



Otago Boys' High School

Community Newsletter



25 November 2011

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2 December Year 8 Orientation
Evening - 5.30pm
7 December Junior Prizegiving
& last day of term
10.30am
30 January Term 1 commences

From the Rector



Tēnā Koutou Katoa

This has been a very short but jam packed term. Thank you very much to all those parents and grandparents who attended the prize giving, supporting the many prize winners celebrating the culmination of a year's hard work and enterprise.

For the Year 13 students and their parents it is an emotional evening as the realisation that an important episode in their lives has come to an end.

For some of those families it is literally the end of a connection with the school as the last or only son finishes. To those of you who have involved yourselves unconditionally through the Parents' Association, Board of Trustees or other forms of support, thank you very much.

In particular I would like to thank Kallum and Linda Croudís. Kallum is stepping back from chairing our Board of Trustees and from the board. The working relationship between the Board Chair and the Rector is important for the smooth running of the school and I have been fortunate to have had at my disposal Kallum's time and skills. Thank you for your support. To Linda thank you for your contribution to the Parents' Association as both member and Treasurer. Without the commitment of our families something special would be lost.

Senior external exams are well underway and my thanks to staff for providing the opportunities for tutorials both at lunchtime and after school. Senior staff have also been mentoring students who had not completed literacy and numeracy credits, the target being 100% in both these areas at Level 1.

Junior exams have also been completed. Staff are busy analysing data looking at trends and have begun working on reports.

These will be out on the last day of the year, Wednesday December 7th. This day the junior

prize giving will be held in the auditorium at 10.30am. I look forward to meeting you at and after that function.

There are one or two changes and additions you should be aware of.

The school this week changed our e-mail platform to Gmail. Looking into the future it will enable parents and students to have access to learning media and to their teachers. An addition to our programme is an NCEA day for year 10's as part of their activities week. The reason for holding this is that research tells us the more they know and understand about the system the more they achieve. The programme for this day and the resources will be put on "just up" - on our website.

Next weekend three teams will be competing in National Championships. Our cricketers will be in the Gillette Cup finals at Lincoln, the Athletic team will be competing at Nelson and the Sevens team at the Condor Sevens in Auckland.

We wish these three groups all strength to their arm. I have been invited to Auckland and am looking forward to watch the boys competing.

This weekend is elections and I hope that one of the policy areas you have looked carefully at is Education. There are some marked differences that parties are putting forward, and I hope you have weighed up the possible effects on our boys.

Both Ann and I wish you all the best for the festive season and hope like us you are looking forward to relaxing with family and friends. Already plans are in place for 2012 but right now a little space for rest and reflection is looking very attractive.

Clive Rennie
Rector

Boys reaching their potential in life and learning
kia eke nga tama ki te taumata o te oranga me te akoranga

www.obhs.school.nz

Leadership

Deputy Rector

The year has gone by so quickly and planning for timetables etc are well underway for 2012. I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the start up information for 2012. For year 12 and 13 in 2012 there will be the opportunity where you can book online via school links for interviews with Deans or a Senior Leadership Team member to confirm options and timetables. This will be available after results come out in mid January.

Please also check "Just up" on the school website for details throughout the holiday period. I trust you all have a great Christmas break and look forward to working and talking with you again in the New Year.

Dougal McGowan

Junior School Update

As the end of the year approaches it is time for reflection. Having attended the Senior Prizegiving and celebrating the academic, cultural and sporting success of those students I look forward to joining with you, the parents/caregivers of our Junior students, to celebrate their successes at 10:30 on the morning of 7 December.

Next week we take the students out of the classroom. The activity days are Wednesday November 30 and Friday December 2. Part of these days will involve a community clean up. All boys are expected to participate.

On Thursday December 1 we are running an Introduction to NCEA day for the Year 10 students. The Year 9's will be involved in school activities that day.

Once again the year has passed too quickly and I am reminded of all those things that have been done well and those that need to be addressed. For some of our students their learning has been disrupted through teachers leaving our school. Unfortunately this is something over which we have no control but I am pleased that we will start 2012 with a full complement.

Until then I wish you and your boys a restful break during the Christmas and New Year period and hope the boys will recharge their batteries during this time. Thank you all for your on-going encouragement and support of our young men.

Lindy Marr

Board of Trustees

The school year is quickly coming to an end. Senior prizegiving has come and gone. Junior prize giving will soon be upon us.

Senior prizegiving gave us an opportunity to celebrate the boys' achievement and reflect on the work put in to achieve those successes.

The management team and teachers can be rightly proud of their efforts.

OBHS has embraced NCEA as its recognised achievement qualification for leavers. NCEA was introduced in 2002 to replace School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate and Bursary examinations. Its original aim was to provide a broad based curriculum suitable for a variety of student needs. It allowed mainstream subjects to be divided into segments for which credits were given. Each subject had a number of segments and therefore a number of credits were required to pass each subject.

Achievement standards included Excellence, Merit and Achieved credits. Unit Standards were competency based and were either pass or fail.

Subjects that were accepted as part of the New Zealand Curriculum could either have Unit Standards or Achievement Standards.

NCEA Achievement Standards are made up of internal and external credits. Internal credits are given for internal (school based) exams or tests. Some subjects can't be tested externally (speech, drama, woodwork, metalwork, agriculture etc.) and internal achievement credits are given. Some subjects have both internal and external (national examination) credits.

