

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue One, 25 March 2021

From the Principal

Naa mihi nui ki a koutou

It's great to have some normal weeks under our belts, with everyone back and learning under Alert Level 1. Our overall attendance last week was 93%. Summer tournament week, trips to the Weta workshop in Auckland and the Toi Tu Toi Ora exhibition, and the Careers Expo this week all contribute to that sense of 'business as usual'. The new volleyball and basketball court on the lower field is almost ready for students to use.

It was very positive to meet some parents at the recent evening for our Year 9 students and to hear about the start of your high school journeys. Next Tuesday 30 March at 6pm we have an evening for parents who are new to NCEA – a separate invitation has already been sent.

I am really delighted to be able to advise that the full Education Review Office report is available on the PHS or Ministry of Education websites, following the review at the end of 2020. The report notes "Positive progress is evident in all areas" since the 2018 review. It's also pleasing to see acknowledgment of the school's "capability to sustain and continue to improve and review its performance." Thank you to all staff, students and our whole PHS community for the collective effort that has gone into such a positive review. The report is available in full on the school's and ERO's websites. Happy reading!

Nгаа manaakitanga,

Richard Barnett
Tumuaki - Principal

Otago University Advanced School Science Academy

Over the summer holidays I attended the Otago University Advanced Schools Science Academy (OUASSA). This programme gave 50 students who are Year 13 this year from all over NZ insight into the world of science, with a strong focus on Science Communication as one of the most important skills a 21st century scientists can have. This camp gave us a diverse taste of university life, living in the halls of residence, attending lectures and going out on mini trips specific to our subject selections.



We began each morning with a lecture with a guest speaker. Firstly, we had Dr Jemma Geoghegan who spoke about her experiences leading the team of 5 that dealt with the genome sequencing of COVID-19 in NZ. We then had Professor Craig Rodgers give us his first hand experience on what travelling and living on Antarctica was like. Our next speaker, my personal favourite, was Steve Ting who educated us on how he expresses his love for science in a clear and understanding way to the public. Finally, we had Associate Professor Louise Parr-Brownlie who talked about how she used rats to help the understanding of Parkinson's in humans. These presentations were both educational and fun, they gave us an inside look into fields of science I had previously never learnt about. It was very interesting to hear how most of these speakers entered their specific fields, by first starting in a different field and later on switching to something that they were passionate about.

Overall, this camp gave me a very useful insight into university life. I was able to experience what studying at the University of Otago is like, I was introduced to many areas of science which I had no understanding of before and I am learning all the skills of 'How to be a great scientist in the 21st century' along the way. I am looking forward to returning in July where I can see everyone again and to also continue learning skills of a scientist. I would highly recommend anyone given this opportunity to apply for this amazing camp in the future.

Stanley Yip
Year 13

Weta Unleashed

Sixty-five Level 2 Motion Special Effects students had the opportunity to visit Weta Workshop's new exhibition up in Auckland City this week. The students were able to enjoy the great interactive displays and makers stations to extend their creative skills and knowledge for character and fantasy world design.

Students are now looking forward to transferring their creative experiences from Weta back into their own fantasy world called 'The Last Havens', which will open as an exhibition next term in our new 'Anamata Studio' film space. Students are in the process of creating environments, characters, sounds and weaponry for their fantasy world, so the trip to Weta was a huge inspiration for us all as we prepare for next term's opening.

A big thanks to all the talented and enthusiastic students involved and to the Mr Reynolds, Mr Hari and Mrs Moore-Allen who came along to support the students.



Tongariro Geography Field Trip



Year 12 & 13 Geographers had the fantastic opportunity to go on a field trip to the Tongariro National Park. The iwi in Turangi, Ngati Turangitukua, told us about the history and significance of the area to Maaori and Mana Whenua. The highlight of the experience was when all students and teachers attempted the Tongariro crossing and observed the phenomenal impact of volcanic activity in the environment. Students had opportunity to do fieldwork in the Rangipo desert, Turoa and Whakapapa ski fields and the ancient forest at Ohakune.

We learnt about the differences in rivers and the variation in soil, climate relief and vegetation around the National Park.

Puukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre

The Year 13 Biology students visited the Puukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre to learn about bird migration. Students were able to see several different species of birds and the changes in their physiology and behaviour prior to migrating. At the site they received a seminar from migration expert and centre manager, Keith Woodley. Thank you to Mrs Baxter for organising this exciting opportunity!



Sporting Success

PHS Swimming Champions

Junior Girl	Jess Cochran	Junior Boy	Nicholas Strickland	
Intermediate Girl	Kate Wheeler	Intermediate Boy	Leon Duke	
Senior Girl	Maia Clare	Senior Boy	Jacob Shaw	
Fulton Swim School Open Freestyle	Kate Wheeler			
House Competition				
1 st Perkins	2 nd Massey	3 rd Jellicoe	4 th Day	5 th Blake

Counties Manukau Secondary Schools Swimming:

Intermediate Girls – Tyler Chapman, 2nd 50m breaststroke

Open Fly relay: 3rd Open Girls –Armani Tohaia, Jessica Cochran, Willow Phillips, Kate Wheeler

4 x 50m Free Relay:

1st Jnr Boys – Oskar van de Westerlo, Cohen Robinson, Sebastian Morgan, Nicholas Strickland

1st Int Girls – Tyler McNaughten, Drew Mckenzie, Armani Tohaia, Kate Wheeler

2nd Jnr Girls – Greer Batters, Abby McCort, Bailey Allan, Jessica Cochran

2nd Int Boys – David Wright, Tyler Adams, Ryan Elliott, Leon Duke

4 x 50m Medley Relay:

1st Int Girls – Willow Phillips, Tyler McNaughten, Kate Wheeler, Armani Tohaia

2nd Jnr Girls – Greer Batters, Bailey Allan, Jessica Cochran, Abby McCort

2nd Int Boys – David Wright, Ryan Elliott, Leon Duke, Tyler Adams

Clay Target Shooting

The first of the monthly shoots was held at the Auckland Met Gun Club and hosted by Pukekohe High, Waiuku, Tuakau and Kings Colleges. Visiting teams from Putaruru, Tauranga Boys, Hamilton Boys, Matamata, Hauraki Plains, Thames competed over the three shooting disciplines – Single Rise, Points Score and Single Barrel. There was a total of 98 shooters making up the 21 squads.

Our Pukekohe #1 Team comprising of Amy Hunter, Jack Steger-Hood, James Swift, Jacob Fry and Logan Teirney placed 1st Single Rise Team and 4th in the Points Score.

Amy Hunter	1 st Overall Girls
James Swift	4 th Overall Boys
Jack Steger-Hood	5 th Junior Shooter
Dan Farrell	6 th 1 st Year Shooter

James and Amy	1 st Boy/Girl Team
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Counties Manukau Secondary Schools Athletics

Junior Boys: Jack Haslip 1st 3000m, 2nd 1500m

Intermediate Girls: Armani Tohaia 1st 3000m

Intermediate Boys: Kaelan Paranihi 1st Triple Jump, 1st Long Jump, 1st High Jump

Senior Girls: Caitlyn Marx 2nd 800m; Briar Warren 2nd long jump, 3rd 100m

Senior Boys: Cohen Brady-Leathem 1st Triple Jump, 3rd Long Jump



NZ Secondary School Open Water Champs

1km Class:

14-15 yr girls - Armani Tohaia 5th, Drew McKenzie 6th

16-19 yr girls - Jorja McKenzie 7th

3.5km:

14 – 15 yr girls - Armani Tohaia 4th

Outdoor Education Kayaking & Overnight Trips



Year 13 Dress Up Day – What I want to be when I grow up!





Notices

Kidz Can Hot Meals

Hot meals from Kidz Can Charitable Trust are available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at intervals from the catering room. Students can come along, no sign up, booking or payment required, for a hot meal of beef chilli or chicken stroganoff or butter chicken, all come served with rice.

Important Dates for your Diary

- 1 – 4 April – Tauranga Jazz Festival
- 2 – 6 April – Easter Holidays
- 7 April – PHS Whanau Hui
- 12 April – PolyFest Week
- 16 April – End of Term 1
- 25 April – ANZAC Day (Monday 26 April school closed)
- 3 May - Start of Term 2
- 13 May - Teacher only Day
- 25 May – Year 9 & Year 10 Subject Parent Meetings