Opihi - on campus

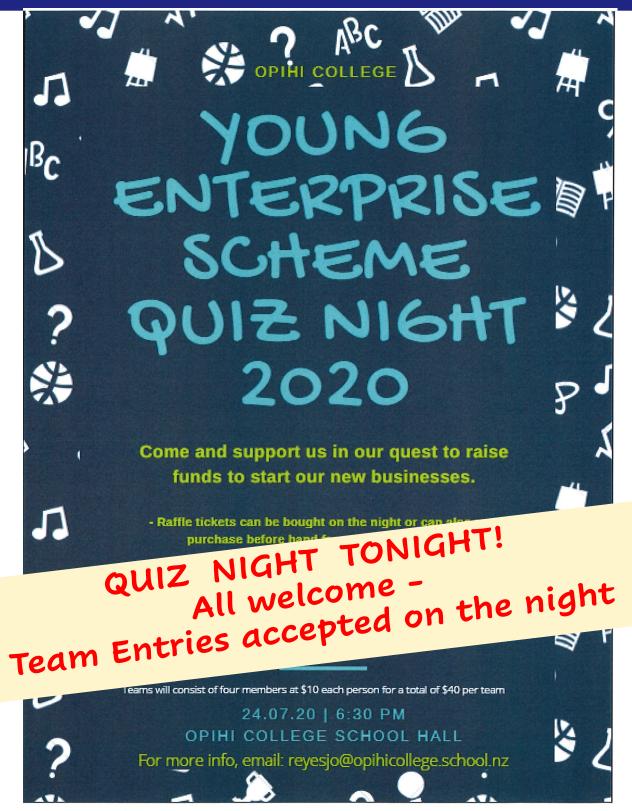






Community - Acceptance - Respect - Excellence

Issue 8 23 July 2020





Dear Parents, caregivers and whanau,

Kia Ora Tatou

Welcome to our first newsletter of Term 3. I truly hope you all enjoyed some family time and took the opportunity for some sort of break during the school holidays.

Uniform

In a February newsletter, I talked about uniform. Unfortunately, this is a matter we are still dealing with. The correct wearing of uniform definitely has a positive impact on the culture of our school. Students were not getting that right last term and we noticed the negative effect that had on behaviour overall, so this term, as part of our behaviour improvement programme we are going to focus on uniform regulations being followed. Your help with this from home will definitely have a positive effect.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform, unless they have an explanatory note from a parent or caregiver, they will be expected to resolve the lapse immediately.

The first transgression will entail correcting the issue.

A second transgression will require the removal of the offending item and the student getting it back from the office at the end of the day.

The third transgression will require the handing in of the item and a further consequence, as at this point we are dealing with defiance.

This is a reminder that staff CAN confiscate incorrect items or clothing at school, as long as they intend for them to be returned at an appropriate time.

Students are allowed to wear as many **SMALL gold or silver studs** in their ears as they choose. Not coloured studs, not dangly earrings, not rods or bars, not sleepers or rings. If your student is having their ears pierced, keep this in mind. Remember that our uniform regulations state quite clearly, "Facial piercing, nose studs, tongue piercing and visible tattoos are not permitted," So save those treats for the start of the summer when there is time to leave the piercing in for 6 weeks. That way they can then be removed for school.

Cellphones

The other aspect of school culture I want to talk about is cell phones. Last term we sent out a survey about cell phones. The results made it clear that parents agree that cell phones DO NOT belong in classrooms. Evidence is clear that having cell phones on students is detrimental for learning. They don't help you think, and the distraction they create hinders learning.

From Monday 3rd August onwards cell phones MUST NOT be on you in class. All classrooms now have a cell phone holder on the wall. Students can opt to put their phone in the holder, on the teachers desk (or in their drawer), or in their own bag. Phones can also be left at home, as they are not a requirement at school. All phones must be turned off and no one is to have headphones in their ears.

These regulations are not negotiable. Abusing these regulations is now a major behavioural issue, which will result in major consequences. We will be working on a three-strike basis if your student violates these rules:

Strike 1: Phone will be taken to the office by the staff member – student can get it back at the end of the day.

