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NUA NEWS

Tēnā koutou e ngā Mātua me ngā Whaea

May 2020

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, Greetings everyone

I am sure you would all agree that Term 1 has been unique in allsorts of ways. With all that has transpired over the term it seems an age that we had our first day back, welcoming our new Year 9 students with powhiri and celebrating NCEA results from 2019.

Our start to the year was enjoyable and successful, but we had no idea what COVID-19 meant or the impact it was going to have on our students, our school, our community and New Zealand.

Often a persons true character comes out during times of great difficulty or challenge. In the same way the character of the college is displayed when collectively we are going through a significant challenge. COVID-19 has definitely provided a huge challenge individually for students and their families, and collectively as a college. It is with huge pride that I have witnessed over the weeks of lockdown incredible character and resilience displayed by students, staff and the community.

The NUA Way values of Be responsible, Build relationships, Be successful can sometimes be seen just as words on posters displayed around the college. However when these values are displayed in real life, especially under difficult circumstances it makes me realise the true value of the NUA Way and how it is such a solid foundation for building character.

We celebrate Term 1 for its uniqueness and the success achieved, and we look forward to Term 2.

Nga mihi, Tofa soifua, Kind regards
Grant Congdon
Principal



A Word from the Board Chair

Kia ora koutou

These last six weeks as we have moved through the various levels of lockdown have certainly been like nothing I have experienced in my life-time! I am sure for many of you there have been both stressful and positive aspects, and we recognise the social, emotional and financial challenges that have arisen for some of our whānau. Thank you to all our parents and caregivers who have supported their young people's learning from home – not an easy task when likely there have been numerous other demands on time and energies.

The shift from Level 2 to 4 came relatively quickly and though digital learning has been given increasing emphasis in teacher professional development and student learning in recent years, shifting to teaching totally online learning has required considerable work on the part of our teaching staff. Many of our college staff will have used their school holidays preparing for the start of Term 2 online, and I am also aware that many teachers have spent well over their normal work hours connecting with students online and following up on learning. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the senior leadership team, and our teaching and support staff for all they have done to facilitate students learning and wellbeing during the lockdown.

During lockdown I have been amazed at all the creative things people have done within the confines of their household bubbles. It has also been a delight to see all the wonderful initiatives that have been happening in our school too across this time – including the competitions and online activities run by our prefects and Mr Congdon's daily quiz draws with Pipi.

Our last two board meetings have been held using Zoom and managing meetings digitally was good professional learning for us as a board! Not surprisingly much of the focus of our meetings this term has been on the implications of Covid-19, particularly matters of health and safety, student learning and latterly, plans for transitioning students back to school. We also have much going on in the property front, and while it is with some sadness that we will witness the demolition of N-block over the next couple of months, it is great to see new projects in the school, including the opening of a refurbished art block and plans for a student-centred space in the area vacated by N-block. I hope you enjoy reading about the school's activities in Term 1, and there is much that is positive to anticipate with the return to school for the remainder of Term 2. We are looking forward to welcoming students back and we do hope the transition goes smoothly for students and whānau.

Ngā mihi

Juliana Mansvelt Chairperson
Board of Trustees



Year 9 Powhiri



Each year we warmly welcome our Year 9 Students to the college with a powhiri.





Our new staff



Gina Kelly
Media Studies/Business Studies



Nick Stachurski
English



Lucy Pearce
English/ESOL



Stephanie McKenzie
Physical Education/Health



Nada El Hosseny
Mathematics/Japanese



Sue Meredith
Head of Faculty Technology



Madeline Beckley
Outdoor Education



James Gilroy
Physical Education/Science/
Outdoor/Education



Phillip Ferzli
Mathematics



New staff



Krisha Rangi
Learning Support Coordinator



Rebecca Davidson
Physical Education/Health



Brooke Hooper
Physical Education/Mathematics



Eucheriska Bianchi
Science



Justin Tate
Photography/Design/Art



Athletics Photos





Athletic Photos





Swimming Photos





Swimming Photos





Swimming Photos





Year 13 Camp

In week two of Term 1, the Year 13 students were given the amazing opportunity to attend the annual Year 13 Camp at Matau Marae. Three days full of laughter, bonding, sleep deprivation (thanks to Matua Dylan) and tasty food!

