

Newsletter



PUKEKOHE HIGH SCHOOL

Issue Four, 05 July 2024

From the Tumuaki

E ngaa mana, e ngaa reo, e ngaa hau e wha, tihei mauriora!

I would like to extend my thanks to students, staff and whaanau for the work and support that has gone on to ensure that term two has been a successful one at Pukekohe High School.

We have built on the positive start to the school year by continuing to focus on the key areas of student attendance and engagement, quality teaching and learning and the celebration and strengthening of our school culture. All of these facets of school life are critical in ensuring that our students are enjoying their experience and that they are able to achieve to their potential across a range of areas.



In the last newsletter I commented on our school attendance goals and progress towards these. I would like to commend all students who have maintained a level of attendance of 90% or higher so far this year. This is the level of regular attendance as deemed by the Ministry of Education. It was pleasing to note that in term 1 of this year we had fewer students in the chronically absent category - less than 70% total attendance - than we did at the same time last year. We still have a way to go to reach the national attendance targets. Every day in the classroom counts.

Just as the school has an expectation for student attendance, we also have an expectation for the provision of quality teaching and learning programmes and effective teacher practice in the classroom. This year our teaching staff have been participating in a programme of professional development facilitated by Evaluation Associates based on the Niho Taniwha model of teaching practice. The focus of these sessions has been on supporting staff with their understanding and use of proven and deliberate teaching strategies that lead to engaging lessons and positive student outcomes. We look forward to continuing this focus throughout the remainder of the year.

During term two, staff and members of the middle and senior leadership teams have been focussing on promoting our school values and the meaning and messaging behind these:

- Manaakitanga – the ability through our actions to uplift and support the mana of all those around us.
- Aarahitanga – the ability to lead and guide the way through our actions.
- Kotahitanga – the ability to unite as a school community through our participation in school activities and a shared positive attitude towards learning.
- Puumautanga – the ability to show resilience in the face of challenges.

A huge acknowledgement to the many students who have been recognised for displaying our values through the student recognition system.

A highlight towards the end of the term was the blessing and opening of our new learning block and Learning Support Space. The learning block, which will be named in due course, includes ten flexible learning spaces, staff and small-group work rooms and creative areas with kitchen facilities. These spaces will cater for classes across a range of learning areas. We look forward to having students and staff utilising the block from the first day of term three.

The following are two reminders regarding policies that we have here at school.

Phones:

At school, in line with national guidelines, there is an expectation that phones are away throughout the school day. Confiscation will occur if students are in use of a phone in class.

Social Media/Digital Harm:

Any student caught videoing any act that is against school rules and/or sharing these videos on Social Media will face sanctions in line with the people in the video.

We want to ensure that the high expectations that we have at Pukekohe High School creates a safe and positive learning and social environment. We will continue to work with students to ensure that they understand and are complying with the messages above. We appreciate families supporting this.

Uniform

When representing our school, it is important to maintain a smart appearance in our community. This entails wearing the appropriate uniform at all times. Blazers are acceptable for all year levels. The sports uniform is not considered part of the school uniform and should only be worn during sports fixtures when representing the school. In the case of colder weather, black leggings or stockings may be worn with long skirts for extra warmth. Additionally, students are permitted to wear black beanies. Our smart uniform requires all-black shoes and socks. We appreciate your support in our pursuit of excellence at Pukekohe High School.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to James Thomas, our Principal for the last two terms. In his short time here, James has forged positive relationships with students and staff. He leaves us having devoted much time and energy to ensuring sound leadership of the school. I thank James for his guidance and support during this time of transition and wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. We look forward to seeing everybody back for the start of term 3.

Ngā mihi mahana

Murray Saunders

Student Highlights

Sports update

Franklin Junior Sports Awards Winners

Congratulations to our Premier Boys Basketball Squad from 2023 who were recently recognised at the Franklin Junior Sports Awards 2023 hosted by Counties Manukau Sport. The team won the Team of the Year award for 2023 at the awards evening as well as winning the Top Sporting Excellence Award which was the top award of the evening.

Shout out to Sports Council members, Greer Batter and Tess Rennell who were the Host MCs on the evening. (tile attached as "franklin junior sports awards")

Orienteering

Congratulations to Year 11 Student and Orienteering Team captain, Zack Meads on being selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Orienteering Team for 2024. This is Zack's second year being selected in the NZ Schools Team.

