

Opihi - on campus



Community - Acceptance - Respect - Excellence

Issue 11 - 8th July 2021

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TAUMATAKAHU BLOCK



From across the Principal's desk ...

Wow what a term

As we near the end of term 2 and I'm sure all the students and staff are looking forward to the holidays. As a school this term we have had to really be adaptable with new buildings to open, classrooms to move, access restrictions, embedding the new Choice program for Years 9 and 10, farewelling several staff and resulting temporary staff shortages to name but a few of the challenges. I would like to say a huge thank you to all who have been involved in making this term a huge success despite this. The students have excelled themselves throughout the term being a credit to our entire community time and again. To the staff for stepping up with teachers taking extra class to cover the shortfall, moving over half the school in less than 12 hours all while still being positive inspirational people, thank you. And finally, thanks to you the wider Opihi College community for your ongoing support and involvement with some many things such as trips, fundraising and coaching which are all invaluable in making Opihi College an amazing place.



Taumatakāhu Official Opening

We had a really exciting day on Wednesday where we got to officially open the new Taumatakahu building. The day started with Matua Ta Wera King formally blessing our building and all of our classrooms. This was then followed by a pōwhiri (official welcome). We were blown away by the attendance of some many guests, who included Nigel Bowan (Timaru District Mayor) and Paddy O'Reilly (Timaru District Councillor) members of the local runaka, Te Aitarakihi and Arowhenua Whanau Services, Ex-principals and staff of Opihi College (and Temuka High School), representatives from the Ministry of Education, local Police, Principals from local schools, Arowhenua, Mountainview and TGHS students, representatives from a number of local support services and general community members.

It was pleasing to have so many positive comments from our guests, not only about how fabulous our new learning spaces are, but more importantly the way that our students represented our school during this ceremony. They sang our school waiata and performed our haka with pride. All our staff are very proud of the way that they conducted themselves in this very formal occasion.

Naming of Taumatakāhu

The new building is named Taumatakāhu, after the local stream that works its way through Temuka.

The cultural center is called Te Whare Puawaitanga, which has reinstated the name of our previous Whare, demolished in January 2018, with an extension, showing the whanaungatanga between the two.

Our first hub is called Kōtuku because for many years a kotuku (white heron) rested at the stream each year for some time – creating a cycle of return. Kōtuku had mythical status for Māori because of their rarity and beauty. The epithet 'te kōtuku rerenga tahi' (the white heron of a single flight) was given to distinguished guests who visited rarely. This yearly visit was seen as a blessing upon the district.

Our second hub is called Kāhu because the stream name refers to the perch of the harrier (kāhu) or in a slightly different context the perch from which the kāhu surveys the land. In Māori culture the kāhu was believed to be noble like a chief – the one with oversight of the land.

The Science hub, Taiao, represents our connection with the natural world and environment.



OPEN DAY

8th

August

11am – 12.30pm

COMMUNITY |

ACCEPTANCE |

RESPECT |

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For more information about our school, visit our website or ring the office to make an appointment with the Principal.

Come and have a look for yourself on Sunday 8th August from 11:00am – 12:30pm

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(03) 6157442

Open Day

If you missed the open ceremony we would love to show you how the school now looks and we encourage everyone to come in for our Open Day on Sunday 8th August from 11am – 12:30pm. This is an opportunity to visit our new learning spaces and also talk to some of our teachers about the learning programmes that we have on offer here at Opihi College.

Teacher Only Day – Friday 13th August

The Government had set all Canterbury secondary schools to have a teacher only day on Tuesday 10th August for the new NCEA changes. We have been advised that this date has now changed to Friday 13th August. We apologise for this inconvenience. We will not be open for instruction for that day.

School Lunches

As we are a part of the free school lunch government scheme, our students are lucky enough to receive a free school lunch should they wish. This has now been running for two terms and will continue for the rest of this year. A survey has been sent out to all students and families to give Lilbelle some feedback and suggestions. We encourage all our families to take part in this survey as they are always wanting to improve their service.

Sports Exchanges

Pleasant Point Primary have invited us to participate in a Year 7 & 8 exchange with them on Friday 20th August. At this stage the sports will be Rugby 10's, Football, Netball, Hockey and Basketball. We are currently asking Year 7 & 8 students to elect a sport, should they wish to participate. This is a really exciting opportunity and more details will follow next term.

Amuri Area School have also asked to come to Opihi College with a Year 9 & 10 football team to play a one off game on the last day of Term 3. We will be asking for interested students to sign up next term. This team may also include Year 8's if there are not enough numbers.