As a cohort, it gave us the opportunity to consolidate and cement relationships with each other, while also allowing us to build relationships with people we don't usually interact with on a regular basis. Thursday itself was a highlight; a fun-filled day that included some highly competitive beach activities. From the sandcastle competition to the bucket and ball challenge to the beach sprint, all houses were competing to the best of their abilities to secure top placings. Karaoke rehearsals took place after heading back from the beach which demonstrated what little competition Rātā had. After dinner, our Karaoke competition finally came around and it was a blast! Rātā emerged victorious with their top-notch singing and superb dance moves!

Thank you to everyone who made this camp one full of fun, laughter and memories. To Whaea Vicki, Mrs Johnson and all of the supporting staff who made this camp happen, we thank you. The time, effort and commitment you put into us did not go unnoticed and we all highly appreciate it. A massive thank you also to Matua Chris, Whaea Kawa, Matua Dylan and Rangatahi Ora, thank you for inviting us to stay at your marae. From the warm welcome to the delicious food and friendly smiles, you made us feel comfortable and at home.

We are sure that staff and students alike can safely agree that the Year 13 Camp of 2020 was a complete success. New bonds were formed, existing ones strengthened and great memories made.

Jamie Harper and Tonga Ngaluafe
Head Boy and Head Girl





Pasifika Workshop

On Friday 6 March, our Year 12 and 13 Pasifika students were given the opportunity to attend a Pasifika Suicide Prevention workshop, facilitated by Le Va from Auckland. There were discussions about 'Mental Health' and also practical strategies for us to apply when helping out a friend or someone in need. We participated in a few interactive activities such as a self-reflection of in relation to a mental health continuum. The activities were further supported by three main strategies which were to check-in, feel good and stay connected. The workshop involved a lot of interaction with others but there was also time for us to reflect on our own.



Some of our students have learnt new techniques to help themselves and also to assist others. An example is Misipeka Ana who shared her experience; "I learnt coping mechanisms which will help me help someone else or myself when it comes to dealing with depression like making sure to check up on my friends to always make sure they're in the right headspace; the 4-second breathing thing; that sometimes help may not come from peers but yourself. I also learn't how to better improve your mood by eating better, moving around more than usual (eg socialising more) and sleeping better. I know to seek help if I were in a really dark place, and I learn't about resources I could use like the Aunty Dee app, and that other app they showed us, Atamai". This was one example of the positive feedback from our group of students who were present at the programme.

Overall, the workshop was an open and encouraging space in which we were well informed with valuable ideas and strategies to nurture our wellbeing. We appreciate the time, effort and resources Le Va has invested in our students and also those who joined us too, from Waiopahu College. The kaupapa of this workshop was really relevant and has made a positive impact on us all. We acknowledge Angelina Tuailii for coordinating behind the scenes. We appreciate her and all her efforts. Our Pasifika Dean, Mr Samson was also in attendance as support, and it was good to see him enjoy the kai provided just as we did too.

Tonga Ngaluafe and Caroline Vehikite
2020 Head Girl and 2020 Cultural Prefect



Ross Taylor T15 Playoffs

The Horowhenua College 1st XI Cricket travelled up to Palmerston North on 11 March to compete in the Ross Taylor T15 Playoffs. Captain Hemish Patel won the toss against our first opponents which were Feilding High School 1st XI and opted to bowl first on a grassy deck which was supposed to provide wonders. Unfortunately, FAHS turned up their strike rates and scored 128 in a 15 over game. NUA's great plan initiated by Coach Nick Stachurski proved a failure, caused by poor batting performances from the senior boys. In the next game, Hemish won the toss again and opted to bat first. Horowhenua College hit 89 runs in the game, but again, unfortunately, our bowling was not up to par with Hawera cruising to victory in the 10th over. The third game against Kuranui College was called off by both captains as the pitch was too dangerous. It was a good day's learning for the boys.

