

Upcoming Events

14 July Monday	First day of Term 3
22-23 July Tues-Wed	Y11 Food & Beverage - Group 2 NorthTec
24 July Thursday	Learning Conferences School finishes 12.20pm Conferences 1pm - 6pm
29-30 July Tues-Wed	Year 11 Food & Beverage NorthTec
4-11 August Mon-Mon	Life Education Caravan Year 0-8
16 August Saturday	Level 1 Commerce YES Trade Fair
1-5 Sept Mon-Fri	NCEA Derived Grade Exams
9-11 Sept Mon-Wed	Education Review Office
9-10 Sept Tues-Wed	L2 Barista Course NorthTec
9 Sept Tuesday	CAAs - Reading P2 -5

Celebrating Matariki at Excellere College



In celebration of Matariki — a special time in the Māori calendar to reflect, give thanks, and come together — our buddy classes joined forces to create a variety of beautiful crafts. We also gathered kai for our hāngī, enjoying delicious food and the warmth of community. It was a wonderful way to honour the season of harvest and new beginnings.

Tino pai rawa atu, whānau — amazing effort from everyone involved!

From the Principal

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

Here we are at the end of Term 2 which of course is the halfway mark for the academic year. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. Our kura (school) continues to grow and for the first time we have more than 340 students. We have extensive waiting lists and will of course be growing further next year with the four additional classes.

One of the joys and the challenges of leading a Christian school is the unprecedented interest in Christian education and Biblical values that we adhere to. As you know we carefully interview each whānau (family) to ensure they support the Christian kaupapa (plan/purpose) that we focus on here at Excellere College. This was reflected in the recent Special Character Review where the visiting team said, "Staff and students report that Christian faith is not only taught but lived out daily." This is a direct quote from the draft review. I will share the final Executive Summary when it is made available. Again, thank you to all community members who made themselves available to meet with the review team.



Last week was Matariki and was a wonderful mixture of practical crafts, games, waiata (songs) and fun all with a Christian emphasis. This culminated in a tasty hāngi on Thursday 19th June. It is so important to thank a number of people here. The Semenoffs for their generous donation, the Longs for supplying two whole mutton and the Rass whānau for arranging the butcher to do the necessary so the food could be enjoyed on the day. Our wonderful caretaker, Peter Sa'ena-Brown, worked very hard to set up the kai cookers. Peter Meyer used his extensive expertise to repair one of the cookers (at 5am) to ensure the food was ready on time. This was overseen by the Whāea Cheryl and Whāea Barbie who were both at school at 5am too. Thank you also to everyone who supported the hāngi with generous donations of kai (food) to make the day possible.

In te ao Māori, koha is a gift given freely, from the heart. It is not a fee or a ticket, but rather a gesture of appreciation and support — often in the form of food, money, or time. In the same way, Scripture teaches us that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7), reminding us that true generosity flows from a willing heart.

For our hāngi, we welcomed a koha to help cover costs and support the event. Whether you gave a little, a lot, or simply your time and presence, we are grateful. What matters most is the spirit of community, connection, and celebration.

On Thursday 26th June (in the evening) Friday 27th and Saturday 28th June many school staff are attending the NZACS (New Zealand Association of Christian Schools) conference



in Orewa. This is a great opportunity to hear from top Christian educators and to fellowship with over 500 educators from across the country.

We are praying for plenty of whānau (family) time over the holidays and for wellness and time to reflect on God's overwhelming love for us.

Romans 8:38–39 (NIV)

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This passage speaks of the unstoppable, unshakeable love of God — a perfect fit for our school setting where we want everyone to know they are deeply loved and never alone.

Andy Mouat
Tumuaki

Farewell to Mrs Matheson

After five amazing years, it's time for me to step away from the classroom as I prepare to welcome a new little learner of my own.

In that time, I've had the privilege of teaching five classes — 110 incredible students — each one leaving their own mark on my journey. From classroom chaos to quiet victories, I've loved being part of the children's growth.

I've run beach trips year after year, and still smile thinking of the laughter, the sunburns, and the endless snacks. I've coached three netball teams filled with energy, resilience, and team spirit — even when we weren't winning, we were growing.

One of my proudest (and busiest!) achievements was creating and running a full-scale school musical — an unforgettable whirlwind of costumes, songs, long rehearsals, and pure joy.

Over the last two years, I also championed our amazing teams through ShowQuest, where we walked away with three trophies and memories that will last a lifetime.

Now, it's time for a new chapter — motherhood. I'm stepping away from teaching for now, but I carry with me every smile, challenge, and moment I've shared with our school community.

Thank you for the trust, the laughs, and the support. I'll be cheering from the side lines (with a baby on my hip!) and hoping to return one day with even more love to give.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mrs Larissa Matheson

Matariki Merrivale Visit



Below: Room 6 celebrated Matariki by making Lanterns and visiting Merrivale Village with our buddy class.. We sang Waita, and some students did their Pepeha. After we spend time talking with the "golden oldies" and shared the love of Jesus by giving away our lanterns



Celebrating ESOL

On Tuesday our year 7-13 ESOL students celebrated the end of term together. We have enjoyed a great second term playing games, talking, laughing and, of course, working hard. It is such a joy to share a small part in the lives of these fabulous young people.

