



Deputy Principal Message

Smooth Start

It has been a relatively smooth start to the school year with cultural events, sports and sports trainings, and whole-school activities being participated in and organised.

Only having been at the school for over a year now, it's great to see Ashburton College be able to provide a full range of opportunities to our ākonga/ students to showcase their gifts and talents, whilst having fun.

There is a noticeable change within the school with our new cell-phone management policy in place. The majority of our students are engaging with one another through face-to-face conversations, physical activity and positive interactions with one another.

I would like to thank the parents/caregivers of our students for their support of this significant change that hasn't only impacted on our students, but also our staff. Our staff have been very supportive, and have adjusted well to this change as we continue to deliver effective teaching and learning programmes for our ākonga/students.

In comparison with this time last year, we have more time to focus on supporting our ākonga/students in other areas.

Polyfest 2023

Our Polyfest group consisted of ninety-seven performers, which included a few students from Mount Hutt College. It was great to have both Ashburton College and Mount Hutt College represented on the Polyfest stage.

I was blown away with the time, commitment and effort the students have put into their performances. There was very little input from adults into the students' performance which indicates how rich and valuable this learning experience is for our ākonga/students.

We are in the process of planning for Polyfest 2024 and we look forward to having more people involved with our group. For me, it was a fulfilling experience to be part of and, in many ways, I am grateful for all of the people involved in getting our students ready for this great showcase of culture, language and identity.

Pasifika Family Fono

This year, we are holding tonight the College's first Pasifika Family Fono. The purpose of these fono (meeting/gathering) is to engage with our Pasifika community through talanoa (discussion) and celebration of our students' success.

We will also use this platform to invite organisations to connect with our students and parents/caregivers, to enhance their learning experience but also open their minds to options for the future.

For example, we will have a representative from Ara Institute of Canterbury to speak with our students and families about the opportunities they offer. We will be aiming to hold a fono once every term to update our parents/caregivers on what we're offering, but also to seek feedback on how we can better support our Pacific learners.

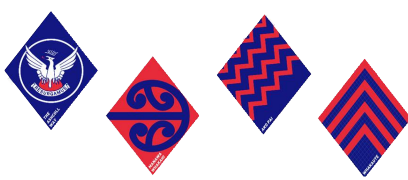
Hannibal Ikahiifo
Deputy Principal- Tumuaki Tuarua

Coming Events

Please note - * denotes subject to confirmation of student availability.

- April**
- 1** * TSNZ Smallbore Postal Challenge
 - 30 March-01 April** South Island Secondary Schools' Mountainbiking Championships, Coronet Peak, Queenstown.
 - 31 March-02 April** *South Island Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships, Invercargill
 - 01-02** Rhythmic Gymnastics CSS, Lincoln Events Centre, Lincoln
 - 03** Cricket, Willows XI v Wellington Wanderers, Basin Reserve, Wellington
 - 03-04** Year 10 Outdoor Education hike, Little Mt Peel (Group 1)
 - 04** Festival of the Spoken Word, 7:00pm, Auditorium
 - 05** * SpacPac Pacific Careers Expo, Ara, Christchurch
 - 05** Canterbury Secondary Schools' Dressage, McLean's Island, Christchurch
 - 05-06** Year 10 Outdoor Education hike, Little Mt Peel (Group 2)
 - 06** College Academic Blues Assembly, 11:30am, Chessboard
 - 07** * Rolleston Preseason tournament, Rolleston
 - 07** **Easter Holiday break, Good Friday**
 - 10-23** **Teacher Break holidays, including Easter Monday**
 - Refer below - no school 24 and 25 April.**
 - 14-16** * SISS Adventure Racing, Kaikoura
 - 24** **Teacher Only Day - College not open for instruction**
 - 25** **ANZAC DAY - public holiday**
 - 26-27** Year 11 Outdoor Education hike, Mt Somers.
 - 27-30** Year 13 trip to University of Canterbury
 - 29-30** * NZSS Trampoline and DMT, Wigram
 - 30** * Supernet Netball Promotion/Relegation, venue tbc

