



Message From The Principal

College Re-Build

Our new build is underway and the progress is pleasing. We will soon be 'out of the ground' with this first block which marks a significant milestone. We have pledged to retain as many of our existing trees as possible. However, inevitably, there is going to be some felling required to encompass the new blocks and realigned vehicle access. We did have to remove six trees from our frontage to enable a new pick up/drop off area to be created.

Between the two gymnasiums the new changing rooms will be under construction, however this build won't be visible from outside of our campus. The timeframe for these new changing rooms is to have them ready for the onset of winter.

Cellphone Policy

There seems to be plenty of positive support for our decision to restrict cellphone usage on our campus during school hours. Most parents and caregivers recognise that this move is designed with the best interests of our students in mind.

Of course, there will be times when parents need to contact their child about an urgent matter. These messages can be managed via the College Office.

Our notification system, if your child is absent from class, will still continue in order to keep parents and caregivers updated. All our established pastoral and guidance systems will continue next year.

The altered cellphone policy was a very considered decision by our Board of Trustees and has been under discussion and development for the last five terms.

NCEA Exams

NCEA exams, nationally, have another week to run. I would like to acknowledge our exam supervisors for their valued work during this time. It is essential we have people ready to undertake this responsibility, and my thanks certainly go to these temporary staff members. This year's round of external exams finish on Friday 02 December.

Looking Ahead to 2023

This is a difficult time of year for all schools as we attempt to be fully staffed for the following year. Teachers are in short supply throughout the world and especially within New Zealand.

Teachers leave for a variety of valid reasons, including retirement, moving into other vocations, maternity leave, promotion, or they move to other locations within the country. All of these factors are in play during Term Four and the pressure is on. As a simple example, we recently interviewed an impressive and experienced teacher. This candidate had a choice of three positions on offer.

The question becomes what will happen if we cannot find suitably qualified staff to teach in an area. Sometimes we can find a recently retired teacher to fill the vacancy, but otherwise we may have to consider withdrawing that subject from our extensive menu of curriculum offerings.

There are many attractions to living in our region, so spare a thought for colleagues in schools which are not so attractive.

Many thanks.



Ross Preece
Principal - Tumuaki

Board of Trustees News . . .

COVID Impacts

Once again we have had a year dominated by COVID-19.

This year we farewelled our 2022 Year 13 students who have only known NCEA and COVID-19 together. I congratulate them and all our other students for their perseverance during these disrupted times. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our teaching staff during an extremely challenging year. As both a Board Member and a parent, I would like to say that all your efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated.

New Build

It is so nice to be able to see progress on our new build, and it is very exciting to see the beginnings of what our College will look like in the near future. While we still have some work to do to finalise the last parts, it is great to see things getting underway. Hopefully the build will stay on schedule and we will be using the first new block at the start of 2024.

Staff Farewells

As with a school the size of ours, we have a number of staff who are moving on to new positions following the end of this year. We thank them all for their time and commitment to AshColl and wish them all the best with their new positions. We are very fortunate to have so many who will put so much into our school and our students.

Particular appreciation goes to our long-serving staff who are leaving us at the end of this year to undertake a variety of new ventures and challenges. More tributes will be accorded to these people, closer to year-end, and in the newsletter, but we do acknowledge the sterling contributions to the College from –

- **Anne Williams** - Teacher Librarian, eDean and NetNZ Board Member. Anne has given twenty eight years of quality and committed contributions to Ashburton College.

- **Carolyn Clough** - current Head of Junior School and teacher of Science, Carolyn has contributed tirelessly across many spheres at Ashburton for twenty five years.

- **Maxine Watson** - Maxine was a previous Chair of the College Board of Trustees and, for the past almost eighteen years, has been a part-time, very knowledgeable Library Assistant and archivist of College memorabilia.

Student Cellphone Use from the Start of 2023

By now you will hopefully be aware that the Board of Trustees has made the decision to restrict student cellphone use during school hours from the start of the 2023 school year.

This decision was not made lightly and was made with our students' learning and welfare being front of mind. There are a number of other schools which have now implemented this type of policy and are reporting very positive outcomes.

AshColl Board of Trustees Appreciation and Welcome

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I would like to offer a sincere thank you to Board Members who have now finished their terms on the Board.

Firstly, we thank **Chinatsu Hunt**, our Student Representative from November 2021 for her term of office. Chinatsu offered some valuable student viewpoints as well as being a part of all full Board matters. The Board values the Student Representative perspectives around the table.

We also thank **Mark Aguila** who was a Selected Board Member from August 2019 through until September 2022.

