

Waihi College Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT



Kia ora tatou whanau
2020 and the Covid 19 pandemic is constantly causing us to rethink and evaluate almost everything we do. Covid 19 has brought new tensions and anxieties to teaching and learning and schools have been told that it should be business as usual!! Whilst sanitizer and hand washing have become the new normal the addition of masks to our daily lives is changing the way we see the world. Events are being cancelled or postponed and spectators are banned from watching sport. We are not allowed to gather in large groups and borders are being closed and then reopened.

I guess that we just have to deal with it as best we can and make the new normal what we expect and **"DO"** each day.

Yet most of our students really enjoy coming to school each day and are actively engaging in their learning and are just getting on with it!! Our teachers and staff seem to adjust to the changes and restrictions with grace and aplomb.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastically positive work

that both staff and students are doing dealing with these uncertain times.

We are very conscious that for many of our students "Spirit Days" are a highlight of the year as staff and students alike enjoy fun activities that bring us together. So rather than cancel "Spirit Days" we have modified the programme (1 Day) and activities to ensure that we meet the health protocols that we must abide by. We are currently designing the programme however it will definitely include an opportunity to dress up in those **crazy colorful costumes** that we have become famous for. The word for "Spirit Days" this year is **"PANDEMIC"** so I encourage you all to put your creative hats on and start preparing for 24th September.

For our senior students, internal 'Derived Grade Exams' start in 2 weeks and I urge you to put in the work and prepare yourselves. Covid 19 has a habit of surprising us and these exams may prove to be vital if things change.

I am delighted that spring has sprung and the 'big shiny thing' in the sky is spending more time with us. Hopefully the chills of winter quickly get chased away by the sun that is warming our backs!

Alistair Cochrane

The Waihi College 1st XI Win the Annual Thames Valley Tournament



Please note: There will be a Teacher Only Day on the 25th September.

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

COLLEGE NEWS

Board of Trustees Chair Report

Kia Ora Koutou

2020 keeps providing plenty of challenges and once again the Board would like to acknowledge the positive attitude and hard work that continues to be done by all of the students and staff of Waihi College.

Throughout 2019 Waihi College experienced some worrying trends around violent incidents between some of our students and we are extremely pleased that this trend has not continued to date this year. We as a Board would like to think it had a lot to do with the restriction of mobile phone use at Waihi College however, the truth probably lies more with the positive input from our Senior Leadership team, teachers and of course our students.

The Board would like to let you all know that Kyla Walker (student representative) and Kookie Koopu (parent representative) are currently looking at reviewing and improving the school uniform. I'm sure this will please many parents and students! If Kyla or Kookie ask for feedback please respond to get your voice heard.

Finally, on a personal note sometimes as Board members we find ourselves dealing with problems or issues which can seem a little daunting for us as volunteers however, as the Board Chair I've been very lucky to have such a supportive board. At the end of the day we are all trying to help the students as best we can.

Nga Mihi

Peter Tai

Board Chairperson

NZDF/Police Life Skills and Leadership Course



Last week, myself and 9 other students attended the NZDF/Police Life Skills and Leadership five-day

course at Wairakei Lodge, Taupo, along with our two local police officers Senior Constable Harley North and Senior Constable David Grant.

As soon as we arrived, we were sent to our rooms where we met our roommate for the next five days. There were 27 students on the course, who came from a number of different schools. After that we were split into our sections. Our sections were the groups that we were about to do a week of awesome activities with. After a few days of hard-core bonding, these sections soon became like our small family for the rest of the course.

The first night was the hardest. We were being taught all the rules and regulations, and realised that we would have to perform at a very high standard for the next four days. On the second day we participated in a lot of group bonding exercises, and did a lot of fitness followed by an early night in bed. The third day was my personal favourite: we started the day off with breakfast and then went straight into white water rafting which was amazing. We all had the great experience of jumping off a 7-meter waterfall which I would recommend to anyone wanting a bit of an adrenaline pump in their life! This was followed by some bowling and laser tag - it was awesome to do some cool and relaxing activities. The fourth day was high



ropes and some fun activities.

It was a tough week of getting up at 5.30am and going to bed at 9.00pm. We had to make our beds and keep our rooms at room inspection standard - there were rules that we had to follow! Even after the 60 push ups a day (at least!) I and the rest of the group are all very thankful for the experience that we were able to have and the new skills we learned.

I am very grateful to everyone who was involved and helped out in some way. Special thanks to the New Zealand Defence Force staff who were there running and helping out in some way, and all the life skills that they taught us: especially the fact that you need to pay attention to the little things in life, and don't take it for granted the privileges you already have.

Editor's note: Special congratulations to the course award winners Zinzan Coop (Peers' Choice) and Bailey Cameron (Overall Excellence.)

The School Ball and Other Events

After discussion with Mr Cochrane, Waihi College decided there was too much uncertainty around the ball with the current level status and the likeliness of it being upgraded or extended and that the safest option was to cancel. With parents having to purchase dresses, suits etc and the school having to pay deposits and make purchases we felt we needed to make the call now to ensure families especially, weren't out of pocket. All tickets will be refunded in full.

