



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA

Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata



Message from the Principal



Kia ora koutou

At Te Paepae o Aotea, our guiding whakataukāki, Kia eke atu ki Taupaenui o te tangata, People reaching their full potential, is at the heart of everything we do. As we approach our inaugural school board elections, we reflect on the journey and achievements of our students and community. The transition to an elected board will coincide with Matariki, marking a new chapter for our school.

The New Zealand School Board Association will host a board session on April 29 for the community, providing valuable insight for potential board members. Nominations close on May 9, with Election Day on June 13 and the new board taking office on June 20. We extend our gratitude to the EBoT members—Will Edwards (Presiding Member), Cheryl Luke-Maraki, Neryda Sullivan, Ross Dunlop, Diana Reid, Hauraki Erb, Dinah King, and Te Kiri King—for their leadership and dedication in establishing our school.

Te Paepae o Aotea continues to excel in educational outcomes with our 2024 pass rates for Levels 1, 2 and 3 surpassing the national average and significantly outperforming schools with a similar social equity index. This success is a testament to our wonderful students, their whānau as well as our staff for guiding them on their learning journey. Our students have had incredible opportunities provided during Term 1 thanks to our dedicated staff and amazing community volunteers. Some of these are highlighted in this article.

Connect with us on Facebook to find out more about what our students have been up to and future opportunities available to them.

Attendance remains a national priority and we are proud to report a dramatic improvement in average attendance this year at Te Paepae o Aotea, with our daily average reaching 88.9%. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of parents, caregivers and the wider community in encouraging our students to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

We are grateful for the continued support of the community as we work together to ensure all our students reach their full potential.

Ngā mihi nui
Rachel Williams
Tumuaki



YEAR 7-8 COMMUNITY GARDENING

The Year 7-8 Community Gardening class has made an enthusiastic start this semester in the edible garden space in King Edward Park. They are continuing the good work started last year by fellow classes from our school. Under the guidance of Alice Arnold, Places and Spaces Volunteer Coordinator, students have been weeding and pruning and have started to replant the raised vegetable gardens. Last week we learned about composting and the contribution it makes toward living more sustainable.

RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life is an event run nationally to raise funds for the cancer society in hopes to fund treatments. This year Te Paepae o Aotea had its biggest team yet with 35 members of our school, staff and students signed up to attend. Leading up to the day the Community Leaders held many meetings about fundraising and how to raise the most money possible.

They worked tirelessly as a team encouraging each other to sign up and push fundraising efforts. Julia Scott spoke at the Friday staff meeting to gain more interest and sponsorship. Mrs Hopkins and Ms Hurley suggested a bake sale - support for this was overwhelming with students and parents coming in with all sorts of treats and gaining support from students who came to buy our treats.

The Community team worked hard and managed to raise just over \$8000 becoming a 'Dream Team' and 6th in the Taranaki region for funds raised. We thank everyone for their ongoing support especially to our sponsors and supporters.



TARANAKI SECONDARY SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA DAY

On Friday, 4 April our Te Paepae o Aotea Concert Band attended the Taranaki Secondary Schools Orchestra Day. They joined musicians from other schools to form an over 100 piece group where each orchestral section worked together to perform for the audience in the afternoon.

This year's pieces included the theme from "Harry Potter" by John Williams, "March of the Dwarfs" by Grieg and "Born to be Wild" by Lady Gaga.



CONCERT BAND



TE PAEPAE O AOTEA PRODUCTION OF
29 MAY - 1 JUNE 2025

MEMORIAL THEATRE HAWERA

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

BOOK AT



AND



INTO
THE
WOODS
JR



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

NZSSAA Youth Official at the Cooks Classic

Bethany Gyde

2023/2024 Season Yellow Belt Youth Girl NO-GI Champion

Emma-May Bublit

2025 New Zealand U14 Koru Basketball Team

Riwha Grindlay

Colgate Games

Tayla Sturgeon

NORTH ISLAND - 1st Place G12 400m; 2nd Place G12 800m;

