



Excellere College

Whaia te Maramatanga o Te Karaiti

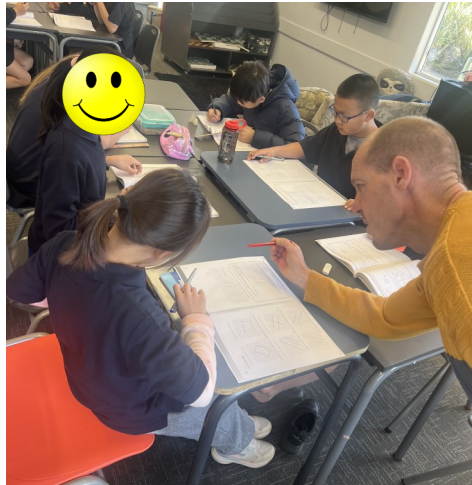
Newsletter - Pānui

August 7 2026 Term 3 Week 3

Upcoming Events

11 Aug Tuesday	Netball Cup Championship Year 11-13—Kensington
13 Aug Thursday	Badminton Individual Championship Y 11-13—Porowini Ave
13 Aug Thursday	Mathex Year 5—10 WBHS—1:30 to 8pm
14 Aug Friday	Basketball Boys Cup Year 9-10—Kensington
14 Aug Friday	World Vision Thank-You Assembly 11:20
17 Aug Monday	Futsal Festival Mixed Year 7&8—Kensington
18 Aug Tuesday	Netball Festival Year 9&10—Kensington
19 Aug Wednesday	Badminton Team Champ Girls Year 11-13 - Porowini Ave
20 Aug Thursday	Firefighter Crew Visit Year 0-3 - On site
25 Aug Tuesday	Netball Festival Year 7&8—Kensington
26 Aug Wednesday	Badminton Team Champ Boys Year 11-13 - Porowini Ave

Excellere College Welcomes International Exchange from China



Kia Ora! This term we have been able to welcome five wonderful international students and their teacher for a two-week adventure. They've dived straight into 'kiwi' life, and are having a blast exploring all things kiwiana!

Our amazing student Ambassadors have been busy showing them the ropes at Excellere College. The visitors are especially blown away by our stunning blue skies and the abundance of fruit on our trees—it's the little things that make our home so special!

A massive ngā mihi nui to our incredible host families who make this program possible. We're building such a fantastic community here! If you'd love to join the fun and host a student in the future, Barbie Reynolds would love to hear from you.

From the Tumuaki/Principal

Kia ora Excellere Kaupapa Whānau,

Thank you all for the blessed start to Term 3. I feel it's important to mention how grateful we are for the patience you have shown in regards to the transitional headaches we are experiencing each afternoon in the school carpark. As our school grows we will be reviewing and refining our processes. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Student Led Conferences on Thursday. This is such an important time where students are able to showcase their successes. This home/school partnership is crucial in nurturing your precious tamariki (children) through their journey at school. Our Teacher Only Day on Friday was a very valuable opportunity for all staff to explore the curriculum changes and to further embed the science of learning in their classrooms.

Over the past few weeks, even more than usual, I have been observing our school staff at their work. I am seeing that sense of vocational calling that comes when we keep Jesus Christ at the heart of everything we do here at Excellere College. From our wonderful groundsman, multi-talented office staff, outstanding Learning Support Assistants and dedicated teachers we are all working together to ensure your children receive the best possible Christian education here in the north of Whangārei. It is a rare thing to be able to say that even our relief teachers are Christian and this creates an atmosphere where we pray first to give God the glory. It is an absolute privilege to be part of this process. We thank you for your continued prayer and support.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

I'm very excited to announce that the Whangārei Christian Education Trust (WCET) is in the process of planning to convert an existing classroom into an additional science laboratory. It is too early to give much detail but the goal is to have it

operational for the start of 2027. We will update you as more details come to hand. Please pray for funding and the consent process to enable this to happen in time. The new lab will be used with the existing facility to give greater scope to teaching sciences at the senior level. Eventually we plan to have two or three labs alongside a new technology block.

We are sad to announce that Jansie Janse Van Rensburg finishes working in the school office today, Friday 7th August. She has brought so much laughter and high level expertise to our processes in our school administration. We are so grateful to Jansie for this season with us and for her positive legacy at our school. She will take up a role with her former employer. I'm sure you join me in praying for a smooth transition for Jansie in her new position. We have been blessed with a very large number of highly qualified applicants and will be short listing and interviewing over the next week or so.

Thank you all again for such a positive start to Term 3. We thoroughly appreciate your prayerful support.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Mouat.

Tumuaki/Principal
Excellere College



A Frosty Start to the School Day

With temperatures below zero this week, students experienced a frosty start to most mornings. The making of a few snow balls was attempted and the shadow of the school buildings created a sharp outline in the frost that blanketed the fields.



Year 7 & 8 Creative Writing

I am so proud of my students who attempted a great punchy piece of writing about the themes from our novel *Gumdigger*, by Kath Beattie. The themes they wrote about were: Hardship and change, character and grit, grief and emotion, social and historical context.

