



## Principal's Message



### Dear Parents and Caregivers

I would like to begin by paying tribute to Whaea Meriana Smith, Curriculum Leader Te Reo Maori, who passed away suddenly during the holidays. Whaea Meriana was an excellent teacher, who contributed significantly to the college. Whaea Meriana was passionate about enhancing outcomes for our Maori students and will be sadly missed by us all. Whaea Meriana's whanau has expressed their gratitude for the support from our entire college community during this difficult time.

At the end of last term, we held the annual election for the Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees for 2018. This year we were overwhelmed by the high level and number of students who wanted to add value to our college. Thirteen excellent candidates ranging from Year 9 to 12 were nominated and were all passionate about continuing the successful direction of One Tree Hill College. The Returning Officer, Mrs Eustace, has declared Year 12 student, Bai Buliruarua as the newly elected Student Trustee. This year the Board of Trustees have invited the second place candidate, Minoneti Fifita, to attend the meetings in support of the Student Trustee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Student Trustee, Iswanka Sharma for her dedication and the insight that she brought to the Board of Trustees throughout 2017.

Also at the end of last term, we conducted our out of zone ballot for next year's Year 9 intake. Like last year, we were significantly oversubscribed, so unfortunately there have been families who have missed out on places at One Tree Hill College in 2018. I welcome all students and families who have been successful in gaining places for next year and look forward to welcoming them to the One Tree Hill College whanau in 2018.

Please remember that on Thursday 2 November we will be holding our most formal event of the year – our annual Senior Prizegiving. This is when we honour and celebrate the many successes of our senior students in 2017. I would like to extend a very warm invitation to all parents and caregivers who wish to attend and join the celebrations. If you do wish to attend, you must be seated in the Marilyn Wales Auditorium by 12:45pm.

Finally, it is 'crunch time' for our senior students with just three school weeks until their NZQA exams in November. This is the time of the year that our seniors, in particular, must ensure that they are meeting assessment deadlines and making the most of every opportunity being given to them. I would like to ask all parents and caregivers to engage in important conversations with their children around ensuring that they are fully aware of just how important the upcoming weeks are for their future. All senior students must be working as hard as possible to strive for higher things and achieve their NCEA. Students should be proactive in discussing additional revision opportunities with their teachers. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers for support with regards their upcoming examinations or assessments.

Best Wishes,

N Coughlan  
Principal

### Coming Events:

19 October	Sports Prizegiving, 6:00pm
23 October	Labour Day holiday – no school
27 October	Mufti Day – fundraising for St John Ambulance
2 November	Senior Prizegiving, 12:45pm
6 November	Year 13 Graduation Dinner

## SENIOR PRIZEGIVING Thursday 2 November 12:45pm

All students, except prize winners, finish school at 11:30am. Buses have been arranged to operate at this earlier time – they will not run at their usual time and seniors attending will be required to make their own transport arrangements home following the conclusion of prizegiving at approximately 3:00pm.  
All parents and families are welcome to attend.

### Sports Tournament Week

#### Netball

The One Tree Hill College Premier team competed in the Upper North Island Secondary Schools (UNISS) netball tournament in Auckland. Following on from previous successful years, the team was competing for the first time in A Grade. The team had a strong start to the week quickly qualifying for the top 16. A narrow loss in a nail-biter game against Howick College (NZ Champions) meant the girls missed out on making the top 8 and a chance to compete at the National Championship. Despite this loss, the team refocused and continued to play some outstanding netball during the week. With an outstanding performance, and lots of side-line support, the girls finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Upper North Island. A huge thank you is extended to the premier coach, Leonie Leaver and the management who assisted with making the week so successful.

#### Football

The Boys 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team competed in the Malcolm Cowie Cup tournament at Papakura. The boys had a very strong start with wins in their first three pool matches. A draw in the fourth against Kings College saw them earn a spot to compete in the cup quarter finals. The quarter final match was locked one all at full time with the winner decided by penalty kicks, unfortunately our boys lost 6 goals to 7. The team went on to finish 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the tournament. Congratulations to Mr Holt and the team for a very successful 2017 football season.

The Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team competed in the Northern tournament in Whangarei. There were some good victories, such as the game against Thames High School, where the girls put on an excellent performance winning through a penalty shootout. Natasha Leadbetter won 'most valuable player' for the tournament. Overall the team were placed 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Hockey

A mixed team (8 boys and 8 girls) attended the North Island mixed hockey tournament in Taupo. The team had a tough draw as they were drawn in the same pool as last year's runner-up. Their results for the tournament placed the team in the play off for 14<sup>th</sup> position.

#### Basketball

The team had some strong programmes at the Northern Cup. Their Coach, Ollie Bryce, is very proud of how the boys performed. While challenging, the lessons learned for the development of the programme have been significant. Overall the team were placed in 14<sup>th</sup> position.



### Freedom Day

During term 3, Year 10 Social Studies students worked on an NCEA Level 1 assessment. They researched and learnt about the palm oil trade and the plight of the people who work in it.

The students' task was to take part in a "Freedom Day" where they set up stalls to create awareness about what is happening.

Some stalls raised money, as well as awareness, and over \$800 was raised for Amnesty International.

Students are now writing up their reports.



### Drama Performances

On Thursday 28 and Friday 29 September the Year 12 and Year 13 Drama classes performed their original pieces.

At the beginning of the term the classes began their pieces based on social issues facing youth today and/or moments of influence that have shaped them as young people.

The result was some interesting and diverse pieces that highlighted the complexity of young people and their experience with the outside world.

The variety of styles and storytelling reflected the strong creativity and talent in the college.