



Message From The Principal

Although I would like to write an end of term message without mentioning Covid-19, after a term of disruption it is difficult to do so. But instead of lamenting the impacts that the virus has had on learning and events, I must commend our wonderful students on their attitudes. Wearing masks all day, being accepting when events have changed, adapting to having recognition such as the Academic Blues live streamed to parents rather than sharing a special evening together, and getting on with online learning when staff haven't been present – our rangatahi at Kavanagh are a fantastic community of young people.



When there continues to be worrying reports about literacy and numeracy levels, about youth mental health concerns growing and about intolerances and bullying among our youth, it is disappointing that the stories are not often balanced by the positives we see at our place every day. As Principal, it has been very satisfying to see a number of our students head to Mercy Parish every Wednesday afternoon to help with cooking meals for the St Francis of Assisi Trust, to see our Year 13s cover duty when staff have not been available, to hear of our senior students who catch the bus planning to start a walking bus into town and be available for juniors who can feel a little unsure of the bus hub environment and all the other people there, and to watch our students organise the Relay for Life event. I have also been impressed by the quiet emails I receive from students to tell me of a concern they may have about online behaviour that they know we need to attend to. I thank all of these young students for walking the talk and living their values.

These are some of the notable things I have seen this term, but there have been many, many more small acts of kindness, thoughtfulness and wonderful role modelling and tuakana teina advice and support that happen every day. We are indeed a special community and the true sense of family is alive and well here, even under the trying circumstances of this term. The future of our community is certainly in good hands, and I continue to feel grateful and privileged to be part of our college.

Ngā manaakitanga
 Mrs Kate Nicholson
 Principal



An assembly was held in mid-March to recognise those students who gained an excellence endorsement in NCEA last year (50 or more credits at excellence level) and to award them an academic blue. The Academic Blues Awards are usually held in the evening with whānau and the Year 13 academic blues recipients from the previous year also present, but this could not happen this term because of Covid-19 restrictions. However, there are plans for this event to be held later in the year when such a celebration can take place safely.

Update From Our Head Students

Kia ora koutou!

Even in the short time we've been together, 2022 has been an exciting year as our students get on with another year of academic and cultural excellence. Sports are starting up, field trips are happening and the year is back in full swing.

Year 7 started off with a haerenga (journey) to Huriawa Pā, Karitāne, as our new students learned from Matua Kane about the history and stories of the surrounding area. Our performing arts department has begun to practise for their Shakespeare performances, honing their skills and memorising their lines. Break a leg, team!

Despite Covid interruptions, we still managed to hold an Academic Blues assembly to acknowledge and celebrate our excellence endorsed students and those who earned the 'centurion' badge, an acknowledgement of attaining 100+ excellence credits in a year. Congratulations to these students on their amazing achievements, and we look forward to celebrating these successes alongside friends, whānau and our 2021 leavers later this year once restrictions are lifted.

With Covid present in our community and with the added challenges of online learning, students have done exceptionally well at adapting to the new hybrid learning environment. The students adjusted remarkably quickly and deserve an acknowledgement for their hard work and perseverance. It's safe to say we have all earned a much-deserved break during the upcoming holidays and we look forward to seeing everyone back and ready for an exciting Term 2.

Kia kaha me ngā mihi nui!

Mariya Jose and Manaia Barns, Head Students



Board Update

The Board of Kavanagh College would like to thank all the staff of the school for again supporting our students in their learning and wellbeing as we experience the latest wave of the pandemic with the community transmission of Omicron. We appreciate that the students are also abiding by the mask mandate and supporting each other at this time.

While the Covid-19 red traffic light setting has had an impact this term on some activities such as Athletics Day and the musical, it is exciting to see different events being planned that work within the current restrictions such as participation in the Relay For Life and the staging of a play. As we start to prepare for winter sports, we hope that these will be able to go ahead relatively unhindered as we move towards the easing of restrictions.

The Board wishes all staff and students a restful break after a challenging and tiring term and we hope for a less disruptive Term 2.

