



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 3
23 February 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Rangitata Block

As many of you will have noted, the new build of our Rangitata Block is charging ahead. By the publication date of this newsletter, the concrete slab should be complete and the roof and wall trusses in place.

This block is scheduled for hand-over in mid-November. This will enable our current S Block contents to be transferred to the Rangitata Block and then demolished over the December/January break.

We are certainly grateful that our good weather hasn't caused the disruptions that have impacted on many North Island schools.

Cellphone Restrictions

This year, as families are aware, we moved to restrict cellphone use on campus during school hours. The criteria has been made very clear to students and, overall, we are pleased with how students have adhered to the policy.

The requirements are clear and have been clearly communicated to students - the first time a student is seen on campus with a phone, their phone is collected from the office at the end of that day. The second time a student is seen with a phone, the cell phone is collected by the student at the end of the week, or by a parent upon request. A third time a student is seen with a phone, the cell phone is collected by the student at the end of the term, or by a parent upon request.

There have been two immediately apparent benefits. At intervals and lunch times a large number of students are sitting around and talking. As we walk around the campus there is a positive hum of conversation. Secondly, teachers are reporting that they are getting through more class work without students being distracted.

PPTA Pending Industrial Action

The PPTA (Post Primary Teachers' Association) has notified schools of pending industrial action, voted in by PPTA members to put pressure on the Government to increase their offer as part of the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement negotiations.

Currently PPTA members are undertaking a relief ban which means that teachers will not cover extra classes if external relievers aren't available. At the moment, our pool of relief teachers is adequate to meet this challenge. However, as school activities increase and winter illnesses appear, we will be under pressure. Our priority is to maintain teaching/learning and assessment.

Advice is that the relief ban will be reviewed by the PPTA Executive Committee at the end of February.

The PPTA Executive Committee has approved Thursday 16 March as the date of the one-day strike. Sadly, such interruptions are regrettable but unavoidable.

This date clashes with our scheduled Ako interview day, so we are moving the interviews forward to Wednesday 15 March because we regard these interviews as vital to maintaining our school-home partnership.

Last year we had 87% of our families attending Ako interviews which shows they are valued by our College community of families.

Have a great week.



Ross Preece
Principal • Tumuaki

Staff – Appreciation

Debbie van Rooyen

We noted in our previous newsletter that Debbie has relinquished her positions as Gateway/Trades Co-ordinator, which she has held since starting at College in 2017, but has retained the AgHort Academy Co-ordinator sector of her role.

As Debbie makes this transition we want to acknowledge the well-recognised quality of her work within, and contributions to, the Gateway/Trades Co-ordinator position. Debbie has a range of specific skill and inter-personal strengths which were used to the benefit of students and in maintaining and developing community business links without which these programmes could not operate.

Students and staff acknowledge Debbie's input in supporting students' experiences and future pathways.

We are very pleased to be retaining her skills in the AgHort space.

Staff – Best Wishes

Mel Evans

Over time, a number of staff uplift their parental leave entitlement and in this newsletter we wish Mel Evans, Head of Faculty Mathematics, all the very best as she commences her leave.

Staff – Farewell

Duncan McKee

Subsequent to having had a teaching training practicum at Ashburton College, Duncan was with us as a teacher of Science during 2022, in a fixed-term parental leave position, and also subsequently in an additional relief position until close to the end of last year.

Duncan is acknowledged as having had a big impact on the Science Faculty and the wider school. He quickly formed positive relationships with the students, and went out of his way to get to know students, their names and what was happening in their lives.

Duncan was also instrumental in starting up Science Fair with his Year 9 classes, with good success; as well as getting Science Badges up and running across the junior classes.

Outside of class, Duncan coached the College Fussball (table football) team, and transported them to their games every week.

Duncan presented as a teacher passionate about Science, and a teacher who wanted to inspire students to be curious about what Science has to offer. His contributions were greatly appreciated at College and he is wished all the best for his future endeavours and career in teaching.

