



Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

Excellence in Learning - Christianity in Living

Newsletter - Te Pānui

September 22 2023

Term 3 Week 10

Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 22 Sep Friday | Last day of Term 3 |
| 9 Oct Monday | First Day of Term 4 |
| 18 Oct Wednesday | Parent Information Evening: Composite Classes 5.30pm- Whare |
| 23 Oct Monday | Labour Day |
| 25 Oct Wednesday | Leavers Dinner (School Leavers & Senior Staff) |
| 02 Nov Thursday | Y5-Y8 Athletics Day |
| 03 Nov Friday | Leavers' Assembly |
| 06 Nov Monday | NCEA Exams start |
| 13 Nov Monday | Cohort Entry |
| 13 Nov - 15 Nov | HA - History of Aotearoa Year 10 |
| 17 Nov Friday | Teacher Only Day |
| 21 Nov - 24 Nov | Y9-Y10 Camp at Manaia Baptist Camp |
| 27 Nov - 01 Dec | DOE Tongariro Gold Tramp |
| 07 Dec Thursday | Awards Day / Night |
| 08 Dec Friday | Last day of School —reports out |

**11 Dec
Monday** **Teacher Only Day**

From the Principal

Kia ora/Kamusta/Haai Excellere College whānau/families,

Well, here we are at the end of Term 3. I would like to extend a huge Excellere welcome to all new families who have joined us this term. It is a total privilege to have you on board our waka. We look forward to the opening of the additional New Entrant classroom at the start of Term 4. Mrs Sarra Harvey and her team have worked so hard to create a wonderful environment in the new classroom for our youngest students. There are still spaces available for further enrolments.

We have a job vacancy for a new Hospitality and Food and Nutrition teacher. We say goodbye to Helena Lamason as she takes on a Head of Department role at Whangārei Girls High School. We will miss her love for the Lord, her professionalism, her incredible relationship with her students and her wonderful sense of humour. We know she will be a total blessing to them all at WGHS.

We also have an advertised vacancy for another Year 7-8 teacher for the start of 2024. This means we will have a third intermediate class next year. This is such an encouraging aspect of the roll growth that we are experiencing. We are enrolling additional students for those year groups.

Melisa Tshuma has been the student representative on the Excellere School Board. It has been great to see her confidence grow as the year has progressed. We would like to thank Melisa for her dedication to the role and her willingness to offer ideas from a youthful perspective. As she steps down we would like to wish Melisa all the best for the future, and welcome Rosie de Vetter as the new student representative to the Board. Congratulations Rosie.

On another note, from the start of 2024 all Year 1-8 classes will be composite. This means that we will have at least two classes at each level. Below is an explanation of what to expect.

| Year 0-8 Classes 2024 | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| New Entrant-Y1 | Y1-2 | Y1-2 | Y3-4 | Y3-4 |
| Room 9 | Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 4 | Room 5 |
| TBC | Mrs Bucknell | Mrs Grammer | Miss Jongkind | Mrs Annandale |
| Y5-6 | Y5-6 | Y7-8 | Y7-8 | Y7-8 |
| Room 3 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 | Room 12 |
| Mrs Shanks | Mrs Matheson | Mrs Hill | Mr Osborne | TBC |

Composite Classes Frequently Asked Questions:

How do composite classes work? Next year your Year 0-8 child will be in a composite class at Excellere College. While this is not a new concept in New Zealand schools, it has not been a structure for classes at Excellere College for a number of years, so it's natural you might have some questions.

From the Principal Continued.....

What are composite classes? By composite classes we mean putting two consecutive year groups together in one class. Composite classes are a common and practical class structure in many New Zealand schools, including many of our neighbouring schools. The Leadership Team and Board of Trustees have decided that next year our classes Year 0-8 will combine year groups as composite classes. This allows for balanced and equitable student:teacher ratios to provide a more ideal learning environment and maintain quality teaching in every class. The teachers have already been talking in their teams about this change and are excited to be working together in this way.

Will my child stay with their friends? Friendships are always an important consideration when placing children into classes. We will continue to take friendship into account, along with learning needs and other considerations when making up the classes.

