

Upcoming Events

3 April Friday	GOOD FRIDAY
20 April Monday	First day of Term 2
27th April Monday	ANZAC Day
28-29 April Tues & Wed	Year 12 Barista Course Northtec
30th April Thursday	NCEA Info Evening 6-7pm School Whare
1st May Friday	Flip Out Fundraiser 5:30-7pm
8th May Friday	Whole School Assembly 11am School Gym
5-6 May Tues & Wed	Year 12 Barista Course Northtec
20th May Wednesday	CAA Literacy Reading Year 10 +
21th May Thursday	CAA Literacy Writing Year 10 +
22nd May Friday	Teacher Only Day Maths PD
26th May Tuesday	CAA Numeracy Year 10 +
27th May Wednesday	ShowQuest Year 4-13

Excellere College—Beach To Basin



What an incredible turnout we had for "Beach to Basin 2026". We had over 100 student, staff, and families represent Excellere College at the run event. There was a sea of blue and yellow for race and a lot of positive encouragement as we all crossed the line. Thank you to all the families to who were apart of the event, it was great to see so many people giving it their best or even doing the events for the first time.

Renee: *"I really enjoy doing Beach to Basin this year. I got run the event with my dad and everyone cheered me on which gave me a speed boost"*

Jude: *"It was my first time doing a proper running event. I enjoyed pushing myself and the location of the run. I want to try to beat my time next year"*

Danique and Mila: *"We ran the kids 2 km dash this year. We liked the atmosphere of the event and seeing all our friends and family there"*

- Mr Hanz Shanks, Year 7/8 teacher and amazing promoter of the Beach to Basin.



From the Tumuaki

Kia ora Excellere Kaupapa Whānau,

Here we are at the end of Term 1. The other day I bumped into someone I hadn't seen since late last year and they began to wish me a cheery "Happy New Year" and we both laughed. We realised the irony of the fact that 2026 is already one quarter over. It hardly seems possible.

It was a privilege to be part of our Easter Assembly on 30th March. Ps. Aaron Halvorson shared a wonderful Easter message. So many awards were given out to students who are performing at the highest level. The wave of sound coming off the bleachers as the students sang their hearts out was stunning! It brings such joy to see students worshipping with abandon.



We have such a sense of gratitude here at school for all the successes we have experienced this term. School camp, Duke of Edinburgh (DOE) events, academic, sporting experiences and opportunities for service are some examples of what has been happening. Thanks to all staff and volunteers who have made this possible.



Netball: We are so grateful for the hard work from Anneke Duinkerke and Cherith McLennan in setting up the teams for 2026. This has been a huge challenge but all the loose ends seem to be coming together. However, we are still in need of volunteers to support the teams. At this stage Anneke and Cherith are the only adults coaching this season. We are grateful to the senior students who are stepping up to coach and manage teams but further adult support would be most helpful. Please contact the school office if you're prepared to support the netballers this season.



To me, Easter is the most significant season in the Christian calendar. Without Christ's sacrifice our faith would mean very little. This gives us a blueprint for how to live:

Selflessness: Putting others before ourselves.

Forgiveness: Letting go of grudges because we have been forgiven first.

Hope: Knowing that the Cross was not the end, but the beginning of a new story.

We pray that this season brings peace and reflection to your homes. We hope we are all able to take time out from the busyness of Easter eggs and other commercialism to truly celebrate the reason for the season.

Have a wonderful holiday whānau.
Yours in Christ

Andy Mouat, Tumuaki
Excellere College

2026 TEACHER ONLY DAYS

Please put the following dates into your calendar:

TOD TERM 2: Friday 22 May.

Ministry allocated Maths Curriculum PD

TOD TERM 3: Friday 7th August

Ministry allocated Maths Curriculum PD

Firewood For Sale!!!

Firewood for sale @ \$120 per cubic metre. Please contact Richard on 0211181086 or the school office on 4352458 to order.

Proceeds will go to Whangarei Christian Education Trust for ongoing projects at school.
God bless, Richard Smith

A big THANK YOU to Peter Meyer, Jeff McLaren, Arthur McLellan, Cole Johnston and Dan Garton for assisting in splitting firewood on Saturday.



Northtec Food & Beverages Course

Over the past two weeks, a group of our Year 11 students attended the Level 2 Food & Beverage course at NorthTec, where they developed valuable life skills through a hands-on restaurant service programme. The students gained 14 Level 2 credits.

Our students received high praise from their tutor for their exemplary behaviour, positive attitudes, and strong engagement with the learning material—demonstrating key hospitality values such as professionalism, teamwork, and customer service.

