

Kuranui Korero

May 2019

"where each individual is nurtured, inspired and prepared to take their place in a changing world"

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Ngā mihi ō te wā ki a koe me tō whānau
Greetings to you and your family

Term 2 has started off with a hiss and a roar. We began by moving back into Tararua block after the refurbishments of the 15 classrooms. Student feedback has been very positive regarding the new look in Tararua block; especially the new computer suite and air conditioners in each classroom. I would like to thank all the students and staff for their tolerance and patience while these 15 classrooms were unavailable.

Last year the Board of Trustees consulted with students, staff and the community regarding the future direction of Kuranui College. We received very affirming feedback and really constructive feed forward from a wide variety of people. With this information the Board of Trustees have constructed a new strategic plan for the next three years.

Three key points kept being reiterated throughout the feedback, these points were

1. Our college community is really good at catering for individuals; helping them to identify their passions, skills and aspirations and working with each student to achieve these.
2. We care for our students and we know who they are.
3. Our school innovates to best inspire and engage our students in learning and life.

We have utilised this feedback to construct our vision statement for the next three years. Our new vision statement is:

[Kuranui - where each individual is nurtured, inspired and prepared to take their place in a changing world.](#)

Our strategic plan which can be found on our website is designed around the three pillars of:

Nurtured - A nurturing environment where every individual's wellbeing is supported

Inspired - Young people who are inspired to learn

Prepared - Ensuring each student has a plan for their future and the skills needed to succeed in their pathway.

Our new strategic plan can be found on our website under the charter tab. I encourage everyone to have a read and see how you can contribute to enacting the plan for our students. We have also constructed a sports strategic and action plan which we will be launching on June 7th at our annual sports coaches/managers/volunteers evening.

We have had many successes both in the sporting and cultural arenas so far this term. Our sports teams have made successful starts to their winter seasons and it is awesome to see the support these teams are receiving both on and off the field. Our Shakespeare group are performing at nationals during Queen's Birthday weekend, where they are performing two scenes. I believe we are the only school in the country to be performing two scenes!

As you will see further in this korero, a huge congratulations goes to Nina Gelashvili for her amazing efforts placing second in the National Race Unity Speech competition. There will be a special presentation to Nina later this term.

We have a number of key events and dates coming up. These are outlined below:

29 May 2019

Teacher strike, you will have received a notice outlining the details of the teacher strike. I ask that on the 29th of May you make alternative arrangements for your students. Please contact the school office by Friday 24 May if you cannot.

27 - 31 May

Senior student assessment week. Y11-13 students will be completing their first practice NCEA external or assessments or completing internal assessments during this week.

5 June 2019

Kuranui College **Open day** for 2020 enrolments. We will be hosting over 200 Year 8 students from right across the Wairarapa. Senior students are asked to remain at home on this day and use this time to reflect on their efforts in assessment week. Year 9 and 10 students are to come to school as normal.

6 June 2019

Subject teacher conferences; discuss your young person's progress with their subject teacher. Interview bookings instructions will be emailed or mailed home shortly.

12 June 2019

Kuranui College Open Evening for 2020 enrolments. From 7.00pm parents, caregivers and prospective students will be able to see, feel and experience our college and how we will ignite their learning.

The ongoing industrial action between the Post Primary Teachers Union (PPTA) and the Ministry of Education will have an impact on the remainder of Term 2. The PPTA have voted for three actions this term. They are:

- May 29 - National strike day
- Rostering home a year level - more details will follow once this action has been confirmed
- June 21 - Wellington/Wairarapa regional strike day; this will be the same arrangements as per May 29.

I thank you all in advance for your patience and cooperation during this period of industrial action. Education is hugely important to our society and any improvements that come from this action will only benefit our students in the long run.

Board of Trustees elections are coming up fast. You will have received emails regarding the process. Becoming a BOT member is a great opportunity to help make a difference to young people's lives and continue to grow our amazing college into the future. I encourage anyone interested in standing to complete the nomination process. If you have any questions regarding becoming a BOT member please do not hesitate to contact me.

NCEA Fees are no longer being charged by NZQA. This means the NCEA Qualification is now free along with Scholarship examinations. NCEA records of learning and certificates will also cost nothing though these need to be requested individually.

This is great news and was announced last week. On your current fees statement there will be a charge for NCEA; please do not pay this. We are working to remove these fees from your fee schedules. If you have already paid you will be contacted directly as to how you wish to use these monies.

Finally, if you have any concerns, questions or just want to make contact please feel free to write, email or ring to make an appointment. I value community voice and would appreciate your thoughts on our college. My email is principal@kuranui-college.school.nz

Simon Fuller
Principal

A VISIT FROM SIMON BRIDGES



Head students Awhina Southey and Michael Hyman with the Honourable Simon Bridges and Alistair Scott on a recent visit to Kuranui College

CROSS COUNTRY



Well done to all the runners who competed in the Kuranui cross country this month. It was awesome to see almost 50 runners compete and gain house points for their efforts! Also, a huge thank you to Mel, Connor, and Aaliyah for helping with marshalling and timekeeping.