Schools determine their own achievement levels for internal credits. The NZQA (New Zealand Qualification Authority) "oversees" the quality of those internal credits as a benchmark against acceptable standards and external exam results. The NZQA inspects and reviews each school's results on a regular basis providing an accreditation certificate for one to four years. This is much like an ERO report. It gives a school a grading of quality of its performance.

OBHS was given a four year accreditation certificate by the NZQA this year. This is the longest period of time allowable. OBHS has satisfied all the criteria required of the NZQA to verify the standard of internal achievement credits for boys sitting NCEA subjects.

The management and teaching staff are to be congratulated on this result. It not only demonstrates the faith the "Government overseer" (NZQA) has in OBHS NCEA standards but also vindicates the effort the teaching staff have put in to maintain the highest standards expected.

The Board and management team have elected to continue to support the use of achievement standards rather than unit standards at OBHS. We believe boys working towards "excellence" is an aim that is both appropriate and expected by our community.

Not all schools believe this is the way. Some schools have elected to pursue international based exams as a method of assessment of

their students neglecting the New Zealand Curriculum and NCEA. Some schools would suggest this is a better assessment of students achievements.

The OBHS Board and management team believe our students should be compared with their peers throughout New Zealand. Our students should compete at a national level and be judged accordingly. NZQA believes OBHS is achieving these standards in its internal assessment process.

NCEA has been around now for 10 years in 2012. Most if not all the defects have been rectified and it is now recognised by Universities and other academic institutions all over the world. The NZQA maintains the standards of performance.

Sporting prowess has always been an integral part of OBHS but a fine tradition in education and academic achievement is also well recognised.

As the year ends we would like to pay tribute to Kallum Croudís our Chairman who has resigned after three years in the chair. His leadership and guidance has provided a very stable period at OBHS for which we are very grateful. We wish him all the best for the coming years.

To all our students, staff and management team we hope the Christmas period is a welcome relief and we look forward to a busy 2012.

B F Hodgson

Prefect Report

As the school year comes to a close for all and for some for ever, there is a large amount of positive criticism to be said about the outstanding performances from our boys over the year of 2011 that has left Otago Boys' High School on the front foot once again.

Firstly I would like to congratulate the eight boys that are the first boys to receive the honours blues and blazer. These boys have pursued excellence in their chosen area and have either represented New Zealand or our school at the top of a national competition. These boys are Sam Blakely, Josh Wyber, Byron Dodge, Joe Anderson, Michael Collins, Nick Elder, Nick Tipa and Sam Madden. All the best to these boys in the future.

With Senior Prize giving just past, it has been good to see a large proportion of the boys receive awards for inside and outside of the classroom. With large numbers of boys with commendations and good work prizes it is assuring that there is more academic competition within the school than some expect. To Josh Dawson (Head of House), Nick Tipa (Deputy Head Boy) and Thomas Wardhaugh (Head Boy) all the best for 2012.

Within the School House we have just had our annual Skippers Feast, dedicated to all the 7th

form Hostel boys leaving, and a successful night it was, running smoothly. Thanks to all the hard work put into it by our Matron Toni Leen, Manager, Brian Satake and their crew within the hostel. A few awards were presented such as Mitchell Cup to Nicholson house after Hawthorn have held it for the last three years. Also the hostel top scholar went to Dean Sinnamon.

Now as exams approach the boys are hopefully putting their heads into their books to positively shape their futures.

To Year 13. This year has been tough at times but this has certainly set us up for our higher education to come. It was rewarding to see you boys support each other and strengthen the relationships that we have developed over our 5 years of high school. Long may these relationships continue to blossom as the years go on and the support to remain strong.

Sam Young
Deputy Head of School House

Traditions

From the Foundation

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and the looming deadline of Christmas is very evident in the OBHS Foundation Office, just as I'm sure it will be for you all as well. It's a time to look back on what happened in 2011, and also to look forward in a positive way to 2012. But before all that analysis begins, we need to look at what's happened since the last newsletter – it's a busy time, but remember, "busy is good"!

The usual work of the Foundation continues with the involvement in the preparations for the 150th Anniversary in August 2013, and with the associated tracking of Old Boys prior to that event. It's a big task but almost every day I 'find' another previously missing Old Boy – this is the fun part of the job and is the catalyst for many interesting conversations by phone or by email with former pupils from all over the world. And they ARE all over the world – I've now been in touch with people in other countries as diverse as Zambia, Luxembourg, Kenya, and Bermuda to name just a few in addition to the usual suspects like Australia, the UK and the United States.

The highlight for me though, as the academic year starts to wind to a close, was the opportunity to be a part of the preparations for the Senior School Prize Giving. The vision of the Foundation is all about providing for the Otago Boys' of the future which not only means the school, but the pupils who attend here. After all, the ultimate aim of the Foundation, just as it is for everyone else associated with the School, is to benefit the School and the pupils in whatever way we can. So I've really enjoyed my involvement in the presentation of Scholarships to two Year 13 pupils about to head for University – congratulations to Dean Sinnamon

who was awarded the Superior Minerals Scholarship to assist with studies at Lincoln, and also to Andrew Shearer who received the Mason Bros Scholarship to help out with the first three years of his engineering degree. But a particular pleasure was to have a hand in the awarding of the third annual OBHS Foundation Staff Personal Development Scholarship to Anne Gorman. This Scholarship was initiated by the Foundation in 2009 to recognise an outstanding contribution to the School by a staff member and to enable the winner to undertake a course of personal development that will not only benefit them but also the School, and therefore of course, the boys. Anne is a worthy recipient and I look forward to seeing how she will use the Scholarship in 2012.