Staff were also invited to attend a lunch service, giving them the opportunity to experience the students' practical skills in action. From goat's cheese and beetroot tarts to beef ragu and chocolate tarts, the quality of dishes showcased the students' growing confidence and ability to apply their theory into practice.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students represented Excellere College and embraced this authentic learning experience.

- Mrs Chantel Minnaar, Gateway Coordinator



EPro8 Competition at Te Kamo Intermediate



EPro8 is a fun competition that includes technology, engineering, and math. It requires teamwork and problem-solving to build specific structures that meet set criteria. Approximately 35,000 students in New Zealand participate in EPro8 every year.

Following our school event back in Week 5, four students were chosen to represent Excellere College in the inter-school competition: Jesse Ang, James Subritzky, Nath Dow, and Nate Blithe. This was the 1st time our school has entered. The competition was held at Te Kamo Intermediate School last week.

As we walked into the gym, we were met by an amazing setup of engineering equipment. Each of the 12 teams had their own station to work at, all equipped with the exact same gear. Once Andrew (our host and judge) gave us our instructions, we were off!

We had two and a half hours to choose and complete a challenge. We decided to build a remote-controlled Mario Kart that dropped bananas from a moving conveyor belt! It was



awesome. We had our fair share of challenges to overcome, but we gained plenty of great learning opportunities along the way. Time flew by, and before we knew it, our session was up. Scoring was done electronically, with teams earning points as they completed each stage of the build. Our team finished 5th overall. While we were a little disappointed not to place higher, we were quite happy with the result. We returned to Excellere College with great stories to tell and even better memories.

- Jesse Ang and James Subritzky + Mr Reynolds

Duke of Edinburgh—Silver Taranaki Expedition

What a trip the Duke of Edinburgh Silver group had in Week 8. Mr Jenkins, Mrs Kelly, and Mr Keyte took 12 students down to Mt Taranaki to complete the Pouākai Circuit. After a VERY long drive down, we arrived at our first hut, New Zealand's oldest prefabricated building, built in 1855 and known as The Camphouse. The students were fizzing as the weather was improving minute by minute, and the mighty mountain showed itself to us at sunset.



The next day dawned very misty and wet, a good chance for the students to test out their equipment. This was a very scenic day with terrain changing from Beech forest through to tussock alpine grasses. The HIGHLIGHT of the day (pun intended) was summiting Mt Henry, which required climbing over 1600 stairs non stop! The sad thing was when we got to the summit it was a complete white out, so we



carried on to the famous Pouākai Tarns, then down to the newly built Pouākai hut, which even had USB chargers installed! After 7 hours of tramping in difficult terrain, it was lovely to stretch out in the sun on the deck. The cloud cleared and we were treated to stunning sights of the coast and the great mountain.

An early start was required the next morning as we had severe wind and rain warnings forecast for the following day, so had to complete two days of walking in one to get off the mountain before the weather bomb hit. As we crested the first ridge we were treated to the most amazing sunrise from behind Mt Taranaki, a real treat for getting up early. Thankfully the first few hours were reasonably flat and fast,

descending the ridgeline we spent most of the previous day climbing, then traversing the marsh flats before tackling the highest climb up the side of Mt Taranaki. The students maintained excellent spirits, pushing through adversity and showing great compassion and camaraderie. As we ascended the side of Mt Taranaki we were able to catch glimpses of Mt Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe in the distance. This terrain was different once again, with soaring bluffs and big boulder fields to be navigated. It was a welcome sight to get back to the two school vans and take the packs off.

The students did an incredible job completing this tramp, with close to 30km of walking and 1500m of elevation in challenging and changing terrain. They showed an amazing spirit of togetherness, and impressed with how they looked after one another. At the huts, other trampers



commented on their lovely manners and warmth towards each other. Well done to all who completed it, you are legends! Special thankyou to Mrs Kelly and Mr Jenkins for giving up their time to come on the trip, and for all the laughs and joy they brought.

- Ben Keyte, DoE Facilitator



Introducing Kataraina Waitere from Arataki Ministries



Tēna Tātou,

I am a new kaimahi to the Mana Ake team within Arataki Ministries. I am a proud Mama of four beautiful Tamariki, I have spent the entirety of my career working in social services alongside whanau and tamariki. I admire the Mana Ake initiative and everything it has to offer Tamariki towards becoming the best they can be.

would love to be a part of supporting Tamariki with techniques of building resilience, positive relationships, emotional regulation, managing emotions during times of change, and building positive friendships. Mana Ake support with enhancing well-being and positive mental health for Tamariki in school years 1 – 8 across Te Tai Tokerau.