How do teachers cater for a range of abilities across year groups? New Zealand primary teachers are expected and trained to teach multi-level classrooms and to cater for the range of abilities both in and across year levels. Consistent with the New Zealand Curriculum Achievement levels, classes across many New Zealand schools are composite in two-year groupings. The New Zealand Curriculum levels range across two to three year levels. We aim to ensure that all children are given the best possible opportunity to learn in a happy and safe environment. The spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each child is given careful consideration when students are placed in class groups. All classes are non-streamed with class sizes kept to the lowest possible number. Excellere College teachers already use a range of effective groupings and teaching strategies to cater for the wide range of needs of children in their classes, and will continue to do so with the new class structure.

How will teachers ensure curriculum content is not being repeated for two years in a composite class? Team planning already considers learning content and opportunities through an inquiry cycle and there is broad curriculum content and coverage offered. This takes into account previous curriculum content and abilities to ensure children are learning new and appropriate content and skills. This will not change. For literacy and mathematics, children will continue to be taught at the level they have reached, regardless of their year level. There is a continuum of skills and knowledge developed over their time at school.

Will my child be disadvantaged? Will they fall behind? No. The key to understanding composites is realising that growth is determined in stages and not by ages. Older children are not held back in composite classes. The fear that children will fall behind is unfounded, as is the idea that the teacher's attention will be split between the two years and students get less overall learning time with their teacher. It makes no difference to performance whether students are in a straight year group or in a composite class. There is no one curriculum level per age group in NZ.

The NZ Curriculum is set up in developmental bands which range across 1-3 years per level. It is not expected that all the students of the same age will be achieving at the same level at the same time. Teachers use a range of effective groupings and teaching strategies to cater for the wide range of needs of children in their classes. Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class and can actually enhance their development; students can become more confident and assertive, learn to operate as part of a wider group while also bolstering independent learning skills. Older students, while still being challenged and extended, can also benefit from helping younger students in cooperative learning situations. Younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it. Role models and leaders can come from both the younger and older children; the children who excel at these traits do so irrespective of age. We explored our options thoroughly and because composite classes are a normal way of working we believe that children will not be disadvantaged in any way.

Will there be academic streaming across classes? No. We don't have streaming at Excellere College. Children are grouped in a variety of ways to ensure their needs are met. Teachers use flexible forms of grouping instead of only grouping students by ability. Sometimes they'll group students socially, sometimes they will have mixed ability grouping and sometimes they'll group according to similar abilities. High expectation teachers still identify students who need support with particular skills and will put them into a group for targeted teaching. What is different is that these groups are not fixed and they change on a daily basis. Flexible grouping is designed to provide all students with high level learning opportunities that empower them to be successful. Student engagement in stimulating activities is critical for motivation, achievement, and progress. We will continue to extend children and provide support for all children to progress or accelerate their learning. Flexible forms of grouping = high level learning for all children. Please be assured your child will continue to be nurtured to progress as they have before.

Have a blessed holiday and we'll see you back for Term 4.
Andy Mouat

*We are holding a parent information evening at school on
Wednesday 18th October at 5:30pm*

*If you do have a specific question not covered above, that you would like answered on the 18th Oct,
please email me at principal@excellerecollege.school.nz*

Thank you

Student Art in Wellington



In the Term 2 holidays, Connor went to Wellington and was able to see his fellow class mate's beautiful art work in one of the galleries.

Well done Rhianna for creating such a beautiful art work inspired by Frederick Hundertwasser!

Trades Academy — Construction

Our school has an exciting Curriculum Alignment Pathway with NorthTec/Te Pukenga! In our Senior School, we provide a "Te Taitokerau Trades Academy," culminating in NZQA unit standards our students can use in application for a career in the trades.

Two of our Level 2 students attend this academy every Thursday. Nico is one of our ESOL students who attends the Construction Academy. In this Academy Programme, Nico learned to identify, select, maintain, and use hand tools, portable power tools, and fixed machinery, gained knowledge about construction materials and safe working practices, and created final products such as a paddle and garden seat. Any orders for Nico? I know I want one!!!