Starship Mufti Day – Friday 30th July

Our head students are organizing a mufti day for the first Friday back to raise much needed funds for Starship Hospital. They would like everyone to dress as a celebrity (a star!) and they will run a best dressed competition. The holidays will be a great time to get your outfits ready for this mufti day.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a safe and relaxing break and we will see you all back to school on Monday 26th July.

Tony Robson
Acting Principal

FAREWELL

Sadly this term we farewell Mrs Natalie Bergamini from the staff. Mrs Bergamini has taught at Opihi College for the last 14 years, and prior to that parents may remember that she taught at Temuka Primary School. Mrs Bergamini is leaving to start a new position at an Early Childhood Centre in Geraldine. During her time here at Opihi College 'Mrs B' has been very involved with teaching our Year 7 & 8 students, has worked as a Dean, organised and helped out on many school camps and tramping trips, accompanied groups on international school trips, managed sports teams and accompanied them on sports tournaments.



*Farewell and Good Luck in your new position
-we will miss you here at Opihi College!*

ABSENCES

Just a reminder when leaving an answerphone message or texting the absence line to please give a reason for your child's absence (such as sick, family holiday, course, funeral, and so on). We are required by the Ministry of Education to code all student absences.

If you are wishing to contact the school by text message, please send your messages to our:

Absence phone on 027 317 7512.

Please do not reply to the number on our computer generated texts as unfortunately there are issues with our computer receiving text messages sent to these numbers.

Messages are able to be left on the absence line at any time by phoning the **Opihi College office on 03 6157 442.**

Many thanks

FOR YOUR CALENDAR 2021

July	9	End of Term 2
	12-14	SISS Junior Netball Tournament <i>Christchurch</i>
	26	Start of Term 3
	27	Board of Trustees Meeting 6.30pm
August	4	Trip to University of Canterbury
	8	Opihi College Open Day <i>All welcome to tour our school</i>
	13	NZQA Teacher Only Day <i>Please note: School will be closed for instruction</i>
	18	Ski Trip <i>Mt Hutt</i>

TEACHER ONLY DAYS

Upcoming NZQA Teacher Only Days which the Ministry have set for us. These are for schools to work through the changes that are happening for NCEA. Please note these dates:

Friday 13th August 2021

Thursday 25th November 2021

Please note the school will be closed for instruction on these days.

TEACHER ONLY DAY CHANGE OF DATE

The Ministry of Education have advised us of a change of date for our next Teacher Only Day. The teacher only day scheduled to be held on Tuesday 10th August **will now be held on Friday 13th August.** This day is set by the Ministry for schools to work through changes that are happening for NCEA. Our apologies for this change of date.



MARKET DAY

Our Year 10 students have been busy preparing food for sale as part of their Foods Class. Students have prepared pancakes, waffles, spring rolls and wontons. *Great work!*



Shop Till You Drop

This term there has been an Education for Sustainability class called "Shop till you drop". In this unit year 9 and 10 students have learnt about the scientific evidence of what is driving Climate Change and what they can do to help reduce the effects of Climate Change. They have learnt that one way to help is to make better consumer choices. Through this they have learnt about a variety of different products and analysed the carbon footprint of each. One of the key skills we have been learning is to question if consumer products are Climate friendly and if not, looking for an alternative.

There have been a number of businesses who have been extremely generous and have gifted students samples of their products to try. Each student has received a gift pack that includes:

- * A reusable stainless straw from Caliwoods (www.caliwoods.co.nz)
- A Bamboo toothbrush from Grin Natural (www.grinnatural.co.nz)
- A solid shampoo bar mini from Ethique (ethique.com/)
- A roll of toilet paper from Smartass (www.smartass.co.nz/)
- A lipbalm from KT's Products (www.ktsproducts.co.nz)

In total this gift pack is worth approximately \$27. All of these products are sourced from NZ based businesses that hold a strong philosophy of sustainability, reducing plastic waste and fossil fuel use. They were really keen to give students an opportunity to try their products and compare them to other products. We are so grateful to these businesses for their willingness to donate these items! These items were given to students in an upcycled bag useful when purchasing loose fruit and vegetables from the supermarket (as an alternative to using plastic bags).

CARE CARD DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations to our recent winners:

Kade Sturgeon
Connor Gould
Georgia Hammond
Baiden Halkett
Ashleigh Griffiths
Hudson Swete
Amelia McLean
Samantha McLellan
Lily Bennett
Georgia Hammond
Well done!



CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all of the Opihi College athletes who competed in the Aoraki Cross Country recently.

Congratulations to Ashley Rhodes who finished in 3rd place in her event.