The
AshColl
Way



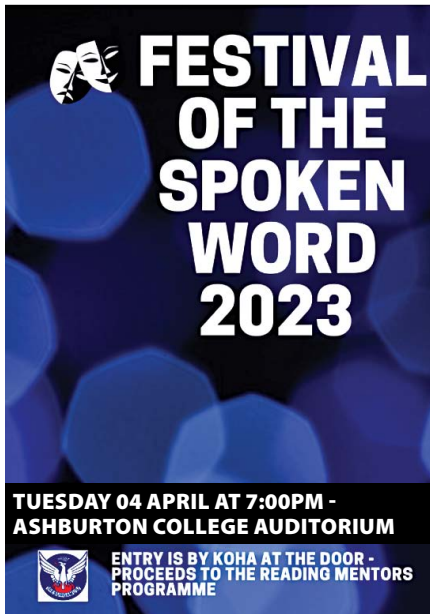
Information

Festival of the Spoken Word

This is a celebration of 'things spoken' and, again, it is a real pleasure to be presenting such College performances once again.

Categories include Serious Group pieces and Serious Monologues (Junior and Senior), Humorous Group pieces and Humorous Monologues (Junior and Senior).

Join us for this annual Festival and enjoy the talents of our students.



Traffic Safety - Walnut Avenue Entrance to College

We do ask that parents/caregivers who are dropping their children off to school, to please park on Walnut Avenue, and have their children walk into College on the pathway.

Up until the end of term this is especially important as work to the entrance-way continues.

The driveway only has single-lane access and it is important to avoid congestion, especially before and after school.

We thank you for your co-operation at this time, as our build implications progress.

Events

Year 11 AgHort Academy Students' Farm Visit

External visits are underway for our AgHort Academy Students and, in this newsletter, we look at their 22 February visit to Hewson Farms, an arable and vegetable farm in Pendarves/Chersey. Hosts for this visit were Ross and Rochelle Hewson.

Twenty three students were accompanied by three staff members James List, Sandra McLennan and AgHort Academy Co-ordinator Debbie van Rooyen. Students involved in this day were: Dean Archibald, Jessica Begg, Luke Cameron, Korin Chambers, Isaiah Cuthers, Thomas Easton, Levi Ecclestone, Tayla Estreich, Lily Higson, Brilee Hurst, Rico Hurst-Evangelista, Lachie Jones, Sam Keeley, Chloe Lovett, Daniel McBain, Adasyn McLean, Bradley Olin, Josh Patrick, Lucy Rotch, Hamish Stocker, Faith Tait, Tyler Tuki, Elsie-Marie Vlaanderen, Thomas Walker, Riley Wall, Guy Ward, Leighton Watson, Della Williams, Lucy Williams, Oliver Williams, Ruby Williams, Taylor Wilson.

Why The Visit?

Debbie tells us that the visit is part of the AgHort Academy programme, and through the Primary ITO (Industry Training Organisation) students are required to visit a variety of farms, factories and similar to gain a broad understanding of Agriculture in our region and the value chain from 'paddock to plate'.

What The Students Did:

The visit commenced with the necessary health and safety briefing at the main office. This was followed by a short talk from Ross including the history of the farm, what they farm, how they farm, soil 'care', crop rotations, farming for the export market and employment opportunities.

A walk through the onion fields to see the onions being harvested was the next step, plus an opportunity to get on board a harvester where the operator explained all the controls. Additionally was viewing the loading of onions and transporting them to the sheds, where washing and grading took place.

Appreciation

Ross and Rochelle have been hosting visits and providing work experience opportunities for our Year 12 students for several years now and we would very much like to thank them for supporting our programme. This is invaluable to students' learning.



(Pictured left): The group and staff.

