



Dear Parents and Friends



NCEA has now finished. I hope the exams went well for you all and your hard work is rewarded. Now you have a chance to relax and enjoy the holidays.

Mrs Croy, our Library Manager, retires at the end of the year and she has been with us for 30 years. She has obviously seen many changes in her time here both in the library and in the school. We have a wonderful and efficient library and that is all thanks to Mrs Croy's efforts. Enjoy retirement Sonia it is thoroughly deserved and it's time to indulge yourself in whatever you want. She did not want a fuss made about her leaving but it is important we recognise her massive contributions to our school and community over the years and wish her all the best.

Sustainable Bags

The Year 10 Textile Technology class have been busy making cloth bags to distribute within the community. They have been learning how plastic bags used when shopping can pollute our oceans. With 8 million tons of plastic bags being dumped in our oceans every year they wanted to act and create an alternative. Their fabric bags will last a life time and are going to be used by their own families and handed out at local shops for people to use.



2018 OPENING PROCEDURES

COURSE CONFIRMATION FOR YEARS 11, 12, 13

Tuesday 30th January - 1 – 4p
Wednesday 31st January - 9am - 2pm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Wednesday 31st January - 9am
Thursday 1st February - 1.30am

STARTING DATES

Thursday 1st February,
Year 9 & Peer Support Leaders 8.45am - 3.15pm
Friday 2nd February
All students, Years 9 - 13 8.45am - 3.15pm

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniforms are available at Yarntons, Birkenhead.

NEW ENROLMENTS

The College is open daily from Thursday 25th January onwards.
For enrolments by appointment – please phone 483 9039, or call in personally at the College office.



2017 Yearbooks available now from the school office. \$20 per copy.

Reminder.... Please return all school text books and resources.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017

TERM 4

Week 8	Tue 5 Dec	Junior Activities Day
	Fri 8 Dec	Junior Prizegiving, Reports home, last day of Term 4.

TERM 1 2018

	30 & 31 Jan	Course Confirmation Days
Week 1	Thur 1 Feb	First day Year 9 students only
	Fri 2 Feb	First day All Year levels (Day 1)

Monday 4 December is Day 3

C Waller, Principal



Bush Ecology

The Science Department recently took about 30 Year 9 and 10 students to Rangatira Reserve, at the back of Birkenhead College, to learn about many different aspects of bush ecology. Anna Baine, a local council Ranger, organised a fantastic 2 hour session which had students taking part in 3 different activities. She was assisted by Andrew Irwin whose children used to attend Birkenhead College and who is now a conservation volunteer. Mrs Morris, the Careers Adviser from Birkenhead College, was also on hand to provide an interesting and informative talk about some of the native species in the

reserve. We also had the assistance of a Year 13 student, Sarah Adams, who is planning to study Zoology next year.

One of the activities that the students took part in was to clear some of the invasive plants from beside the path. By the end of the session a large area had been partially cleared. The students also learnt about testing water for its clarity and also life in the stream. Pest animals were covered and also how these animals were trapped and poisoned.

Students were also taught how to identify a few of the native plants in the reserve and some of our common birds by their calls.

All in all the students had a thoroughly enjoyable time and some were keen to attend a similar session next year!

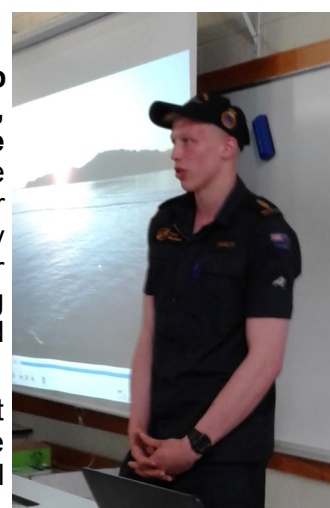


Year 10 Careers Morning

A big thank you to our past students **Caleb Belsham, Sam Beattie, Igi Manaloto, Anoushka Dallow, Zakk d'Larte, Sione Taufa and Cristelle Sanchez** plus three graduate engineers from **Futureintech** and our resident physiotherapist **Damian Nam**. They came into school last Friday to talk to our Year 10 students about their pathways and training on leaving school, their current work and ambitions for the future.

