



# Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

**Excellence in Learning - Christianity in Living**

Newsletter - Te Pānui

March 12 2024

Term 1

Week 7

## Upcoming Events

11 March Monday	PHOTO LIFE School Photos
12 March Tuesday	Year 5&6 Touch session 1-2:30pm in school
12 March Tuesday	YES Kick Start Programme Level 1 Students
12 March Tuesday	NCEA Meeting 6-7pm
13 March Wednesday	WPSSA Swimming Sports (E.P)
13&14 Mar Wed & Thur	Year 13 Advanced Customer Service Course
15 Mar Friday	NSSSA Athletics Year 9-13 (Qualifiers only)
18-20 Mar Mon-Wed	Year 7,8,9 Camp Mangawhai
19-20 Mar Tues, Wed	Year 11 Food Beverage Course Group 1
19 March Tues	Touch tournament Year 5&6 Girls only
20 Mar Wed	Careers Expo Year 13
25-28 Mar Mon-Fri	DOE Silver Tramp Year 12&13
26&27 Mar Tues, Wed	Year 11 Food Beverage Course Group 1
26 Mar Tues	Touch Tournament Year 7&8
28 Mar	Whole Assembly Gym
29-2 April Fri-Tues	EASTER HOLIDAY
3 April Wed	Touch Tournament Year 5-6
4th April Thurs	Weetbix Tri Challenge Year 6-9

## From the Principal

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

We are enjoying a fast-paced start to 2024 with Year 12 camp, cycling in school, Year 8 technology, upcoming middle college camp, senior courses, senior athletics, to name but a few. I want to extend a huge thank you to all staff and parents who have supported these extracurricular experiences where so many incredible memories are created. On top of that teachers have been undertaking a rigorous programme of academic testing to pitch their teaching at the required level.

Thank you so much for your patience in the school car park and the driveway at the end of the school day. I want to acknowledge how frustrating this must be at times but we feel so grateful that all drivers are being so careful and mindful when driving on school grounds.. Over the next few months, as part of the Twenty Year Plan, construction will begin on a new driveway into the school. It will be sited next to the treeline adjacent to the veterinary clinic. This will comprise of a substantial bridge with concrete piles driven 20 metres into the ground. We are aiming for four additional classes to be opened for the start of 2026. The Whangārei Christian Education Trust (WCET) has been working tirelessly with architects and council to enable this vision to be realised. As you can imagine, none of this comes cheaply and is not funded through the government. The trust finances the projects through the banks, paying commercial interest rates so this needs to be carefully managed. Ultimately, the plan is to grow the school to 1000+ students whilst retaining our Christian Special Character. Please pray for this opportunity to further God's Kingdom.

Although Excellere College is larger than it has ever been, we do have vacancies in three year groups. We will be contacting families on the wait lists but please let others know so we can arrange enrolment interviews.

Year Group	Year 2	Year 6	Year 7
Student Age	6-7 years old	10-11 years old	11-12 years old

As mentioned previously, we are meeting for whole-school Monday morning collective worship in the gym from 8:55-9:15am. Unfortunately, we will be skipping the session this Monday 11th March as Photolife will be setting up in the same space. We do invite any parents who wish to attend our collective worship to drop in. We will be so glad to find you a seat.

In the middle of all this busy-ness I have found myself needing to refocus and be more deliberate in the time I spend with the Lord. In these darker autumnal mornings it is tempting to forget the joy that comes from spending time in the Word and praying. Psalm 91 is the perfect way to remind ourselves that our rest and protection come from Him.

Andy Mouat, Tumuaki

## Chromebook Repair Help

We have a number of Chromebooks that have been accidentally damaged or have past their lease life. Is there anyone in our school community that could assist with repairs?

If so could you contact the school office on:  
[office@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:office@excellerecollege.school.nz)

## Recycling & Reducing Waste at School

Dear Families,

We are learning to create less waste and recycle more at Excellere. One way you can help us is to buy snacks in bulk, instead of individually packed snacks for lunch boxes, and use little containers which can be used many times. Also, please use reusable sandwich wraps or a paper towel, instead of plastic food wraps. We appreciate your support.

- Mehrzad Zamanpour, EnviroSchool Coordinator



## SPRINGS Challenge

Kia Ora Excellere Whānau, we have had a great response for our SPRINGS challenge. All students who have requested one in Years 4-13 should have received their booklets now. If you your child has not received a booklet and is wanting to do it, please let Ben Keyte know at school,  
[ben.keyte@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:ben.keyte@excellerecollege.school.nz)



**FREE dental care for under 18s**  
Kei raro iho i te tekau mā waru, kāhore he utu

### TIPS TO KEEP YOU SMILING

#### Fluoride in toothpaste helps prevent tooth decay

Avoid eating or drinking after brushing teeth, especially at night so the Fluoride can keep working to protect and strengthen teeth.