Events

Orientation Morning: Exciting Opportunities for Students

Following a weather delay for the scheduled day of 22 February, this morning was held on Tuesday 07 March, with an impressive fifty displays showcased on the Chessboard.



(Pictured above): Students surrounding the various stalls.

Activities available covered sporting, cultural and recreational activities: Volleyball, Badminton, Equestrian, Student Librarians, Rowing, Esports, Golf, Croquet, Softball - Boys and Girls, Ashburton District Council Youth Council Trampoline/Gymnastic, AshDance, College Production, Phoenix Rising Junior Choir, Phoenix Chorus, AshColl Rainbow Community, Science Club Hockey - Girls and Boys, Ashburton District Council Library, Table Tennis, AshColl Netball, Mid Canterbury Netball, Sailing, TeenAg, Cadets Corp, Mountainbiking, Student Volunteer Army, Tennis, Basketball, Clay Target Shooting, Karate Club, Cycling - Road and Track, Rugby - Boys and Girls, Rogaine/Adventure Racing, YMCA, Debating, Gideons, Cricket - Boys and Girls, Squash, Rock Climbing, Football - Girls and Boys, Air Training Corp, Lawn Bowls, Futsal, Astronomy, Golf, Kapahaka, Student Writers' Group, Smallbore Rifle Shooting.

There are literally activities available for all at College and all interests, and we encourage students to become involved.

(Pictured right): Hannah White advertising involvement in Drama and the forthcoming College Production, to Caitlin Stewart.



(Pictured below, centre): Hayley McQuillen-Ross also advertising drama opportunities and involvement in the forthcoming College Production, to (left and right): Jess Lamb and Cassie Cumberlain.



(Pictured below, left): The Ashburton Cadet Unit is always a popular exhibit.



(Pictured below, right): Ben Jurd promoting the College Science Club, to (front to back): Theo Vannini, Ryan Heal, Lucas Wong.

Providing these opportunities for College students are countless volunteers and College staff. Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray is to be thanked for the work she puts in to ensuring the morning happens and that there is such a wide variety of options available. We thank, too, our Caretakers Richard Horrell and Warren Reid for their part in setting up equipment.



Congratulations

Cycling New Zealand National Track Championships - Podium Finishes for Year 9 Student Eliza McKenzie

Cycling New Zealand's National Track Championships were held at the SIT Velodrome in Invercargill from March 01-05, involving Under 15 competitors through to Elite Men and Women.

The programme was set with a variety of races each day, with qualifying in the morning and finals at night. This meant Eliza mixed with her own age group through to elite level international athletes, which was very exciting to both be a part of and watch.

The Under 15 girls' competitions were formed from a very strong pool from around New Zealand, including experienced velodrome riders from both Invercargill and the Waikato. Eliza was excited to ride for Mid-South Canterbury and match it with the best track riders from around the country.

Results were -

Eliza opened her campaign with a steady Elimination Race, where she was just caught with four laps remaining.

Her next race was the 500m Time Trial, where, after a slightly cautious start, she produced the second fastest finishing lap to give her real confidence in her speed. A very narrow finish in the Derby saw her just outside the medals.

Bronze Medal Finish

The real excitement came on Friday in the Points Race. This is a 7.5km race, with four sprint laps for points, meaning there is a lot for the cyclists to keep track of during the race. After a long season of endurance training and expert coaching from Don Kirdy at the Tinwald Cycling Club, Eliza rode a really smart race, timing her sprints well and gathering points.

At 1km from home she decided to go on her own. With four long laps of maximum speed on her own at the front and the commentator getting the crowd to cheer her solo effort as the pack chased her, she managed to grab coveted double points to finish in the bronze medal position. This was described as a gutsy ride, with Eliza really deserving of the success.



(Pictured right): Eliza having received her bronze medal.

4th Placing

Eliza then backed up her Bronze Medal performance on Saturday with another very plucky ride, to finish in 4th placing, on a photo-finish in the Scratch Race.