All the best Zack!

Rugby

Congratulations to Year 13 student and 1st XV Captain, Timana Mark who has been selected to attend the University of Waikato Chiefs U18 Camp.

The camp is a key part of the Chiefs Pathways Programme which identifies exciting players within the club's region who show the potential to become future Gallagher Chiefs and beyond.

Timana is our latest from Pukekohe High to be selected for this camp since our last two former students selected in 2021 (Cohen Brady-Leathem & Liukhane De Thierry-Rhind).

The Chiefs U18 Camp will be held from July 10-12th at St Pauls Collegiate, Hamilton. The camp will also act as a trial for players to earn selection for the New Zealand Schools Team and the University of Waikato Chiefs U18 team who will face Samoa later this year.

Full media release here - [Talented players earn place in University of Waikato Chiefs U18 camp | Latest News | Chiefs Rugby](#)

We wish Timana all the very best at the upcoming Chiefs U18s Camp. Represent yourself, your Whanau and School well.

Clay Target Shooting

The following Students will be competing at the North Island Secondary School Clay Target Championships on Saturday 6th July. We wish them all the best.

- Robert Fry
- Carter Kilian
- Blake Williams
- Lucas Marshall
- Daniel Farrell
- Emma Lane
- Ava Williams
- Piper Crane
- Tylah Swatton
- Kourtney Wintle
- Thomas Harvey
- Millar Te Rangi
- Ashton Wallace
- Tyler Matthews
- Jake Tilyard
- Rory Thorpe
- Dan McLagan
- Leo McLagan
- Roman Timo-Perry



Social Sciences Update

PHS FrostFusion Fiesta Market: On Thursday, 20th June 2024, 150 Year 11 Commerce students from Business Hub showcased 27 businesses at the PHS FrostFusion Fiesta Market. From 3:30 to 7:30 pm, students sold their innovative products, enjoying entertainment by the Faculty of Arts. All businesses sold out, with 13 selling out in just 90 minutes. The event was a resounding success, highlighting our students' creativity, entrepreneurship, and teamwork. A heartfelt thanks to all parents and caregivers for their support in making this a positive experience for our budding entrepreneurs.

YES Challenge 2 - Pitch: On 23 May 2024, nine YES Companies presented their business and product ideas at the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, Manukau. Each company delivered its pitch within the 5-minute timeline. The judges were impressed by the innovative ideas and comprehensive business plans, covering marketing, production, sales, and financial forecasts. Koru Calm attained the highest mark of 91%, demonstrating exceptional creativity and business acumen. A heartfelt thanks to all parents and caregivers for their support, making this a positive experience for our young entrepreneurs.

Level One History: Earlier this term our Level One History students visited the Auckland War Memorial Museum to learn about New Zealand's involvement in World War Two. A great time was had by all exploring the exhibits, learning about war medals, and examining various items associated with the war (including some dress-up). Thanks to the Museum educators for an interesting and engaging time.

Level Two History: Another group of Historians - this time our Level Two students - visited the Auckland public library to learn more about the books and primary sources held there. Thanks to the research librarians there, they were introduced to the Heritage Collections and were exposed to new avenues of research for their studies. Students found the trip to be really interesting and more useful than they had anticipated. All enjoyed their visit.

Model United Nations Assembly: Again, this year we sent two teams to participate in Rotary's Model United Nations Assembly in May. Held this year at Rosmini College, our teams represented Somalia and Kuwait and spoke on topics as diverse as space and women's rights. All six students really enjoyed the experience, citing the opportunity to network, develop their speaking skills, and learn more about the world as the most rewarding aspects of the entire weekend. Somalia took away a special mention prize for best presentation - due in large part to their pirate costume choice.

Ethics Olympiad: For the second consecutive year, Pukekohe High School competed in the national Ethics Olympiad. Our team faced down schools from around the motu in a highly structured format, discussing ethical issues such as Sportswashing, the rights of animals, and Sharenting. Although we didn't place we did receive an honourable mention. The Ethics Olympiad is an amazing opportunity for students to test their critical thinking, problem-solving and ethical reasoning and we will be entering again in 2025.