Need a dental appointment for your child?  
**0800 MY TEETH** (0800 698 3384)  
Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm



0800 698 3384  
(0800 MY TEETH)

**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand

## New RTL

Our new Liaison Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTL) Huw Wainwright will work together with teachers and our school to support the achievement of students with learning and/or behaviour difficulties in an inclusive way. RTL might work alongside anyone in the school (both staff and students) with the goal of enhancing learning conditions for all akonga/students. This could be with individual students, small groups, whole classes or school-wide.

Huw will work with staff to support the teaching and learning for Targeted Learning Classes (TLC). The focus of this work will be around implementing effective teaching practice to meet student needs.

Say hello if you see him around the college!

## Yummy Apple Stickers

Bring your apple stickers to Room 4 (Mrs Shanks & Mr Reynolds' room and receive a house point token to put it in your house box in the school foyer. This is a house competition so get as many tokens for your house as possible. The more stickers we get, the more sports gear we will get for the school.



## SPRINGS Challenge Project Help

Hi Excellere Whānau,

Jay du Plessis is looking at creating emergency blankets from recycling chip packets for his SPRINGS challenge, what a neat idea! His goal is to make 10 blankets this year and would love your help. If you could please save any large chip packets and drop them to the school office that would be greatly appreciated as it takes 55 packets to make one blanket. Now you can eat chips for charity!





## Excellere College Head Students 2024

### Head Boy—Miguel Shortland-Mendez

Hello my name is Miguel Shortland-Mendez I am a year 12 student at Excellere college. This year I am privileged to be a Head Boy of Excellere College. I have been attending Excellere College for about four years now and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

This year with God's guidance and hard work I want to achieve my NCEA Level 2. I also have a goal to complete my Duke of Edinburgh trek around Mt Taranaki. This will help to further develop my character and perseverance.

We have had an awesome start to this year with the school's annual picnic, athletics day and Year 12 camp. We soon will have our school cross country which is always lots of fun along with our whānau sports competition throughout the year. This physical activity is a great way to complement academic learning and help us to have fun and stay focused.

"I can do all things through God who strengthens me."  
Philippians 4:13



### Head Girl—Aimee Whitehead

Hi my name is Aimee Whitehead, I am Year 13 this year and the Head Girl of Excellere College. This year I am looking forward to continuing watching the school grow and focus on my school work and my plans for the future.

In the last year, we have had two classrooms added. This has allowed our roll to grow even more. We started the year with over 300 students for the first time. This is an exciting time for Excellere College and I am looking forward to seeing the school make further progress this year.

This year as Head Girl I want to continue to lead with compassion, integrity and honour, and to build on the relationships within the school and outside the school.



## Middle College Camp

In just over a weeks time, the Middle College is heading out to Mangawhai to experience a camp like no other. This year the Aotea Surf School has been bought on board to run a three day camp for our students where they will be busy from 'dawn till dusk' with outdoor activities and learning about our local Northland region. In preparation for this there has been plenty of fundraising going on which has been great advertising for Excellere out in the community.



Sausage Sizzles and other hot lunch options at school have been a popular way to get our school community on board and Bunnings BBQ, Flip Night and Bake sales have taken it to the streets.

This type of thing does not happen on its own, by having happy thoughts or by one person doing it all so a huge thank you goes out to the families who have been involved, volunteering their time (and their children) to make these fundraising events happen.

Keep an eye out for further events happening so you can all be involved in getting our kids to camp.

- Meagan Kelly, Middle College Leader



## Year 7-13 Athletics Day

We had an amazing day last week at our Excellere Athletics day for the year 7-13s. The sun was out and I loved to see our students push themselves to new levels with their athleticism. A special mention needs to go out to Aiden Marais (Year 10) for breaking the high jump record by 1.5cm and that record has stood since 2009 and Ella Teariki (Year 7) broke the Long Jump record by 14cm.

The 1500m was a major highlight of the day, Mr Keyte although his shoulders are small, the aerodynamics resulted in him being able to slice through the air with little effort. The students put up a great effort to chase him down, well done to both Declin Edgcombe and LJ Volschenk for hanging on to the intense pace for as long as you did. We also had a massive gust of wind pick up our discus results and scatter them throughout the neighbourhood. We managed to recover some and even found one set of results in a tree down the road. The lost results meant that we needed to hold a 'throw off' the following day at school for the under 12 boys and the open boys.