A special congratulations goes to the following students who placed in the top three of their age group.

U14 girls: Lola Holbrook 1, Freya Lewington 2, Lottie Stevens 3;

U15 girls: Serenity Wilson 1, Patel Schenk 2, Charlotte James 3;

U16 girls: Amelia O'Connell 1, Anna Laybourn 2, Briar Matthews and Abby Swanson 3 equal;

16+girls: Amelia Butcher 1, Maaike Smolnicki 2.

AWD: Jack Lewington 1;

U14 boys: Jack Hancock 1, Jarrod Yee/Noah Ingham 2, Charlie O'Connell 3;

U15 boys: Baillie Whyte 1, Joe Laybourn 2, Olly Penman 3;

U16 boys: Jacob Gerritsen 1, Michael Hartley 2, Henry Isaacs 3;

16+ boys: Austen Dale 1.



NICE WORK, NINA!

Congratulations to Year 12 student Nina Gelashvili who came runner-up at the Race Unity Speech Awards in Auckland last weekend.

Nina, who represented the Wellington region, came second to Robbie White, from New Plymouth Boys' High School.

Nina's approach to end racism was based around the four guiding principles of inclusion, acceptance, love and education articulated the choices society can make - "We as a society give racism the opportunity to claim our history...it's our job to teach love, to teach inclusion and acceptance because these are our responsibilities as society today."

Deputy Commissioner Haumaha said this year's speeches were at a higher level than previous years.

"I was incredibly impressed by

all of the competitors; their place at national finals was well deserved. They articulated their individual experiences and observations extremely well, with a powerful honesty. "I also congratulate all 130 regional speech competitors and thank their families for supporting them on their journey. Their dedication and commitment to sharing in this important dialogue is key."



SOUTH WAIRARAPA KĀHUI AKO UPDATE

What an exciting start to the term! On Thursday last week we ran our first Kaitiaki Academy. There are 31 students involved in this opportunity and their wero is to bring their knowledge and learning back to their kura to help normalise te reo Māori.

Massive thanks to Hau Ariki marae, Raihānia Tipoki, Matua Wiremu and everyone else from the Hau Ariki tangata

whenua who took part in the wonderful pōwhiri to welcome us and this kaupapa to the marae.

SURVIVING ENGLISH

Kuranui students from the college's senior 2OUT class and the junior Survivor class recently visited the multi-level aerial obstacle course at Adrenaline Forest in Porirua to put their survival skills to the test.



The three-hour session gave the students a chance to challenge themselves on all levels of the high ropes course, giving them an opportunity to strengthen their 'soft skills' through practical learning outside of the classroom.

Kuranui English teacher Chelsea Fenwick organised the Survivor course as part of Kuranui's Ignite junior curriculum and thought the

experience would be good for her junior students to practice some of the advanced ideas they had explored in the classroom. "In the course we look at the theme of survival and all of the different ways of looking at survival," she explained. "When I first surveyed the class at the beginning of the semester, surviving for them was being lost in the bush and having to find food and water. I wanted to show them that survival is also about surviving life, it's about surviving your school years, about surviving your teenage years. So that might also mean surviving a difficult or challenging situation. The day was to help push ourselves outside of our comfort zone; survive a challenging experience and to have fun," she said.

The junior students joined senior students from the Level 2 Outdoor Education class 2OUT. "It was quite nice for the junior students to go along with the older students and interact with students of different ages to support one another. For the older students it was a good way to learn to encourage the younger ones.

"The Ignite program is providing junior students with these new kinds of opportunities, combining different curriculum subjects and placing them in a real-life context. The engagement from the students was amazing, as they had expected something like this from their PE course, not their English class," added Fenwick.

"It gave the students an opportunity to implement our school values in a different setting. There was a lot of empathy. I heard students cheering and encouraging one another. They were all being really determined. Because it was hard. It was really hard. It was windy and they were having to apply and independently manage themselves. A lot of those soft skills and transferable skills came into play."

COURSE BOOSTS CONFIDENCE

Over the April holidays, Kuranui student Izzy Wizzler attended an environmental leadership course with the Sir Peter Blake Trust and the Ministry for the Environment. BLAKE Inspire is a week long course designed to develop leadership skills as well as provide knowledge around sustainability and the environment. 56 students from New Zealand and the surrounding islands attended the course, which was held in Hamilton.



“I want to do marine biology, so the course fitted in really well with the things I am interested in. I got to meet a lot of marine biologists and people doing things that I want to do,” Izzy explained.

The course ranged from activities with the Royal New Zealand Navy, talking about what they do in terms of sustainability, to chatting with NIWA scientists about water pollution. The experience also focused on the cultural and political impacts, with the students visiting the local marae and talking to the mayor.

Izzy is passionate about how we look after the environment around us and believes that the course had given her confidence. “I feel more confident coming back into school to talk about what we learnt. These are real things which I need to bring back into school and talk to people about. It helped me to not feel so nervous about what other people think about those topics and that there are so many opportunities out there for me to help. It’s really pushed me, thinking about more sustainable practices.”