This is the last Foundation message in the newsletter this year, so it remains simply for me to wish every reader a very Happy Christmas, and I trust your New Year is a really great one. Enjoy the holidays, and please stay safe!

Best wishes

Andrew Moffat
Acting CEO

School Culture

Hostel Report

Hey everyone,

The end of year has come around extremely quickly. By the time you are reading this, most boys will be finished with their NCEA exams. For Year 13 these will be our last so all the best for the future whether it be in tertiary study or in the work force.

Although it has been a short term it has been a very busy one. The usual activities like movie outings and kicks at Roberts have been balanced with a lot of hard study from the boys. The Junior boys also took advantage of Halloween and went out and convinced our neighbours to give them lollies. The annual Hostel fireworks display for Guy Fawkes night went down with a bang.

The hostel recently had our first hostel gardening – bee which has made an instant visual impact, making our grounds look a lot more attractive. A huge thanks to hostel parents Susan Landels and Jane Hailes for organising this and taking time out of their busy lives to change the hostel for the better. Cheers to all the boys and parents too for lending a hand.

Recently, the "Skipper's Feast" took place – the night to honour the Hostel Leavers. This traditional annual dinner went very well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the boys, staff and year 13 parents. Aside from humorous stories about the leaving boys, there were inspirational speeches, presentations and thank yous. A huge thanks to the staff who put the

night together.

As my final write up and duty as Head of Hostel, I personally would like to thank all the hostel staff and all the boys for what has been a very enjoyable and life changing 5 years. Good luck to all boys with exams and all the very best for the future. I hope everyone has a good and safe Christmas and New Year holiday break.

Cheers
Sam Blakely



Sam Blakely 2011 Head of House



Year 13 Leavers



The Dining Room was full for Skipper's Feast



School House

Academic Matters

Library

In Oamaru at present you can visit many places of interest. The first is 56 Eden Street, the home of Janet Frame from 1931 to 1943. This is where Janet lived from the time she was six until she left high school. By the time of her death she had published over 20 titles of fiction, poetry, and a memoir. The house has been lovingly restored and is reminiscent of the era. There are specially framed pieces of the original wall paper so that it is easy to appreciate how dark the home would have been when Janet was growing up. The senior boys are often asked to read books, stories or poems by a female writer with critical acclaim. Janet Frame would be an excellent choice. Where to begin? 'The lagoon and other stories', published in 1951, 'Owls do cry', her first novel and perhaps 'The pocket mirror', a collection of poetry.

The second place of interest this month is the Forrester Art Gallery where there is a Steampunk exhibition called '2011 Steampunk; tomorrow as it used to be'. On the street outside the Gallery are some large exhibition pieces and inside a fantastic array, including some created by school students. In my August report I mentioned 'steampunk fiction and writers such as H. G. Wells, Jules Verne and Scott Westerfield. The pieces in the gallery range from small jewellery-like items to ray guns and airships and there is even an authentic looking kit to take with you when you go time-travelling. This exhibition goes until the 27 November.

Suggestions of good books for boys to read are often mentioned in the library. Mr Bell's suggestion is 'One day in the life of Ian Denisovich' by Aleksandr Solzhenitzen. This is a short book which would suit senior readers and is about life under Stalin in Russia. There is a Penguin Books copy available at the library. By the same publishers my suggestion is 'The day of the triffids' by John Wyndham. There are plants that can walk and devour their victims – easy enough when most of the victims are blind. This is an 'oldie but a goodie' and was originally published in 1951. It is also a Penguin Books publication. The distinctive orange and yellow covers are obvious in book shops and if you like to judge a book by its cover you might not try these. However, it is worth looking past the plain exteriors as the real delight is contained within the covers.

Enjoy books!

Helen Henry
School Librarian

Book Review

The Absolutist John Boyne

A complex novel written in a very readable manner. The story of a young man growing up in England in the period incorporating the First World War.

Tristan Sadler, like many young men at that time, lies about his age in order to become a soldier and be part of the 'great adventure'. The book follows his life as he embarks on his army training and becomes exposed to the many characters who make up his platoon, their weaknesses and strengths and their personal beliefs.

A rather shy young man, Sadler befriends two fellow trainees one of whom is a conscientious objector. There is also his underlying concern about his sexuality – bought into question all the more as he is confined to a barracks for an extended period with his fellow trainees.

A posting to France with his platoon and the horrors of war are skilfully described by Boyne. I have read other books about this chapter in our history and this is as well written as any I have read – the stress, horror, conditions and human emotion is well captured. Thomas Sadler is confronted with some excruciating decisions as friends change their views on the necessity and value of War and their part in it. The loneliness also reignites his sexuality insecurities. But is it resolved?

At wars end Sadler has lost most of his platoon and returns home harbouring a secret that he feels he must share. This is in fact the main theme of the book – a lot of very necessary scene-setting as the writer leads the reader to the unveiling of the secret and the effects it has on both the recipient and Thomas himself.

Very readable, giving a great overview of the reality and folly of that War while exploring one young man's experiences and decisions made.