Barb Long
Board Chair

2021 National Exam Results

NCEA & UE Results

2021 was the second year of disrupted learning and, for the Year 13s of 2022, they now know nothing different in terms of 'high stakes' senior years. Considering the journey our seniors have been on and the lack of any NCEA compensatory support compared to other parts of the country that were impacted more significantly, we are very proud of the 2021 NCEA Kavanagh College results. Thank you to the students, family at home and our teachers who have worked hard to make the best of a difficult couple of learning years. As you know, Kavanagh College is a decile 8 school and, to keep our expectations high, we compare ourselves with decile 8-10 schools rather than national data. We are proud that in 2021 we were again above the decile 8-10 data for New Zealand at all levels including University Entrance.

2021	NCEA Level 1	NCEA Level 2	NCEA Level 3	University Entrance
Kavanagh College %	83.9 (90% - see below)	91.4	91.0	74.2
Decile 8-10 (NZ) %	73.3	84.9	80.1	67.4

Highlights

- Year 12 boys - 95% compared with 81.4% decile 8-10 nationally.
- Year 13 girls - 98% compared with 85.1% decile 8-10 nationally.
- While national statistics for decile 8-10 schools have declined between 2020 and 2021 for NCEA Levels 2 & 3, Kavanagh data has improved.
- Kavanagh's NCEA Level 2 data has consistently improved year on year since 2017.
- Kavanagh's NCEA Level 3 data has consistently improved year on year since 2019.

It is also interesting to note that our Year 11 data includes seven students who were either working on individual programmes rather than NCEA programmes or who enrolled with us in the latter part of the year. If this number was taken into consideration our NCEA Level 1 attainment rate would be 90%.

Congratulations to all students who reached the goals they set themselves.

Scholarship Results

We were also thrilled to read of our students' successes in the NZQA Scholarship examinations in 2021. Students can opt into Scholarship exams which they sit in addition to their usual NCEA exams. Scholarships are awarded nationally to approximately just 3% of students studying each subject at Level 3. We were pleased to gain five scholarships in 2021:

- Riley Mortimer - Scholarship in History
- Tobias Devereux - Outstanding Scholarships in Calculus, Physics and Statistics, Scholarship in Technology

In addition, Tobias gained a Top Subject Scholarship Award in Physics (indicating the top mark nationally) and a Premier Award, awarded to only 12 students throughout the whole country. Of these, Tobias was the only student in the South Island to gain this significant award. Well done!



Year 12 Biology Trip

In mid-February, the Year 12 biology class had a morning in the sun investigating a community pattern of plants growing on the sand dunes at St Kilda Beach. The students learnt to use transect lines and quadrats to determine that species position themselves at different distances from the shore based on their ability to tolerate the environmental condition, or to avoid competing for similar resources.

Students also had the opportunity to investigate the structures plants have to help them survive what can be extreme conditions on a sandy shore. The afternoon was spent analysing their data and preparing to do their write ups. We feel very fortunate to have had such a gorgeous Dunedin day and to have been able to get fieldwork completed before the arrival of Covid in the city.

Kerron Thomson



Year 13 Biology & Earth and Space Science Trip

Winding roads finally came to an end, the bus whirring to a stop. This was the Year 13 Biology plus Earth and Space Science trip to the University's Marine Laboratory at Portobello, held annually for the students to be able to carry out an investigation for NCEA.

On the first day, we headed down to the rocky shore, surveying the sands for crabs. Afterwards, we learnt about the crabs and how to handle them, eventually holding them for the first time. The crabs we were handling were so tiny, about the size of a coin, though some braver students chose to work with bigger, palm-sized ones!

The second day had us getting into our experiments and handling the crabs on our own. Most of our breaks were spent around the open tanks, where we were able to hold and touch a variety of marine life – from hermit crabs to sea urchins and starfish.

On the third day, we were all tired from doing work, though we were all sad to say goodbye to the crabs we had named and come to adore. The trip was very educational and an exciting experience for all.

Pari Teli



Performing Arts

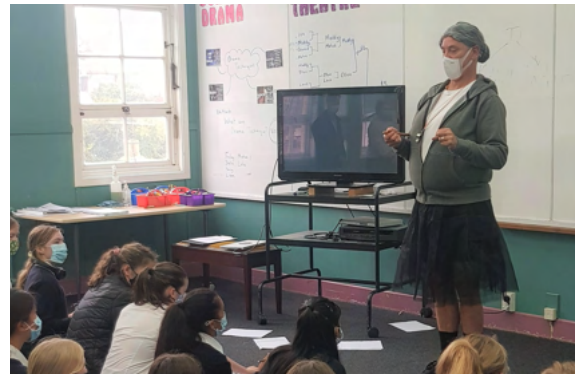
There have been a number of challenges so far this year for the performing arts at Kavanagh. We started the term in the red setting which included restrictions on audience sizes and, in addition, guidelines from the Ministry of Education meant that singing and playing brass and woodwind instruments could not take place inside.

