



30 September 2022

Community Update: Term 3, Week 10

Kia ora e te whānau

Term 3 has proved to be a busy one as it always is. As a welcome break from their focus on learning in the classroom, our students have enjoyed a myriad of activities and events at interval and lunch times. For example, the “6 week challenge” run by our team from Out West Youth. This included lots of fun activities and competitions open to all students, culminating in the prizegiving this week. Prizes included entry to Rainbows End and Parakai Springs and sizable Tuck Shop vouchers among other things. We have also celebrated Māori and Tongan Language weeks with language competitions, cultural events, photo opportunities and of course upskilling our language skills and understanding. Students have also been busy with sports with the wind-up of a successful winter sports season, while training for the summer season begins. Our students have also been involved in leadership activities and service to others in working with students from some of our Kahui Ako primary schools. For example some Year 9 and Senior Te Reo Māori students visited Helensville Primary School during Māori Language Week to promote Te Reo Māori to the Year 8 classes, and student leaders assisted in the teaching and learning programme for our fabulous “Kaipara College for a day” Year 8 Waimauku School visit.

For our seniors this term also brought the realisation that practice exams were looming and the time of reckoning with their internal assessment commitments was fast approaching.

Senior student progress

Our senior students have had their NCEA practice exams. When I ask them about how they got on with their exams, I am greeted by various responses ranging from a sharp intake of breath and comments like “ummm at least I know I have more work to do” or “well I know what I need to study now” to the more rare “I am happy with my Excellence grades”. Your senior student sits on this continuum somewhere. I would urge you to discuss with them their progress towards achieving their NCEA goals this year and insist they spend some time in the holidays (study break for seniors) studying for their upcoming exams and completing outstanding internal assessment work. Our senior students only have two full weeks of school left in Term 4, then they are on study break to prepare for their NCEA external exams that begin in week 4. However, students who have yet to achieve success in NCEA by the end of week 2, will be required to remain at school for further learning and assessment opportunities.

All senior students’ progress is carefully tracked and academic mentoring occurs at whānau time. If you have concerns about how your student is tracking towards success with their academic goals, please contact their whānau teacher in the first instance.



Everyday matters. Attendance concerns.

For students to gain the numerous benefits of school, attendance is critical. Attending school helps set our young people up for life as it is linked to students' engagement in learning, happiness and wellbeing, sense of belonging, achievement and success. Therefore we take attendance seriously and work in partnership with you to ensure that all students attend school unless they are sick or have a medical appointment. We know that COVID and other illnesses in the community have affected and continue to affect attendance at school. Please continue to notify the school if your student is unwell or has a medical appointment and help us in helping your student to attend school regularly.

Study-it <https://studyit.govt.nz/>

Study-it is a free government service open to all students who need help with their study to achieve NCEA. It is available on-line and allows any student to join to discuss achievement standards, general study and exam advice for NCEA Science, Maths and English with other students and teachers. This is an wonderful resource and I would urge all students to engage with it.

Key Term 4 Dates	
OCTOBER	
Monday, 17th	Term 4 commences
Friday, 21st	MAD (Music Arts Drama) Awards Night, School Hall, tickets from www.eventbrite.co.nz
Monday, 24th	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER	
Tuesday, 1st	Last school day for Year 13
	Year 13 Prizegiving, School Hall, 7:00pm
Wednesday, 2nd	Last school day for Year 11 and Year 12
Thursday, 3rd	Year 11 & 12 Prizegiving, School Hall, 7:00pm
Monday, 7th	NZQA Exams commence
Friday, 25th	Teacher Only Day
DECEMBER	
Wed, 7th - Fri 9th	Junior CAP Week
Tuesday, 13th	Last day of school for Year 9 and 10

We hope our school community has a safe, restful and productive break and look forward to welcoming all our students back for a hardworking and successful Term 4.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting us in working with your young person to be the best they can be, achieving their own academic and personal excellence. Our focus as always is to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of all our students.

Please don't hesitate to contact your student's whānau teacher, kaitiaki or me, if there is something you need assistance with.

Ngā mihi



Cindy Sullivan
PRINCIPAL