Amanda Hewson

Amanda Hewson started at Ashburton College in Term Four, 2011, in a fixed-term maternity leave position, teaching in the Social Sciences Faculty. This morphed into teaching NCEA Level 1 History and Level 2 Classics, plus three Junior Social Studies classes through 2012.

This time was followed by a permanent, full-time teaching load covering History, Social Studies and, at times, English.

In latter years Amanda uplifted her maternity leave entitlement late 2018 to Term 4 2019 and, again, from July 2020. Late last year, she made the decision to resign and focus on other aspects of her life.

Amanda was recognised as a passionate, knowledgeable and engaging teacher of Social Studies and History. She brought out the best in learners by creating topics and learning activities that drew on the interests of her students.

Back in 2013 she was part of the Pasifika Success Talanoa Project through a Professional Learning Group.

Her collaborative and creative approach was appreciated by all her colleagues, who miss her sunny disposition and kind nature.

During her time at College, Amanda, a former rower herself, was also teacher liaison for AshColl Rowing; accompanying the team to various regattas, working with athletes on race preparation, and helping with general organisation. Involvement with the AshColl Ski and Snowboard team was another area of contribution.

We acknowledge, with appreciation, Amanda's contribution to the life and work of Ashburton College and wish her well for her current and future ventures.

Information

Ako Interviews/College Closure, Wednesday 15 March

Please note that the College will be closed for normal instruction on this day (note date change), in order to hold Ako interviews for all year levels.

These interviews provide opportunity for students to share information, and review goals and progress, with their Ako teacher and parent/caregiver.

The interviews will be held at Ashburton College, from 10:00am-8:00pm, in students' Ako Rooms.

Fifteen minutes is allocated for each interview.

Families are to book their interview times on-line, and this information will be provided to families, closer to the time.

If you are unable to book online please contact the College Office, 308 4193.

All students/families are expected to attend an Ako Interview on the day, with their parent/caregiver.

Senior students may attend on their own if their parent/caregiver is unable to come in.

Information

AshDance Returns to the College Cultural Calendar

We invite you to come and enjoy an entertaining evening, showcasing a range of skilled and talented performers.



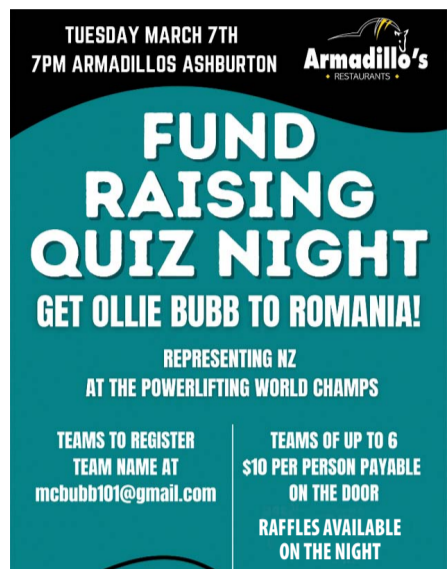
Fundraising Quiz Night

This event is coming up, providing an opportunity for a good fun evening out plus supporting Ashburton College Year 13 student Ollie Bubb to raise funds to travel to represent New Zealand.

Powerlifters are not funded by the New Zealand Powerlifting Federation, which makes fundraising an essential part of representing their country.

Team entries:

Secure your team's entry by emailing to the address on the poster. Be sure to enter soon to avoid missing a spot. Once maximum numbers are reached, entries will be closed off.



Coming Events

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

February

25-26 * South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis, Christchurch
28 College Athletics Finals