Mana Ake is about lifting the mana in an upward direction, helping to battle and overcome well-being struggles. I really look forward to being proactive within schools and building a rapport both Tamariki and staff members.

Eat Yummy Apples for School Sports Gear

Hey there Excellere College!

Eat Yummy apples for Excellere College to claim a share of \$200,000 worth of sports gear.

All you need to do is collect the 'Yummy Stickers' from individual apples, or the 'cut-out labels' from Yummy 1.5kg apple bags and bring them to school.

Year 7 - 13 students bring their stickers or labels to Rm 3 and add them to the appropriate whanau chart. You will see them just inside the door so please just add them yourselves.

All junior classes have their own sheets in their classroom. Yummy apples are available at New World, Pak'n Save and participating Four Square stores. The more stickers you collect, the more sports gear we earn.



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.



Advertise Here for 2026

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

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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Term Time Hours: 3-5:30pm

School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00

For more information contact:

graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com

The Junior College Whānau Cup: Term 1 Wrap-Up

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." — Colossians 3:17.

Our inaugural Junior Whānau Competition has officially kicked off! This year, we've launched this competition to give our tamariki a deeper sense of belonging and whanaungatanga (connection). It's more than just points on a board; it's about our students using their God-given talents, grit, and passions to serve something bigger than themselves. This term our top overall team was: Parakiore. Term 2 promises to deliver another action-packed round of events and competitions. Stay tuned!

The Values Vault: Our Token Tally

Teachers are always on the lookout for students living out our school values. Whether it's a random act of kindness or showing integrity when (they think) no one is watching, these tokens are a way for students to honour God through their character.

These points are tallied fortnightly, rewarding the "quiet heroes" who contribute to the heart of our school.

1st: Parakiore

2nd: Hikurangi

3rd equal: Parihaka and Hurupaki

Kingball: Dodgeball with a twist

Our Lunchtime Sports Competition is where the rubber meets the road (literally!). It's a semi-competitive arena for our Year 4–6 students to showcase sportsmanship and build Godly character.

This term's "Kingball" tournament was epic. Think dodgeball, but more inclusive and twice as fast! After a nail-biting round-robin event, Parihaka played Parakiore in the final while Hurupaki took on Hikurangi for 3rd and 4th.

1st: Parakiore

2nd: Parihaka

3rd: Hikurangi

4th: Hurupaki

Battle of the Brains: Academic Challenge

This week, we held our first-ever Academic Competition - the "high-stakes" tension in the hall was palpable! Every Year 4–6 student joined the fray, split into teams to tackle questions about everything from Maths and English to lateral thinking and, of course, Bible Studies.

It was a total joy to see the "brain boxes" and the "quick thinkers" shining under pressure.

1st: Parakiore

2nd: Parihaka

3rd: Hurupaki

4th: Hikurangi



Excellence In Athletics—Kylie Potgieter

Last Saturday I got nominated to compete for the North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships. All the events I did was shotput, discus and javelin. I got 3rd place in javelin, 4th in shotput and 6th in discus. This means I'm competing for the nationals. Once I walked onto that track I felt very stressed, but never gave up and gave it my all.



Rank	Name	Score
1	Millah Burge	44.78m
2	Bella Coxon	33.89m
3	Kylie Potgieter	30.66m
4	Veronique Koole	29.75m

Year 12 Trades Academy

Our Trades Academy students proudly received their uniform shirts this week. They will wear these on Mondays and Tuesdays while representing our school at the Future Trades Campus of NorthTec.

The students look smart and professional each morning as they wait for their bus to take them to their course. It has been a privilege to organise these uniforms, and they have already made a positive impact—our students wear them with pride each week.

- Mrs Chantal Minnaar, Gateway Coordinator



Mufti For Mental Health Awareness

Mental Health Week!!!! In week 8 the whole school had mental health week. It was a fundraiser for Youthline. It was based on P.A.C.T. P meaning pay attention, A ask, C care, T tell. On Friday we had a green mufti day. There was supposed to be a live band but it got canceled because of bad weather. It was a really cool experience to learn about mental health and how we can help people with mental health issues. -Tiffany Kruger and Wynand Fourie



Books by Mike de Vetter for Sale

Large format books written by Mike de Vetter (former pastor of Whangarei Elim church) are available for sale for \$5 each.

If you are interested in purchasing, please see the school office staff. These will make great gifts of classroom resources for junior aged students.



REGISTER NOW
PARK AVE, KENSINGTON
UNDER 5 - UNDER 13

For more info contact:
Shelley - 027 228 7987
maristrugbywhangarei@gmail.com
maristrugbywhangarei

Registration: <https://explorer.rugby/>

Excellence In Athletics Waldo Potgieter



After placing at the Northland Secondary School Athletics Championship, I recently travelled to the North Island Athletics Championships in Auckland. I

represented Northland in my age group in the javelin event. It was a great experience competing against strong athletes from around the country.