Team Silver Medal

The final day of the National Championships is team race day.

Eliza was really excited to pair with her fantastic fellow Mid-South Canterbury team mate Sophie Best, in the Girls' Under 15 Team Sprint, where Sophie led Eliza out, with Eliza finishing in the sprint.

The girls rode really well in qualifying to knock out their North Island opponents and, at the completion of qualifying, they were the second-fastest time to ride the Gold Medal match on Sunday evening!

With great excitement and plenty of support from their team and in the stands (and a National Title on the line), they did everything they could and lowered their morning time by a significant .5 seconds, to finish second to a duo from Christchurch.

(Pictured right, front and back): Sophie Best and Eliza McKenzie in the team sprint.



(Pictured below, on the second place podium, left and right): Eliza McKenzie and Sophie Best with their silver medals.



This was a really exciting week for Eliza after a long season of training and racing to reach the Nationals, which included racing sessions at the velodromes in both Christchurch and Timaru, along with training and racing at Tinwald also. Eliza has been carefully conditioned and guided by Tinwald Cycling's legend

Don Kirdy, backed by a very generous club with time and gear, along with strong support from Stoked Cycles in Ashburton and a great team from Cycling South Canterbury on the ground in Invercargill.

To gain national podiums has been the ultimate goal, so she has arrived home and back to school, a very happy cyclist.

South Island Track Championship Match - Gold Medal



(Pictured left): Eliza, having taken the Gold Medal at the above Championship Match, held a few weeks prior to the Nationals, at Denton Park, Christchurch and hosted by Canterbury Track Cycling.

Eighteen Titles from Aoraki

Athletics Championships

This is the first year since 2020 that a full-field Aoraki Athletics Championships has been able to have been held, and this year they were held in the Ashburton Domain, on Wednesday 15 March, giving a 'home court' advantage, said local organiser and College Head of Sport Ron Carlson.

Ashburton College had twenty-eight athletes competing on the day, with some very pleasing results gained - being eighteen titles, seven second placings and ten third placings.

Seventeen schools from the Aoraki region had athletes competing.

Ashburton College Team Members were -

Curtis Bayston, Callum Begg, Jack Bennett, Zoe Bland, Sarah Brandsma, Riley Broker, Ollie Bubbs, Kalyam Chalmers, Kate Cochrane, Malaika Dunlea, Joshua Eketone, Ashlee Estreich, Tayla Estreich, Sarai Faalavai, Holly-Jane Feutz, Isla Gilbert, Tamati Graham, Toby Grant, Fletcher Hobbs, Kris Jamieson, Alex Kenure-Blackley, Rishaan Kumar, Jack Middleton, Kingsley Olawale, Hamish O'Reilly, Elima Soalii, Kalotia Ula, Makaleta Ula, Rose Vannini.

Double Title Winners were:

Toby Grant	Under 15 Boys'	Discus - 1.25kg; (40.43m) Shot Put - 5 kg (11.34m)
Rishaan Kumar	Under 15 Boys'	200m (24.90) 400m (57.60)
Kalyam Chalmers	Under 15 Boys'	1500m (4:49.20) 3000m (10:28.40)
Curtis Bayston	Under 14 Boys'	Shot Put - 4kg; (10.61m) Discus - 1kg; (26.36m)
Josh Eketone	Under 16 Boys'	Discus - 1.25kg; (43.00m); Shot Put - 5kg; (11.85m).

