



*Taku Mana  
My Prestige*

*Taku Manawa  
My Heart*

# TE KARERE

A Newsletter from Aotea College

## **Important Dates:** **Term 1 2022**

### **February**

22nd ~ Y9 Meet the Hui Ako teacher ~ online event  
23rd ~ Paid Union Meeting ~ early closure  
2Bio trip to Zealandia  
28th ~ 11PEO Porirua Local Outdoor exploring  
Board meeting 6pm

### **March**

1st ~ 11PEO Porirua Local Outdoor exploring  
2nd ~ Western Zone Athletics  
11PEO Porirua Local Outdoor exploring  
4th ~ Goal Setting Day ~ online event  
7th & 8th ~ Y12PEO Battle Hill Camp  
10th & 11th ~ Y12PEO Battle Hill Camp  
11th ~ CSW Senior Volleyball Tournament  
15th ~ CSW Golf Championships  
17th & 18th ~ Y13PEO Kaitoke Leadership Camp  
25th ~ NZSS Volleyball Nationals  
28th ~ Summer Sport Tournament Week  
Board meeting 6pm

### **April**

4th & 5th ~ 11PEO Rangatuhi Mt Bike Trails  
11th & 12th 11PEP Rangatuhi Mt Bike Trails

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**Edition #03**

**18th February 2022**

Kia ora e te whanau,

Congratulations to our two Year 13 students from last year who have been awarded Academic scholarships: Cameron Thiele and Hannah Mercer. Details of their success can be found in this Te Karere.

We have been 'gearing up' since last year to prepare for the potential increase in Covid transmission in our region. Every clear hour and day has allowed us to embed our precautionary measures and make provision for this scenario.

We know there are schools in the Wellington region and closer to home in Porirua City who have already experienced the systems that go into action when a Covid case is confirmed in the school's community.

Today's issue is all about providing you with important and helpful information - and there's quite a bit of it, but there will be opportunities ahead to hear and check things again. This important information includes:

- In school processes that help us to identify and notify close contacts in the event of a confirmed Covid case in our school community.
- Parenting during Covid 10
- Navigating requirements for sports and cultural activities.

Please do take the time to absorb the information and check in with us if you have queries.

Nga mihi

Kate Gainsford  
Principal  
Aotea College

## **Paid Union Meeting ~ early closure**

The School Board have been notified by the Post Primary Teachers' Association of a paid union meeting for Secondary Teachers. This will be held on 23rd February from 1:40pm.

Students will finish early on 23rd February, buses will depart at 1:18pm.

**CLOSING  
EARLY**

SIGNPRINTO.COM

## **Buses and after school safety around Aotea College**

Aotea College will be closing at 1:10pm on Wed 23rd February to allow teachers to attend a Paid Union Meeting. Metlink urban bus services have been rescheduled to depart at the revised time of 1:18pm. However, the rural bus service will still depart at its regular time.

We have been made aware of some unsafe practices both by our students, and motorists around Frances Brown Avenue at the end of the school day and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of key safety measures:

- please reduce speed significantly around any school buses, whether they be parked or in motion
- do not park on the yellow lines on Francis Brown Ave above our student and bus parks
- consider alternatives to collecting your child from opposite these bus parks, requiring our young people to cross a very busy road with poor visibility
- students needing to cross Frances Brown Avenue, and other roads must either use crossings provided, or wait until a time and location that is safest to cross.

Together, we can ensure all of our young people are safe on the way to and from Aotea College

## **Year 9**

On Tuesday at 5.30pm we will hold our annual meet the year 9 hui ako teacher event. This year we will attempt to run this as a smooth online event. You will receive an email invitation to a google meet and a link to the online call. There will be an introduction and presentation from your child's hui ako teacher and then an opportunity for any questions or any other feedback. We encourage you to attend this session with your child with you.

## **Pathways**

Our 2022 Coffee Crew has had a busy week training with Mojo.

The Coffee Hut will open on Monday February 21st, with a gold coin koha as our opening special.



