

Kia ora koutou e te whānau

It has been a pleasure seeing our students' character, determination, courage and wide-ranging talents across a large number of events over the last two weeks of Term 2.

It was fabulous singing along to music from my earlier years in our wonderful school production C'mon. Recalling events, songs and people of the 60s, 70s and 80s will have been a highlight for many of us more mature people in the audience. The real highlight though was the energy, courage, talents and joy of the performers combined with the slick teamwork backstage. The dancing, colour and live music created a great spectacle for an appreciative audience. Congratulations to all students involved and to the team of staff who helped make it all happen, especially the producers Stephanie Davis and Cath Forsyth.



Relationships and a sense of whānau and belonging are a core part of Māori values. This was a goal of our shared wānanga (learning time) with Māori and Pasifika students from our kura and from Dunstan High School last week. We travelled to Alexandra and started with a mihi whakatau (welcome) followed by kai and then kōrero. The students learnt a new waiata together and then participated in a Mau Rākau workshop with tutors from Queenstown. Connections were made that we aim to build on with a further wānanga next term.



It has been a pleasure watching a wide range of school sport over the past two weeks and seeing the commitment, fairplay, competitive spirit and respect for all, regardless of the result. I enjoyed seeing skills and sportsmanship being shown by our Year 7-8, U15 and U16 rugby teams recently. Our U15 rugby team were very determined in their close fought win against a team from Noosa, Australia. It was an amazing atmosphere here on our courts for the surprise arrival of the Year 7 - 8 Central Otago Netball Tournament. A great buzz, lots of whānau support and wonderful fairplay. Our senior A mixed hockey team had a good result against Mt Aspiring and they played



very strongly to draw against a travelling team from St Peters College, Cambridge. I was impressed too by the excellent commitment from all players in the U17 and U15 soccer teams in the games I watched on a couple of cool Sunday mornings. Tino pai rangatahi mā, well done to you all. We have several codes preparing for the Winter Sports Tournament in mid Term 3. All the best to parents, coaches, players and supporters with fundraising, training and preparations.



U15 Soccer Teams



Hockey v's St Peters College

Our Sports Roll of Honour was established to celebrate students who have achieved top 5 results in national competitions. We have not had the opportunity to acknowledge students for the past two years with COVID disruptions so it was a proud moment on Wednesday for the six new student inductees and their whānau. Congratulations to: Clay Dawson - 1st Speedway Ministock, Hamish Earl - 4th BMX, Charlie Leyser - 2nd BMX, Lachlann MacTaggart - 2nd 50m freestyle Swimming, Willa Sonntag - Rowing (Coxswain) 3rd Mens Novice Quad, Jack Spence - 3rd U14 Snowboarding. Also acknowledged were current inductees who have continued to achieve highly, Lily Huband NZ 2 BMX and Ben James NZ 1 BMX.



Sports Roll of Honour: Hamish Earl, Clay Dawson, Charlie Leyser and Lachlan MacTaggart. Absent Willa Sonntag and Jack Spence

Today we farewelled mathematics teacher Harriet Luxton who is off to teach at Wakatipu High School, closer to her Queenstown home. Students and staff will miss Harriet's professionalism, care and collegiality and we wish her all the best for the move. We are looking forward to welcoming Louise Haig to our staff to cover these classes from Week 4 next term.

Our Year 7 and 8 teaching team valued the conferences with parents and students on Wednesday this week. Lots of powerful learning conversations and acknowledgement of the strong engagement and positive progress by students.

I hope the COVID update shared yesterday is useful for whānau. It remains a challenging and busy time managing wellness and providing manaaki and care for tamariki. We are hopeful that the two week holiday break will allow for rest and recovery and rejuvenation for staff, students and whānau. Ngā manaakitanga - take care.

Mason Stretch
Tumuaki - Principal

U15 Rugby v's Noosa - Kōpūwai Haka