Hemish Patel
1st XV Cricket Captain





Lifting the Lid

On Friday 13 March during lunchtime, an event called Lifting the Lid took place. Schools within our Horowhenua and Kapiti region took part in Lifting the Lid which was implemented by our local Rotary Clubs. The purpose of this event was to shine a light on the issues of suicide and mental health and to remind students to not be afraid to tap out and ask for help. Students at NUA were encouraged to write a kind or reassuring message on a sticky note and in return, they received a free sausage served by our Well-being Committee.

The event was full of positivity, kindness and fun. We would like to say a massive thank you to the Rotary Club for kindly donating \$300 and initiating this event. We would also like to thank our amazing Well-being Committee for helping



prepare and run this event.

Remember it doesn't cost a thing to be kind to others, so always be encouraged to spread kindness.

Tonga Ngaluafe and
Hemish Patel
2020 Well-being
Prefects



Lifting the Lid





Chalk Art Competition



On 5 March, the first Arts house event for the year took place in the centre of our quad. Students were able to win points for their house by either filling in an individual square, or by contributing to their house entry, all centred around the theme of “NUA Way Values”. After much scrutiny and many minutes of deliberation by our three guest judges, Kōwhai narrowly overcame Rātā, despite the impressive visual display of both creations, with Ngaio in a distant third.

Thank you to our judges, Mrs Gilroy, Ms Parkin and Mr Congdon, and all who participated or were there to give moral support.

Oliver Bau & Shyla Hendry
2020 Arts Prefects





Canoe Polo Regionals

On 14 March, our school was fortunate enough to take away three canoe polo teams to compete in the Canoe Polo Regionals in Feilding. We had one junior boys, one junior girls and one seniors girls team. They all played very well throughout the day but in some games we were unfortunately not able to put away the goals. We had five pool play games and then a final at the end of the day.



The junior boys won two games and were unlucky not to win more but ended up getting 7th overall. The junior girls games were very close and placed them 3rd overall, which places them into Nationals. The senior girls won four games which placed us 3rd overall, placing us into Nationals. Nationals were supposed to be held in April but due to coronavirus have been postponed until later in the year.

Nicole Parata and Isaac Bishop
2020 Sports Prefects





Spelling Bee

This year's Spelling Bee saw a number of students across all year levels compete to gain points for their respective houses. This was the first academic house competition of the school year with the first place in the junior division won by Gavin Sue in Year 9 and the first place in the senior division won jointly by Isaac Bishop and Oliver Bau in Year 13. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Academic Committee, Ms Brungar (the librarian) and all other parties involved for planning and providing the necessary resources for this event to run. If the interest and participation seen in this event is to be a benchmark for all academic competitions to follow, we look forward to planning the next event.

Brianna Chow and Ethan Roentgen
2020 Academic Prefects

DVC Level 1 Kohitere Trig Research Trip





Year 9 Welcome Dance

The Year 9 Welcome Dance was an absolute hit with the Year 9's and the Peer Support leaders. Our theme this year was 'Hawaiian'. There were lots of Hawaiian shirts and leis. We had spot prizes that were given out to the best dancers and a night filled with TikTok songs, which seemed to be very popular. We also had pizza which was the best food choice. The Welcome Dance was a good opportunity for the Peer Support leaders to get to know the Year 9's, which increases communication between our year groups, creating a family atmosphere.

Renee Smith & Jared Davis
2020 Social Prefects





Service Academy Induction Course



Kia ora koutou

March was a busy month for the Academy as we prepared ourselves for the Induction Course held at the Waiouru Military Camp. The Induction Course is two weeks of basic training in a military setting, learning the basics of developing character and competence to effectively undertake leadership roles in the near future.

The course taught the Academy students a set of new skills and provided us the experience we needed to succeed in joining the workforce and for everyday life. The camp has helped us a lot in being better people, taking responsibility for our actions and making new memories with the Youth Development Unit (YDU) staff and the other Academies in the central northern region.

Looking ahead the Academy has a Basic Leadership course and Bush Craft course in May and July. Hopefully these will be rescheduled for later on in the year.