March

01 Postponement Day, College Athletics Finals
* Inter-schools' Equestrian, Pleasant Point
* Singletracks Mountain Biking Round 1, Halswell Quarry Park
Year 12 Outdoor Education, Kayaking, Lake Hood
02 Full College Assembly, 11:30am
02-03 Year 12 Outdoor Education Hike, Pinchgut Hut, Okuku Range
03 Year 12 History trip, Akaroa
03-05 *South Island Secondary Schools' Mainland Volleyball Championships, Christchurch
05 Aoraki and SISS Triathlon-Duathlon Championships, Oamaru
07 Orientation Morning, 10:45am-11:30am
08 * Singletracks Mountain Biking Round 2, Halswell Quarry Park
* CSS Dressage, McLean's Island, Christchurch
Year 12 Outdoor Education Kayaking, Lake Hood
10-12 South Island Secondary Schools' Meridian Rowing Championships, Lake Ruataniwha
12 Aoraki Secondary Schools' Touch Tournament, Timaru
14 AshDance, College Auditorium, 7:00pm
15 * Aoraki Athletics, Ashburton
* Singletracks Mountain Biking Round 2, Halswell Quarry Park
Year 12 Outdoor Education Kayaking, Lake Hood
Ako Interviews, 10:00am – 8:00pm
16 College closed for instruction – PPTA teachers' strike day
16 or 17 Postponement days: Aoraki Athletics
16-17 Year 12 Geography trip, Mt Cook



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Foundation Studies Students Sign Te Tiriti O Ara Tupu 2023 / The Treaty of Foundation Studies 2023

A very meaningful student and staff gathering took place in teacher Liz Carrick's classroom on Thursday 16 February, which included a student and staff commitment to their treaty which had been collectively worded and agreed to.

Signing this tiriti, before taking part in kai, signified the commitment of the students and staff to both work to its values.

The tiriti wording signifies a lot of work from the students in the two weeks preceding today's occasion, with everything on the document being the students' own work. The number of copies signed allowed for them to be placed in each classroom the Foundation Studies students are in.



(Pictured right): The finished Te Tiriti O Ara Tupu.

First South Island School to Undertake New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Studies

This is a new certificate available to our students, as a tertiary qualification, success at which includes an NCEA Level 1 pass. The course is designed to lead all students to further opportunities whether they choose a Polytechnic Course, or NCEA Level 2 or to stay on at school for a further one or two years.

Lead teacher Liz Carrick said that the whole programme honours the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with part of the certificate attainment process being to look at and learn about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and for rangitahi to be able to learn about the real qualities of leadership.

Inherent in this philosophy is understanding the meaning and realities of making an agreement with people and staying with what was agreed to, alongside managing selves and establishing quality life skills.

AshColl Values

Inter-connected is understanding, and operating by, the AshColl Values of Quality, Pride and Respect linked with 'the three P's' below.

Te Tiriti O Ara Tupu 2023 – 'the three P's'

The fundamental values of the Treaty are what the students and staff will use as their guiding principles throughout the year, working to the three P's of:

- Partnership/Ko-au-ko-koe (I am you, you are me)
- Participation/Mahitahi and (Work as one)
- Protection/Hauora (Well-being)

This talks about behaviours and how to treat each other to gain the best learning outcomes for all. Liz said it fundamentally sets the scene for the year, with teachers and students working as equal partners, and students able to pull teachers up if they don't adhere to the tiriti principles.

Participating Parties

The programme involves the students' English, Mathematics and Foundation Studies teachers, and continues the philosophy of what was the Innovation Programme of previous years, but is now practise for all junior students, with all working together to gain the best outcomes they can achieve.

Partnership Between Teachers and Students

As part of this classroom session, Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikahihifo spoke to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, what a treaty means, the importance of understanding its meaning and staying true to the promises made when signing any treaty or agreement.

Teaching and Support Staff members involved in working with the Foundation Studies students then spoke to the students, outlining their commitment to what they were all about to sign.



Signing the tiriti documents are (pictured above, left, front to back): Sam Keeley, James Andrew, Bradley Olin, Leighton Watson, with Foundation Studies teacher Liz Carrick watching on (right).

(Pictured above right, front to back): Teaching staff Sean Hewett, Jason Vannini, John Cook, Amy Dean, Liz Carrick.



(Pictured above): Signatories' pages with a symbolic gold signatory feather.

(Pictured right, left and right): Jenna Halkett and Riley Butler signing.

How Did This Programme Become Integrated into Ashburton College – with acknowledgment to Foundation Studies Teacher Liz Carrick

As above, Ashburton College is the second secondary school in New Zealand, and the first in the North Island, to be accredited to teach this programme through the national qualifications network. Papatoetoe High School, Auckland, is the other school which, with Ashburton College, forms the two lead schools to introduce and develop this programme, which offers students the opportunity to gain twelve Unit Standards.