Jackson Pool, our Cultural Leader says that all the seniors are really disappointed and the Year 13's especially feel very upset to miss their last school ball. This has been a very tough year for them with everything being postponed or cancelled and schooling being so different, many families are under stress and senior exams looming on the horizon, it would've been really nice to give all our seniors something to look forward to. Now we are putting on our thinking caps for what we can do for our Year 13's - probably a graduation dinner and dance of some kind (which will have less than 100 people as our Year 13 role is around 60). Details for that will come out once we have a solid plan.

We also cancelled the Talent Quest which would've been on last week and Formal Wear Expo which was to be later this month. Many sports have been cancelled or postponed, some school trips, the community Matariki concert, and our Kapa Haka group's trip to Taiwan that they had originally hoped to take in November of this year.

Wendy Shave



Waihi College thanks the support of Maree Clark Mortgage Specialist. If you'd like to have a chat to discuss buying your first home or investment property, building your dream home or refinancing options feel free to get in touch with Maree on 0275457696. Maree is available 7 days a week and her service is free of charge.

COLLEGE SPORT

TV Football

Waihi College 1st X1 were Winners at the annual Thames Valley Tournament in Katikati on Tuesday 25th August. Congratulations to Coach Karl Budgen and Captain



Thomas Spicer and all the boys on a fantastic effort including some young Year 9/10 players. Special mention has to go to Konnah Sas



for an absolutely stunning bicycle kick goal to win the game against Katikati.

TV Badminton

Congratulations to all of our



athletes who competed at the TV Senior Badminton Champs in Thames. You were all superb representatives for your school.



Results:

1st Sen Boys Singles

Daniel Su

3rd Sen Boys Singles

Jason Yeh

1st Sen Boys Doubles

Daniel Su & Jason Yeh

2nd Sen Girls Singles

Aston Churcher



2nd Sen Girls Doubles

Aston Churcher & Nikita Adams

TV Year 7/8 Rugby Tackle Day

Congratulations to our Year 7/8 Tackle teams today who played in the Thames Valley Championships. All teams played hard and fair.



Great effort from our girls team and the Boys Black team on making the finals.

Unlucky not to win but runners-up is

awesome! We are super proud of you all.

Racheal Hall



1st XI Girls Football

The XI Girls Football Team for 2020 started off difficult for everyone with a new team, a new coach and early mornings but have improved significantly and have learnt to adapt to their new team

and coach as time has gone on.

So far in the season we have come very close to winning some games, taken losses for other games and have won one game. Most games have been tough with a few injured players and only one or two subs and sometimes none.

However, throughout every game, no matter if we were winning or losing, the girls kept a positive attitude and were always proud of each other for the big and small successes through the game.

Sharyah Kremaszky
Captain



1st XI Boys Football

The Waihi College 1st XI are currently half way through their football season, after our pre-season grading games decided we would be in the Secondary School

COLLEGE NEWS, SPORT AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Football Division two. After adapting to the COVID 19 interruptions, we found our season would be shortened due to the limited time we had left.



This did not change our enthusiasm, as we found ourselves ensuring we were both prepared and fit enough so we could enjoy the season ahead. After playing four matches, we are currently mid table with three games remaining.

The 1st XI also recently participated in the Thames Valley football competition held last Tuesday. After beating our school rivals Katikati College and Thames High, we were able to lift the trophy for the second time in 3 years. We look forward to the rest of our season, and want to thank all the supporters we have had throughout the season.

*Thomas Spicer
Captain*

Seeking families to host international students

When it is once again safe and New Zealand is open to receiving international students, Waihi College will be calling on our fantastic host families. If you have ever considered hosting, now is a great time to contact us to start the recruitment process.

We are looking for families who are able to welcome our international students into their homes as part of the family and support them in their



day-to-day lives, just as you would your own children. Hosting can be an extremely rewarding experience, and it is wonderful to see the



lifelong relationships formed. If you are interested and want to know more, please contact Lisa:
Phone: 027 351 2436
E-mail: lisan@waihicol.school.nz
* Host family payments apply *
Lisa North

Upcoming Events September

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4th | Toi Ohomai Visit |
| 6th-7th | L2 O/D Ed Ropes and Mountain Biking |
| 9th | Amazing Race Y7/8 |
| 10th-11th | L1 O/D Ed Camping and Tramping |
| 10th | L3 Geo Trip Hobbiton |
| 14th | Y10 Debate Finals |
| 15th | Auckland Uni Visit |
| 16th-21st | Senior Practise Exams |
| 16th | Amazing Race Y9/10 |
| 18th | Y9 Debate Finals |
| 21st | Dressage Champs |
| 22nd | Y7/8 Mathsmind Comp |
| 24th | Spirit Day |
| 23rd | 2020 Head Shave |
| 25th | Teacher Only Day |
| 25th | End of Term 3 |
| 29th-5th | B/B National Tournament |
| October | |
| 12th | Start of Term 4 |

A Busy Month in the Hospitality Department