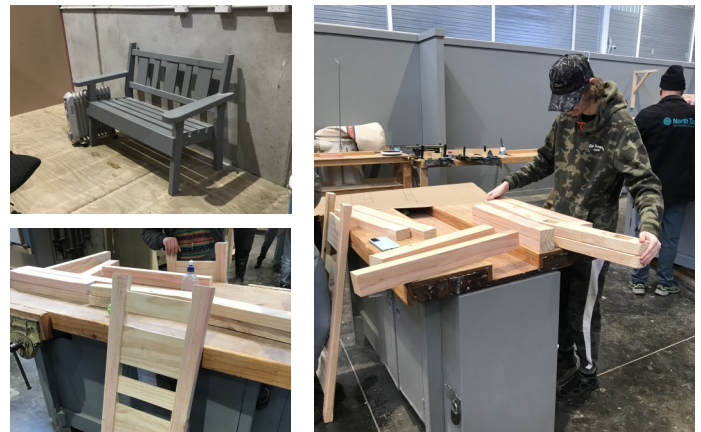
- Marja Smith, ESOL Teacher and International Director

Yearbook Orders 2023

The school yearbook will be sent away for printing early in Term 4. Each family will receive one year book free of charge.

Extra Yearbooks are \$8.50.

If you would like to order extra yearbooks you will need to put your order and pay by the end of **Week 1 Term 4**.



Room 2 Principal Visit

Mr Mouat regularly pops down to Room 2 to see how we are going. We just love it when he comes to see us. On Monday we took our writing books to his office for him to read. He said he was very proud of our writing and the progress we are making. He gave us each a sticker too!! We are proud of ourselves.

- Mrs Grammer, Year 0-1 Teacher



Renew School Visit

On the 24th of August, the Year 13's and head students went to Renew School to meet their Year 13's and join in on their worship and Christian living/devotions time. During the devotion time we talked about the cost of being a Christian and how the world can affect us in positive and negative ways. After the devotion we had a short morning tea getting to know the other students. We look forward to seeing them again at our Week 9 assembly.



WPSSA Cross-Country

Our Excellere runners had a great day at the Whangarei Primary Schools Cross Country this week. With over 100 kids in each race, just participating can be overwhelming, so well done to all our students for getting to the finish line.

And a special thanks to Amy de Vetter and Anneke Duinkerke for being such excellent parent helpers on this day, I appreciate you so much.

- Zola McDonald , Sports Coordinator



House Event — Table Tennis

We held the inaugural Excellere College interhouse Table Tennis competition in Week 6 of this term. Many students took part in two separate competitions.

The first doubles competition being played by students in Years 6-8 with the Parakiore pair of Josiah de Vetter and Liam Dodd being victorious over the Hurupaki pair in the final, and Parihaka beating Hikurangi in the battle for third.

In the senior competition Rosie de Vetter and Joshua Dodd were the victorious pair, beating Parihaka in the final, with Hurupaki defeating Hikurangi for third. A great time was had by all with some amazing shots. Another great event organised by our House leaders.



Futsal Holiday Programme

school holiday program

futsal...but so much more

Monday 25th - 29th September
8:30 - 4:00pm

details & registration

www.northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
christian@northlandfutsalacademy.co.nz
021 246 7328



GLORY OF THE NATIONS TOUR
WWW.EVERSMITH.BAND/NZTOUR2023

| | |
|--|---|
| 29.09.23: MT ALBERT BAPTIST WYCLIFFE NZ 60TH - NEXT GEN NIGHT | 01.10.23: GRACE INTERNATIONAL GLEN INNES // 10AM SERVICE |
| 30.09.23: MT ALBERT BAPTIST WYCLIFFE NZ 60TH ANNIVERSARY | 01.10.23: MAGNIFY CHURCH HELENSVILLE // 6-8 PM PRAYER |

Kaurihohore Sports Exchange

We all thoroughly enjoyed our exchange with Kaurihohore primary school in Week 8. The weather was brilliant and the two schools had a great day battling out some awesome sports.

