



# Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

Newsletter - Panui

June 6 2025 Term 2 Week 6

## Upcoming Events

06 June 2025 Matariki Assembly - 11:20am  
in school gym

16 June 2025 Excellere School Board  
Meeting—5:30pm

**20 June 2025 Matariki Day—School Closed**

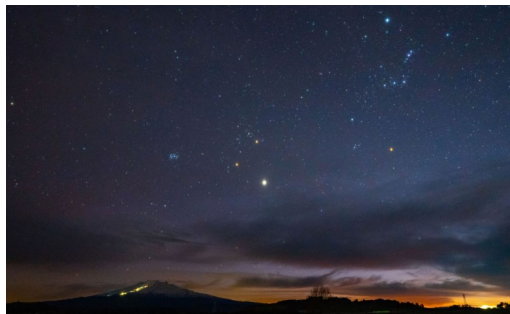
**27 June 2025 Teacher Only Day - School  
Closed**

14 July 2025 Start of Term 3

28 July 2025 Excellere School Board  
Meeting - 5:30pm

### MATARIKI CELEBRATION

As part of our Matariki celebrations we will be having a hangi for students to purchase on Thursday 19 June. Donations/koha are appreciated to keep the costs of our hangi minimal. More info to come.



## Excellere, Renew & Adventist School Sports Exchange—Year 5 & 6 Futsal



In May Excellere hosted a Year 5 & 6 Futsal event for the local Christian schools. It was a fun filled event with Renew and the Adventist school joining us for an amazing Futsal Battle in our school's gym.

Thank you to all the students that came along and supported the teams. It was great having you there. We had a REAL BATTLE at the end between Excellere 1 (Room 7 - Mrs Matheson) & Excellere 2 (Room 4 - Mrs. Shanks/Mr. Reynolds) classes. It was an exciting final to watch.

In the end the results were as follows: Excellere 1 = 1st. Excellere 2 = 2nd & Renew = 3rd.

## From the Principal

Kia ora/Kamusta/haai/Annyeong haseyo  
Excellere College whānau/families,

As the winter weather draws in it is amazing to realise that we will be past the shortest day before we know it and beginning to talk about spring. I trust you all enjoyed the long King's Birthday weekend and had an opportunity for some precious family time. It is such a blessing to see the above-ground progress that DHS is making on the building site. This is another opportunity to thank WCET (Whangārei Christian Education Trust) for their vision to grow the school. It is exciting to see the structural steel being installed and for the wooden framing to be erected.



I want to take a moment to welcome new whānau (families) to Excellere. It is heartwarming to hear about the wonderful welcome experienced by new students as they transition into a new school. We have many new 5 year olds coming into school and it is great to see how quickly they slip into the routines, fun and learning that are evident in the New Entrant class run by the lovely Mrs Harvey.

Over the last week we were blessed by a team from the NZCPT (New Zealand Proprietors Trust) visiting Excellere College. They undertake a Special Character Review every three years and this is an opportunity for us to share how God is working within our school. Thank you to those community members who met with the team to share their insights. I was especially proud of the students that took part in the process and shared their love for Christ and how this impacts their daily lives within school and beyond. I am excited to share the results of the review with you once they become available .

Thank you to all the teachers who worked so hard to support the Year 10 students who sat the English and Mathematics Corequisite examinations recently. Mrs Smith was the organisational powerhouse behind the scenes, encouraging students, praying, arranging logins and printing hard copies of tests when needed and praying some more. I am sure her step count was three times her average over that week. What a team! Thank you! It is a big step up for many students as it might be the first formal examination they have encountered. They need to remain focussed even when they feel nervous. Great work!

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Andy Mouat

Tumuaki

## Year 5 & 6 Mini Tournament

Year 5 & 6 showed great sportsmanship when their Winter Sports tournament was cancelled due to bad weather. The amazing teachers Mr Reynolds and Mrs Matheson rallied together and created a Mini sports taster day. There was Table Tennis, Badminton, Strategy Ball, Pickle Ball, and Ultimate Frizbee! Fun Fun Fun Fun was had by all!



## Year 12 & Room 4 Buddy Class

Year 12 and Room 4 have enjoyed their buddy class mornings every Friday. They have been learning about team building through participating in activities that help build communication skills.

Students started first by getting into house groups and learning each others names before tackling various games devised by Miss Hale to test their teamwork skills.