No reira kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui

Tipene Murray
2020 Cultural Prefect





GirlBoss Summit

This event was hosted by Waiopahu College and it was great that some of our students had the opportunity to attend. GirlBoss is an organisation that promotes the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) subjects for young women. It also promotes the trades for our



students. This was a great opportunity for our students to engage with experts in the Primary Industries and learn about CV's and interview skills in particular.

This was the first event of its kind in our region. We have previously had a student attend a GirlBoss event in Auckland, which was hosted by Fletcher Construction and another student will be attending an event in Christchurch. We will look forward to more events being run in our region in the future that our students can engage with.

Miss Hale
Careers & Gateway

Secondary Tertiary Partnerships

It is great to see our students participate enthusiastically in opportunities outside the classroom. We recently had Sam's Farming Tutor send us this picture of Sam at his Primary ITO course learning how to fence. Sam is a great student and is loving the chance to learn more about farming while still attending school and earning credits towards NCEA through both. Well done Sam!

Miss Hale
Careers & Gateway





Education Perfect Byte Sized Competition

Heer Patel competed in the recent Byte Sized Competition with schools from all around the world! She gained 216 points, and earned a place on the leaderboard, and won a Gold Award.

Her score caused our school to be 15th in New Zealand.

Well done Heer!!



Education Perfect Experiment during Lockdown

Teeghan and his family have been doing an online Education Perfect experiment during lockdown and grew these awesome Candy Crystals. Way to go Teeghan!

It has been great having Meet conversations about how to get the crystals to grow bigger and saturated solutions, all with his family helping.

Mrs Lewis

Teacher in Charge Chemistry





A word from our Prefect Team



Head Boy & Head Girl

It all started on 23rd March 2020 at 1.30 pm - our weekly Prefect Meeting, usually a lively and busy setting fell silent as we sat together as a team listening to the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern announce that New Zealand would be moving into a nation-wide lockdown, schools were to close and we were to isolate ourselves from one another in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. As Prefects, the majority of what we do relies upon social interaction between each other and Lockdown completely removed the ways we had seen Prefect Teams in the past operate. Lockdown was a time of new beginnings and new ways. Ever heard of a Prefect Zoom Call before isolation? We sure hadn't. Lockdown involved us meeting up with the team over Zoom call a couple of times to check up on each other and evaluate any ideas that we have, to bring forward to our school community. In response to the nation-wide lockdown, we as a team decided to film a video of encouragement for our school community to reassure them that we will get through this together. As well as that video, we created an ANZAC Day tribute video in honour of those servicemen and women. We were pushed to think outside the box when coming up with ideas in catering for our school community and it was definitely worth the time and effort. It really has been a great learning journey for us all, and we as Head Prefects are immensely privileged to lead a team of diligent and passionate Prefects who are always willing to go above and beyond.

Jamie Harper and Tonga Ngaluafe
Head Prefects

Social Prefects

Both of our lockdowns have been filled with binge-worthy TV shows, lots of homework and sleep-ins. We've been making a lot of progress with our leavers hoodies, as this is the only initiative in our portfolio we can work on during this time. The Year 13's have decided on a black jersey and we are now looking into whether we use student designs or pre-made designs.

Jared Davis and Renee Smith
Social Prefects



A word from our Prefect Team

BOT Student Representative/Student Council Chairperson

The last seven weeks have been challenging not only for New Zealanders, but people all around the globe. During the last seven weeks, I have been working really hard on improving my Taha Tinana (Physical Well-being), by eating healthier and trying to stay fit.

It is now an exciting time for the Student Council and our wider school community as N Block is starting to come down leaving an open canvas for some new ideas for the College.

Samuel Anderson

Student Representative on the Board of Trustees

Student Council Chairperson

Well-being Prefects

Lockdown for us has been a time of longing, a time of repetitiveness, a time of reflection and a time of growth. I think it's safe to say that Tonga has become immune to studying through the distraction of boisterous kids. She was also lucky enough to experience her birthday in quarantine. Hemish, just like many of us has never experienced a 'holiday' such as the one we experienced. And the isolation period didn't genuinely kick in till he came to the realisation that he misses his friends. We know that for a lot of people, being in lockdown was a challenge, so we launched our schools first NUA Well-being website. This site was created for the use of our school community in order to shed some light and keep them occupied during the tough and unprecedented time of lockdown. We would like to acknowledge our hard-working Well-being Committee for their great contribution to the site. We also want to extend a massive thank you to our school community for their support in our work.