Liz's involvement in the application of this specific programme arose via contact from a like-minded educator in Auckland, advising the qualification was to be reviewed and asking if she interested in being a part of this.

The response to this very significant, and time and thought-demanding, piece of work was – 'yes' – to the benefit of many.

As a member of the National Panel responsible for writing Unit Standards, and a founding member of the Subject Association for Foundation Skills which provides the opportunity for all teachers in New Zealand to have the opportunity to implement, this programme was a strong match for Liz's skills and teaching and learning passion.

Liz notes this programme as being very supportive, guiding all students towards success and the gaining of qualifications.

Liz emphasised the value of this partnership of mutual respect between teachers and students, and working jointly to the goals of positive outcomes as a focus for all learners.

Appreciation to Liz Carrick

As a school we sincerely acknowledge Liz's ongoing and cited passion for supporting young people and their progress, energy and commitment to initiating this programme at a national level and thus supporting students to achieve according to College's Mission Statement of Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment.



(Pictured above): The group of staff and students gathered after completing signing of the documents.

College Athletics Prelims Day Happens After a Three-Year Hiatus

With appreciation to Year 13 Photography Students Piper McLauchlan and Joelle Watson for the photos

We were delighted to be able to hold our first full Athletics Prelims Day, in very suitable temperatures, on Friday 17 February, for the first time since 2020 (due to Covid restrictions). Hard though it is to believe, only our current Year 13 students have experienced Prelims Day previously.

All events were held in the Ashburton Domain, which is a change from previous years when events were split between the Domain, and the College field. Having all students in one venue led to a very vibrant atmosphere, with an organiser describing the scene as a 'sea of colour'.



This major annual festival-style event is strongly about participation; dressing in House Colours; gaining House Points; festivity; stalls for each House Executive to fundraise towards various activities during the year; but also qualifying as House representatives for the College Athletics Finals Day for the more serious athletes.



(Pictured left): Orange House participants setting out on their track event.



(Pictured left): Red House members, complete with Lightning McQueen of The Cars movie. It must be noted some events were participated from, inside the car!

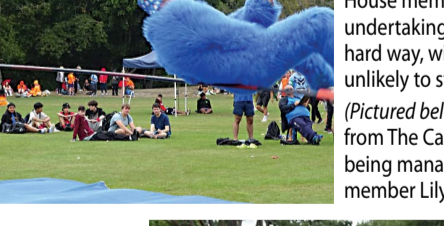
(Back row, left to right): Hannah Digby, Denise Bradford, Staff Head of House Georgia Hurley, Lani Fifta, Ollie Bubb, Honore Mae Jerod and Olivia Fox. (Front row, left to right): E-J Elliott, Jack Middleton, Emma Lill and Sama Soailo.

On this day all students are scheduled to compete in all events, in order to gain House points and for every event they compete and make a genuine effort in, they earn a House point.

Prelims Day is an important whole-College event, which sets the scene for inter-House rivalry and sets a positive tone at the start of the year.

A very big thank you is given to Head of Sport Ron Carlson and Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray for their significant organisation put into this day, alongside of significant staff assistance on the day.

Below: A sample of some sights of the day:



(Pictured left, and below): Blue House member Hamish O'Reilly undertaking the High Jump the hard way, with the bar looking unlikely to stay up.

(Pictured below): Another theme from The Cars, with Dinoco being managed by Blue House member Lily Davidson.



(Pictured below right): A mix of House representatives pushing it along in the track event.



(Pictured below, left and right): Phys Ed teachers Jonah Drye and Josh Sim getting serious in the Staff v Student Executive relay. However, starting the new year off well, the Student Executive team took the line honours by an approximate 10m margin.



(Pictured left, left to right): House Co-Captains ready to 'do battle' - Laura Winchester, Jack Templeton (Orange House); Eddie Galbraith, Kasey Higson (Blue House); Grace Prendergast, Jack Jones (Green House); Emma Lill and Sama Soailo (Red House).