for the arrival of students on the 18th May. The first few days were unusual as the heightened anxiety of large gatherings of students and staff played on many of our emotions. However there was also genuine excitement as students caught up with each other after many weeks of being locked in their bubbles. Whilst social distancing was an issue for many we were all far more conscious of hygiene and we have got much better at contact tracing.

I am pleased with the way school has settled back into the "new normal" and look forward to getting to Level 1. Many things have changed and our (Staff and Students) abilities with online applications has improved significantly. We must all now be courageous and take the best of
(continue over)

Winning Art from the Art Competitions held while School was closed.



This newsletter can be found on the College Website—www.waihicol.school.nz

Waihi College – E hara taku toa I te toa takitahi, he toa takitini.
My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.

COLLEGE NEWS

the lockdown situations and blend it with the best of pre lockdown.

I send a special welcome to any new families who have arrived in the district over the past week or so. Welcome to Waihi and Waihi College. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns.

Kai kaha Aotearoa
Stand tall and be proud of what we have all achieved.

Continue being kind.
Alistair Cochrane

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Please can you note in your calendar the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews held at the college for all students in Year 11 - 13. These interviews will be held on the **22nd June** with the students' Pouako (Learning Advisor). The interview will cover learning over the lockdown period, how students experience of online learning was, progress in each subject to date and discussions around support for future success. Interviews are available from 8am through until 6pm to allow for appointments before and after work hours. Please discuss this with your employer and encourage them to support your attendance at these interviews.

To make an appointment please visit www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and click on 'Make a Booking'. You will need the event code which is **xfdz2**. Alternatively, you can call Sue in the College Reception on 07 863 8349.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our young people.
Jo Howell

Arts and Services Update

These last few months have been a real challenge for a lot of us, including in the arts and services areas of the school but we're now ready to get back into the year and get the kids involved in all the different opportunities.

We unfortunately had to cancel our much anticipated school production of Sweeney Todd, which has been a huge disappointment to students and staff. We are looking forward

to getting it up and running next year and are hoping to incorporate the Waihi Drama Society for a community wide project. They have an amazing theatre on Boyd Road and incredible expertise so it will be awesome to work together!

The school ball was postponed and we are waiting on gathering numbers to increase before we can plan what our next move is. We have had to rethink how we may do it and are weighing up a few options with the Year 13's – as soon as we've been able to decide how we can go ahead (and when), we will post on all our usual platforms. To make sure you don't miss out on any info, remember to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/theArtsandServicesWaihiCollege/>.

Remember you don't need a Facebook account to check our page and there is a link directly to it from our website.

Breakfast Club has started again and runs every Tuesday and Thursday morning in Whare Maia at 8am. Our service team is doing a great job of making this happen and we have several staff volunteers too – so a big thank you to everyone involved.

Our itinerant music lessons are back up and we've now had Jessica join our team. She isn't funded, but offers vocal as well as keyboard and guitar all within school hours. Give her a call if you're keen to find out more.

Troupe and Chess Club are also restarting, with the Troupies meeting every Thursday in the MADD room from 3.30-4.30. If you know of any students who would like to check it out, send them along. Chess Club will be running in the Library every Wednesday at lunchtime – put your name down



with Mrs Sutton. Our student leaders made a couple of great videos during the lockdown



– one for ANZAC and one as a welcome back. Well done guys.

Lastly, we ran a couple of art competitions while school was

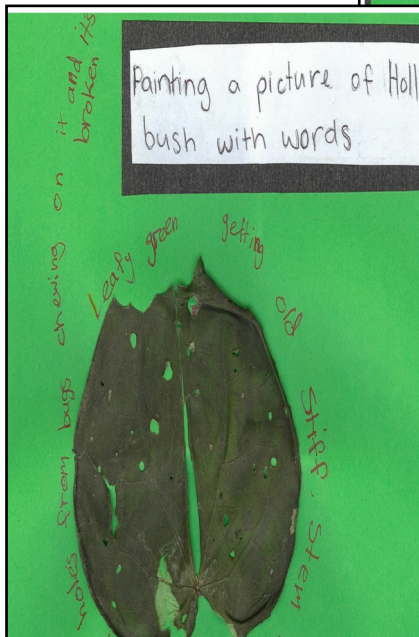


closed too. Congratulations to Bailey Quinlan, Ruby Church, Alana Gleeson and Saffron Percival Wheway for their winning entries.
Wendy Shave



COLLEGE NEWS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Poetry from the Junior School



HOLLIS BUSH

Howling wind rushing
through the trees
Old crunchy leaves
laying on the ground
Low cicadas singing
short songs
Little saplings coming
out of the ground
Itchy mosquito bites
storming up your legs
Super sticky sap coursing,
through a trees veins
Brown trees towering over
the forest
Ushering students back
onto the path
Slimy worms burrowing
through the earth
HOLLIS BASH!

BY -Sean Todd

WAIHI Defensive Driving Course

Starts 9 June!



Reduce the time on your restricted licence and **become a safer driver** 8 hours over 4x two hour evening group sessions + 1 hour individual professional in-car tuition AA Defensive Driving Course NZTA approved certificate (great for your CV) AA BONUS! e-drive online learning included FREE.

See our website or facebook for bookings with Gavin Buchanan (AA Driving Instructor).

w: thamesdrivertraining.co.nz

f: [thamesdrivertraining](https://www.facebook.com/thamesdrivertraining)

AA Motoring

Driving School

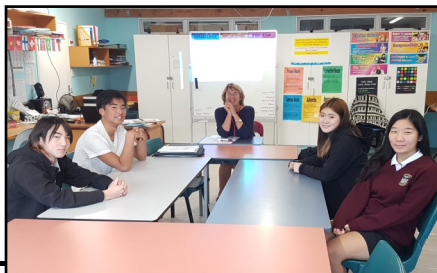
Squash

Free training on Tuesdays – Fitness
– Cross training – Racquet skills
4-15pm—5pm ages 11-13
5.00—6.30pm – 14 years and
adults (adults will
have to pay a small
fee depending on
numbers)

Inquiries to
Logan 027 685 3130



Photos from the International Department



Upcoming Events

June

- 5th Tree Planting Kereru
- 5th Waikato Uni Liaison Visit
- 9th Adventure Tourism
- Fishing Trip
- 9th Y7 Vac & HPV
- 11th L3 O/D Ed Kaimai
- 16th Y12/13 Health & Safety Course
- 16th Kapahaka Flashmob
- 19th Kereru Stream Study & Trapping
- 22nd Parent Teacher Interviews (Pouako)
- 23rd Y12/13 Health & Safety Course
- 24th W/C X Country
- 24th Y10 Languages Trip
- 25th-26th L3 O/D Ed Overnight Trip

July

- 3rd Defence Force Visit
- 3rd End of Term 2
- 20th Start of Term 3