## Year 12 Creative Writing—The Wedding Ring

The rain tapped gently against the windows of the small antique shop, its rhythmic pattern a soft melody to the quiet afternoon. The scent of aged paper and polished wood hung in the air as Evelyn wandered between the shelves, fingers grazing over the dust - covered books and delicate trinkets. She wasn't searching for anything in particular, Just passing the time while the storm outside ran its course.

Her gaze settled on a small glass case near the counter, filled with old rings and locket. Among them a single wedding band stood out, it was simple, it's gold worn and softened with time. It was scratched, imperfect, yet something about it felt alive, as if it carried a story within its metal.

"You have a good eye." Evelyn turned to see the shopkeeper, an elderly man with silver - threaded hair and kind knowing eyes. He stepped closer, opening the case with careful hands.

"This ring," He said, holding it between his fingers, " has seen more love and loss than most hearts do in a lifetime." Evelyn tilted her head, intrigued. "Whose was it?"

He smiled, a wistful glimmer in his eyes, "it belonged to a couple who were married for over sixty years. The husband bought it when he had nothing, just a promise and a dream. He couldn't afford a diamond, but she never cared for one anyway, saying love wasn't measured in carats, but in the way he looked at her when she wasn't watching."

Evelyn traced the faint markings on the ring "Did they stay together?" "Through everything." The man nodded. "War, distance, hardship. There were years they barely had enough to eat, times when they didn't know what tomorrow would bring, But they held onto each other, to their vows, to their beliefs that love was something you choose, not something you feel."

She exhaled slowly, the weight of his words settling into her. "What happened to them?"

The shopkeeper's smile softened. "She passed first, he followed not long after, as if the world wasn't quite right without her in it. Their son bought it to me this ring, said that his father never took it off, even when his hands grew too thinly to hold it properly."

Everlyn held the ring between her fingers, feeling the warmth of its history. It wasn't flawless but maybe that's what made it so beautiful. Love after all, wasn't about perfection it was about endurance. She suddenly looked down, her heart sank into her stomach, it was more than she could afford, the disappointment hit her like a wave, and she set the ring down carefully, hesitating. "I... I don't think I can," she muttered. The shopkeeper said nothing, only nodding as if he understood.

Evelyn left the antique store with a heavy

heart, the image of the ring lingering in her mind. That night, she stayed awake, thinking of love, about commitment, about the way some things are meant to find their way back to you. It wasn't about just buying a piece of jewellery , it was about the story and meaning and the legacy it carried through the thin gold metal it carried of endless love. There had to be a way!

The next day with new determination, she hurried back to the same small antique store, ready to make a choice. But when she arrived, the glass case was empty. Panic shot through her. "The ring... It's gone? She asked, her voice unsteady.

The shopkeeper smiled knowingly and reached beneath the counter. "I put it aside for you," he said. "I knew you would come back."

It was the same glass case with the same special ring inside it. Relief flooded her, and she let out a small, breathless laugh. "Thank you so much," she whispered, as he put the ring in a small shiny velvet box wrapped with a gold ribbon. As she held it in her hands, something caught her eye, an engraving on the inside of the band on the ring. She squinted, running her fingers over the worn letters, her breath hitching as she read the names. Recognition flicked in her mind. She knew those names.

Her heart pounding, she pulled out her

phone and quickly searched through her old family records. A wave of shock and awe washed over her as realisation dawned. It was her great - great grandparents' wedding ring. Evelyn clutched the box to her chest, overwhelmed by the strange and beautiful way the universe worked. Some love stories, it seemed never truly ended. They simply waited to be found again.

She looked up at the shopkeeper, her hands trembling. "This... this belonged to my family." Her eyes twinkled. "Some things are just meant to find their way back home."

- By Nevaeh Garrett



**TT Kidz (NZ) gives children aged 6-11 a great first experience in table tennis.**

**8 Weeks of FUN!**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Equipment pack included!**  
T-shirt, Bag, Bat and balls

**Venue:** Table Tennis Northland, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei.  
**Start Date:** Saturday, starting 10th May.  
**Time:** 10:30 am to 11:30 am  
**Cost:** \$100 (new participant) or \$60 (returning participant (Already have equipment pack))

**www.tabletennis.org.nz/tt-kidz**

# Excellere College Cross Country Results

What an amazing day we had doing our school cross country on the 13th May and thank you to everyone that helped on the day. It was great seeing all the students, parents, caregivers, grandparents and extended families supporting our student from the side-lines. I would like to thank all our students for making the Renew students feel welcome at our event.