Former Chairperson, **Jeremy Savage**, has given significant time and energy to the Board since appointed as a Selected Member in December 2015. A seven year tenure, of real commitment, is not something to be acknowledged lightly.

Jeremy was Deputy Chairperson from February 2017 and Chairperson for three years from February 2018. I thank Jeremy for his dedication and leadership of the Board during his tenure.

We have now welcomed **Matt Cassineri** as an Elected Parent Representative, and **Coby Snowden** as a Co-opted Parent Representative, and **Safala Sigaga** as our new Student Representative. We look forward to their input on the Board.

Student Farewells

To all our students who have left or are leaving this year, we hope you have enjoyed your journey through your years at Ashburton College. Thank you to those who have stepped up and taken on leadership roles this year. I hope you have gained some valuable experiences from these roles.

I trust you all remember your friendships and time learning here fondly, and continue to use our College Values of Quality, Pride and Respect as you move on to the next stages of your lives.



Ngā mihi nui
Jen Muir
Board Presiding Member

Information

Ashburton College Netball Club Submissions of Interest

Applications are now open for Submissions of Interest for Coaches and Managers for all of our College Netball teams for the 2023 netball season.

There is a very supportive and well-resourced Club and Committee behind our Coaches and Managers.

For further details please contact our President Karen Burrows on 027 031 67194 or email your submission to Club Secretary angescammell@hotmail.com.

Submissions of interest close Friday 02 December 2022.

Forthcoming Events

November

25 2023 New Entrants' Morning

December

01 Te Whare Manaaki: Big Sing workshop, Auditorium

02 NCEA exams finish

04 Year 13 Graduation Dinner, Hotel Ashburton

06 'Get Out There' (GOT) Day

09-11 NZSS Track, Field and Road Championships, Inglewood

2022 End-of-Year Final Days, Prize-Givings, Events

Parents, caregivers, family/whānau, friends and interested community members are most welcome to attend the Prize-givings.

December

04 Leavers' Graduation Dinner, Hotel Ashburton, arrive at 6:30pm, seated at 7:00pm

Congratulations

Staff v Student Executive Chess Match – Sixth Consecutive Victory to the Staff!

Taking place on the Chessboard on Friday 28 October, this annual event was again held according to the moves of an historical set game of Chess, with the actual game to be followed drawn out of a 'hat' between the Student Executive and Staff. This is done under strict supervision - being the eagle eyes of staff members at the preceding staff briefing meeting.

This year's game was the moves of Anish Giri v Alexander Morozevich, in 2012. In black are Student Executive members, while Staff are in white.

The shifting and removal of chess players, however, varies from the more sedate movement of Chess pieces, and is aided by copious amounts of water! Fortunately the weather complied once again and a good time was had by all.

We are assured that this annual end-of-year event started in the early College days as a very formal affair, with players wearing 'boards' depicting their positions. At some stage it morphed into the event it is today, always a lot of fun, and providing wonderful opportunities for students to douse staff and vice versa. It can be challenging to distinguish between staff and students when it comes to enthusiasm and water skills.

Long-Serving Staff Member

As is also traditional, the staff moves are made by a well-respected, long-serving staff member who is leaving College. Retiring Teacher Librarian, eDean, NetNZ Board Member Anne Williams was accorded this honour this year.

(Pictured right, clockwise from the front): Making the moves are retiring staff member Anne Williams, College Chess Champion Jonathon Kilgour, with Teacher Tom Kitchen overseeing.

(Pictured left, clockwise from far left): Staff members Pete Lee, Annie Lees and Cheyenne Parris intent on dousing Head Students Jack Brown and Jorja Roulston.

(Pictured right, left and right): Deputy Head Student TC Trusler-Clark and staff member Josh Sim go head-to-head via a bucket of water.

(Pictured above): The two teams combined for the post-match photo.

Head Students' watery farewell to Head of Senior School Abbey Bruce (pictured above, left to right): Deputy Head Students T C Trusler-Clark, Millar Newlands, Head of Senior School Abbey Bruce, Head Students Jack Brown, Jorja Roulston.

Given this will doubtless be double security for next year's chess match draw, there was the sixth consecutive victory for the staff side! The students are vocal in their belief that there is a conspiracy for all Student v Staff competitions, with the staff coming out on top regularly.

Strong Results from Athletes at Aoraki Athletics Championships

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Results Included Two New Records for College Students

Despite this, the College athletes competed very well, topping off the day with two new records, ten first placings, three second placings and one 3rd placing.

