



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Two, Week Two - Monday 6th - Friday 10th May 2024



TE KAHU ROLLESTON SPOKEN WORD POET

On Wednesday, Ōtorohanga College enjoyed a visit from the renowned spoken word poet Te Kahu Rolleston. Spoken word poetry focuses on recitation and word play, such as the performer's voice intonation and inflection. Spoken word poems frequently refer to issues of social justice, politics, race and community. Te Kahu brought his enthusiasm for his art to our stage and enthralled our College with his own brand of rap/hip hop and song. His passion and enthusiasm for his culture, our rangatahi and their education shone through.



All students attended his performance and then after this he held a workshop for a selected group of students. This workshop focused on teaching our students how to write their own spoken word poem using motivation from their own lives. Watching a smaller group of students respond to Te Kahu's guidance during the workshop was wonderful. Everyone successfully crafted a piece of slam poetry on a wide range of chosen topics that were close to their hearts. Being able to sit and listen to these pieces was amazing. Our students wrote about those things near and dear to them, in a way that we, as an audience were able to relate to. This is the mark of successful writing - something that touches your audience or readers. Te Kahu reported that our students were highly engaged and produced some very good work.

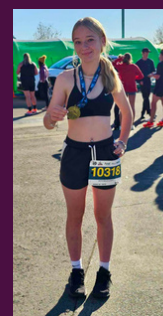
STUDENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Boys' 1st XI Cricket captain, Henry Murchie, was presented with the trophy at the Waikato Secondary Schools cricket prizegiving, for being the highest wicket taker in the Senior T20 competition. Being the top wicket taker is an outstanding achievement and Henry achieved this taking the most wickets out of a competition which features over 80 players.



RUNNERS EXCEL IN ROTORUA

Mya Needham, a Year 10 student, showcased her exceptional running prowess this past Saturday by clinching victory in the female section of The Rotorua 5.5km race. Competing among a field of 400 runners spanning all ages, Mya dominated the female category and secured the top spot. Impressively, amidst both male and female competitors, Mya claimed the 7th position overall. Mya completed the 5.5km course in 23 minutes, however, her time could have been much faster had the 5km runners not needed to navigate through a separate event featuring 500 walkers.



In the half marathon category on the same day, Year 13 student Sam Connolly achieved a personal best with an impressive time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Maintaining an average pace of 5 minutes per kilometre, Sam's performance marked a significant improvement over his previous best.



Congratulations and well-deserved praise are extended to Henry, Mya and Sam for their outstanding accomplishments.

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HEALTH AND PE FACULTY

Health and Physical Education in Term 2 is always a busy term as the weather cools down. To keep students warm, we have been preparing for the 2024 Cross Country, which is held on Tuesday the 14th of May during Learning Block 5. Our focus in PE lessons has been on slowly building cardiovascular fitness through increasing our distance and time running.

Health classes are continuing through important hauora topics. Mental Health has been the focus of this week and learning not only the strategies to improve our own mental well-being, but also health promotion is an important aspect of this mahi. In the Junior Modules, Dan Tasker from King Country Rugby has continued to take Train 2 Gain students on a Wednesday for rugby-focused training. Here he has been combining his expertise with rugby skills and conditioning and giving our students an excellent experience in this area. It has been fantastic to see a number of these students then transition into the Under 15 Rugby team.



Whaea Samm continues to take the Netfit Module, where the students have been working hard on their core skills for netball. This is done through drills and modified games out on our netball courts. Mr. Parsons in BoxFit has been making tremendous progress with these students. This week students completed a BoxFit physical conditioning challenge which really pushed many of our athletes outside of their comfort zone. As we progress through the term and year, these foundations make for an exciting journey ahead in Health and Physical Education.

We wish Miss Hayward all the best as she went on maternity leave at the end of last term and we also thank Whaea Vanessa for taking a class last term.

KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- Monday 13th May Year 9 Careers Speed Dating
- Tuesday 14th May College Cross Country
- Wednesday 15th May PPTA Union Meeting
- Wednesday 15th May Auckland Writers Festival
- Friday 17th May Pink Shirt Day
- Friday 17th May Attitude Health Presentation
- Monday 20th May Photolife Class Photos
- Tuesday 21st May King Country Cross Country
- Friday 24th May Kyoai Gakuen High School Visit
- Friday 31st May Accord Teacher Only Day

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