



# WHANGAROA COLLEGE

## FORTNIGHTLY UPDATES



31st August 2018

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Kia ora whanau, this was a nice short week with our Monday mid-term break. Our students and teachers are rejuvenated and ready to finish the term strong. The newsletter is once again packed full of all the learning opportunities and activities on offer for our students.

Congratulations to our Tough Guy and Girl competitors for your perseverance and commitment over the year. A big "Whoop Whoop" to Archer for his 2nd placement in his section. Check out the fabulous pictures of them, covered in mud. We want to wish our AIMS Games competitors good luck for their trip in just over a week. Try your best and have fun! There are still tickets left for the hangi and bucket raffle. We also have some students off to the Northland Creative Youth Summit next week for three days. Looking forward to seeing your performances and art pieces when you return.

We are very proud of the many successes our students are making at the moment; working cooperatively to educate themselves about safe driving speeds around schools, involvement in sporting and cultural events, focused and deliberate choices to enjoy their learning such as using hydroponics to grow vegetables, creating small businesses, and striving for excellence in all their learning. Well done koutou ma! Aristotle once said "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit". So by continually putting in the effort and striving for excellence, you will find success.

Have a great week!



### AN INTERVIEW WITH...

Hon *John Carter* QSO

FAR NORTH MAJOR

The Senior Social and Community Pod students have been working hard on their research around safer speed zones around schools (particularly in rural areas). As part of their mahi, they need to conduct a series of interviews with different stakeholders in the community and conduct a survey to find out what the issues really are with speed and school safety. The students organised to interview two local primary principals, our local police officer, a representative of NZTA and our local Mayor, John Carter.

We were extremely pleased to host Mr Carter on August 21, at our school for the interview and he was able to explain the way the council makes decisions around road works and what initiatives they are undergoing in various parts of the Far North to deal with roading concerns. Mr Carter was also happy to work further with our students when they move into the next part of their project - actually doing something to reduce speed around school zones.

The students were all very pleased to meet the Mayor and to have someone really reach out to support them with their research and help with their ultimate aim - to bring greater awareness to reducing speed around our schools.

*Ms Davidson - Head of Learning Social & Community POD.*

## SOCIAL &

## COMMUNITY POD:

*The aim of our class is to work as a team to gather evidence, work through our findings and collate our ideas to form a hypothesis around the laws that govern what speed limits are set around schools. We want to find out if rural schools want to reduce the speed limits being set - as some of our schools are situated on roads with traffic traveling between 70-100km/hr.*

# ERO REPORT 2018

*The Education Review Office (ERO) visited in May to conduct their regular review. Even though we were just over a term into our new curriculum design and school management structure, ERO have clearly recognised the changes made and the growth and direction we are heading. "The school has made good progress to address many of the areas for improvement from the 2016 ERO external evaluation. The principal has established a more collaborative and consultative staff culture, and empowered staff to contribute to the school's decision-making." (ERO, 2018).*

ERO (2018) state "several wide-ranging initiatives are being implemented in 2018. This includes the new curriculum design and school leadership structure. These are critical changes strategically designed to better meet students' learning and wellbeing requirements and to drive initiatives." Furthermore, "the school curriculum is now much better aligned with the principles, values and key competencies of the New Zealand curriculum. It is also underpinned by culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices. The curriculum is now more learner centred and research informed" (ERO, 2018).

Leaders value community input and have consulted with the community to inform curriculum change. Finding ways to develop ongoing learning partnerships with families is a high priority for leadership to help accelerate student learning (ERO, 2018).

ERO (2018) identify over the past two years, other significant areas of school progress include but not limited to:

*A more orderly, caring and settled school environment*

*Higher expectations of learners, teachers and leaders*

*Evidence of improved student outcomes in Years 7 and 8*

*Useful assessment processes, and better systems for tracking and monitoring student progress*

*A more sustainable and growth orientated leadership approach*

*Improved Personnel Management supporting a more positive work environment*

*Increased accountability for teacher performance and student outcomes, underpinned by performance management processes that align with Education Council requirements"*

Sustainable performance and review (ERO, 2018)

- After some significant improvements, school leaders and Trustees are becoming more focused on scrutinising the impact of changes on student learning and adapting practices.
- The board is better placed to continue improving it's performance, focusing on sustainable change and Improvement.
- The principal is providing the board with useful and well-organised informed decision making and strategic planning.

Although our ERO report reflects significant improvement it is important for us to monitor and evaluate student progress, and student and staff well-being to ensure sustainable processes are in place to support the school moving forward.

Many principals and external agencies around the country acknowledge our student centred curriculum design and re-organised management structure is bold, innovative and courageous. Therefore, ERO will continue to support and monitor our progress over the next 1 to 2 years and I invite you all to be part of this very exciting journey.

To read the full report please visit:

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/whangaroa-college-27-06-2018/>



# NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOUGH GUY AND GAL CHALLENGE EXTREME OFF ROAD RUNNING EVENT



Congratulations to our Tough Guy and Tough Gal team for their efforts in the Auckland TGTG competition. Archer Sage placed 2nd for the 15 and under boys race.