We decided to have two teams, boys and girls and these were a mix of Year 5-6s. These students had to earn a place in these teams, students needed to complete a number of gruelling tasks that myself and Mr Keyte (in spite of his small shoulders) was able to help me with. We played Rippa Rugby and Futsal. We also invited Kaurihohore to stay at school for lunch and after lunch we had a MASSIVE scatter ball game.

The results are as follows:

Girls Rippa: 11/9 to Excellere

Boys Rippa: 11/8 to Kaurihohore

Girls Futsal: 4/3 to Kaurihohore



Middle College Merrivale Visits



Drink water and milk
Inumia te wai me te miraka hoki

TIPS TO KEEP YOU
SMILING

Reduced fat and low fat milk
provide nutrients
your child
needs to grow



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Keep up to date with
Excellere College online:
www.excellerecollege.school.nz

- School calendar
- Newsletters
- News & alerts

Term 3 Week 10 Assembly

Our school assembly kicked off with praise and worship, led by our school worship team. As they sang, they inspired us all to reflect on our values and appreciate that we can worship together as a school. Our Student Choir then took the stage, our young singers showcased their vocal talents. The assembly also featured a celebration of our Speech Competition winners. With topics ranging from social justice to ice-cream, each participant shared their unique perspective and insight. Our students truly proved that they are the voices of the future, with the potential to make a positive impact on the world.

- Mrs Larissa Matheson



Advertise Here: Advertise your event or business in the school newsletter.
For more information and pricing contact

P: 0800 120 449 M: 022 393 7887
E: lee@balanceadvisors.co.nz
W: www.balanceadvisors.co.nz
A: 11A James Street, Whangarei



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Contact:
021 0900 0117
katrina.aubrey@soundsleep.co.nz
facebook.com/soundsleepnorthland
linkedin.com/katrinaaubrey

School Uniform Update

We were inspired by Daffodil Day and decided to make some cheerful art for the classroom. First of all we painted some chopped up egg cartons to make the petals of the flowers. Then we made a printed background using paints and stamps. We drew our own vases and coloured them in before we cut them out- we are actually getting pretty good at using scissors now. Then we assemble all of the bits and pieces together using a glue gun- we were very careful using the glue gun.

We enjoyed looking at our art in our classroom, we have taken them home now for our parents to enjoy.

- Mrs Nicole Grammer, Year 0-1 teacher



Year 9-10 Basketball Cup Final

Congratulations to our Year 9-10 boys basketball team for coming 2nd in the NSSSA basketball cup competition in term 3. You all played so well to win every game in pool play and to make it to the final. The final was tough with Tauraroa Area School being an exceptionally strong team - but coming away from that tournament with 2nd place is a huge achievement - so well done boys.

Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator.



Teachers as Students—Mufti Day

On Friday Week 8, the school had a dress up day where teachers dressed as students and the students dressed as teachers. There was a competition for the best dressed teacher and student. Mr Carroll won the best dressed 'student' and Waldo Potgieter won best dressed 'teacher' for dressing up as Mrs Rummery.

The money raised is for the school council to use for projects around the school. Some of the things we are looking at are: mirrors for the girls bathroom, a gaga-pit for the school field and a junior disco, and handball courts.



Year 9-13 Badminton

Our Year 9-13 students were given the opportunity to compete at the novice/cup Badminton competition this term. We had nine students take part with over 95 entries from around the Northland area, it was a manic day but heaps of fun. Excellere did really well, with most students winning the majority of their games, unfortunately no one made it into the finals this year. One lesson that we did learn was that Crocs don't enhance sports performance.

- Zola McDonald,
Sports Coordinator



Table Tennis Pairs Tournament

This year we decided to focus more on Table Tennis. Excellere students enjoyed participating at the table tennis taster earlier in the year, then from there we formulated a club where Naina from the Northland Area Table Tennis Association came into school once a week for 2 terms to coach our year 5-6's who wanted to learn more.

Four of our students went on to compete at the 5 week pairs tournament this term. We are very happy to report that Ella Teariki and Elin McGlashan took out 3rd place in Division 1, and Fletcher Dow and Lucy Webster placed 2nd in Division 2.