With the prospect of not being able to run musical rehearsals inside for an indefinite period of time and not knowing when Dunedin would move out of the red setting, the Kavanagh musical production team discussed and explored all sorts of ideas and options but, ultimately, made the very difficult decision to postpone *The Addams Family* until 2023.

The musical is a major event for many students at Kavanagh with large numbers involved on the stage, in the band, in the tech crew and behind the scenes and we know that everyone will miss not putting on a show. However, our talented performing arts students will still have the opportunity to strut their stuff on the stage as various alternative events are now being planned. These include the production of a full-length play *The London Operation*, entering junior and senior crews in the NZ Schools Hip Hop Competition, the chance for students to perform as part of NZ Music Month at Toitū, supporting students to enter the BandQuest and RockQuest music competitions - and, no doubt, more opportunities will present themselves as the year progresses.

Various other arts activities have been able to go ahead this term but with modifications - for example, the itinerant music teachers who teach brass and woodwind instruments have been running their lessons outside! Fingers crossed the restrictions ease soon as we head into cooler temperatures in autumn and winter.

Tor Devereux



Miss Trunchbull teaches the junior musical theatre class a thing or two.



Ethan O'Brien, Eva Clarke and Ethan Bremner rehearse a scene from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.



Ché McGivern and Daniel Ryan enjoy an outdoor saxophone lesson with itinerant music teacher Nick Cornish.

Shakespeare Festival

Throughout the term, four groups of senior drama students have been rehearsing short scenes from different Shakespeare plays in preparation for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. Each scene is very different in the way it's being interpreted and presented to highlight the students' different strengths. Good luck to all our thespians for the competition at the end of the term!

Musical Theatre Class

This year an exciting new performing arts option is being offered to students in Years 7-9 - a musical theatre class. The students were thrilled - and a little shocked - when Miss Trunchbull from the musical *Matilda* showed up recently to teach their lesson. A huge thank you to Doug Kamo (producer, director and entertainer) for sharing his experience, expertise and love of performance with our students.

Sports Update



Cricket Makes a Come Back

This term Kavanagh College has teamed up with Taieri College to enter a junior cricket team in the Saturday morning Dunedin cricket competition. Each school has contributed six players and the team has come together very well winning a number of games.

Joe Peters and Angus Tait have achieved some high scores with the bat, Jackson Hamilton has contributed some useful scores and opened the bowling very effectively, Daniel Thompson has been tidy behind the stumps as the wicketkeeper as well as scoring some useful runs, and Jack Waterworth and Connor Hall have been excellent in the field and bowled some tidy overs when called upon.

This combined cricket team also enjoyed an inter-school match against St Kevin's, Oamaru, in March. It has been great to see cricket gaining momentum again at Kavanagh and we look forward to this continuing.



Surf Lifesaving

Congratulations to Sports Prefect Emma Christophers who competed at the South Island IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat) champs for Surf Lifesaving in March.

Emma came 1st in the U19 Tube Rescue, 1st in the U19 Single Rescue and 2nd in the U19 Mass Rescue. Well done, Emma!

New Rugby Programme

Faith, hope and purpose are the three keywords that underpin our pursuit in achieving our vision and mission for Kavanagh rugby. Kavanagh rugby is in a rebuilding phase and the new programme is taking a holistic approach by using the platform of rugby to not only learn the necessary skills for the game but, more importantly, to instil in the students the values, principles and beliefs to be the best version of themselves and to be a positive contributor within the school community and the world.

Preseason training is already underway with a good number of students attending (both boys and girls) and everyone is working hard to trailblaze and pioneer our new Kavanagh rugby programme. These are exciting times for our Kavanagh students and wider community as we embark on this journey together. Kavanagh rugby is on the rise!



BMX

Bella Anderson (Year 9) gained 2nd place at the BMX New Zealand 2022 South Island Titles in Cromwell in January in the 14 year old girls section.