Tonga Ngaluafe and Hemish Patel

Well-being Prefects

Sports Prefects

While it has been disappointing to miss out on so much quality time with everyone at school, and that a lot of school sport has been left hanging in the balance with the government protocols, we have been encouraged by everyone who has made the effort and contributed to the Length of New Zealand Challenge, something that is very much still going on! When we get back into the swing of things, we are going to do our best to relay as much information surrounding the restrictions on sport to all of our sports teams. We are also looking into ways that we will be able to have inter-house events be played. We'd also like to thank everyone for their patience and citizenship during these stressful and unpredictable times.

Isaac Bishop and Nicole Parata

Sports Prefects

Social Action Prefects

For us, lockdown has definitely been a challenge. Time away from our friends, sleep-schedules completely disturbed, mounds of school work piling up with every Google Classroom notification and maybe too much relaxation: an experience we most likely shared with a vast majority of you. lockdown was a period of repetition, of Zoom calls and Google Hangouts and it didn't really set in until the end of the second week of Lockdown that this wasn't like a 'holiday' ever experienced before.



A word from our Prefect Team

Thanks to some occupants in Carter's bubble, she has come to the realisation that teaching may be her true calling in life. Lockdown provided us with a perfect opportunity to plan for the year ahead - we are looking forward to getting back into daily school life. We would like to thank each and every one of you for playing your part in our "team of five million". By staying home you have fundamentally participated in a nationwide social action and saved lives.

Carter Maddock and Jamie Harper
Social Action Prefects

Academic Prefects

This time in physical isolation has been one which has offered us as students a unique experience. Within the school demographic especially, this has resulted in a unique academic and learning experience. Throughout this time, we have continued in our studies and in our learning: maintaining regular contact with family, friends and our teachers. This has allowed us to better secure our academic achievement goals and has provided an experience which has challenged our resourcefulness as students. We have also created and shared daily quizzes with staff and students, with the intention of providing both an enjoyable activity and promoting additional learning. This has been a rewarding experience for us as Prefects and we hope it has been for the staff and students who have participated.

Brianna Chow and Ethan Roentgen
Academic Prefects

Cultural Prefects

Isolation has been a time that we have enjoyed because of the quality time we got to share with family. It has given Caroline the opportunity to expand her knowledge of others and her own culture. This has led to her learning how to cook traditional meals and desserts. We have introduced an initiative called the 'Cultural Tik Tok Challenge'. This was to encourage students to be proud of where they originate from as well as teaching others new things about their culture.

Caroline Vehikite and Tipene Murray
Cultural Prefects

Arts Prefects

Although spending six weeks inside is not ideal for anyone, lockdown for our artistically-minded students went better than anticipated. The time away from school gave us space to grow and create initiatives that students can get involved in as we return to school. As well as creating for you guys we have also taken time to work on our own artistic abilities, creating paintings and other art masterpieces, as well as watching as many musicals as we could muster. We have many practical, hands-on projects waiting in the wings and are looking forward to finalising these and putting them in place when we return. Amidst the social distraction, together with the economic and financial strife many in our community have faced in the last two months, we are optimistic of what's to come, both for the benefit of our College and the betterment of our country.

Oliver Bau and Shyla Hendry
Arts Prefects



A word from our Prefect Team

International Prefects

Hey, hope you all had a nice long 'holiday'. During the lockdown, myself and the International Committee have been working together to keep the international students at our college feel welcomed and connected with us. We also had to say goodbye to Sara, who went back to Italy during the lockdown and we all miss her already. We hope everything is going well with her and her family. The lockdown has given me the chance to think about the future events we have such as the flag assembly and how we can make it the best flag assembly you have ever experienced.

Cobus Geyser

International Prefect





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We also use our facebook page for messages and updates

<https://www.facebook.com/Horowhenua College>