

16 November 2015



**Upcoming events you are all warmly invited to join us at:**

**MEET AND GREET**

On Wednesday 25 November is a time for everyone to come and meet the Board of Trustees members and staff of Piopio College. We will be hosting a BBQ from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Student Centre. This afternoon is an informal get together to share our vision and programmes.

**JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING Wednesday 9 December at 1.00pm in College Hall**

All students must be in correct uniform.

**COLLEGE PRIZEGIVING Thursday 10 December at 7.00pm in College Hall**

Please arrive in time to be seated by 6.55pm.

Car parking will be available on the hockey field (if dry) and the bus bay.

It's a night when the College is on show, so we expect our students to be dressed immaculately and to behave respectfully.

Y7 - Y10 wear clean, complete, correct school uniform.

Y11 may wear clean, complete, correct school uniform or dress uniform (as for Y12 and Y13).

Y12 and Y13 wear dress uniform (white blouse and black skirt or trousers for girls, white shirt with collar and black trousers for boys, polished black shoes, the College tie is optional).

Head Students and Student Council members are required to wear their badges.

Students may wear mufti on Thursday 10 December to keep their uniforms clean and tidy for prizegiving Thursday night.

Tabloid sports on Thursday, students preferably to wear house colours that day.

**PIOPIO COLLEGE ORIENTATION DAY Tuesday 1 December**

This is a whole day event for students entering into Y7, Y8 or Y9. We encourage all prospective students to come along with their parents, if possible, and participate in the workshops and information sessions that run from 8.45am to 3.05pm.

For students entering Years 10-13 we invite you to come in, look around and spend the afternoon with us on Wednesday 2 December. Please meet in the office foyer at 1.30pm.

Students at our contributing schools should have received an invitation and enrolment form in the mail.

If you know of any other families whose children are not currently attending Piopio Primary or Aria Schools, who would like to be on our mailing list please contact the College Office with the necessary details.

**Nominees' for the Waitomo Sports Awards Monday 23 November**

*Coach* – Jack Murray nominated by Steve Bodger

*Junior Sportswoman* – Sarah Bevege nominated by Maree Bradcock, Te Kuiti and Districts Pony Club.

Stormy Harris – nominated by Te Kuiti and Districts Pony club

Shalako Haumaha nominated by Gina Draper

Cenedra Haumaha nominated by Gina Draper

*Junior Sportsman* - Demante Murray nominated by Steve Bodger

Ben Stilborn nominated by Steve Bodger

*Service to Sport* - Noelle Turner nominated by the Piopio Swimming Club.

**Library News - End of Year Book Returns**

**WHERE ARE THEY ?**

I have a huge amount of overdue/non returned books, owing, from the seniors, L1, L2, L3. Please get them back to me, at school, **A.S.A.P.**

The rest of you, Y7 – 10 your last day for **ALL books** to be in is Friday 27 November 2015. Please ensure this happens.

*Library Liz*

**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE MAYOR BRIAN HANNA**

**Regarding Waitomo initiative of bus service to Waikato University commencing 2016**

You may have heard of the pilot programme that the University of Waikato has in place with the South Waikato district (Tokoroa and Putaruru) where a daily bus will be put on next year from these towns to University.

I have been in discussions with the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Neil Quigley, with a proposal to provide a similar service to our districts (Waitomo and Otorohanga), and after 2 very productive meetings, it is exciting to announce that beginning in February 2016, the University will trial a daily bus service from Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts to Waikato University in Hamilton.

The University database indicates 20 students from the schools in our districts have already applied to enrol at the University for 2016. However we also believe there may well be other students who have not enrolled for study because of barriers of cost and accessibility – and hopefully this daily transport solution will be an added incentive for those who are still keen to progress their tertiary education.

**Professor Quigley has indicated that the University is still accepting applications to enrol at Waikato University for 2016, and I urge those students who are interested in this opportunity to contact their respective school principals, or to contact me here at WDC. Also, this opportunity is available to all ages, not just the school leavers, so if you are resident in Te Kuiti or Otorohanga and you are keen to study at the University in 2016, please get in touch.**

**We need to know numbers by Wednesday 9 December for this proposal to go ahead for 2016.**

**The Vice Chancellor has also indicated that there may be some financial assistance available to assist eligible students, to help with their pathway to Waikato University.**

I believe this is a very exciting opportunity for a number of reasons, with just a few of them listed below.

- Students will be able to attend Waikato University, while still living at home, and all the support that offers.
- Considerable cost savings from not having to live in expensive flatting situations, and obviously high travel costs.
- Gives students who may not have considered university study because of the cost barriers, an opportunity to now consider it.
- Students still studying at schools can see a clear pathway to attend university, which may not have been available or affordable before.
- This in turn will incentivise students to stay at school and achieve UE, with the goal of embarking on a university career.
- Throughout 2016, the University will explore the feasibility of offering local scholarships through our local schools to support these aspirations.
- The bus service is proposed to be Wi-Fi compatible to allow student s to do work during travel time.

I have now met with Vice-Chancellor Quigley and representatives from Te Kuiti High School, Otorohanga College, Piopio College, and No 12, and all are in total support. Unfortunately Te Wharekura o Maniapoto was unable to attend, but has also pledged support for this pilot project, which we will all endeavour to make a permanent service to the Otorohanga and Waitomo Communities.

Please register your interest ASAP to your school Principal's office or here at the WDC.

**King Country Rugby are having a visit by the Chiefs Full Squad on Friday 27 Nov 3.00pm at Rugby Park, Te Kuiti.**

They will be here for an hour and will be hands on to do activities with any kids that want to join the fun, an autograph. Signing session will be held at approximately 3.45pm. Come on down, everyone welcome.