## Scholarship

Congratulations to two Year 13 students from last year who have been awarded Academic scholarships. Cameron Thiele has received an Outstanding Scholarship in Physics he has also achieved Levels 1,2 and 3 NCEA certificates endorsed with Excellence. Hannah Mercer has received a Scholarship in English and she has also achieved Levels 1, 2 and 3 NCEA certificates endorsed with Excellence. We would further like to congratulate Hannah on completing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Hilary's Award.



## Year 13 Tutorials

On Thursday we held a year 13 assembly, to cover a number of points, and the students were thanked for the leadership they had shown so far this year. Tutorial classes and clarifications around changes to last year included all year 13 tutorial classes having allocated teachers and rooms for period 1 and 4 lessons. Students are expected to attend all tutorial classes held in periods 2 and 3 where the attendance will be marked. Students may choose to work from home during their periods 1 and 4 tutorial classes but if they choose to study at school they will need to go to the timetabled class and be marked present. When a student attends one of these periods their attendance will show 'P' indicating the students present in the class. These new measures allow us to track and trace students quickly should the need arise. We have made it clear to all year 13 students that they are either at home studying during period 1 and 4 tutorial classes or in their allocated tutorial room. We hope that you can support us with this.

## Masks

Masks need to be changed once they become damp or dirty. Could students please remember their own masks, we have a limited supply

If it's disposable, **the coloured side should face outwards**. The mask should cover your nose, mouth and chin and fit snugly. Wearing it over your mouth only will not provide protection.

We are really pleased with the large number of people taking care with masks. Every effort is helpful, in making the school a safe place, where the chances of Omicron transmission are reduced.



## **School processes for identifying and notifying close contacts.**

If there is a confirmed case of covid in our community the school will be informed by the Ministry of Health and or directly from family members. Our system for identifying close contacts and notifying them does not rely only on the Ministry of Health doing the contacting. It's likely our own in-house systems will be faster. We rely on the following:

- All teachers take an attendance roll every lesson.
- Parents let us know if there is a student absence.
- All classes have a record of who sits where that we can get hold of quickly.
- Teachers have seating plans to reduce the potential number of close contacts if there is a case in the school.
- Teachers in outdoor settings note similar groupings.
- All visitors to the school, including contractors sign in so we know who and when people are on the site and are asked to wear a mask.

There is a comprehensive spreadsheet that the school leadership completes that identifies the length of time spent by individuals in areas of interest before it is shared with the Ministry of Health, who then notify the close contacts. Close contacts are then required to self isolate and be tested negative before a return to school or work.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward with our preparations whilst simultaneously carrying on with business as usual.

## **Positive parenting during COVID-19**

We want to affirm the work of whanau and parents who are daily having the conversation.

To support mental health, resilience and emotional wellbeing for our tamariki and rangatahi, the Ministry of Health has partnered with Whāraurau to offer parents, whānau and caregivers free online versions of the Triple P: Positive Parenting Programme across the country.

[Find out more about Triple P and register for programmes.](#)

There are three free Triple P online programmes available to help positively support children to reduce anxiety, build emotional resilience and life skills and cope with challenges:

- Fear-Less Triple P Online – for parents and caregivers of children and teenagers (aged six to 14 years) who have significant anxiety
- Triple P Online – for parents with toddlers to 12-year-olds
- Teen Triple P Online – for parents with ‘tweens’ or teenagers aged 10 to 16 years.

These programmes will also provide whānau a toolkit to help them to guide behaviour positively and encourage children’s learning.

## Sports and Cultural Activities

All school based curricular activities are offered without reference to vaccination status. While curriculum-related activities on school grounds will never require My Vaccine Pass, many sporting or cultural associations and venues providing extra-curricular activities will require evidence of a pass for participants due to the gathering size necessary for it to go ahead safely.

At Red, you can have up to 100 people within a defined space with the use of My Vaccine Pass. If the provider/venue chooses to not require the My Vaccine Pass, they are limited to 25 participants in any defined space.

Unsurprisingly, many parents find the distinction between extra-curricular and curricular sport confusing, so I provide the following to help you navigate the current requirements.