Each of our students were able to find out about nine different careers including software development, graphic design, geotechnical engineering, the defence forces, cheffing, events management, law and primary teaching.

We really appreciate the time our visitors took out from their work to help our students with ideas for their futures. These young people are wonderful ambassadors for BC.



Second Hand Uniform Shop

MONDAY 11th December

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Admin Block - Rear Door



Thank you to Mrs Morris for organising this event, it was a great morning.

Year 10 Volcano Trip



The Year 10s enjoyed a fantastic day out from school on Tuesday as they visited some of our local volcanoes. They have been learning about how Auckland's volcanoes formed and why they have a range of different shapes such as the crater lake of Lake Pupuke, small domes like North Head and the classic wide shape of Auckland's iconic Rangitoto Island.

The trip also included a visit to the ancient Kauri forest fossilised in lava at Takapuna reef and a walk to the top of North Head to get a view across Auckland City and out over the Hauraki Gulf. The students enjoyed the warm, sunny day out and their behaviour made it easy and enjoyable for all the teachers who came along.



Can you help?

Christmas is fast approaching, please search through your cupboards and drawers and see if you can find any unwanted gifts. The Mission says there is a particular need for gifts suitable for little children, under two years of age, and gifts for children aged between the ages of 10 and 17. **Please leave the presents unwrapped.**

There are so many families out there facing an unhappy Christmas. There will be collection boxes in each Form Class. See Ms **McCavana** for any further details.



Junior Activity Day

Unless otherwise stated activities run for most of the day, **Monday 5 December 2016**. Students must be at school at 8.45am as usual. All activities will finish by **3.15pm**

Activity	Description	Times/Place	What to bring
Airsoft @ The Armory	2 hours of intense airsoft action at The Armory in Northcote. There is a variety of team games that can be played on their indoor airsoft course. Rental gear and <u>unlimited ammo</u> will be provided. Includes Domino's pizza for lunch. Students will watch a movie in the afternoon.	Meet 8:45am in S6	Suitable footwear and clothing for running must be worn. The more exposed skin you have the more it will hurt. Students all need to bring water in a bottle. You will likely need to bring some snacks for morning/afternoon tea.
Board Games	Are you a fan of board games? If you are then this the activity for you. A variety of games such as Risk, Chess and Monopoly will be played and feel free to bring along any from home you might like to play. Students will have Domino's pizza for lunch and then join the other students to watch a movie in the afternoon.	Meet 8:45am in T5	Any games you might like to play plus snacks for morning or afternoon tea. Pizza provided for lunch.
Multisport & Movie (at school)	Spend the morning playing a variety of sports at school. Pizza at lunchtime. A choice of movies to watch in the afternoon.	Meet 8:45am outside the gym	Sports gear, a drink, sunscreen and food for morning and afternoon tea.
Rainbow's End	Enjoy the rides and activities at Rainbow's End. Students must travel to and from the activity on the bus provided.	Meet 8:45am in the cafeteria	A hat and sunscreen. A drink and lunch or money to buy them.
Jump	Bounce around and play games at the outstanding trampoline park at Jump Avondale. We have secured a 2 hour private booking just for our school. Domino's pizza for lunch and then join with the other students to watch a movie in the afternoon.	Meet 8:45am in the top carpark	Sports gear and a drink. Snacks for morning/afternoon tea. Jump socks provided for every person going.
Zoo	See Burma the elephant and some of the 874 other animals at the zoo. Te Wao Nui showcases New Zealand's natural treasures.	Meet 8:45am outside the BGT	Lunch and drink or money to buy them. Hat and sunscreen if warm. Raincoat if wet.