Brian Panting

Gateway

Otago Boys' High School is appreciative of all the time, effort and skills shared by the following businesses to support our students as part of the 2011 Gateway programme. Recently a function was held in the Shand to celebrate the success of these students and for parents and employers to meet to mark the end of the programme.

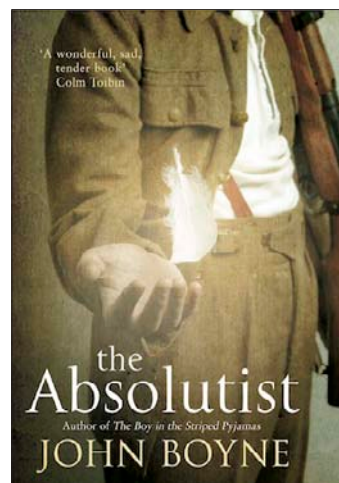
Southern Cross
St John
Cooke Howlison
Custom House
Southern Motor Court
Water Tight Plumbing & Heating
Budget Plumbing
Hayward College
Kennedy & McBeath Ltd
Steve Mowat Building & Construction
Laser Plumbing
Cargills

Farra Engineering
Brent Lucas Builders
Dunedin City Motors
Southlink Health
Geoffrey Wilson Dairying
Tansley Electrical

Jacqueline Irving
and Melissa Rodgers



Steampunk - tomorrow as it used to be



Extra Curricular Activities

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

On Thursday 6th October a vanload of intrepid adventurers departed from OBHS heading to the Mavora Lakes near Te Anau for two nights. The group was made up of 4 boys working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award, 2 boys keen for some tramping, 2 student teacher volunteers, Ms Calverly and myself.

We arrived at the North Mavora Lake around 6pm and found that the only other inhabitants of the campsite were of the small black insect variety. Fortunately they were not as ravenous or in such large numbers as the area is renowned for and we were able to set up camp without too much interference. The only thing missing from our sheltered water's edge campsite was firewood, but a short trip with the van and trailer soon fixed that. Our evening meal was enjoyed as the sun set over the mountains and reflected off the still waters of the lake.

Friday morning dawned cloudy and with a cool southerly wind blowing just as the met service forecast had promised. The original route plan had been to climb about 1000 metres and traverse along the tops of the Livingstone Mountains, but the snow already up there and the forecast poor visibility meant a change of plan. Instead we made our goal the West Burn Hut via the untracked western edge of the North Mavora lake. Progress was very good for the first 90 minutes or so and we had already made over half the 9km distance to the hut. Unfortunately the concealed delights of the bush lawyer and dense matagouri scrub slowed our progress considerably making it about 2pm before we reached the hut for a well-deserved late lunch. By this stage the clouds had all gone and a beautiful sunny day had taken its place. The question now was which route to take for our return journey? With recent memories of torn flesh and general discomfort it made the decision easier to take the much longer but less painful route continuing around the lake and making use of the 4WD track which ran down the length of the eastern side. A crossing of the Mararoa River was made at the head of the lake, and once we reached the track the final 11km were completed in just 2 hours. Altogether we had covered a distance of 25km in just over 9 hours. There were some tired boys (and staff) back at the campsite that night and it was dark by the time the evening meals had been demolished. Each of the boys had been assigned a topic to research and present to the group during the trip. The topics were all related to the outdoor environment and included survival skills, weather, basic first aid, etc. These presentations were made around the staff camp fire that evening as Peter ensured every available piece of loose wood was consumed in the blaze.

On Saturday morning we awoke to find that the unbelievable met service forecast of snow down to 300 metres was indeed spot on again. There

was only a light dusting on the tents but enough to ensure no messing around during the process of breakfast and clean-up before departure on the final leg of the expedition. Day two was a much less strenuous undertaking, crossing the swingbridge at the foot of the North Lake before following the Mararoa river south on a well-marked track through beech forest. The distance of 13 kilometres was accomplished by the boys in around 3.5 hours, and we were on our way home again in the van just after 1pm. It was a very peaceful trip with most of the boys falling asleep within 15 minutes of setting out. After the obligatory stop to boost the local economy of Gore, we were back in Dunedin at 5pm.

Thanks to the helpfulness of the staff and the enthusiasm of the boys this was a fantastic expedition, and hopefully the start of many more similar adventures to come.

Richard Roe

New Zealand Economics Competition

Earlier this year a group of year 12 and 13 Economics students competed in the University of Auckland Economics Competition.

118 schools nationwide competed with nearly 3000 students participating.

The students were awarded the following awards based on their results:

High Distinction (top 5% of candidates)

Josh Dawson Year 12

Distinction (next 15%)

Year 13

Nick Borich Luke Moratti

Year 12

Simon Fitchett Edward Haslam

Jack Lee Nick Lorimer

Demetri Raffills

Credit

Year 13

Campbell Stewart Brent Cheshire

Year 12

Alex Chen Kyrin Gourley

Matt Sutherland Callum Sutherland

Congratulations to all these boys.

Senior School Science Quiz

I believe it was Lord Kelvin who said that physics is the only real science, with everything else being "stamp collecting." Yet the Otago University's Senior Schools Science Quiz was no stamp collection. Performing well in it required knowledge of biology, astronomy, chemistry, geology, physics and how long a colossal squid is (14 metres). That's probably quite a challenge for most teenagers. Kasun Kumarasinghe and I, however, are not most teenagers. We've just been awarded 2nd and 1st place in our year respectively.