- Alisha du Plessis, Sports Coordinator



| Year group:         | 1st                | 2nd                     | 3rd                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Year 1 Girls        | Gizelle Buchler    | Molly Dow               | Alexis Jackson             |
| Year 1 Boys         | Atlas Novaire      | Ettore Novaire          | Elijah Henderson           |
| Year 2 Girls        | Bree Heperi        | Noreen San Gabriel      | Kaylen De la Harpe         |
| Year 2 Boys         | Liham Vorster      | Nathan Perkins          | Malachi Johnston           |
| Year 3 Girls +7year | Lola Dow           | Eva-Claire McLean       | Ataahua Waitere            |
| Year 3 Boys +7year  | Cooper Clarke      | Liam Hugo               | Nathan Falloon             |
| 8 year old Girls    | Sophie Dodd        | Keziah Duinkerke        | Arabella Johnston          |
| 8 year old Boys     | Samuel Garton      | Joshua Falloon          | Hwali Ngwa                 |
| 9 year old Girls    | Sacha Trass        | Oriel Novaire           | Larissa van der Hulst      |
| 9 year old Boys     | Jay du Plessis     | James Subritzky         | Xylon Phetsomphou          |
| 10 year old Girls   | Brooke Clarke      | Haven McCallum          | Adelaide Kake              |
| 10 year old Boys    | Joshua Restrepo    | Anton Duinkerke         | Field-Li Ngwa              |
| Year 7 Girls        | Emily Bell         | Sophie Blithe           | Lydia Johnston             |
| Year 7 Boys         | Jake Cabrol        | Benji Browne            | Fletcher Dow               |
| Year 8 Girls        | Mikayla Falloon    | Carley Clarke           | Willow-Dee Semenoff-Mayall |
| Year 8 Boys         | Kai Keith          | Kobe Davies             | Xavier Phetsomphou         |
| Year 9 Girls        | Lienka van Niekerk | Kylie Bradley           | Xandri van der Westhuizen  |
| Year 9 Boys         | Kaiden Bell        | Jaejin Yu               | Aaron Babu Pappachen       |
| Year 10 Girls       | June Underwood     | Micaela Krieger-Penalva | Niamh Rogan-Gibson         |
| Year 10 Boys        | Israel Yung        | Heino van Niekerk       | Thijs Kearney              |
| Year 11 Girls       | Lydia Jongkind     | Jaynee Chambers         | Lauren Gildenhuys          |
| Year 11 Boys        | Joshua Dodd        | James Bradley           | Asher Johnston             |
| Year 12 & 13 Girls  | Jasmine Barker     |                         |                            |
| Year 12 & 13 Boys   | Malan Volschenk    |                         |                            |

## Senior Art Trip to Hundertwasser Art Centre and Whangārei Art Museum

For the second year, Excellere College senior art students had the wonderful experience of visiting the Hundertwasser Art Centre. The experienced art educator Jacinda Selman coordinated an enriching experience for all the students, catered to compliment what we were learning in the classroom.

The day started outside of the gallery with learning about the history of the Whangārei harbour and Town Basin areas. Students learnt about the importance of Whangārei to the early Māori as a place to meet and also of the rich wildlife that lives here.

We were very privileged to visit the store room of the Whangārei Art Gallery. This was the first time the gallery has invited students inside of this space and the staff were thrilled with the students enthusiasm and respect for the artworks. As the teacher I loved seeing my students get excited about artworks up close. For some students, this was their first art

exhibition experience and despite everything that the internet can do, it can't replace seeing texture, brush marks and the full scale of an original painting.

After a break, we were given a tour of the Hundertwasser gallery, learning about the artists' life as a young man, his love of nature and the vast variety of paintings, screen prints, drawings, and architecture that he made throughout his lifetime.



While up on the afforested roof top, a stunning day; the students were announcing things like 'This is the best trip ever', and 'Thank-you so much for bringing us here, we love it.' So the trip was going pretty well, until they spotted this ice cream truck from the roof of the art centre. They begged to be allowed to go and get an ice cream during the next break. I relented and said that they had to be back in 20 minutes with both hands free, ready for the next activity. When I went



to check on the 'ice cream' students, they were in the front row of a road safety presentation happening to the left of the Hundertwasser centre. Lured by the promise of free ice cream afterwards if they joined in on the photo, they didn't realise they would need to also stay through the whole presentation.

While some of the students were still busy learning that there is no such thing as a free ice cream, the rest of the students started the

practical activity which was lino cutting. The students could made a small A6 design inspired by any artwork that they saw today. I was very impressed with the variety of designs that they came up with in the time remaining. The ice cream students made it back safely, (no ice cream) and quickly caught up with making their lino cut.

