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Te Kura O Ōpōtiki  
**Ōpōtiki**  
**College**

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - 12 APRIL 2016

**Coming together is beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.**

As Term One comes to an end I am reflecting on what a wonderful welcome I have received from the school and the community and how I already feel 'part of the furniture'. I have met wonderful students and their whanau, attended a number of community focused events and activities and have fully embraced the beautiful natural environment that is our own backyard.

Opotiki College is a strong, proud and passionate community that wants the best for its rangitira. As Principal of the College I am committed to ensuring the 'best is provided' and that all students who attend are given every opportunity to experience success and be **keen learners** and **confident citizens**. This will require all of us to be focused and working together on our shared goals.

On Thursday our Check and Connect Hui are being held. This is an opportunity for you, your child and learning advisor to review their Term One "Check and Connect" progress report and share in the setting of some learning goals to focus on in Term Two. I do hope you are able to attend this as it will demonstrate to your child your interest and commitment to their educational journey. Please note students are only expected to be at school during their hui. Normal classes are not scheduled.

I wish all students a relaxing, refreshing and safe holidays and look forward to their return on 2 May 2016.

Susan Impey - **Principal**

## **SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2016**

The Triennial election is nearly upon us with election date set for 3rd June 2016. Opotiki College will have 6 parent representative positions to be filled. If you have skills that you can share it is time to give some thought to standing for election. Below is the key information all Parents and Caregivers need to know:

- Nominations will be called for in early May
- Voting papers are sent in the post late May, so please ensure you have updated your mailing address with the school office
- A booklet "A parents' guide to the role of the board of trustees" is available from the school office

**What is a school board of trustees?** School Boards are responsible for the school's performance and ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

**Who are the trustees?** Elected Parent Reps, a Staff elected Rep, a Student elected Rep and the Principal. The Board may choose to have co-opted trustees from time to time should they require expertise in certain areas.

**What do trustees do?** First and foremost a board is accountable for student progress and achievement to its parents and community. The board has the overall responsibility for the school. This includes legal obligations covering curriculum, property, personnel, finance and health and safety.

**What skills do trustees need?** Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need to work well in a team, ask challenging questions and have good communication skills. Boards need a balance of skills and experiences to ensure effective processes for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing the school's performance are in place.

**Who can become a trustee?** Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community can be nominated for election to a school board. Your school will be happy to help you find out more about standing for election or nominating someone else.

**What is the time commitment?** Trustees are expected to attend the monthly scheduled meeting as well as any sub-committee meetings they are involved in. Board members are sent all the documentation prior to the meeting and are expected to have read it all thoroughly before the meeting. Currently the board meets on the last Tuesday of each month.

Kylie Borrie – **Returning Officer**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### CHECK AND CONNECT WHANAU/STUDENT/TEACHER HUI

**14 APRIL 10AM-7PM**

Our first Check and Connect Hui is coming up on 14th April. You should have received a copy of your child's first progress report and been contacted by the Learning Advisor to make an appointment for this hui. It is a very important part in the engagement with whanau process and I urge you to attend.

There are appointment times available from 10am until 7pm.

As a result of interviews taking place all day students will only be required at school when accompanying their parent/caregiver to the Hui or attending a catch up class that has been arranged. It is very important that students be a part of this process as we are setting goals for Term 2.

If you have not been contacted yet please ring the school Office for further information or Ms Abraham-Harris who is co-ordinating the hui.

Ms Abraham-Harris – **Deputy Principal**

## HIGH EXPECTATIONS

### When do School Expectations begin or finish?

We expect our students to model and uphold our expectations not only at school but also on the way to school and home again. The minute the school uniform is put on in the morning they are not only representing themselves and their whanau but they are also representing the College.

We expect that when students are in uniform that they model these high expectations by;

- wearing the correct uniform in public
- modelling expected school behaviours by using appropriate language and not smoking in public
- being respectful of the community by using footpaths, pedestrian crossings, and sharing our community spaces responsibly.

Creating a positive image of the school within the community is a shared goal we should all be working towards.

Susan Impey - **Principal**

## SHARING OUR SUCCESSES AND LEARNING

Last week we ran our **AAA Assembly** to acknowledge 2015 NCEA results. It was pleasing to see the range of students who were recognised at this assembly. Students were given a white, silver or gold badge depending on their achievements. They should wear this with pride as it demonstrates their commitment to learning and role models success for younger learners. Students were also individually acknowledged with Subway Vouchers and at each level the top performer was recognised with a monetary prize. It is great to celebrate student success in a formal way.

Some of the student successes acknowledged are given below.

### LEVEL 1

**Merit Endorsements (50+ credits at merit or higher)**- Lauren Harte, Raine Hita, Mynika Kurei, Kobe Maxwell, Connie Montrose-Warren, Te Ata Rangitauira, Jemma Rudkin & Natalie Winder.

**Excellence Endorsements (50+ credits at excellence)** – Chrissy Lloyd, Lexie Glaser, Richelle Herrick, Riana Kingi, Shanaia Kurei & Emma Handley.