We are looking forward to sending the following 9 students off to the NSSSA Athletics event on the 15th March.

NOTE: Years 7-8 will have interschool athletics in Term 4.

**LJ Volschenk: 1500m**

**Lydia Jongkind: 400m**

**June Underwood: 400m**

**Hyrum Hanley: Shot Put**

**Aiden Marais: Discus, Long jump, High jump**

**Miguel Shortland-Mendez: Javelin, Shotput**

**Keanu Aprea: Javelin**

**Connor Hiscox: Triple Jump**

**Lahratio Gordon: Discus**

- Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator



### Advertise Here for 2024

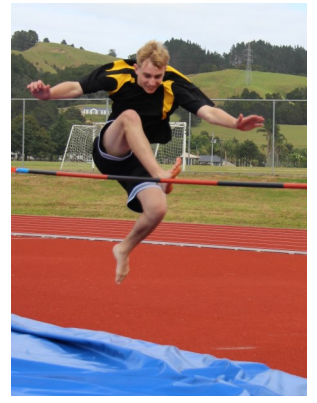
Advertise your event or business HERE in the school newsletter.  
\$100 a Year for 12 Newsletters or \$10 per single advertisement.

For more information contact:

[julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:julie.hale@excellerecollege.school.nz)



## Year 7-13 Athletics Day





## Bikes in Schools



The Year 5-6s had a great day when Gwen and Chubby from Bike Northland came into Excellere with their bikes. The kids learnt how to safety check their bikes, they learnt the skills on how to bike slowly and use a bike with one hand.

They played lots of little games and drills and the kids all had a blast. They will be back next week to build on what they have learned.

- Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator



## Term 1 Sports Calendar

Week 7: Touch Session, 1pm  
champs, Year 5-6, Wed 13th March

Week 7: WPSSA swimming sports  
champs, Year 5-6, Wed 13th March  
(Emma Posthumus)

Week 7: NSSA Athletics day, Year 9-13,  
Friday 15th March  
(Qualifiers only)

Week 8: Touch Tournament GIRLS only,  
Year 5-6, Tuesday 19th March

Week 9: Touch Tournament  
mixed, Year 7-8, Tuesday 26th March

Week 10: Touch Tournament BOYS  
only, Year 5-6, Wednesday 3rd April.

Week 10: WeetbixTRY, Year 5-9,  
Thursday 4th April

Week 10: Clay Target #1, Sat 6th April

Week 11: Renew Sports Exchange,

## Primary Schools Zone Swimming Sports

A select few of our Year 5-8s competed in the zone 13 swimming sports this week. This event was held at Kaurihohore Primary School and required our swimmers to swim against swimmers from Kaurihohore, Ngunguru and Glenbervie. Our swimmers did so well, all swimming with confidence and they all had a fun day.

A special congratulations to Emma Posthumus who has qualified to compete in freestyle, breaststroke and backstroke at the WPSSA event on the 13th March.

- Zola McDonald, Sports Coordinator





## Year 12 Camp—Tangihua Lodge



Last week the Year 12's went to Tangihua Lodge for a 4 day camp. It was a great time away with perfect weather, challenging activities, devotions, and team building.

On Tuesday and Wednesday the students took part in a series of problem solving activities that tested their abilities to think outside of the box and communicate clearly with their teammates, and organise themselves. The second night was also the camp out, where the students setup tents for the night and cooked their own dinner and breakfast.

We tackled the Confidence Course on Thursday morning. The students impressed with their determination to complete the obstacles and the encouragement they gave to each other.

The highlight of the camp was the Burma Trail. Students set off in small groups without any lights to follow the rope trail in the dark. There was no moonlight and below the canopy it was pitch black, apart from a few glow worms down by the stream.

A big thanks to the following who made this camp possible: Mr Phil Buchanan for his organisation and determination to get all students to camp, even for one day. Mrs Chantel Minnaar for all her fantastic meals and assistance with the activities. Mr Christian Reynolds and Mrs Barbie Reynolds for bringing students out and helping with the confidence course and Mr Ben Keyte for the Trigg run.

Thanks to the parents for giving their time, expertise and assistance: Mr Petrus Nel, Mrs Vicki Fowke, Mrs Yana Wilson. A local possum trapper (Andy White), and a YWAM leader (Joe May) also contributed to our programme.

- Julie Hale, Year 12 Whanau Teacher