1st Place - G12 400m

SOUTH ISLAND - 1st Place G12 400m; 1st Place G12 800m; 2nd Place G12 1500m

Barbwire Fight Club 104 - Fan Vote Fight of the Year

Charlie Ainsworth

Graeme Sheppard Skating Challenge

Ayla Bond - 1st Place Junior Figures

Elizabeth Cudby - 2nd Place Junior Figures & Junior Freeskating

Secondary School Athletics

Carlitos Morellon Anderson

2nd Place Secondary School Boys 1500m

Daniel Mandengu

3rd Place World Athletics Permit Mens Long Jump

New Zealand Grappler

Ollie Shaw - Silver Gi; Bronze NoGi

Brayden Hughes - Silver Gi; Silver NoGi

Blue Light Life Skills

Hoani Hockley - Peers Choice Award

Taranaki Children's Athletic Championships

Tayla Sturgeon - broke 40 year old record in 12G 400m

New Zealand 16-19 Years World Age Group Triathlon Team

Maddison Sturgeon

United Nations Youth High School Ambassadors

Lauren Kalin and Evita Morellon

Year 7-8 Intermediate Surfing Competition

Ollie Shaw - 3rd Place

Mounted Games Defender Horse of the Year

Stella Gane - U15 B Final Winner; Winner of Teams Selection

North Island Athletics Team

Carlitos Morellon Anderson, David Mandengu,

Daniel Mandengu, Elliot Wills, Elizabeth Cudby,

Leonardeous Snooks, Tayla Sturgeon.

Race Unity Speech Competition South Taranaki Heat

Tiama-Deziah Hill - Runner up

North Island Secondary School Track & Field Championships

Daniel Mandengu - 1st Place Senior Boys Long Jump, 2nd Place Senior

Boys 400m; 3rd Place Senior Boys 100m

Elizabeth Cudby - 1st Place Senior Girls Triple Jump

Elliot Wills - 3rd Place Senior Boys Long Jump

Taranaki Senior Boys Relay Team - Danidel & David Mandengu

2nd Place 4x400m relay, 3rd Place 4x100m relay

Southern Rugby Club Ripa Rugby Year 7-8 Tournament

1st Place - TPOA Blue

Taranaki Girls Cricket Year 7-8 Intermediate Timberco Bash

TPOA Junior Girls Cricket Team

STUDENTS ACHIEVE NCEA WITH COURSE ENDORSEMENTS

The following students achieved NCEA Level 1, 2 or 3 with Excellence or Merit Course Endorsements in 2024.

NCEA Level 1 Excellence Endorsement: Taiharuru Ratima

NCEA Level 1 Merit Endorsement: Erina Frearson, Lauren Kalin, Carly Maynell, Evita Morellon, James Nickel, Afeef Ridzuan, Theo Soothill, Adam Stables, Maddison Sturgeon and Delila Tun.

NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsement: Chelsea Babaloon, Liesa Hofstadler, Carlitos Morellon Anderson, Taiharuru Ratima and Julia Scott.

NCEA Level 2 Merit Endorsement: Ayla Bond, Danyon Cook, Elizabeth Cudby, Charlotte Denton, Bethany Gyde, Liesa Hofstadler, Jaida Rei, Adib Ridzuan, Elliot Wills, Anastazia Kowal, Akshay Santhosh, Ella Thomson-Gullery and Miley Davidson.

NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsement: Liesa Hofstadler and Kaia Silva.

NCEA Level 3 Merit Endorsement: Olivia Corrigan, Mason Kempton, Emilia Scott, Aldrin Thomas, Will Thomson and Nathan Hunt.



WAKA AMA NATIONALS

This year 21 Te Paepae o Aotea students competed at the Waka Ama Secondary Schools Nationals held at Lake Tikitapu, Rotorua. There were over 130 schools represented with around 2000 students on and off the lake. We competed in the U19 Mixed W12 250m sprints, U19 W6 Girls 250m sprints, U19 W6 Boys 250m Sprints, U19 W6 Girls 500m, U19 W6 Boys 500m. We had three teams: Taupaenui (girls A), Paepae (girls B), and Tama (boys). There are three tiers to this competition. The top tier being Te Ihu, middle tier Te Takere and the lower tier, Te Kei. We made it through most of our initial heats to compete in the Te Takere heats, missing out on finals by split seconds. The students have made massive growth since last years nationals and are motivated to train hard over the next summer season. We had a great week away exploring Rotorua in our down time. The event was referenced multiple times as being the "wakatini" of waka ama and it lived up to its name. The atmosphere was great with food trucks, merch stalls, and live commentary giving out prizes for games between heats.

WELLINGTON
MODEL UN



In March our UN Youth High School Ambassadors Lauren Kalin and Evita Morellon attended the Wellington Region Model United Nations (WMUN). This event is essentially a simulation of the United Nations, requiring students to take on the role of representing a country and finding solutions that best fit its interests. Over the two days, Lauren and Evita debated, amended resolutions and discussed topics within plenaries and committees such as drafting a new economic order, addressing the addition of new human rights, and finding a solution for the situation surrounding the Sahel Region of Africa. Both Lauren and Evita were challenged representing countries they had little knowledge of (Sudan and Georgia), however this helped them broaden their horizons and work to ensure they accurately represented their countries. Overall, WMUN was a fantastic opportunity to learn new things, build speaking confidence and discuss current issues.