Strike 2: Phone will be taken to the office by the staff member - a parent/caregiver can get it back at the end of the day – or later if they choose

Strike 3: As Strike 2, but this will also necessitate a meeting between the student's parent/caregiver and Dean to negotiate further consequences.

If students have trouble with following these rules then they should make the choice to either leave their phone at home or hand it in at the office in the morning and pick it up after school.

We really do thank you for your support in these matters – let's make a combined effort to improve both learning and behaviour by making sure we're getting our culture right!

Ball

On a much more exciting note our Senior Ball, which was postponed because of Covid-19 Lockdown, has now been rescheduled for Friday 18th September. Our Ball Committee are working hard to plan for that event – and they tell me it will be the 'best yet'.

Quiz

Our Young Enterprise teams are running a quiz this Friday night at 6:30pm in the school hall to raise seeding money for their enterprises. There will be supper, raffles, auctions and a great quiz. They would really appreciate your attendance so if you haven't planned it already, get a team together and come and support them. See the advertisement in this newsletter.

E waka eke noa We are all in this together.

Nga mihi.

Tina Johnson

CARE CARD DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations to our weekly draw winners: Antonella Henderson Kade Sturgeon Rickie Beecroft-Suddens Emily Wells

Winner of End of Term draw for a \$50 Warehouse voucher: Lucy Priddle





OPIHI LIVE

Thank you to all who supported the 'Opihi Live" End of Term concert held at Opihi College. It was a great opportunity for our students to play to a live audience. Many thanks to Mr Fleming, Mr Robson and Mr Ireland for their assistance with this.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR 2020		
July	24	Mufti Day Jeans Only Day
	28	Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm
	29	ARA Business Sector Day
August	5	Defensive Driving course begins
	10	Otago Tertiary Open Day
	11	Aoraki Boys Badminton
	12	Aoraki Girls Badminton
	14	Aoraki Cross Country
	17	Ski trip to Mt Hutt



MOUNTAINBIKING TOUR

The Warehouse Timaru have advised that they are having a sale of Opihi College girls navy woollen vests to clear stock. The sleeveless jerseys are reduced in price to only \$8.50 to \$10.50! Be in Quick for this great special which ends on 2nd August 2020.

UNIFORM

Our Senior Outdoor Education class enjoyed a strenuous three day mountainbike tour at the end of last term. The group cycled from Temuka to Mt Nimrod on the first day, then from there to Raincliff, and from Raincliff back to Temuka. A great effort by all involved! Thank you to Mr Grace, Mr Will Sharp and Miss Henderson for accompanying the students on this trip.

YEAR 10 AGRICULTURE TRIP

On Friday 3rd July, I took 21 students on an Agriculture trip around South Canterbury. The trip was to expose students to a large range of highly productive farming practices. The students visited Warren and Andrew Darling's arable farming operation at Scarsbrook first. This property is one of New Zealand's leading arable farms and grows a range of crops that students were able to see. Andrew was able to explain what some of his challenges were in moving through this stable farming industry. There was lots of large farm equipment for them to look at and this was well received by the students.

We then moved on to Brendon Durcan's dairy property at Pareora where students observed cows and calves being milked. They also looked at some of the issues that dairy farming faces with winter feed. Students were fully engaged here with lots of active activities to do. Thank you to Shane Enright the share farmer who took us around this farm. This was a very good hands on experience.

From there we moved on to Cave where we visited Marc and Helen Andrews pig operation. The farm is a very good example of young farmers who have become leaders in the pork industry. They were able to see the entire operation from piglets being born right through to pigs being ready to be sent to the abattoirs.

We rounded off the day and returned back to school at 3 o'clock. The quality of the Opihi students was fantastic and they were a real credit to both Opihi College and the Temuka Community. They asked lots of good questions and really got stuck in and got their hands dirty at times. A thank you to Mr Ireland and Anna who accompanied us on this trip.

David Mills Agriculture Teacher





