



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 9
6 April 2023

News

Message From The Principal

A 'Normal' Term One

It has been great to have a 'normal' Term One (aside from interruptions caused by Covid illnesses and industrial action). Many of our younger teachers have not known a year without Covid restrictions such as lock-downs, rostering home and providing on-line learning.

It has been a pleasure to get through this term without any of these being required.

We have had full school, House and Year-level assemblies, and large-scale events such as Athletics Prelims, Polyfest, AshDance and Festival of the Spoken Word. All of these provide positive memories for our whole school.

Last week we had Athletes, Mountain Bikers, Volleyballers, Rowers, Basketballers, Golfers, Tennis players and our Softballers all competing in Summer Tournament Week. Our students appreciate these opportunities and value the support of parents and our school community.

Cellphone Restrictions

We have had considerable feedback from all around the benefits of our cellphone restriction policy. All teachers have noted an improvement in concentration levels and the amount of work completed during lessons.

Our pastoral staff have also noted the reduction of incidents generated by online postings.

We have also surveyed some of our students and they have commented positively on their ability to concentrate, the fact that there are fewer issues, and that they are enjoying talking to their friends. My thanks for your ongoing support, as clearly this scheme has been beneficial.

New Build

Our new build has reached the stage of disruption for visitors on our campus, particularly those attempting to enter off Walnut Avenue. This work is necessary because we need to totally reconstruct our drop-off entrance and visitor parking, plus the entire drainage system at the front of the school.

The work is being undertaken now so that asphaltting can be completed over the April student holiday break.

We have also had major construction happening next to our current Library with the construction of the major services plant. This will be a plant capable of heating and cooling the entire school once all our building is finished. Out the back of the school, construction of our new gym changing rooms is also ongoing, and welcome.

Our rugby teams will be unable to play at College for at least the next two years as part of our field is required to give access to the new build site. As famously noted 'you cannot make a fantastic omelet without breaking a few eggs'.

Pasifika Fono Evening

My thanks to Deputy Principal Hannibal Ikahihiro and our Student Cultural Committee for organising our Pasifika Fono evening. This was a first for us and we were keen to introduce ourselves and, most importantly, hear from the families about any matters that school can resolve, and the aspirations of families for their children.

Because we had RSVP numbers of 130-plus we moved this event from the staffroom to our Auditorium. My thanks to all the whānau who were represented.



Ross Preece
Principal - Tumuaki

Information

Holiday Opportunity at the Ashburton Library for Students

LIGHT IT UP

Come to the Library these holidays and create your own wire and LED lamp.

Thursday 13th April; 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Open to Years 7-13

Limited Spaces!

go to: www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/digital or call 03 308 7192 to book your spot!

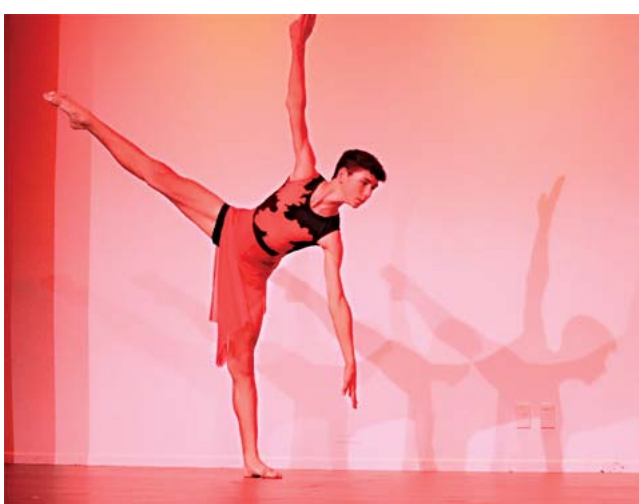
Ashburton PUBLIC LIBRARY

Event - Congratulations

Auditorium Rocked to AshDance Performances As with so many events, it was a real pleasure to welcome the hugely popular AshDance back to the College's Cultural Calendar, after a three-year hiatus.

More than 100 performers took to the stage on the evening of Tuesday 14 March, to perform to a packed Auditorium, where there wasn't a spare seat available. Support for the performers was outstanding, Organiser Claire Bubb said that the genres of dance on display ranged from Contemporary, Jazz and Sals to Hip Hop and Ballet.

Awards on the night went to –



(Pictured above): **Tamati Graham**, performing *Don't Pause*, **first place-getter in the Junior competition**

(Pictured below, left and right): **Luke Rhodes** and **Maddie Page** winners of the **Top Senior Duo/Solo performance**, with *Past, Present and Future*.



In the **Senior Group Competition**, a **second equal placing** was awarded to the **Tongan Girls** (*Koka I Pangai – Remix*) and **Wholly**, featuring **Sophie Smith, Lara Shierlaw** and **Hershel Ranay** performing *Glory*.

Events



(Pictured left): A section of the **Tongan Girls** in their performance.



(Pictured below): A section of the **Tongan Boys** performing *Fakatapu extended/hiva e pitu taukae*, to win the **Senior Group**.



