



One Tree Hill
COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

7 March 2023

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to start by paying tribute to a former teacher at One Tree Hill College who passed away last week. Mr Fa'afetai Amituana'i was a much-loved and respected art teacher and mentor to many students since he began in 2008. There were many very touching tributes to Mr Amituana'i shared at his memorial service, but it was the One Tree Hill College Haka performed by some of his former students that made the biggest impact. Mr Amituana'i had been seriously unwell for the last 18 months and we know that he is now resting in peace. I have conveyed our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family on behalf of our school community.



A reminder that our Student Services Team have excellent systems in place to support our students and families. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Tanya Newman ([tnewman@onetreehillcollege.school.nz](mailto:newman@onetreehillcollege.school.nz)) for further support and information. There is also a number of external services available - please do not hesitate to contact them at any time. Students can book to speak to a counsellor, social worker or see the nurse via the following link: <http://bit.ly/OTHCStudentServices>

I would like to draw your attention to a number of key events and dates on the following page, starting with our Teacher Only Day this Friday. Should you ever require any clarification about upcoming events, please refer to our website www.onetreehillcollege.school.nz or contact the reception.

Please stress to your child that all students are required to bring their laptop or device with them to school every day. Laptops are an important learning tool in classes. Laptops should be fully charged every night in readiness for the following day. A reminder that mobile phones are not acceptable learning devices. If there is genuine hardship and purchasing a laptop is not possible, please contact the college reception to discuss other options which may be available.

Later this week our Filipino and Tongan groups will perform at Polyfest. I would like to wish them well for their performances. Later this year, we will hold our One Tree Hill College Cultural Evening, which will showcase the many cultures here at the college. This is always a highlight of the school year, and one which our students, staff and families thoroughly enjoy.

Finally, today I was appointed to the position of Lead Principal for the Maungakiekie Kāhui Ako. It is a real privilege to have been awarded this role and I very much look forward to working even closer with other schools in our community to create the best outcomes possible for students. Our Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning) includes Ellerslie School, Stanhope Road School, Sylvia Park School, Bailey Road School, and Panmure District School.

Ngā mihi nui,

N Coughlan
Principal

**Maungakiekie
Kāhui Ako**

Better learners - Best outcomes.
Working together for powerful pathways.

One Tree Hill | PANMURE DISTRICT SCHOOL | ELLERSLIE SCHOOL | SYLVIA PARK SCHOOL | BAILEY ROAD SCHOOL

Teacher Only Day – Friday 10 March

This Friday is a Teacher Only Day at One Tree Hill College. Students are not required to attend. Teachers will be using the time for valuable professional development, including sharing best practice on a variety of subject areas.

Emergency Procedures

On Wednesday 8 March, the college will be practicing its emergency evacuation and lock-down processes. These are important drills to ensure that we are ready should emergencies ever arise. Parents will receive a text informing them of the lock-down drill when it begins.

Drop-off & Collection of Students

For the safety of all students, parents are to drop-off and collect their child outside of the school grounds each day. We understand this is a minor inconvenience, but safety is always our priority. The gates will be closed between 8:30am to 9am; and 3pm to 3:30pm. Please arrange for a drop-off/pick-up point somewhere off Rockfield Road.

Digital Learning Consultation

This term, the Digital Learning Team are working to create a vision for IT/digital learning at OTHC. Once we have a clearly articulated vision, we will be able to set goals and take action to ensure this vision is achieved and consistently evident across our school. If you wish, you can contribute your ideas to this vision by completing this short survey by the 15 March:

<https://forms.office.com/r/CeywtgEG11>

Uniform Refresh

Thank you to the many students and parents/caregivers who provided us with feedback via the recent survey. There were many excellent ideas and comments to improve the look, durability and accessibility of our uniform.

I can assure our community that regardless of the preferred supplier, the uniform will continue to be sold in a retail outlet within close proximity to the college and open after normal working hours. This was very strong feedback.

The other point to note, is that there will be a transitional period relating to any items of uniform that are modified. We understand that some families have recently purchased uniform items, especially for Year 9 students. These will still be able to be worn for a period of time regardless of any changes. There will not be a requirement for new items to be purchased immediately.

PPTA Industrial Action Thursday 16 March

Unless the industrial situation is resolved, PPTA have informed all secondary schools that their members will be on strike on Thursday 16 March. This will mean students will be required to stay at home on this day. If there is not adequate supervision available at home, we will be providing some supervision at the college. Please indicate on the link below if your child will require supervision:

<https://forms.office.com/r/gxfrRxyTry>

Coming Events

10 March
Teacher Only Day

16 March
PPTA Industrial Action

20 March
Year 11-13 Meet the Teacher Evening, 6pm

27 March
Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:30pm

31 March
Mufti Day – fundraising for those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle

6 April
End of Term 1

Auckland Softball Champions

Last week our senior girls' softball team were crowned the champions of Auckland following a very tense final.

Congratulations to all the team members. We wish them well as they travel to Christchurch in two weeks time to compete in the New Zealand Championships.

On a related note, congratulations to Year 11 student, Skylahbreeze Joyce, who has recently been selected in the New Zealand Junior White Sox team. This is a tremendous achievement – we are all very proud of her.