When Kasun's name was called out in assembly, I imagine he must have been rather stunned. This quiz we'd done was a nationwide affair. His second place prize is therefore a stunning achievement. But when he sat back down, I heard I'd won first place and my jaw almost dropped to the floor. We were at the head of 258 Year 12 students, across the country, who gave this quiz a go!

Our success seems to reflect that of the OBHS Science department. As far as competitions and quizzes go, we've got a great record. Sure, our science rooms may not be the tidiest. Some of them still have chemical stains on the ceiling. A few of the stools are wobbly. Yet I've probably learned more in these rooms than anywhere else in my whole life. As teaching environments, our science rooms are something to be proud of.

Now Kasun and I have been left with a bit of prize money, so it was definitely worth the mental effort. This leads me to my final point, one of our most prominent philosophies. Make the most of opportunity. Whenever a chance like this appears, seize it and do your best. Whether you're a student or not, it often pays to enter competitions like this one. The entry fee is always a small loss; just \$5 in my case. Who knows what you might win?

Thomas Stevenson



Crossing the Mararoa River



NZ Economics Competition Award Recipients

The Arts

Music Notes

Thank you to the many parents and friends who have supported and encouraged our Music students this year – a big year for many of the boys and their families, especially for those in the Choir and local productions.

During the final weeks of term, Junior Music Classes have had the opportunity to hear and try a variety of String and Brass instruments with some of the Itinerant Music Tutors.

Congratulations to Henry Ellison Yr 9 who passed his Grade 4 Piano Exam with Merit.

Auditions are currently being held for the major roles for our 2012 Production, Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

Thinking positively and looking ahead – Our 2012 Choirs promise to be just as good as this year. The National Finale is again in Wellington (16 – 18 August 2012). Some forward planning, saving and fundraising would benefit us all!

Guitar lessons

Guitar lessons with Matthew Thompson will be continuing again next year starting in Term 1.

To register your interest for next year, please contact: benefitbungle@gmail.com or 476 2350.

Numbers will be confirmed at the beginning of Term 1 as well.



Blues and Honours recipients Dominic Shogimen, Zac Nicolls, Sam Madden, Hunter Stevens, Thomas McCabe and Zheng Lee



Barbershop Quartet perform Coney Island Baby at Senior Prizegiving

Sport

Swimming

Overall Championship Results

Junior

Bailey Brandham	First
Benjamin Wardhaugh	Second
Liam Trotter	Third

Intermediate

Chris Dickie	First
Jamie Mowat	Second
Michael Gray	Second

Senior

Ben Gray	First
Thomas Wardhaugh	Second
Sam Armstrong	Third

New Records Set

50m Freestyle		
Intermediate	Chris Dickie	25.25
Senior	Tom Wardhaugh	25.22

100m Freestyle		
Intermediate	Chris Dickie	56.05
Senior	Ben Gray	55.20

50m Backstroke		
Senior	Ben Gray	28.6

100m Backstroke		
Senior	Ben Gray	61.40

50m Breaststroke		
Intermediate	Chris Dickie	32.20

50m Butterfly		
Intermediate	Chris Dickie	28.10

100m Butterfly		
Intermediate	Chris Dickie	1.02.20
Senior	Ben Gray	59.10

100m Individual Medley		
Senior	Thomas Wardhaugh	1.04.80

This year swimming sports were a huge success, there were 11 new records set by gun swimmers Ben Gray, Chris Dickie and Thomas Wardhaugh. Competition was tight in all categories. Over all titles were taken out by Bailey Brandham in the Junior, Chris Dickie in the Intermediate and Ben Gray who won the battle in the Senior age group. A big thank you to Ms Laughton's Year 11 PE class and Mr Matin's Year 13 Sports class for helping with the time keeping.

Carla Laughton



Nick Tipa and Sam Madden recipients of Madden Trophy for Senior singing



Backing group for leavers song Don't forget your roots.



On your marks



Get set



GO!

Sport

AFL

New Zealand Under 20 Versus Victorian Amateur Football Association Under 18

Auckland: October 6-10/2011

The NZ AFL Under 20's which includes Ash Wear, Corey Miller and Ben Miller from Otago Boys' have just completed a two game series against the Victorian Amateur Football Association Under 18's.

It was a steep learning curve to front up against a side that had players who had been playing for about 12 years, this combined with coaches who had played over 100 games in the AFL. The Victorians were serious about this competition, and due to logistics were able to train together for 3 weeks prior, something the New Zealanders couldn't do. Fielding a team with an average age of 17 the NZ Hawks were beaten in both games. Had there been a third game things may well have been different.

It took a while to adjust to the style of play and to the players around them who were from all over NZ. The Victorians were quick off the mark in both games but NZ did very well particularly in the second game where they outscored the Victorians in the second half.

Ben Miller and Ash Wear were named the best players for the first game.

Football

2nd XI Football Season Report

What turned out to be a very successful season ended in somewhat of an anti-climax. With a large number of Schools competing in the Reserve Grade, it was determined the winner of the grade would be the side that topped the table at the conclusion of two full competition rounds. As it turned out, with team unavailabilities and cancellations, two full rounds were never completed. Fortunately for us, when the season was ended, we held the top spot!