Year 12 PE - Gym Session Training

On Friday 8th of September the Year 12 PE class went for a field trip to Activ8 gym arena in town.

There one of their professional personal trainers put the students (and Mr Keyte) through their paces doing a range of different activities. It was a great chance for the students to gain insight into the industry, and see Mr Keyte's shoulders in action for themselves.



Upcoming Club Sports

Kamo Cricket Club

Registrations for the coming season are now open via PlayHq:

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/org/kamo-cricket-club/27f60a75/register>

Our SuperSmash Hub is open for years 1-4 Thursday evenings 5 - 6pm. \$30 for 6 weeks. Skills plus small games.

Years 5 - 6: Supersmash Play (fees \$80).

Practice Tuesday 4.30-5.30pm,
Games – Saturday 9-11am

Years 7 - 8 Supersmash (fees \$80).

Practice Tuesday 5.30-6.30pm,
Games – Saturday 9-12noon

Div 1 and Collegiate (fees \$80).

Thursday practice, Games — Saturday afternoon.

Check out our Facebook page for registration links and to keep up to date. <https://www.facebook.com/KamoCricket>

All trainings at Kamo Recreation Ground, Butler Place, Kamo.
Senior – Trainings @ 5.30 Thursday

Any questions please email Jodi:
kamojuniorcricket@gmail.com



School Holiday Program

Learn and play Table Tennis!



Program Details

- Cost- \$20 per session, for members \$15 per session.
- 2nd to 6th October for Primary and Intermediate school kids.
- Timings- 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Register online: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/232278>
Last Date Of Registration- 30th September, 2023

Contact: Naina Suri, Coach (M) 0225382035, naina@tabletennisnorthland.co.nz

Table Tennis Northland, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei
Adjacent to Sport Northland Building

New School Uniform Skirt

Kia ora whānau,

This notice is to advise we will be moving to a navy material for our school skirts once current beige/stone stocks are depleted.

This is due to Uniform Hub being unable to source our current beige/stone material. As there is only limited stock available, our beige skirts will be phased out and replaced by a navy blue skirt as seen in the picture.

Pricing will remain the same. Beige shorts and pants will still be available.



EC @ the Whangarei Run/Walk Series

Last weekend Sport Northland held their run/walk series here in Whangarei. We had a few staff and students enter this event under the Excellere banner.

June Underwood took home 1st place female in the 4km event and Mr Keyte came 2nd in the 8km event, it's a pity that his shoulders didn't help him win this time. It was a fun event and lots of personal bests were achieved by those who entered, well done everyone.

- Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator.



2023/2024 School Board Student Representative

Congratulations to Rosie de Vetter who has been appointed as the new School Board student representative.

A big thanks to Melisa Tshuma for being the student representative for the past two years. All the best for your future studies.



Year 3 Student Teacher

This term Year 3 was blessed to have Matua Chris as a student teacher in our classroom. We really enjoyed all the cool stuff he did with us like playing kahoot games to test our new learning, doing fun art and mentoring soccer games during lunch times. We are going to miss him next term.



Whangarei Athletics

We are excited to announce the beginning of the athletics season. Could you please put something in your school newsletter, as follows;



Junior Athletics Season Opening:

Tuesday 10th October at 4pm at the track, Park Ave, Kensington. Ages 5yrs - 12yrs, all inclusive, of all abilities.

Senior Athletics:

12yrs up Tuesday nights at 5:30pm

Robyn Hallberg, Junior Athletics Team

021 468 323 Facebook: Junior Athletics Whangarei

Website: www.athleticswhangarei.co.nz

Email: juniorathleticswhangarei@gmail.com

Netball Festival Day

Excellere Netball teams celebrated the end of the season with a festival day. This is where the teams choose a theme, dress up and enjoy a fun game! Can you guess the dress up theme for each of our teams?



Year 3 Educational Visits: Life Education & Police Force

Year 3 enjoyed it when the Life Education bus visited us. We learnt about our Personality and how unique we are. This week Year 3 was visited by the Educational Police officer where they had the chance to ask him questions and to learn about the NZ Police force.