In short:

- all tamariki **under** 12 years and 3 months can participate in curriculum-related and extra-curricular activities, onsite and offsite, regardless of their vaccination status
- ākonga **over** 12 years and 3 months are able to access all education-related activities when at school regardless of their vaccination status
- ākonga **over** 12 years and 3 months **may need to show** their My Vaccine Pass in order to participate in non-curriculum-related sports and activities you hold onsite
- this may also apply to any **offsite activities** (curriculum-related or not) and will depend on decisions made by you and by the providers of those activities.

### Links to guidance

- Sport New Zealand's guidance might be helpful for anyone wanting to support extra-curricular sporting activities: [How sport and recreation will operate under the CPF](#).
- Sport New Zealand's advice on events and gatherings: [Guidance for school sport and recreation](#)
- Unite Against COVID-19 guidance for all events and activities: [Gatherings and visits at Red](#)

I am aware that schools occasionally receive objectionable, challenging or threatening material from parents or the public, when there is a perception of great injustices occurring. Mercifully it is rare for us. We try and respond helpfully to any questions we receive and provide accurate, truthful information. Please be patient if you experience a delay. This may happen from time to time if we have staff illness. Your kindness and understanding will be appreciated and reciprocated.

## Consultation open: Electronic school board elections

The 2022 Triennial school board elections are taking place between **5 to 23 September 2022**.

Moving the elections iss to help reduce pressure in the early part of 2022 and help to increase participation in the elections. It also allowed time to enable an electronic option. You are now invited to give feedback on the draft Education (Board Election) Amendment Regulations 2022.

- [Read more: Enabling electronic school board elections](#)
- [Make a submission: Enabling electronic school board elections](#)

These regulations propose an update to the existing Education (Board Election) Regulations 2000 and include a major change to enable the option for school board elections to be held electronically. Consultation is open until **Friday 18 March**.

If you have questions, want to hear more about the changes or to express your interest in attending a webinar, please email [legislation.consultation@education.govt.nz](mailto:legislation.consultation@education.govt.nz).



## Whitireia Adventures

Both of the PEO300 classes spend time this week exploring their local area and demonstrating key leadership skills during a range of activities. The students walked Whitireia park and spent time exploring the rocky coastline where they worked together to get to different areas not commonly visited.

This trip gave students the chance to work together within their classes and start to develop some key leadership skills. These will be further worked on in the upcoming Kaitoke camp later in term 1.



## Ngā Toi | The Arts at Atoea



### Upcoming Events

#### **Barbershop Rehearsals - Sectionals**

Weather permitting we will start sectionals the week of February 21st. Please check the student notices for more details.

Korimako and Pūkeko paintings by 2021 Y13 Jessica Cox for Gordon Cameron's retirement gift and Kathleen Kavney's leaving gift

#### **Dance News**

This week was about *'Exploring our Identity through Dance'* Students are learning all about the *Elements of Dance* with a focus on our bodies and how they can move.

#### **Drama News**

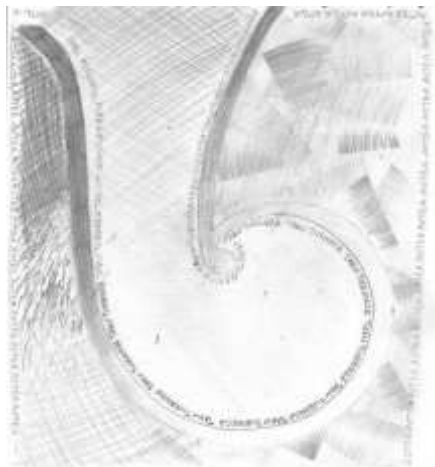
The Senior Performing Arts class looks a little different this year with red light limitations on dancing and singing but students have persevered with plans for small group performances based on the idea of "coming together around food". Watch this space for some fun sequences of Musical Theatre scenes and dance routines set around a dinner table!