A wonderful day out that makes all the paper work and forms worth it. A big thanks to Keren Roberts and Angela Quenault for supervising and being a part of the day with us. Thanks also to Peter Sa'ena-Brown who drove us, patiently putting up with the Disney show tunes to and from the art centre.  
- Julie Hale, HoD Visual Art



## Year 7 & 8 Winter Sports Tournament

What an amazing event!!! All the students had so much fun on the 14th May. We had students participate in Football, Netball, Table Tennis and Gymnastics.

At the Year 7 & 8 Winter Sports, I had the privilege of witnessing something really special. Our Excellere Football team of boys were good sports and supported their opponents which they had beaten in the first game of the morning.

These boys were screaming for the Manaia View School boys team as they were about to be taken down by Te Kamo Intermediate Girls team. Our Excellere boys lined up next to the Manaia View girls who were being just as vocal in support.

But the story doesn't end there, in the last game for Excellere the Manaia crew were cheering them on! Friends made on the sports field!

Our boys played really well and won all 4 of their games with 3 boys scoring hat tricks with help from their teammates. They showed determination and grit when being up against the scoreboard but that paled in comparison to their teamwork and sportsmanship.

Suffice to say their prayers were answered, thank you Lord.

- Blessings Peter Meyer



## Whangārei Deep Sea Anglers Club — Junior Team

Congratulations to Kristin Ras for being chosen for the Whāngarei Deep Sea Anglers Club Junior Team. This is a huge achievement and a reflection of her dedication, skill, and passion.



She has been selected to represent the Whangārei Club at the 55th Totalspan Annual Bay of Islands International Yellowtail Tournament, happening June 8th–13th!

### Wheels Wednesday Schedule

Wheels Wednesday is an opportunity for Junior College students to have fun, engage in physical activity and build confidence and resilience on various modes of wheeled transport.

Students must have a helmet to ride!

| Wheels Wednesday Schedule |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Week 7 (11th June)        | Y0-2 students |
| Week 8 (18th June)        | Y5-6 students |
| Week 9 (25th June)        | Y3-4 students |

## Increasing our International Homestay Community

We are very proud of our Mission Statement where we are educating students to develop and excel in their God-given gifts and talents, according to His Word and purpose. We would like to extend God's Kingdom by opening our doors to hosting more international students in 2025.

Hosting international students is a wonderful way to share and gain a global perspective for the whole family. We are looking for host families for Year 7-13 students for both short stay (2-4 weeks) and/or long stay (up to 1 year+). A \$300 weekly allowance is paid to the host family to reflect the costs of hosting a young person in your home.

Please email our International Director, Barbie Reynolds, if you are interested in this exciting opportunity please contact:

[barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz](mailto:barbie.reynolds@excellerecollege.school.nz)

Whāea Barbie would love to hear from you and chat about how you can support our school with this mission.



## NSSSA Cross-Country Regional Results

### Senior Boys:

Joshua Dodd - 14th place - Time: 29.40.1  
Asher Johnston - 17th place - Time: 30.42.8  
Ayden Attwood - 18th place - Time: 31.34.6

### Senior Girls:

Lydia Jongkind - 15th place - Time: 20.30.2

### Year 9 & 10 Boys:

Israel Yung - 3rd place - Time: 16.12.9  
Heino Van Niekerk - 19th place - Time: 18.12.6  
Aaron Babu Pappachen - 29th place - Time: 23.51.0

### Year 9 & 10 Girls:

June Underwood - 17th place - Time: 21.44.0  
Lienka Van Niekerk - 18th place - Time: 22.11.3

### Year 7 & 8 Boys:

Fletcher Dow - 25th place - Time: 15.03.0  
Benji Browne - 26th place - Time: 15.10.6  
Xavier Phetsomphou - 27th place - Time: 15.31.6

### Year 7 & 8 Girls:

Mikayla Falloon - 9th place - Time: 14.1  
Carley Clarke - 22nd place - Time: 15.51.4



## Getting a 'Sound Sleep' in the Middle College

This term, our Middle College students had the privilege of hearing from Katrina Aubrey from Sound Sleep. Katrina is a registered Clinical Sleep and Respiratory Physiology technician who spoke to the students about the importance of sleep, why they need it, how much is recommended at their age, and how it impacts their overall well-being.

Some students were surprised to learn just how much sleep they need at this stage in their development, while others were excited to implement some of the practical strategies Katrina shared to help improve their sleep quality. As part of the session, students reflected on their own sleep habits and completed a sleep schedule to track their current patterns.



## Advertise Here for 2025

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)



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