

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue Four, 28 October 2020

From the Principal

Kia ora koutou katoa, warm greetings to you all.

Welcome to our first newsletter of Term 4. In this issue we are celebrating academic and sporting success, along with a message from the Board of Trustees Chair regarding parent elections. We also have further information on Year 13 Graduation and Year 10 camps.

As a high school and community of teachers, students and whaanau, we managed the challenge of Covid-19 lockdown (two!) with flexibility, adaptability and resilience. We appreciate the support of whaanau in supporting our students learning from home, all the while juggling the 'new reality' of isolation, working from home and looking after mental health of all members of our community.

On return to the school environment, we put together workshops and catch up opportunities for the students, particularly around NCEA credits, and the students responded well, taking the opportunity to further achieve. A huge thank you to all staff who pulled this together and students for their manaakitanga and puumautanga.

This week we host five reviewers from the Education Review Office. The team were welcomed with a full poowhiri in Te Hikoi (the school's wharenuui) on Tuesday and will spend the week observing classes and meeting with students, staff and parents, including the Board of Trustees. We look forward to sharing with ERO the progress that the school has made since the last full review in July 2018. The reviewers will produce a summary of their findings that will be published on both the ERO and school websites before the end of the school year.

As we are closing in on the end of the school year, we ask that all students, particularly those rapidly approaching NCEA examinations, maintain their engagement and motivation. It has been the most challenging of years but our expectations of student achievement and success remain high.

Ngaa mihi nui,

Richard Barnett

Important Dates for your Diary

- Education Review Office Visit 27 – 30 October
- BOT Election Voting Closes 4 November
- BOT Meeting 9 November
- Senior Students Finish 11 November
- Graduation Dinner 4 December
- NCEA Exams from 16 November to 9 December
- School term Finishes 8 December

Board of Trustees

Message from the Board Chair, Ben Stallworthy

Interested in the future of Pukekohe High School?

School Trustee Elections are in November. It is your chance to have a say about how our school is run now and into the future.

The Board of Trustees governs the school, representing this community. The board has a strong influence on how the school operates and on its development.

Right now, Pukekohe is growing quickly and changing fast. It is vital that the school's board is representative of our community and has the skills and experience to govern the school effectively.

So please, look at the candidate information when you receive it. Think hard about the candidates and vote wisely.

Or if you believe you would be a good Trustee, nomination forms are available at the school reception.

Remember that your vote decides how our children's school develops!

EPro8 Challenge Win!

The team of Jasmine Niederberger, Jayden Fox, Joel Hawkins and Samuel Roche are the EPro8 Challenge 2020 Grand Final Winners for the Senior Competition in Auckland, beating 60 other secondary school teams. The team, known as *All Gas, No Brakes*, led by Mr Adam Kemp, were 130 points ahead of their nearest competitors, a remarkable achievement. Congratulations from us all.



Sporting Success

Despite the ongoing disruption to sporting programmes this year, a number of our student athletes have been recognised for their efforts and commitment. This includes Cohen Brady-Leathem who has been selected for the Counties Manukau Under 18 Rugby Squad 2020.

The **NZSS Swimming Championships 2020** was held at Waterworld, Te Rapa Thursday 15 October – Sunday 18 October.

Over the four days, a team of 13 students represented the school at the championships where 123 schools took part. Pukekohe High School was placed 19th in the Top Schools competition, and 10th out all Co-Ed schools. This is an awesome achievement for a small and competitive team.



Kate Wheeler (Yr 9) received a Gold medal for 200m Butterfly (pictured with the second and third place getters), while Spencer Menzies (Yr 11) received a Silver for 200m Butterfly and Bronze for 50m Butterfly. Drew McKenzie (Year 9), David Wright (Year 9), Willow Phillips (Year 10) and Tyler Adams (Year 11) all attained 100% PBs for all their swims.

Young Enterprise Scheme

Year 13 Business Studies students were involved in the Young Enterprise Scheme (founded by Lion Foundation), with a series of challenges throughout the year including producing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), validating their product, evidence of marketing and selling, and a final pitch to an external panel.

At the final judging evening for Auckland South Region, we had five teams presenting: Airee (car air fresheners as fundraising tools for SPCA, Lifeline and St John Ambulance), Eco-Platter (upcycling tiles from The Tile Warehouse, into food platters), Lulu (handmade jewellery), Tyre-Up (upcycling tyres, using stretchy cord, to make very comfortable outdoor furniture) Moroccan Soul (Macramé home décor plant holders for discerning interior decorators). Each of these teams presented brilliantly – they were passionate about their businesses and spoke well.



PHS ended up having four teams in the Top 10, Airee, Eco-Platter, Tyre-Up and Moroccan Soul. Airee won an award for Excellence in Social Enterprise – they had generated \$200 per charity – a total of \$600 all up – that is amazing for those charities that struggled to raise donations in this difficult year. Lulu won an award for ‘One to Watch’; they sold over \$1,000 worth of jewellery all through the lockdowns – releasing new ranges and being super successful.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Eco Platter team of Paige Livingstone, Greer Crosbie, Daniel Fawthrop and Eden Marr who came 2nd overall for the Auckland South Region!!! Their presentation was fun and memorable!

Overall, it was an exciting and successful evening for our talented Business Studies students.

Year 13 Graduation and Senior Prizegiving

We look forward to celebrating Year 13 Graduation on Friday 4 December. The format of this event is being largely determined by our student leadership group and we will live stream the awards and graduation for parents and whaanau. Our Year 13 leavers have shown themselves to be remarkably resilient in the face of numerous disappointments this year, and we are confident that Graduation will be an enjoyable and appropriate leaving ceremony.

With regret, we have made the decision to postpone our Senior Prizegiving until early next year when we will be able to recognise our top academic students with the awarding of prizes across Years 11 to 13 (including Dux) at our scholars' celebration dinner at the beginning of Term 1. We have taken this decision reluctantly because of previous uncertainty about Covid alert levels, and because by February we will have a complete set of academic results available to us. Parents and whaanau will be able to attend.

Year 10 Camps, Tāpapakanga Regional Park

From week 6 of this term we will be returning to Tāpapakanga Regional Park for our now annual Year 10 camp. Four camps will take place across three weeks based in house groups. This is an opportunity for students to challenge themselves and learn in an authentic environment which places our school values at the centre of their experiences. In the lead up to camp, students will be engaged in learning across subjects that links to the location, geography and the natural environment of the Park, along with lessons focussed on practical preparation. All Year 10 students should have received an information letter and consent form earlier this term with spare copies are available at the student centre.

Please note this is a device free camp for students, as we want them to connect with each other, away from the distractions of social media.

Any questions can be emailed through to Ms Tara Remington rm@pukekohehigh.school.nz. We are looking forward to an exciting, positive end to the year with our year students before they begin their NCEA journey next year.



Teacher Only Day

Please note that there is a Teacher only Day on Thursday 19 November, when PHS, along with all secondary schools in Auckland, will not be open for instruction. The day is devoted to working on significant changes to NCEA. This only affects students in Years 9 and 10 as senior students will be sitting their NCEA examinations. The date for the Teacher only Day is determined by the Ministry in consultation with the teaching unions and is beyond the school's control. School will be open for Year 9 and 10 students on Friday 20 November.

NCEA Exam Timetable

NCEA exam run from Monday November 16, starting with Te Reo Rangatira, Physics, Business Studies and Calculus, and ends on Wednesday 9 December with Social Studies, Dance, Art History and Earth & Space Science.

Find the timetable [here](#)

All the very best of luck to those sitting exams!