Tourism: Students interested in pursuing tertiary studies in Tourism visited the International Travel College. There, guides led them through an in-flight simulation, allowing them to experience what it's like to work for an airline. The college even had a life-sized airplane cabin where students could sit down and use the intercom speaker to give flight instructions. Additionally, we visited two workplaces in the tourism industry: AJ Hackett Auckland Bridge Bungy & Climb, and the All Blacks Experience. These visits provided students with a deeper understanding of what it's like to work in the industry. Thank you to the Careers Department for partially funding this trip.

Careers Update

Otago University - On Campus Experience

Recently Jess Nepia Year 13, had an incredible time during the On Campus Experience at the University of Otago. Some of her key highlights from the week in Dunedin were visiting the Dental and Medical facilities, visiting an anatomy lab, collecting plankton to study at a marine laboratory and even exploring Dunedin which entailed visiting the flat where Six60 stayed and walking up Baldwin Street the steepest street in the world. Over the week, she had the chance to meet and speak to inspiring people. This made the whole experience unforgettable while also solidifying her choice to study at The Otago University in 2025.



Rural Health Careers Programme – June 2024

SoRHA, (Students of Rural Health Aotearoa) are a club of tertiary students majoring in a range of health professions who visited PHS and showcased various roles in the health industry. The



tertiary students, some who have come from rural backgrounds themselves, delivered an interactive workshop with fun activities teaching our students about human anatomy, and what's it like studying medicine and health – all through practical techniques that they'd use in real rural health careers.

Girls with Hi-Vis Event

Four PHS students attended the successful **Girls with Hi-Vis Event** in May at Counties Energy. The day consisted of providing female students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, where they heard from inspirational women in the industry and learnt about what a career in the infrastructure industry, as well as other important trade sectors, could offer.



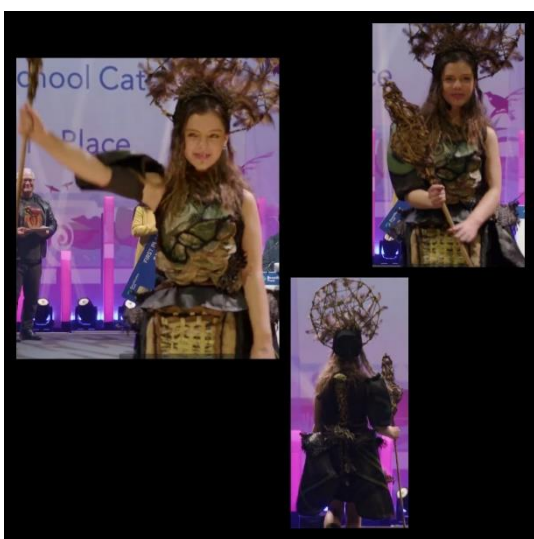
Senior School Ball



Arts Update

Eye on Nature Wearable Arts Competition

Congratulations to Raquel Sheldon (Yr 10) who for the second year running has won first place at the Beautification Trust's annual Eye on Nature Wearable Arts competition - a fantastic achievement!



Students from primary, intermediate, and secondary schools across Auckland were challenged to design garments around the theme 'Act Local - Growing with Te Taiao,' inspired by local conservation and ecosystem restoration.

In the High School category, Raquel Sheldon won first place for her entry, "Rebirth." Raquel's garment was celebrated for its excellent use of both natural and non-traditional materials in advocating for climate action. The judges were particularly impressed by the inclusion of seeds to symbolize new life. This is Raquel's second year in a row winning first place, an amazing achievement that highlights her exceptional talent and dedication.

Matariki



PHS celebrated Matariki with a number of events at school to see in the Māori new year. The Kaunihera Māori organised a Matariki star making activity in the hall. Kai was shared with all students down in Te Wāhanga (Māori department) and students lead karakia and shared stories about Matariki at year level assemblies.

In addition to school activities, groups of students attended community celebrations at Ngā Hau e Wha marae. The students helped the hosts by serving the guests and helping in the kitchens.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

PHS Got Talent

Throughout the term we have had lunchtime performances from students involved in Pukekohe High School's Got Talent. We are currently in finals week and have had phenomenal performances that have made it hard to judge. The first Friday of Term 3 is the Grand Final where we will find out the winner and have a special performance from the staff.

Samoa Language Week

In Week 6 the school celebrated Samoan Language week and ended the week on a high with a lunch time performance.

Property upgrades

Our new Learning Block and Learning Support Space were blessed on 26 June. Some students have started to experience their classes in there and next term it will be utilised by all. Our thanks from our Ngāa Hau e Wha Whaanua for leading the blessing.