Izzy’s plan for next year is to study Marine Biology and Environmental Law at Victoria University in Wellington.

TOP FOUR PLACING

Kuranui sent two teams of four to participate in the Wairarapa Chess Regional Qualifiers for the NZ Chess Federation Finals at Masterton Intermediate School recently.

Run by members of the Manawatu Knights, Rathkeale College took the championship title, but after playing eight games, the Kuranui A team came third, and the Kuranui B team placed fourth.



Year 12 student Jayden Gray was crowned the Wairarapa Secondary Schools Individual Champion (the player with the most wins in the Secondary Schools Division). Congratulations also to Dylan Lark, Caelum Greaves, Charlie O'Connell, Kael West, Joshua Wiegman, Sam Hunter and Josh Price.

HEALTH CLINIC

The school clinic will be open during the term every Monday 9am-3pm, every Wednesday 9am-12 noon and every Thursday between 9am and 3pm. Mondays and Thursdays are nurse-only clinics while Wednesdays are doctor-only clinics. Sick, injured, wanting to discuss your health and wellbeing needs? Make an appointment to see either the nurse or the doctor via the drop box in the Health Centre or just pop in at morning tea or lunch time.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND SIGNING OUT

If your child is absent for any reason please let us know by phoning the college office on 06 30491 16 to leave a message.

If your child is absent from class first thing in the morning without explanation, we will send you a text message by no later than 9.45am asking for an explanation.

If your child feels unwell at school they are to report to the college office where they will be assessed and cared for. If the office staff think that your child should go home they will contact you. Please discourage your child from making contact directly with you.

NIMBLE SOLES



A small group of Kuranui performing arts students participated in the inaugural SGCNZ Dance Nimble Soles to celebrate Shakespeare and International Dance Day.

Florence Cater, Year 12, took the themes and ideas of "The Tempest" and converted it into a contemporary dance piece. After the choreography was worked, Caleb Webb, Kuranui's Year 13 percussionist, devised a score to accompany the dancers, including five drums and a rainstick. Hayden Tankersley reprised his role as Prospero, drawing on his skills in circus and the martial arts to find his movements. The piece came together well to show a building storm.

Our performing arts technology students were invited to work backstage. Josh Wiegman and Jackson Harbers spent the whole day running the sound and lighting, while Melissa Rolls and her small crew stage managed and ran the backstage elements. This gave the students industry experience in a working professional theatre setting which they all gained so much from.

The festival included dance pieces from Sri Lankan traditional dance telling the story of "Antony and Cleopatra" to a mime and sign language interpretation of "Romeo and Juliet". The festival also included a workshop to learn a traditional Shakespearean Jig, taught by Dawn Sanders from SGCNZ, which ended the evening with all the performers dancing on stage together.

SPORTS DESK

It has been an excellent start to the season for our Kuranui sports teams, with football, rugby, netball, basketball and hockey all up and running for the winter season! Our football teams began their season last week, with the 2nd XI Girls team winning their first game 5-0 on the Wednesday and our three boys' football teams playing their first round of grading games on the Saturday. Results from our boys teams were fairly mixed, with the 1st XI winning 17-0, 2nd XI losing 6-1, and 3rd XI losing 12-1.

Hockey

Our Boys 1st XI Hockey team had their first grading game vs St Matts 2nd XI, where the score was 4-0 at half time and 7-2 at full time! Despite heavy pressure from the girls in the first period of the game, the boys had three breakaway goals early on and continued to make the most of their opportunities throughout the game. It was a great hit out for the boys and showed great promise for the rest of the season, especially with the new boys in the squad gelling nicely with the rest of the team.

Our Mixed hockey team lost 3-1 against Rathkeale Renegades but put in awesome work throughout the entire match. It was a very close game, with special mention to Joe and Oliver for their hard work, and Matthew for scoring a well-taken goal in the first half.

Basketball

Our Senior Boys Basketball team had a huge win against Waicoll B, 51-5. It was a great game and Coach Derek was very happy with the result!

Our Senior Girls Basketball also had a win with their first game against Makoura, 15-3! The Junior A Boys team score was around 38-16, although it is hard to tell in such a fast game! The boys showed some excellent skills and worked well as a team despite it being their first game.

The Junior Bs final score was similar, 28-16 and was a very exciting game. There was excellent defence by Jack, Phoenix and Olly, with Daniel and Josh getting some good rebounds in. Nathan also had some great shots. Chanel came back stronger in the second half but the boys held them off for the win.

Football

Our second XI Girls' football team played at home again and had an unfortunate loss to a very skilled MIS team, 5-1. Maddy Bidwell scored Kuranui's goal.

Our Girl's 1st XI football team had a 10-0 WIN against Makoura 1st XI, played at Makoura. Despite having many new players in the team, the girls worked very well together and controlled the game right from the kickoff. Goals went to Dylen (6), Rosa (2), Amelia (1), Grace Aitken-Churcher (1).

Netball

Our netball teams have been completing their grading games over the last two weeks, where each team has been playing up to four games on a Saturday. All teams have been achieving some great wins and are looking forward to a successful season with the competition kicking off this Saturday.