#### **Music News**

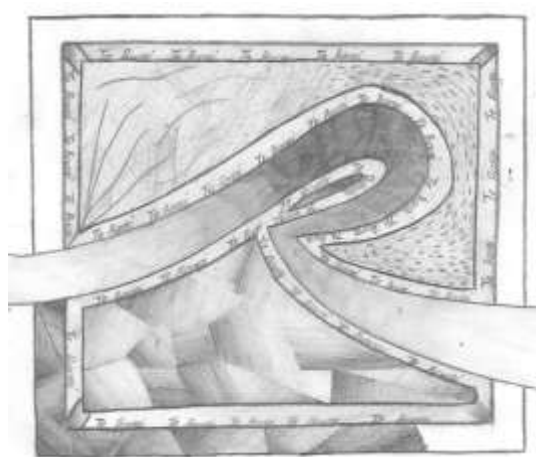
Our instrumental lessons are up and running with our new itinerant teachers (CK to add a blurb about Anita and Elizabeth here)

#### **Visual Arts News**

This week in 10ART we have been learning about mark making techniques and developing artworks inspired by Māori artist Ralph Hotere. Here are some design concepts by two Y10 students:



Elijah Fata



Marina Gestro-Peri

## Ngā Toi | The Arts at Atoea



### De Ruiter Young Photographer of the Year

This scholarship has been created by DDB Group Aotearoa and is open to all Year 9 – 13 students across Aotearoa. It offers **\$5,000** towards tertiary institution fees or camera and photography hardware to the same value.

To enter, students must submit 1-3 original photographs that best showcase their craft, personal style and potential to: [marcelsscholarship@nz.ddb.com](mailto:marcelsscholarship@nz.ddb.com) by March 21, 2022. Winners will be announced in early April.

If you have any questions please send them through to the email above.

For more information visit [www.ddb.co.nz/marcel](http://www.ddb.co.nz/marcel).

In 2022 Aotea College will be running the Duke of Edinburgh award for all students.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's largest youth achievement award. Since its launch over 60 years ago, the Award has inspired millions of young people to transform their lives.

### About the Award

**AGE:** Open to everyone aged 14 to 24 (you can start during the school year that you turn 14).

**THREE LEVELS:** Bronze, Silver and Gold, each progressively more challenging.

**FOUR SECTIONS:** Physical Recreation, Skills, Voluntary Service & Adventurous Journey (plus Residential Project at Gold level only).

**KEY REQUIREMENTS:** Over the required time participants need to do each activity for an average of an hour per week. They will be supervised by an Award Leader and Activity Assessor (Mentor).

If you would like to find out more about the award please visit the Duke of Edinburgh website (<https://dofehillary.org.nz/>). The teacher in charge of this award is Mr Todd Woods





# Sports News

## Covid Traffic light information

It is important we keep not only ourselves safe but also those around us. For our students playing sports this creates some new restrictions and rules around sports that Aotea College participates in during the traffic light system.

Aotea College Sport is currently at COVID Red: CSW has mandated that all participants must have a vaccine pass to participate in their competitions.

Please read the following link:

[Aotea College Sport at Covid Red.docx](#)

## Sport trials

In order to be eligible to trial for any sport please make sure that you have registered and paid the registration fee.

Please follow [this link](#) to our sports trials that are happening this week.

Sports that have trials currently are

- Hockey
- Rugby
- Senior netball will be starting in March followed by Juniors.

The rest of the sport trial dates will come out in the following weeks. Please keep checking our Website, Facebook and school notice boards for updates.

## Gymnasium Carpark

Important- please read...

The top car park closest to the turf and gym will now be locked at 5pm each night - unfortunately there have been repeated cases of vandalism in the car park.

For any games or trainings that finish after 5pm please use the main car park that can be accessed by coming up the school driveway.

## Vaccination pass issues when registering

We have had a few students unable to register for sport as they don't have a vaccine passport - this information is from the Unite Against Covid 19 website -

Some sites that are providing COVID-19 vaccinations (like pharmacies) can also help you request and print a My Vaccine Pass for free. Confirm in advance that they offer this service, and bring your NHI number if you can when you visit.

You do not need to have an ID or an email address, but you will be asked to provide some personal details.

## Sport Photos

Great to see our students enjoying some of the lunchtime clubs at school, badminton, table tennis and