Massey block toilets have been given the green light from the council and are open to use. We apologise for the inconvenience for the length of time that they were out of action.

Student Groups & Clubs 2024

Please find on the following page all the available student groups and clubs.

STUDENT GROUPS & CLUBS 2024

Name	Day/Time	Place & Teacher in Charge
ARTS		
Big band (junior jazz band)	Monday WR and interval	Blue room (GW)
Choir - Beginners to advanced all welcome, Y9-13	Wednesday after school	Blue Room (KNK)
Songwriting Club	Thursday after school	B6 (Jessie – singer songwriter coach)
Wind band (jnr orchestral band)	Thursday WR and interval	Blue room (Mr Tonga)
CULTURE/LANGUAGES/Performance groups		
Indian Dance group	Every day Q2- lunch time	Contact (KR) Ms Kaur
LITERACY		
Extension English for Y10-11	Mondays during Lunch	M6 (OLC)
Scholarship English	Wednesday 3.20-4.20	E2 (BLS + OLC)
NUMERACY		
Math Homework Club	Thursday After school – Every week (1 hour)	A2 – (PC)
OTHER		
Debating	Thursday lunch (by prior arrangement. Check notices on Debating teams page).	M3
Duke of Edinburgh Award	Meetings as required	(HY)
Free Lunches	Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday at Interval	H1 – (JC)
LGBTQIA+	Ask a teacher the location	WNJ & CLC
Model United Nations	By arrangement via Model UN Teams page	MDJ
Social Action	Friday lunchtimes in M17	MDJ / LWE
Wāhanga Homework Club	Friday afternoons (3:30-4:30pm)	Te Hikoi - Marae
ZINE club – Art/Comic/Stories	Wed interval (contact Bryn Giddens on Teams)	B4
SCIENCES		
E-pro8	Tues & Wed after school (until challenge ends)	A3 (BCM & PG)
Level 3 Biology & Scholarship Group	Tuesdays Lunchtimes Fortnightly – Odd weeks	S4 – (HN)
Lvl 3 Chemistry Scholarship and optional L3 Chem standard	Wed after school- Every week	S11(MC)
Lvl 2 Chemistry Tutorial	Mon at lunchtime – every week	S8 (SG)
Lvl 3 Chemistry Tutorial	Tue at lunchtime-every week	S8(SG)
Senior Science Puuhoro tauira	Wed period 1- every week	G2 (TI)
Senior Physics Tutorial	Thursday before school – every week	S3 (SMM/JNO)
Science Tutorials Y9, Y10 & Y11	Wednesday After School – Every week	S1 (VL)
SPORTS		
Badminton	Tues and Thurs Lunchtime	Gym 2
Boys Lacrosse	Monday nights	Nixon Park (PLG)
Distance Running Team	Tuesday 3:30pm-4:30pm, Friday 7am-8am	Sports office foyer (JNO)
Girl's Football	Tuesday 3:20pm-4:30pm	Top football field (BTP)
Girl's Lacrosse	Mon or Tues Training – 3.20pm - 5.00pm (alternate each week)	Field (JHT)
Girls Rugby	Mon and Wed – 3.30pm -5.00pm	
Tumbling gymnastics	Wednesday 3.20-4.10	Small gym (AS)
TECHNOLOGY		
E Sports	Thursday After school. 3.30pm - 4.45pm (Teams link)	B9 – (BCM)
Robotics	Monday after school	T6 - SQU

Important Dates

Week 1

- Start of Term 3 - Monday 22 July
- Ceremony for new Tumuaki
- Senior Leadership Team year level assemblies
- International Student Groups
- PHS Got Talent GRAND Final

Week 2:

- Kaitiaki-led year level Assemblies
- Kiribati Language Week
- Navy Band Lunchtime Performance
- House Event – Jump Jam
- Music Concert – Wednesday 31 July

Week 3:

- House Assemblies
- Cook Island Language Week

Week 4:

- Senior Leadership Team year level assemblies
- KBB Music Festival Week
- PTA Meeting – Tuesday 13 August
- Life Education Y9 and Y10

Week 5:

- Kaitiaki lead year level Assemblies
- House Event – Dodgeball

Week 6:

- House Assemblies
- Photolife Y13 & Sport Teams Photos
- Papatoetoe Sports Exchange