The top performing student was Emma Handley who achieved 136 Level 1 credits with 110 credits at Excellence level.

### LEVEL 2

**Merit Endorsements (50+ credits at merit or higher)** – Levanna Hoskins & Louisa Meadows.

**Excellence Endorsements (50+ credits at excellence)** – Terrance Ene, Shaan Huriwaka, Te Aho Jordan, Te Ao Marama Koopu, Te Riaki Maru, Justin Rakuraku & Madeline Dew.

The top performing student was Madeline Dew who achieved 115 Level 2 credits of which 68 were at Excellence level.

Robyn Abraham-Harris – **Deputy Principal**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

14 Apr – Check and Connect Hui  
(10am – 7pm)

15 Apr – Last day of Term 1

2 May – First day of Term 2

3 June – BOT Elections



### STAYING IN TOUCH

If you would like the newsletter emailed please email

[admin@opotikicol.school.nz](mailto:admin@opotikicol.school.nz)  
to be added to the newsletter database.

## Community Connections

Saturday 19th March saw a group from the 12HPD food class come in to the Kai Room to help prepare food for the annual Top Schools competition held in Awakeri. Students gave up their free time to make 200 gourmet wraps with produce that had been donated by White Cross Farms in Whakatane and New World Opotiki. The students hard efforts paid off, as not only were the wraps very well received by the public, but the students also gained Hospitality catering credits. Ka Pai 12HPD!

Jenny Mays – **LOL Technology**



## North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships

The NI Secondary Schools Athletics Championships were held on April 1st-3rd in Auckland. Opotiki College was proudly represented by five athletes who qualified from the Waikato / BOP region. Thure Tawhai performed outstandingly well, throwing 19.80m in the Senior Boys Para Discus to claim second place. Thure also achieved 6.76m in the Shot Put event to gain fourth. Tinipa Wanoa competed in the Senior Girls Shot Put and threw 11.37m to place sixth. We also had two jumpers at the meet. Lexie Glaser jumped 9.18m in the Intermediate Girls Triple Jump to place 12th. Junior Boy, Baden Mareroa was fourth in the High Jump clearing 1.70m. Nathan and Dale Butler also competed across three running events. Nathan was fourth in the Senior Boys Para 100m, fifth in the 200m and fourth in the 400m. Dale was sixth in the Senior Boys Para 100m, seventh in the 200m and fifth in the 400m. Congratulations to all our athletes on doing their best at the meet. The College would like to thank the support from the parents and care givers of all our athletes who competed in athletics over the course of term one.

Chris Atkinson – **Deputy Principal**

Photos from the North Island Secondary School Athletics Championships.



Thure Tawhai preparing for the Discus Nathan and Dale Butler ready for one of their track events.



The Opotiki College Senior Girls Volleyball team attended their first national tournament last week in Palmerston North. It was a great experience with the girls coming 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 32 teams in their division. The team was coached by Ms O'Brien and managed by Maata Edwards who were very proud of the girls.

Two of our Netball players represented their iwi at the **National Maori Aotearoa Championships** at Easter in Hamilton. Summer Parekura was in the U17 Waiariki team and Wency-Ree Rewi in the U13 Tairawhiti team. It was also great to see ex-students Simmon Howe and Janell Dymus playing as well in Premier teams. This was a huge tournament with teams from all over New Zealand.

## WINTER SPORTS

Over the last few weeks Winter Sport Teams have been trialling and teams formed. We are looking forward to a successful and rewarding season. We would like to remind all of the team players that they need to pay their annual fees. This is to be paid to the school office by the 3rd May

Netball \$75.00

Rugby \$75.00

Basketball \$56.00

Soccer Girls \$75.00

Soccer Boys \$180.00 (senior men's section)

All fees include Association Expenses, part of the travel cost, playing uniform, equipment and other team costs.

Sophia Takamore – **Sports Co-ordinator**

### Netball Key Dates:

9 April – Winter Competition Starts - Whakatane

16 April – Fast Five Competition – Whakatane

23 April – No games

30 April – Senior Grades Only

7 May – Games for all teams continues

### 2016 TERM DATES

Term	Start Date	End Date
One	2 February	15 April
Two	2 May	8 July
Three	25 July	23 September
Four	10 October	15 December

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance and Academic Success are closely related so please ensure that students are at school and if they are absent for any reason that you contact the school Office on 073157022. The Ministry of Education set a target rate of 92%. We are here to support so if you are having difficulties you can contact our Attendance Project Manager – Sophia Takamore or the Attendance Kaiawhina Marcus Abraham.

### UNIFORM

The winter term is approaching and the holiday which is coming up is a good time to organise warmer uniform. Students may not be at school in non-uniform shoes or hoodies.

We have access to Kids Can footwear and Rain Jackets to help students have correct uniform. Uniform can be purchased at the school. Sweatshirts and Jerseys are all available.