Later that same month Bella competed in the Mainland North Region Champs in Christchurch after being selected for the Mainland South Region team. Despite a heavy crash at the start of Day 2, Bella was determined to continue racing and went on to gain 2nd place in the 13-14 year old girls section. Congratulations, Bella!

Year 7 Trip to Huriawa Pā, Karitāne

Each year our Year 7 students spend a night at Puketeraki Marae to learn more about the local area and immerse themselves in Māori culture. Unfortunately, because of the Covid settings, this could not happen this year.

Instead the Year 7s all headed out to Karitāne for the day to Huriawa Pā where they were guided in their walk by Kane, who has fantastic knowledge of the area handed down by his ancestors' legends and stories. The focus was on hearing stories and learning about the settlers who came to Karitāne.



After the trip, Year 7 student Johnny Garcia-Martin described the day as follows:

"When we arrived, the first question that was asked of us was what is the difference between a pandemic and an epidemic. This hooked us into a world of stories, including one tale of sorrow about the epidemic of the measles and how it spread and killed many Māori and at Kaka Point only eight people survived. As we were told these stories we walked and saw many views such as a great view of the harbour next to cliffs and a close view of rocks that came in a variety of shapes and sizes as the water bubbled beneath our feet. Some of these rock formations represented ancestors that came off the first waka to the area. We learned many things and listened to many stories, and it was very cool to hear about the early Māori and also some of my own ancestors."



Kapa Haka - Te Whetū Tīrama

Nei te hau o mihi e pupuhi nei.

We haven't let the taumata rama whero (red light restrictions) put a stop to our kapa haka practices this term. Instead we have adapted and held all our practices outside. A benefit of this, according to Matua Tili, is that singing outside is a good way to make our students sing louder.

Our kapa haka students are very fortunate to have three tutors this year - Matua Pesamino Tili, Patrick Sefo-Cloughley and Rinaria Hepi. Patrick and Rinaria bring valuable experience from being members of the successful kapa haka group Wairua Pūhou. Matua Tili and his whānau bring a wealth of experience from a background of Māori, Cook Island and Samoan performing arts to help our students develop their confidence and skills in kapa haka.

Matua Tili is introducing us to some old favorites taught to him when he was a student at Kavanagh College such as "Ōtākou E!" and "He Poroporoaki". We are keen to promote Kāi Tahu reo and identity through waiata. So far the students have learnt "Ka Puawai" and "Ka Titiro". We practise every week from 3.10-4.30pm after school on Monday and all are welcome.

In 2023, Te Ao Haka (Māori Performing Arts) will be launched throughout Aotearoa as an NCEA subject, so watch this space as we hope to be able to offer a Level 1 Te Ao Haka class next year.

Nō reira, ahakoa nō hea mai koe, nō wai tō whakapapa (no matter your whakapapa/lineage), nau mai, haere mai! Give it a go and you will gain a new whānau as well! Nō reira, ko te tūmanako e noho ora mai ana koutou i ō koutou kāinga.

Nāku noa, nā Manaia Barns, nā Whaea Maya hoki

Physical Education Trips



Year 12 Bike Trip

In March, the Year 12 PE class headed to Naseby for a mountain biking camp. The students battled the rain and cold on the first day, but this proved a great opportunity to test out the risk management strategies they had been working on in class. Fortunately, the weather was fine for the next two days and this allowed the students to explore lots of different mountain biking tracks in the area. Everyone challenged themselves, learned lots and had fun.



On the last day the students completed the NCEA mountain bike assessment trail. The course involved a steep climb up Translator Road before a ride along Hepi Highway, the Water Race and a descent through Collarbone Alley. The Year 12 class did an amazing job with some speedy times and were wonderful in supporting one another to complete the course.

Naomi Tupa'i

Year 13 Rafting Trip

The Year 13 PE class enjoyed a great day rafting on the Taieri River early in March. Wild Earth Adventures organised the event for the students and created a "Taieri Challenge Day" where there were three teams competing in six different challenges, including raft flip, raft race, touch the buoy, hill run and fill the bucket. The different challenges gave the students many opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills and collaboration. The students performed brilliantly and the weather was beautiful.

Ant Harris



**Excellence in teaching and learning in
a climate of faith and pastoral care.**

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