The biggest disappointment was that we never played Bayfield HS, who were the closest opposition on the table. In saying this, we had some great tussles with our counterparts at Kings HS, with neither team gaining ascendancy.

Season highlights included the ability of Connor Middleton to finish when it was really needed. Connor, by the seasons end, amassed 18 goals from his 11 appearances! Others to impress were Sam Brouwer, Rhys Bayley, David Trebilco and Henry Alexander who were always composed and difficult to breakdown at the back. Further, their penetrating runs and lethal long-range strikes also made them an attacking threat from anywhere on the field.

Thank you to those parents who regularly supported from the sidelines .

Rugby League

In the first season of school rugby league, Both senior and junior teams did very well and took out their grades.

The Otago Boys Junior team made it through to the Otago/Southland champs vs St Peters (Gore). Otago boys had the advantage of a strong wind at Moller Park in the first half but didn't capitalise on it. With score at half time favouring St. Peters 12-4. In the second half it appeared St. Peters were going to run away with the game scoring 2 more early try's with conversions, taking the score out 24-4. Then several players (Liam Sharples, Jake Hammer, Te Hai Matenga and Chris McNoe to mention only a few) stepped up their intensity and decided to take the game on which lifted the whole team. And in turn around performance that only Otago Boys or France could do dominated the rest of the game and ended up drawing the game.

A massive thank you to the coaches, senior coach Ra Kahukiwa & Bryce Hosie and junior coaches Josh Scanlan & Rema Smith

Mountain Biking

The South Island Secondary Schools MTB Champs were held in Bluff during the school holidays. Otago Boys' had several competitors entered in different categories including Cross Country, Hill Climb and Down Hill.

Otago Boys' finished 5th school out of 38 schools. There were also some great individual results:

Hill Climb	Placing	Age Group
Hayden Cleminson	3rd	Under 19 Boys
Daniel Cleminson	2nd	Under 14 Boys
Downhill		
Tom Burns	3rd	Under 16 Boys
Cross Country		
Hayden Cleminson	4th	Under 19 Boys
Kalin Geisreiter	2nd	Under 15 Boys
Kerry Cameron	7th	Under 15 Boys
Michael Gray	11th	Under 15 Boys
Daniel Cleminson	1st	Under 14 Boys

Cycling

Cycling reappeared as a sport offered by the school for the first time in several years. An initiative involving Susy Pryde and partner Chris Drake was put in place which encouraged students to become involved in the sport.

While only a year 9 student, Lachlan (Lachie) McGregor had joined us with impressive cycling credentials and was able to build on

these with wins locally and in a two day event in Blenheim. He was joined by two enthusiastic year 10 students, Ben Wardhaugh and Michael Gray, who both benefitted from the coaching offered by Susy and Chris. Several seniors also joined us from time to time but other commitments meant their participation was limited.

It is hoped we can build on this small group and perhaps enter teams into both local and national teams events in the future.

Thanks to Susy and Chris for their enthusiasm and coaching and to Mr Panting for his involvement.



Rugby League team in action



Tom Burns in the Down Hill event



Kerry Cameron competing in the Cross Country

Sport

Curling

The Otago Boys' High Curling club continue to maintain a strong presence in the local and national school curling scene. The Otago Boys' Senior Curling team are nationally ranked as the New Zealand Secondary School champions defeating a strong Maniototo team for the 2010 title.

With extensive fundraising, parental and school support the OBHS team was on a mission to defend their title at the NZ Secondary School's Championships in Auckland at the beginning of the term 3 holidays.

The team consisted of Byron Dodge (Skip), Sam Blakely (3rd), Joe Anderson (2nd), and Josh Wyber (lead).

As Auckland have only two smaller ice rinks, catering for a curling tournament was not easy. Although well organised, tournament games were played at the inhospitable times of 6am and with second matches commencing at 8pm.

OBHS convincingly won all their Pool matches (Avondale College, Kelston Boys' High, Long Bay College) despite the lack of familiarity with the slower ice conditions. As the top qualifier the team entered the semi-final against Avondale College to record a 7-4 win. The Final was played against Long Bay College, who were smarting from a narrow loss to OBHS early in the Tournament.

The match was a fine example of a complete team effort. Each member contributing and involved with the strategy required to win. Josh Wyber (OBHS) was a key player, showing mental toughness when it came to the final ends. OBHS is the first school to hold the trophy twice in consecutive years.

Special thanks to Phil Morrison and Neil Anderson who accompanied the Team. Also appreciation to Dilworth School for accommodating the team in their Hostel.

Now the school is looking to build another team for next year to hopefully retain the title for a record triple title.

Byron Dodge
OBHS Skip

Water Polo

Water polo has commenced for Term Four for our Junior students and this sport continues to have a strong following at Otago Boys'.

The school pool is invaluable and the students have been able to use this at lunch time and before school. Tim Chambers, a NZ National team coach, commenced training with the OBHS junior team in term 3. Thomas Wardhaugh and Arthur Ibbotson completed a coaching skills course with Tim and have taken over this leadership role as Tim returns to Auckland for summer.

Angus McKenzie, Cameron McMahon and Garth Fulton our Senior players, assist with fitness training and team practices at lunch time in the school pool. Under Thomas's leadership the Junior A team is dominating the Friday night competitions once again, beating John McGlashan Juniors 13:3, and also playing the John McGlashan Senior team to win with the help of their coaches in the water.