Last week at around about 10:30am, I was neck deep in mud. Not just any mud but thick, swampy mud. The event was the annual Tough Guy and Gal challenge held across the country every year. This year's event, in Auckland, consisted of a 6km or 12km run through muddy obstacles, large barbed wires, an electric fence, a tall wooden climbing wall and a tonne load of mud. The mud bath was so deep I could barely stand in it!

In the months leading up to it we trained every Thursday for almost the whole school day, as well as everyday in Term Two. All that training didn't prepare us for the hardest part which was the last hill climb. We hiked this ginormous hill before plunging into a deep mud bath. This, although the hardest part, was definitely my favourite, and I ran and jumped straight in. My shoes fell off as I struggled to get out so I had to carry them for the last two kilometers. By this stage I was fairly sure I was more mud than human. Like the rest of our competitors I persevered and finished, tired but proud of the achievements made on the day.

The whole group did amazing. Archer Sage accomplished the event with a spectacular result, coming 2nd in the 6kms overall. Each of us received a free Hell Pizza Gourmet Voucher (valued at \$9.50), a Loaded sports drink, and a goody bag full of snacks after the event which was a bonus. The pizza was delicious and everyone had a good time and thrilling experience. All those months of hard work definitely paid off. After the event we went straight to the Parakai hot pools and soaked our weary bodies for at least five hours. Everyone who went this year wants to go again so watch out everyone that's going to compete next year for Whangaroa College!

We were all grateful to Matua Ben and Mrs Davidson around their organisation for this trip. Whilst the main purpose was the Tough Guy and Gal challenge, we were also fortunate to have other experiences. For the three day trip we were joined by Taipa Area School. This was awesome for our schools to bond together. We stayed at Maynard Camp, a beautiful 25 acre campsite which includes 85% regenerating native bush such as Kauri, located in Albany, Auckland. Whangaroa College took the top level while Taipa took the bottom level. Other experiences included bowling and laser tag at Xtreme, Wairau Park, a visit to Albany Mall and a movie experience watching The Darkest Minds.

It wasn't all play either. We had an opportunity to tour the Massey University Albany Campus. The grounds were massive and we were all amazed. Our group had the unique experience to go into one of the lecture halls and hear a presentation followed up with a quiz. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it although the questions were quite deceiving at times. It was really great to see what other opportunities there are out there for us.

Nikita Sanders (Year 11)

# HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WEEK 4



WEEK 5

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

### DOUBLE POINTS



#### Jonah Thompson

Willingness to help others with work, Mentoring and helping others with their learning.

#### Nakita Batters

Tautoko and support of junior student conducting interviews, Social POD research, organising for FNDC Mayor to be interviewed and typing transcript, Duffy Leader Assembly at Kaeo Primary.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK: 4/5

## Congratulations...

- Shaneil Batters** Excellent participation and discussion in class learning around learning disabilities.
- Kaya Pivac-Kool** For noticing the efforts of another student and acknowledging these to them.
- Anna-Lee Davies** Supporting younger students through the poetry game.
- Sherwin** game.
- Alisha Craven** Working cooperatively with others in Te Reo Maori.
- Archer Sage** Being the standout for Social POD - making the hard calls.
- Falcon Anderson** Sharing the fun and letting everyone have a go during the poetry game.
- David Frear** Exemplary Teina/Tuakana and for being an awesome team leader and photographer for Service POD in Russell.
- Katrina Morgan** Participation and helpfulness with Service POD to Russell.
- Leila Isherwood** Exemplary Teina/Tuakana for Services POD.
- Kaiya Scott** Helping others with ICT.
- Danielle Foley** Organising and completing interview for Social POD research.
- Georgia Mills** Conducting the interview with FNDC Mayor, Duffy Leader Assembly at Totara North Primary.
- Jaylah Bruce** Taking work home to complete without being asked - extending herself in English.
- Nikita Sanders** Duffy Leader Assembly at Totara North Primary.
- Joshua Jeffery** Stepping in while others were away (Chromebooks, English class).
- Lexus Hayes** Working exceptionally hard in her learning, with a smile on her face.
- Toruwiki Gregory** Commitment to learning new cooking techniques - Sponge Cake, Being a supportive learning peer and ensuring work is completed to a high standard.
- Rosealee Fell** Mentoring and helping others with their learning.
- Grace Flavell** Helping fellow class mates with mahi.
- Tumanako Stewart** Exceptional work ethic in Service POD and encouraging others to do well.
- Shynia Rika** Commitment to learning - Persuasive Writing

## COMING UP...

### WEEK 7:

September 5-9 - Creative Arts Northland  
Wednesday 11.20am - Assembly (Kauri led), Cara Epiha from Runanga to talk (Smoking Cessation programme).

### WEEK 8:

September 8-14 - AIMS Games.  
Wednesday 11.20am - Assembly (Matai led).

### UPCOMING:

Week 9 - Junior Rotation 3 begins, Y7-9 Volleyball.  
Week 10 - School finishes Friday 28 September.

**Monday 15th October -Term 4 Begins**

## KEEP IN CONTACT



Contact the school to connect to the app.



MOBILE APP: <https://goo.gl/zJGZWw>