The evening culminated in a vibrant and exciting performance from Ashburton College's Polyfest Group, which was a great performance opportunity for them prior to Polyfest in Christchurch on Saturday 18 March, and a very real treat for the audience.

A huge acknowledgement goes to **Year 13 student Edelma Kelsall** for her leadership and organisation of this group.

(Pictured right, left and right): **Cecilia Vaelua** and **Iraia Lengi**.



(Pictured below): A section of the **Tagata Pasifika, AshColl's Polyfest Group**.



Appreciation

An evening such as this is never possible without, firstly, the performers and, secondly, a group of people supporting and enabling polished outcomes.

We acknowledge, with sincere thanks –

Organiser, Stage Manager, Programme and Poster
Claire Bubb.

MCs
Head Student Team of Sarah Wilson, Henry Thomas, Olivia Pearce, Seb McMillan.

Judge
Julia Bell, previous teacher and exponent of Dance.

Technical Co-ordinator
Ron Cresswell.

Head of Tech Crew
Jared Munn.

Tech Crew
Alastair Kilgour, Ashleigh Clarke, Rebekah Clarke, Hayden Duffell.

Tech Crew Apprentices
Quinlan Spies, Al Dyer, Tyler Dyson.

Front of House
Delia Achten, Jo Wakelin.

Photos
Sheena Tyrrell.

Information

College Closed for Instruction for ACCORD Teacher Only Day Monday 24 April

ACCORD Teacher Only Days are Ministry of Education nation-wide granted days allocated to support the implementation of forthcoming changes to NCEA.

There is just the one day allocated, nationally, for 2023. College is using this day on Monday 24 April.

Therefore, there is no school for students on this day. We thank you for your co-operation and support.

Please note that the next day, Tuesday 25 April, is ANZAC Day (a public holiday).

Term Two, for students, therefore, starts on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

Next Newsletter – Thursday 20 April.

Please note that our next newsletter will be published in the second week of the student holiday break.



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Events

Outdoor Education

An intensive, structured and varied programme of experiences forms part of the College's Outdoor Education curriculum. In this newsletter we look at two of these experiences.

Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education - Kayaking

Head of Outdoor Education Luke Martin said that Ashburton College's senior Outdoor Education students started the year off enjoying the summer weather while learning introductory kayaking skills at Lake Hood.

Once a week, for the first half of Term 1, both Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to 'have a go' at kayaking, to learn basic skills or develop current skills they have. This extended from understanding how to enter a kayak and wet exit from the kayak, to more advanced skills such as the Eskimo roll.

Both classes have had three to four sessions each so far and have thoroughly enjoyed their time out on the water. Luke noted that using their double period gives the class enough time to have a good hour to an hour and a half on the water.

At the time of preparing this article the two classes were unsure about getting back on the water this term, due to algae bloom at Lake Hood, but they are hopeful.

Year 12 Outdoor Education Hike to Pinch Gut Hut

The Year 12 Outdoor Education class got their first trip underway with a hike to Pinch Gut Hut, up behind Mt Thomas, in the foothills of the Southern Alps, about 65km inland from Christchurch, in the North Canterbury region.

The class was very lucky to have the weather playing its part, being perfect, although it was almost too hot on the first day! Fortunately, the hike was under tree cover most of the way which certainly helped.

The hike is made up of a gradual climb beside the Okuku River, and only steep in a few places where there had been washouts. These made for a few tricky parts to navigate through. After several hours the group made it to the destination, where they were greeted with beautiful surroundings, a flowing stream down to the river, with a spot to have a dip, and the standard backcountry long drop.



(Pictured above): Students crossing the river at the start of the hike.



(Pictured right): Boundary Creek Hut, described by the group as their 5-star accommodation.

All students were using tents as part of their practice in carrying all their gear. After setting up, the late afternoon was available for those who were keen to have a bit of an explore around the area or sit and relax their aching muscles in the stream.

The next day it was pack up after breakfast and head back on the return journey, with day two being slightly easier in the sense of it being mostly downhill.



(Pictured above): Students enjoying the views while having lunch on the return journey.

Luke said that this trip is the perfect practice for figuring out what gear they should/shouldn't bring, and for getting used to carrying all their gear, in readiness for their next trip.

The class is now looking forward to their next hike which will see them tackle the St James Trail, Lewis Pass, early Term 2.

Year 12 Science Antarctic Centre Trip

Further, in the arena of curriculum-related events outside of the classroom, we look at a late February trip for Year 12 Science to the Antarctic Centre, Christchurch.

Teacher-in-Charge of Chemistry Heena Shah said that the objective of the visit is specifically to assist student with an internal/research assessment.

The day's programme started at 9:45am, with the day described as being jam-packed with good learning about Antarctica.

First up, was the always-appealing Hagglund ride and Storm-room experience, with the temperature of minus 28° Celsius giving an insight into the windchill factor. Hagglund is a fun-riding experience on a vehicle that is used in the Antarctic for transportation. This gave the students a good idea of the terrain and hurdles faced in the Antarctic.