The team will travel to the South Island Secondary Schools Tournament in Invercargill in late November and we wish them well.

Carla Loughton
Pru Casey
OBHS Water Polo Managers

Indoor Touch

Otago Boys' has won the Senior men's section 2 Indoor Touch competition held at the Edgar Centre.

The team consisted of Senior and Junior players with one staff member (Ryan Martin). The competition runs during August, September and October and is held inside the Edgar Centre on Friday nights, with 4 players on the court and 1 or 2 subs per team. It is a faster version of outdoor touch.

Otago Boys' won the final with a score line of 8-4 against the 'Fossils' a very experienced team with a couple of players' who have played representative touch.

Players to stand out throughout the season were Mackenzie Faulks, Josh Casey and Ben Miller.

Ryan Martin

Important Notice for 2012 Year 9 pupils

Due to unforeseen circumstances the supplier of the OBHS PE uniform is unable to supply either the top or shorts until the new year. Therefore it will not be available to purchase at the Orientation Evening in December.

We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



NZ Champions - Byron, Joe, Sam and Josh



Water Polo - In and around the pool



Indoor Touch Champions

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Celebrating Excellence

Mana Pounamu Young Achievers

The Mana Pounamu Young Achievers Awards is an annual celebration that recognises the achievements and potential of rakatahi Māori (Māori youth) in secondary schools across Otago.

Specifically, the objectives of these Awards are to:

- Celebrate the success and achievement of rakatahi Māori;
- Encourage rakatahi Māori to participate in tertiary study;
- Identify leadership potential; and
- Provide positive role models to rakatahi Māori.

The Mana Pounamu Young Achievers Awards were brought about through the vision of the late Tāua, Alva Kapa and were named as such because they were first held in the Year of Mana Pounamu (2001). The Awards are a Kāi Tahu initiative supported by Kā Papatipu Rūnaka ki Arāiteuru, the University of Otago, the Otago Polytechnic, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Ministry of Education.

Matariki Pakaua

Matariki is a Year 9 student who has not yet had an opportunity to show a great deal of academic strength. He has chosen to be involved in the ICAS Maths exams and was also chosen as a debater for the inter-school junior debating team.

At Otago Boys' we select three students for Scholarships related to cultural activities. Matariki was awarded one of these as a result of his involvement and leadership in Maori Cultural activities.

Matariki has also volunteered to work at the Anglican Family Care Foodbank in the holidays. He has a social conscience and is compassionate.

Matariki has a passion for music and drama.

Currently he plays classical, acoustic and electric guitar. Matariki is also doing drama training with Interact at the Fortune Theatre and is auditioning for our school production – Sweeney Todd. Matariki also joined the choir and took part in the music festival.

However it is in the Maori Cultural area that he has given the greatest leadership.

He was a member of the kapa haka group Wairau Pahou taking part in Maori and Pacific Island festival, Supa Haka, and Hautonga festivals. He is also an active member of the Taiaha group.

While he is very young, this student is already standing out as a leader. He has a great sense of humour and is learning how to use that strength with his peers and with adults.

Brodie Hume

Brodie has been a pupil at Otago Boys' since February 2007.

Academically Brodie has been a quiet achiever. He has gained level 1 and level 2 also gaining commendations in Mathematics and Metalwork in 2009, English, Computing, Mathematics and Physical Education 2010.

In the sporting arena Brodie has been outstanding. He has represented the school at rowing, winning medals at South Islands and placing 5th in the Quad Finals at Maadi Cup.

Brodie was vice-captain of the 1st XV and captain of the Sevens side. He was selected for the Otago U18 and was a member of the South Island Secondary Schools squad. Brodie has also been selected as a member of the Otago Rugby apprenticeship group.

This year Brodie gave tremendous leadership on the field, leading by example.

In the area of leadership Brodie was a hostel prefect, a peer support leader and a camp leader at the Year 10 camps.

His style was that of a quiet strength. He is an impressive young man who carries himself with pride, and has a presence. I consider him to have been an outstanding role model for all students, but in particular Maori students. Brodie is a loyal team player, very trustworthy and with integrity. He has a neat sense of humour and is very well regarded by both his peers and by adults.



Matariki Pakaua



Brodie Hume

Honours

Michael Collins – Rugby

Michael is in his 3rd year in the 1st XV this year he was named Captain. He is a motivational player not only through exploits on the field but also training ethic. He was selected for Otago Metro U18, Captained the Southern Region Schools team, selected for Otago Colts U21 rugby team this year. This year he was named in the New Zealand Secondary Schools team being the only South Island player and first player from OBHS since 2002 to make the team.

Nick Elder – Hockey

Nick has been a member of the 1st XI since 2008 this year he was named captain. He is an attacking midfielder that takes on the role as the teams play-maker. He is a current member of the Otago National Hockey League team and is a member of the Under 21 New Zealand squad. Over the holidays he was named in the New Zealand Under 18 team that will travel to Australia later in the year to take on the Australian Under 18 team.

Sam Madden – Choir

Sam is a valued and talented musician. He plays percussion in School Music Groups and competes successfully in regional Piping and Singing Competitions

Sam has been a leading member of OB/OGHS Tutti Cantare Choir and OBHS Choir for four years;

He auditioned and was selected as a member of Barock Choir for 2 years; Sang in both these choirs in the Otago Regional Big Sing and this year in the National Finale in Wellington in two of the top 18 choirs. Auditioned and selected Tenor for the 2011-2012 NZ Secondary Students Choir which rehearses for a week each Term holiday and performs in different centres throughout NZ and in next year will travel to Europe to perform at the International Conference of Music Educators in Greece

Nick Tipa – Choir

Nick is a valued and talented musician

He plays in Rock Bands – performing at local gigs in the Chicks Project and performs in School music groups.