UNIFORM

A reminder of the School Uniform guidelines for student footwear:

All students are to wear black, leather or leather look shoes of a plain design with enclosed toes. Shoes must be able to be polished, not suede or canvas. They must be shoes not boots. They must comply with Health and Safety requirements for protection of the foot in technology and science areas.

VAPING LEGISLATION

On 11 November 2020, changes took effect under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act that saw the existing prohibition on smoking at schools, kura, early learning services and kōhanga reo extended to include vaping. This means that by law Opihi College must be smoke free and vape free, both indoors and outdoors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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BEST SONG AWARD FOR "THE BIG FOOTS"



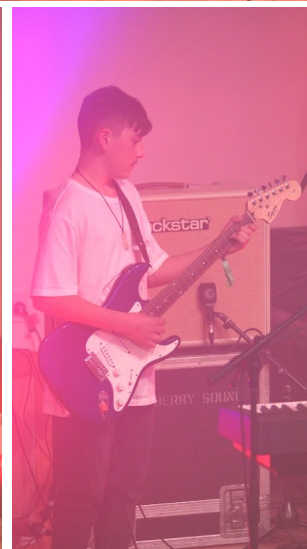
MUSIC

As preparation for the annual Smokefree Rockquest competition, the Opihi Live concert was held at Opihi College. This was a great opportunity for our student bands to perform for family and friends. Thank you to all who came along to support them, and to Mr Fleming and all of the staff who assisted to hold this concert.

Well done to all of the Opihi College student bands who performed at the recent Timaru Final of the Smokefree Rockquest competition held in Timaru. Three bands of Opihi College students competed with pride: Reef, Liam and Luke as "*The Big Fools*", Jahmal, Destiney, Wyatt, Ethan, Julian and Riley as "*Abu Sieve*" and Bridie, Tahlia, Sophie, Tumai and Lachlan as "*Francis/ Conrad*".

Congratulations to "*The Big Fools*" comprising Reef, Liam and Luke who won the "Best Song Award"! Well done! 'The Big Fools' have also been busy preparing a video submission for the national finals. Many thanks to all who have supported and encouraged them, and Mr Fleming for his guidance and tutelage.

Photos: Grateful thanks to Toni Brazendale





AGRICULTURE

This week the Year 9&10 Agriculture class went on a trip to Andrew Darling's grain farm. The students were excellent and the trip went off without a hitch. It's great for the students to experience excellent farming practice and see a different approach to minimum tillage farming which is very sustainable. Andrew is highly thought of with being a world record holder in barley production. The technology which he uses on his tractors and fertilizer spreading operation is leading edge. This was an excellent field trip and once again our students were great ambassadors for the College.



Last week we had Temuka Transport visit to show our students how fertiliser trucks operate. The computerized technology they are running to ensure sustainable and accurate fertilizer spreading was very interesting, and gave the students a good introduction to how this truck operates.

Thank you to Temuka Transport, Andrew and Amy Darling, and Mr Mills for arranging these very informative visits for the Agriculture class.



Alpine ENERGY 2021

Model Railway Expo

Saturday 17th July

10am - 4pm

Sunday 18th July

10am - 4pm



Family \$20
Adult \$10
Child \$3

Roncalli College Gym
Craigie Avenue, Timaru



Proceeds to Hospice South Canterbury

Dare to challenge!!



While we were all tucked up in our warm homes, watching the Canterbury 100yr flood event. Young cadets were out staying in Staveley Camp challenging themselves.

Cold, wet and extremely muddy they made their way through a course following a rope. Sometimes heading under logs, then rinsing off in a cold stream. A battle of wits and leadership was needed, then needing to be evacuated out in the rising rivers. **Sounds exciting right!**

These types of adventures and friendships are things these young adults will never forget. Are you 13yrs or older and live in the Timaru District, join the Navy Cadets and you could possibly see Hector's dolphins up close in Caroline Bay, Air Cadets learn to fly over amazing scenic routes around Rangitata, Army Cadets tramp through dense bush, learn navigation by map and compass and so so much more!



Search for Timaru Cadets on Facebook or come along and explore every Thursday evening from 6:30pm at 61 Coonoor Road. (Entrance is at the Timaru Christian Preschool)

<https://www.cadetforces.org.nz/>

GERALDINE LANTERN

WALK

Geraldine Lantern Walk is on 17 July 2021 beginning at 6:00pm in Kennedy Park. The postponement date is 31 July 2021. This magical walk will begin with storytellers and performers before enjoying the illuminated walk along the Waihi River. The walk finishes at the Academy where fires will be burning and hot drinks, food and marshmallows will be for sale to enjoy during this mid-winter community event. Event is FREE, but a gold-coin donation will be greatly appreciated.