- Jeanne Hill, Year 7&8

The Funeral

I woke up. My eyes crusted over from the crying. It was hard to get up, but I didn't want to think about it anymore. The black dress I picked out yesterday was on my dresser. Staring at me. Laughing at me. I went downstairs. I saw my mum crying on the sofa in her black heels and dress. Her hair pulled into a tight bun. She looked pretty, but that wasn't something she wanted to hear right now. I cuddled up next to her. She wept. Tears were running down her cheeks. Suddenly a black car came honking by. We grabbed our bags and drove to the ceremony. I took a deep breath before I went in. I opened the huge doors. Hundreds of people were sitting with tissues and hankies. I went to my seat. It started. I tried to keep the tears in. It was hard when your best friend, your only happy place, was no longer there for you. I was left destitute. In the depths of despair. Grieving and praying for the only thing I had.

Shock!

It all started with the headaches. Then the X-rays. Then they found it. And to the Auckland hospital he went! We prayed and prayed. He had to have a serious operation. And he can't teach for a long time. He has been slowly trudging around. Kitchen, lounge, kitchen, lounge. How did it happen? ... It was very abrupt.

Moving

When it was announced, I guessed. I didn't want to be right but I was. We all cried. The house went on the market. I didn't want to go. People came and visited but no one bought it. My friends didn't want me to go. Mum said to be resilient. We tried. We visited a school and saw Max and Taya. Then the house sold. We bought a house. It was really happening. I had a sleepover. Then we slept the last night in our house. We drove up to Whangārei in one long day. It felt like we trudged along. We didn't go straight there. We went to Nanas and Grandads. We went to the house. We unloaded. I called my friends. Worst year ever. I must have cried 100 times.

Welcoming New Faces and Farewell to the Waitere Whānau

On Monday of Week 3, our school community gathered for a special mihi whakatau to extend a warm welcome to our visiting exchange staff and students from China. They were called into our space by our kaika-ranga, Bella Choudhary, and welcomed with mihi and waiata from staff and students. We trust that our guests will have a wonderful and memorable stay as they experience school life here in New Zealand over the coming weeks.

The Waitere whānau shared a devotional message about Ihu Karaiti (Jesus Christ) and gave a formal Māori farewell including mihi, waiata, and haka as they prepare to move to Ōtautahi (Christchurch). Excellere College responded with mihi, waiata, and haka, before both sides finished with hongi and harirū. The school prayed over the family, and we wish them every blessing on their new journey in Christchurch!



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.



GRACE
AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Term Time Hours: 3-5:30pm
School Holiday Hours: 8:30 - 4:00
For more information contact:
graceafterschoolcare@gmail.com

Year 7 Tapa Inspired Stencil Artworks

The Year 7 students completed these tapa cloth inspired art works at the end of last term. They studied traditional tapa design processes and inspirations before creating their own stencils designs based on their faith, interests and family.

Traditionally tapa are much larger than these and require a large group of people to complete. The students had to work with at least one other student to make these designs to develop communication and team work skills.



Year 6 Trip to Boulder House

It's Wednesday 1st July. The third-to-last day of Term 2. All the year 6 students attended an epic class excursion to Boulder House, Whangarei.

Trips like this never just happen you know! Planning had started many weeks before. The way Mr Reynolds and the kids raised money for the trip was quite clever. We raised money in a step-by-step process...a good old sausage sizzle! This brought the cost for parents and caregivers down.



Anyway, the time has come to tell you about this event! Once the class arrived at Boulder House on Friday morning, they went to the right side of the bouldering gym to check out the shoe section, which, by the way, was \$5 a pop (thanks sausage sizzle!). Once all of the students were fitted with a pair of specialised climbing shoes, A bit of luck and some divine orchestration, all the kids were quiet and were sitting down, ready for the tutorial on how to boulder safely.



There were some tutors for the students so we knew what they were listening to and we processed the information quickly. Each student was asked to show what they just learned in the tutorial so they could remember what they just experienced. When you fall or jump off the wall you have



to roll backwards and tuck your arms in so your arms don't get injured.

After every one finished that they all moved on to the actual part of the bouldering and we started climbing cautiously. Most people quickly got the hang of it, but some people were choosing their actions carefully so they didn't endanger their lives trying to climb up a wall.

The amount of fun the students experienced was unlimited. Overall, I think it was one of our best experiences ever!

- Oriel Novaire, Year 6



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 Whangārei 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.



Buddy Class Merrivale Visit

Last term, on the last day we went to Merrivale. We were about 50 people walking to Merrivale with our buddy class, Room 24. We walked down the road. The caregiver greeted us. We entered the lounge and there were about 15 golden oldies in there.

We did our Biblical narrative/ My Lighthouse/ Tirama Tirama/ and Matariki Makarena. We shared stars and lanterns to share the Love of Jesus with them. When we left they gave us chocolate fish.

- Mana Dunn, Year 7



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

Lee Reo
Financial Advisor
Helping protect what matters
INSURANCE | KIWISAVER | INVESTMENTS | MORTGAGES

**Quality Early Learning
with Christian Values**

We'd love to hear from you

16 Porowini Ave, Morningside
Ph: 09 430 3050
E: manager@awhielc.co.nz
Web: <https://awhielc.co.nz/>

Awhi
Early Learning Centre



**SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTIONS**

Make a difference!

Vote this September!