Nick has been a leading member of OB/OGHS Tutti Cantare Choir for 4 years. OBHS Choir for 4 years; Auditioned Selected member of Barock Choir for 2 years; Sang in both these choirs in the Otago Regional Big Sing and this year in the National Finale in Wellington in two of the top 18 choirs. Auditioned and selected Bass/Baritone for the 2011-2012 NZ Secondary Students Choir which rehearses for a week each Term holiday and performs in different centres throughout NZ and next year will travel to Europe to perform at the International Conference of Music Educators in Greece.



Michael Collins



Nick Elder

Celebrating Excellence cont:

Joseph Anderson, Sam Blakely, Byron Dodge, Josh Wyber - Curling

The Otago Boys' Senior Curling team are nationally ranked as the 2011 New Zealand Secondary School champions.

The team consists of Byron Dodge (Skip), Sam Blakely (3rd), Joe Anderson (2nd), and Josh Wyber (lead).



Sam Madden



Nick Tipa



Curling Team: Byron Dodge, Josh Wyber, Joe Anderson.. Absent: Sam Blakely

Economics Excellence

Josh Dawson

Josh Dawson was honored in the recent Auckland University Economics competition when he was awarded a High Distinction. This distinction places Josh in the top 10% in New Zealand. Josh plans to continue in his economic studies and pursue a BCom and specialise in banking.

Smallbore National Results

Sam Gabbusch

At Nationals the OBHS Smallbore team were placed 9th out of 49 teams competing with a score of 567.12. Sam Gabbusch was recognised as one of the best securing a 5th placing in the individual scores.



Josh Dawson



Sam Gabbusch

Mountain Biking

Daniel Cleminson, Hayden Cleminson and Tom Burns

The OBHS team of Daniel Cleminson, Hayden Cleminson and Tom Burns competed in the Championship held in Bluff in October. After some fierce competition Daniel achieved 2nd place in the Hill Climb and Hayden came in just after to take 3rd. In the Downhill Tom placed 7th in a challenging field and Hayden took 4th spot in the U19 Cross Country.

Community News

School Council

2011 was an extremely productive year for the Otago Boys' School Council. I have had the pleasure of being able to lead a group of extremely talented individuals.

2011 was the year of the Barbeque, as the school council set up shop at every 1st XV home interschool feeding the boys and visitors in the stand plus a few of the staff who couldn't help themselves.

With the tragic event of the Christchurch Earthquake at the beginning of the year the school sent a truckload of supplies (donated by our school community) to those in need in Christchurch courtesy of Northern Southland Transport. Also thanks to the services of Northern Southland Transport a van full of soft toys was sent to Lyttelton West School and Busy C's Pre-school both who were hard hit. Heart-warming letters of thanks received in return were definitely a highlight of the year.

Over the course of the year the School Council approved close to \$5000 worth of grants to School Groups and outside Charities, a mufti day for the SPCA has been held and we recently presented them with a cheque for over \$1300.00 along with a couple of cartons of pet food and a number of balls no longer required by the PE Department.

A huge thanks to Mr Panting, your contribution to the School Council is huge and it is truly appreciated.

Kyrin Gourley
School Council Chairman

Parents' Association

Thank you to all the school families and staff who have supported the Parents' Association this year.

Thank you in particular to Heather Rei and Paul Beres of the Parents' Association for all the many hours of work they have put in to our fundraising events, which unfortunately haven't been successful due to unforeseen circumstances, better luck next year. We have

5 Year 13 parents leaving the committee and we would like to thank them for their many years of support to the school and the Parents' Association.

Our last meeting for the year has been held and our first meeting for 2012 will be the 3rd Thursday in February 7pm in the staff room. Everybody is more than welcome to come and join in. The Parents' Association is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening within the school and meet parents and teachers, we look forward to seeing you next year.

Please put some thought into the secretary role as we will be needing a new one. If you would like to find out about this role feel free to contact the current chairperson Vanessa Hall on 4891860. The Parents' Association wishes you all a merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Vanessa Hall

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALES

REQUEST FOR UNIFORMS FOR SALE:

Please consider selling any items of school uniform (senior or junior) your son no longer requires on a 'sell on behalf of' basis (we keep 20% commission of the sale price) or donate for us to sell. Items need to be clean and in good condition (blazers dry-cleaned) please. Uniforms can be left at the school office up until **Friday 16 December** or after **Wednesday 25 January 2012** (office has a form to be completed with details).

SHOP HOURS: 2011

THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER, 4 – 5.00PM (in the School Canteen)

2012:

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY, 5 – 6.30PM
(in the School Canteen)

MONDAY 30 JAN – FRIDAY 3 FEB (1st week school) 9 – 11.00AM

ALSO we will be selling clothing at the Year 8 Orientation BBQ on FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER from 5.30pm in the school canteen.

Contact: Kristin Dunn. ph. 473-6241 or 027 278-0233



School Council members Kyrin and Kirby present a cheque to the SPCA

OBHS in Action



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