(Pictured right, left and right, front and back): Leah Reid and Oli Nicholls and Sophie Gibson and Gracie Trotter experiencing their ride on the Hagglunds.



(Pictured left, left to right): Jonathan Hardy, Dom Wayman, Oli Nicholls, Leah Reid, Sophie Gibson and Nate Williams.

During the presentation, the students learnt about the climate and weather conditions at the Antarctic as well as the organisms that have adapted to living in the harsh conditions there.

A visit to the penguin enclosure followed, to learn about penguin behaviours in the wild and in the enclosure.

Adding to this information was a presentation about Antarctic weather and climate, plus animals and their adaptations that 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. This led into an interactive demonstration on waves, light and the length of the day; with the use of models.

Heena said that, all-in-all, this 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'. Students are currently working on completing this internal assessment task, with feedback from the students being positive. Heena noted that the experience makes the connections to the learning much clearer.

Valuable Growing Student Coaches

Workshop

As part of Summer Tournament Week, AshColl was extremely privileged to host Sport Canterbury's Coaching Advisor Mike De Bono, who ran a Growing Coaches Workshop/Whakapakari Kaiako Taiohi for our student coaches. The group totalled twenty-nine, including four students from Mt Hutt College.

This was held on Monday 27 March, from 11:00am-2:30pm in the Mini Gym. Mike threw the group questions - What is Coaching? What are Coaches roles? Students were encouraged to write and speak up regarding skills, qualities and what makes a good Coach.

Group participants had to think on their feet, providing precise instructions to various skills and games, which entwined with our AshColl Values and STEP (Space, Task, Equipment, Players) principle.

Ashburton College Sports Co-ordinator Darion Gray said that the students' confidence grew as the session progressed, with great interaction and participation.

Everyone agreed that they learnt and would take away new techniques and ideas to implement in their various coaching positions within school and our community.

Without these amazing volunteers, sport would look vastly different and, at College, we very much value their contribution.

(Pictured right front, left and right): Isla Hart and Paige Hart in a STEP principle exercise.



Congratulations

Medal Results at Trampoline

National Qualifier Event

The first trampoline national qualifier took place in Christchurch over the weekend, with four of the athletes being Ashburton College students.

The trampoline competitors had a great weekend at the first Christchurch qualifying competition, Tu Meke Peke, held at Olympia Gymnastic Sports.

The highlight of the weekend for some of the junior competitors was meeting and being presented medals from their idols - Olympians Dylan Schmidt and Maddie Davidson.

The Impressive Results attained by College Students were:

15-16 Year Age Group		
Jamie Glanville	Silver Medal	Synchro with sister Finleigh Glanville
	Bronze Medal	Double Mini Trampoline
	5th Placing	Trampoline

13-14 Year Age Group
This group had the largest number of competitors in it, over the weekend.

Finleigh Glanville	Gold Medal	Trampoline
	Gold Medal	Double Mini Trampoline
	Silver Medal	Synchro with sister Jamie Glanville
Impressively, Finleigh also exceeded the qualifying scores for Nationals in both the Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline categories.		

Laura Stanley	4th Placing	Synchro with partner Addison Judd
	6th Placing	Trampoline
	9th Placing	Double Mini Trampoline

Addison Judd	4th Placing	Synchro with partner Laura Stanley
	8th Placing	Trampoline
	13th Placing	Double Mini Trampoline

Nicci Glanville, Head Coach at Dynamic Gymnastic Sports, said this was a huge weekend and they couldn't be more proud of each of the athletes, noting the results as being great for the first competition of the season.



(Pictured right, back row, left to right): Jamie Glanville, Finleigh Glanville. (Front row, left to right): Addison Judd, Laura Stanley.

Coming Events

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

April	Easter Holiday break, Good Friday
07	Term Break holidays, including Easter Monday
07-23	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
26-28	Year 11 Outdoor Education hike, Mt Somers.
27	Year 13 trip to University of Canterbury
29-30	* NZSS Trampoline and DMT, Wigram
30	* Supernet Netball Promotion/Relegation, venue tbc
May	
01	* TSNZ Smallbore Postal Challenge
	Swimming Sports, EA Networks Centre
01-05	Year 12 Leadership Programme, Ashburton College
02	Junior Boxing Programme, Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy
	Year 13PED Duathlon, Allentown Rugby grounds, and River Trail
02-05	Year 12 Outdoor Education hike, St James Walkway, Lewis Pass
03	* Supernet Netball Promotion/Relegation
	AKO Class Photos, at College
07	* Supernet Netball Promotion/Relegation
07-13	Rotuman Language Week
08-13	Sign Language Week
08	Year 13 Dunedin Tertiary Day, Otago University and Polytech

Term Dates 2023 –

Term One	- Thursday 06 April
Term Two	Wednesday 26 April - Friday 30 June (Note: Monday 24 April-Teacher Only Day; Tuesday 25 April-Anzac Day).
Term Three	Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September (Note: Friday 25 August-Mid Term Break)
Term Four	Monday 09 October - Thursday 26 October (Year 13) - Tuesday 31 October (Years 11/12) - Tuesday 12 December (Years 9 and 10)