- Keran Roberts, ESOL



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

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



Paper Air Plane Competition

On Wednesday 18th of June we held our 8th Annual Paper Plane Competition.

We had over half the school participate and it was an awesome sight watching all the planes fly out together. There was incredible participation from Room 1,2,3 with the winner being Matteo Florencio with a distance of 12.3m. Matenga Wetere was the winner of the Year 3/4 category with a throw of 11.5m. The Year 5/6 category was won by Hwali Ngwa with a throw of 13.2m.

Kayla Aprea won the Middle College category with the longest throw by a student of 16.0m. A special mention goes to staff member Alisha Du Plessis who had the largest throw of the day at 22.2m. Thank You to Azeneth and Vivienne for measuring and recording all the results. Parihaka was the winning house, with Parakiore and Hikurangi tied for second place. Well done to all who participated, it was a great event!



World Vision Fundraising

This year, the student council, student leaders, and head prefects, led by Mrs Hill, put in a massive effort to raise money for World Vision. The money raised will go to the Solomon Islands, where they are struggling with the persistent rise of sea levels and flooding. The students did individual and school fundraising by having a sausage sizzle, a bake sale as well as a gold coin mufti day.

There were about 20 Students who took part in the traditional World Vision fundraiser and chose to sleep in boxes, walk barefoot, go without food/ only liquids, and the majority had no social media for 40 hours. The goal for Excellere College was to raise \$2000; this year, we surpassed that goal and raised \$4474. The students who raised the most money were:

1. Jay du Plessis (\$1,217) 2. Zoe Sims (\$502) and 3. Mishe Lotz (\$250) ! Well done.



Table Tennis Novice Year 7- 8

There were about 70 students from all over Northland competing in this event on the 12th June, our students had a great time competing and we walked away with two podium finishes.

Boys - Benjamin Browne (Year 8) = 3rd

Girls - Elin McGlashan (Year 8) = 1st



Year 9-13 Novice Table Tennis

The students had a competitive day at this event on the 29th May, unfortunately none of our students have gone through to the championships this year.



Term 3 Sport Events

Week 1	NSSSA Basketball	Year 9 - 10	Friday 18th July
Week 2			
Week 3	NSSSA Basketball	Year 7 - 8	Wednesday 30th July
	NSSSA Badminton	Year 9-10 / Yr11-13	Thursday 31st July
Week 4	NSSSA Netball	Year 9 -10	Tuesday 5th August
	NSSSA Basketball Girls	Year 9 - 10	Friday 8th August

Morning Whole School Devotions by Xavier



In Week 7 of Term 2 our first student for the year presented a devotion to the school on Monday morning. Xavier Phetsomphou delivered his own written and researched devotion to the school.

It was particularly exciting/ nerve wracking for him as it was the same day as we had the Special Character review panel here. To the right is the transcript that he presented to us on that day.

Hello, for those who don't know me I'm Xavier. Today I'm going to be talking about stress and worries and also what the bible says about them. And what you should do.

First of all can somebody tell me how heavy this water bottle is? Well it doesn't really matter. If I hold on to this for 1 hour, my arms will start to hurt, right? If I hold on to this for 3 hours, I will be in lots of pain or my arm might even be numb (most probably it will). You get it, the longer I hold on to this water bottle the more pain it will cause. It's kinda like worrying and stressing out. The more I worry and stress out the more pain it will cause for my mental health which could lead to depression and anxiety. Also studies show that it could disturb your sleep and we all know sleep is important. Stressing out and worrying for too long or too frequently can weaken your immune system, cause headaches and increase risk of heart disease, heart attack and strokes.

Matthew 6:25-27 (NIRV)

I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes? Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying?

Proverbs 12:25 (NIV)

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.

If you ever get stressed and worried, tell a teacher, your parents, or even God. You could even take a break or just breathe in and out.

Be grateful that you're alive and that God is always with you and will always help you through tough times.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

So don't worry or stress about life or your future because God has got plans for you and it's all sorted out. Thank you.

By Xavier Phetsomphou, Year 8

NSSSA Cross-Country Results Amendment

We would like to congratulate Jake Cabrol on getting 16th place at the NSSSA cross country (boys year 7-8), which we missed in the last issue.

Excellere Pearls Thank-you

The Excellere Pearls (Y1-2) Netball Team and their parents would love to say a massive THANK YOU to Xandri van der Westhuizen for Coaching this term!

Xandri has been an exceptional leader and role model for these young Netballers, helping to spark their love for the game and encourage them as they grow in skills and teamwork.

Thank you for giving up your time and energy to inspire and lead this team, we hope to keep making you proud as the season continues. We are so sad to say goodbye, but wish you all the very best at your new school!

From: Brooke, Elijah-Jayne, Bree, Molly, Mya, Elizabeth, Aviana & Gizelle



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Excellere College Whānau!**

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