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Toby Grant – New Meet Record

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For Toby, this was his last event of the day, and taking into account the day had operated on a shortened programme, from 10:00am-1:00pm rather than 9:00am-4:00pm, and that he had already competed in three previous events, this record was impressive.

Additional Results were - Kalym Chalmers

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Joshua Eketone

- 1st Boys' Under 15 Shot Put, 11.85m (5kg)

- 2nd Boys' Under 15 Discus Throw, 36.56m (1.25kg)

Toby Grant

- 1st Boys' Under 14 Discus Throw, 33.29m (1kg)

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- 2nd Boys' Under 14 200m, 26.04

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Lusungu Mbambo

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Luke Hay, New Zealand First Equal Place-Getter in Mathematics

Year 11 student Luke Hay recently received advice of his outstanding ICAS Mathematics Medal Award.

ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) competitions have been operating for forty years, with the intent to inspire, celebrate and challenge school students across Australia, New Zealand and the world.

Competition questions are set in modern, real-world scenarios where students are assessed on their ability to apply classroom learning to new contexts, using higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. The subjects span Literacy (English, Writing and Spelling Bee); and STEM (Science, Digital Technologies and Mathematics).

Medal Award for first equal place in New Zealand

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This was an online Mathematics problem-solving competition. This took place on 31 August, with those results reported on at the time, at which time we reported also on Luke's notable outcome.

However, the top student results and their awards were released following the earlier notified outcomes.

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Events

Further to an earlier newsletter, we noted that throughout every school year Ashburton College students have many opportunities to learn outside the classroom, and to attend personal development courses and workshops in College. As we wrap up the 2022 school year, we continue to look at some of these events, and some achievements of students.

Antarctic Centre Trip

The objective of these visits was to assist students for an Internal/Research Assessment Standard.

Teacher of Science Heena Shah said that, on 27 September Year 12 Science students undertook the Antarctic Centre Trip.

The programme started at 10.00am, leading into a day that was 'jam-packed' with good learning about Antarctica. The students learnt about the climate and weather conditions at the Antarctic as well as the organisms that have adapted to live in the harsh conditions there.

The penguin enclosure was visited, with learning taking place about penguin behaviours in the wild and in the enclosure. This was followed by a presentation about Antarctic weather and climate, and about animals and their adaptations to help them survive on and around the extreme environment of Antarctica.

The trip also involved a 4D movie experience about the research that is being conducted in the Antarctic, plus a Håglund ride and storm room experience. The Håglund Snow Vehicle, replicating what is used in the Antarctic for transportation, provided a fun-riding experience. It gave students a good idea of terrain and hurdles faced in the Antarctic. This was followed, with the use of models, by an interactive demonstration on waves, light and the length of the day.

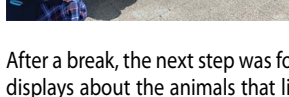
(Pictured left, back row, left to right): At the Centre, in front of the Håglund are Cody Robin, Head of Science Faculty Mary Jones, Science Teacher Heena Shah, Katie Wood, Orpah Silo, Lyn Militante.

(Front row, left to right): Kate Peterson, Lily Williams, Ruby Williams, Harmony Shea.

After a break, the next step was for students to collect information from the displays about the animals that live in the Antarctic and their adaptations, prior to the Storm Room visit where a temperature of minus 28 degree gave a very real insight into the Antarctic windchill factor.



(Pictured left): The students in the Storm Room.



(Pictured left): Danny Glanville on the Snowmobile.



Heena noted that, all-in-all, it was a fun day with a lot of learning that linked to the Year 12 Earth and Space Science and the Achievement Standard to 'Investigate how organisms survive in 'Extreme Environments'. On returning to College students worked on completing this internal assessment task.



The feedback from the students is always positive as the experience has made the connections to their learning much clearer.



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Student Executive Year 13 Legacy Project

Offlatter years the Student Executive and Year 13 students have worked to decide on a Legacy Project which they will leave for upcoming students to benefit from.

In line with our College's emphasis on our Values of Quality, Pride and Respect, some very impressive treadpad flags have been designed for use at College and at College events.

(Pictured right): Head Student Jack Brown holding the front flag.

Student Executive members for this past year were Jorja Roulston, Jack Brown, TC Trusler-Clark, Millar Newlands, Claudia Thomas, Amelie Robertson, Lusungu Mbambo, Campbell McBride, Caendal Harris, Henry Wallis, Tielu Iakopo, Zane Cameron, Alex Bateman, Jonathon Kilgour; with Chinatsu Hunt a previous member before leaving College.



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