Single Titles Winners were:

Kate Cochrane, Malaika Dunlea, Ashlee Estreich, Isla Gilbert	
Elima Soalii	Under 14 Girls' 4x100m - Relay
Kingsley Olawale	Under 15 Boys' Javelin - 700gm (30.69m)
Riley Broker	Under 16 Boys' Long Jump (5.69)
Kate Cochrane	Under 14 Girls' 800m (2:20.10)
Isla Gilbert	Under 14 Girls' 100m (13.90), first equal
Sarai Faalavai	Under 14 Girls' High Jump (1.38m)
Alex Kenure-Blackley	Under 14 Boys' Discus - 1kg; (21.55m)
Tamati Graham	Under 14 Boys' 800m (2:21.70) Long Jump (5.19m)

Additional Placings were:

2nd placings	
Jack Middleton	Boys' Under 19 400m
Toby Grant	Boys' Under 15 Javelin
Alex Kenure-Blackley	Boys' Under 14 400m
Kris Jamieson	Boys' Under 14 100m (2nd equal).
Kate Cochrane	Girls' Under 14 Javelin
Malaika Dunlea	Girls' Under 14 Shot Put
Isla Gilbert	Girls' Under 14 Long Jump
Kate Cochrane	Girls' Under 14 100m

3rd placings

Riley Broker	Boys' Under 16 400m
Kingsley Olawale	Boys' Under 16 100m (3rd equal)
Elima Soalii	Boys' Under 15 Javelin and Discus
Rishaan Kumar	Boys' Under 15 100m
Jack Bennett	Boys' Under 14 Discus
Holly-Jane Feutz	Girls' Under 19 800m
Malaika Dunlea	Girls' Under 14 Discus, Shot Put
Ashlee Estreich	Girls' Under 14 Long Jump, 200m, 100m

From this event we will have thirteen athletes representing Ashburton College at the South Island Championships being held in Invercargill on 01-02 April.

We acknowledge, with appreciation, College volunteer Chris Buckland (Finish Line Judge); and staff members James List (Long Jump), Ron Carlson (Triple Jump) who were officials on the day; and Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray for time supporting the efficient running of the day, including pre-organisation.



(Pictured left): Under 15 Boys' title winner Toby Grant having just released the Shot Put.



(Pictured right): Josh Eketone, Under 16 Boys' Shot Put title winner, winding up for Shot Put release.



(Pictured left): Long-distance exponent and title winner of the Under 15 Boys' 1500 and 3000m events, Kalyam Chalmers.



Photos by Year 13 photography student, Joelle Watson

Eight Medals at South Island Secondary Schools' Rowing Championships

Held at Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel, this event is an important build-up to the AON Maadi Cup national regatta which the team is away at currently.

College staff liaison Kirsty Moffett said that months of hard training paid off for the Ashburton College Rowing Squad over the weekend of 10-12 March. The team trains at Lake Hood over eight sessions a week for approximately 20 hours. This dedicated and disciplined squad of twenty three rowers made their way to Lake Ruataniwha on 10 March to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools' Rowing Regatta, to compete against thirty six other schools.

Rowing conditions were excellent on Friday with most crews making A Finals on the Saturday. However, on Saturday, wind affected finals racing in the afternoon which brought about a delay to Sunday. This meant some rowers had more races than expected, in breezy conditions. Despite this, the team produced outstanding results.

Inside the Top Ten

The goal of making the top fifteen schools at the regatta was well and truly met, with Ashburton College gaining 9th place from the thirty six schools.

Key Results were:

Gold Medal	
Sophie Gibson	Under 17 Single Scull
Sienna Skilling and Isabel Wall	Under 17 Double Scull
Silver Medals	
Sophie Gibson	Under 16 Single
Bronze Medals	
Drew Gilbert and Caleb Armstrong	Boys' Under 18 Novice Double
Sienna Skilling, Rosa Armstrong, Isabel Wall, Jemma Bent and Lily Davidson (Cox)	Under 17 Quad
Maddie Marshall and Penny Marriott	Under 18 Novice Double Sculls
Tim Connelly-Whyte	Under 18 Single Scull
Sienna Skilling and Isabel Wall	Under 17 Coxless Pair



(Pictured above): The College team at the AON Maadi Cup Opening Parade, of approximately 2000 competitors, on Sunday 26 March.