After putting in a lot of hard work and training, I'm proud to say I finished in 1st place in my age group, and 5th place overall. It was an exciting achievement and a rewarding moment for all the effort I've put into my sport.

- Waldo Potgieter, Year 12



Room 8 Easter Letters to Jesus

I wanted to say thank you for your sacrifice that you made on the cross. I'm very grateful for what you did for me and everyone in the world. I'm really sorry about what happened on the cross. Luke 24: 5-6 says "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen"

M- Dear Jesus, I love you oh Lord God. I just want to say thank you for suffering for all of us, and thank you for dying on the cross so I can go to paradise with you. Sorry for what happened, I just want you to know that I know that you're a good guy. Luke 24: 5-6 "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen"

E- You're my SAVIOUR! I'm sad you died, but it was for the best cause ever.

G- We all have faith in you, you saved us! We love you and praise you, you sacrificed yourself for us.

Z- Thank you Jesus you are amazing! You love me so much that you died for me.

B- Help us to live more like you.

H- Dear Jesus, thank you for blessing my heart and saving my soul from sin. Thank you Lord for all of your kind deeds you've done. Proverbs 18: 21 says "The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit,"

T- You forgave us because you love us, you are the king of all kings. I will praise you for all eternity.

A- Even though most people don't know your sacrifice, I am very thankful that I met you at

a young age.

L- Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross and taking on my sins. I am sorry you had to go through that. Love Lydia.

A- Dear Jesus, hello! I just want to say how thankful I am to even know you, if it wasn't for your encounter with my mom I probably wouldn't be the person who I was today. Whenever I hear your name, I'm filled with an unshakable confidence. When I was at my lowest, I always read my gifted bible as comfort. Thank you for everything you've done for us, for your miracles, your preaching, and your death. It's upsetting and awful what was done to you before your death. But if it wasn't for your sacrifice, we would've all suffered for eternity.

W- Dear Jesus, I am so sorry you have to go through this for our sins. Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. Thank you so much for everything you have given me. I am so grateful for you giving me a wonderful life with a lot of amazing friends. S- Please forgive us for we were the one who had done wrong.

S- Dear Jesus, I love you. I'm sorry you died. I just need some answers. Thank you that you died for us. Thank you.

A- Lord I am very thankful for everything you did in your human body and thank you for all your doing that.

T- John 3: 16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten son. But whoever believes him shall not perish and

have eternal life."

B- Thank you for accepting me for who I am. I- I'm very sorry about everything you had to go through and what they did to you, but I'm also very thankful that you did it, to save us, because you cared for us. Thank you.

Z- You are very important in everyone's lives including mine. The day you died on the cross you saved everyone.

E- If I was in front of you while you were on that cross I wish to hug and talk to you in person.

B- I love you because you loved me first.

E- I love you so much. I'm sorry for sinning. Please forgive me. I'm sorry for your pain. Thank you for dying for me.



Flip Out Fundraiser

Kia ora Excellere Families,

We have booked in a fundraising event with Flip for Friday 1st May!

5:30pm-7pm

Tickets are \$22 each, with 50% of the proceeds going towards Junior College outdoor play equipment.

We would be so grateful for your support to make it a fun, successful evening.

Tickets can be purchased at the School Office, or paid for online using this information:

Account: Excellere College Board

Number: 12-3093-0243936-00

Reference: Flip, YOUR CHILD'S NAME
(eg: Flip, J Shanks)

There are a maximum of 100 tickets available. Please bring your ticket with you on the night for entry.

All participants must wear Grip Socks for safety. Please bring your own, or purchase from Flip for \$3.50.

Any queries, please contact Jess Shanks by email: jess.shanks@excellerecollege.school.nz

Blessings and thanks,

- Mrs Jess Shanks, Junior Coll. Deputy Principal



Year 12 & 13 Biology Field Trip



For the sand dune investigation, we went to Waipu Cove, where the Northland Regional Council members of the Coastal Restoration Trust (along with Renew School students) were waiting to guide Y13 students in collecting data for the database (which is used to monitor the plants on the dunes over the years). They used the data later to write their first assessment task.

The Year 12 students also joined the trip to conduct their rocky shore investigation in Term One.

The weather was great, and we all enjoyed some hot chips after collecting data on the rocky shore ecosystem in Waipu. The data was used for their first internal assessment.

- Ms Mehrzad Zamanpour, Biology Teacher

