



Cactus and *Loves Me Not* Workshop

CACTUS LONGEST DAY

On Tuesday 18th July, 15 students met up with Constable Kat Payne and Te Taki Ruarau in the College Gym to learn what the next 8 and a half weeks would look like for them. CACTUS gear was issued and the mahi began. Students met at 7am on Tuesdays and Thursdays to be put through rigorous trainings by Te Taki. After each training students met for breakfast and a chance to debrief and catch their breath before going to class.

CACTUS - Commitment, Attitude, Confidence, Teamwork and Unity together makes Success. This was demonstrated on the final day - the Longest Day - they were put through their paces: a bronco test, teamwork, carrying logs, putting up a tent while blindfolded, penalty shootout and finally the fire engine pull up Hinewai Street. What a massive achievement for the final 13 students. As a celebration for completing the course, students enjoyed lunch with their whānau and were rewarded with their CACTUS hoodies.



Students from Year 9 and 10 at Ōtorohanga College had the opportunity to participate in the life-changing Loves-Me-Not workshop. Facilitated by a passionate teacher, a caring police officer and an empathetic counsellor they provided a well-rounded perspective on relationship dynamics and the importance of respect and empathy. The Loves-Me-Not workshop brought an inspiring and positive change to the lives of our young learners. Loves-Me-Not is a whole-school approach to fostering positive relationships and tackling the complex topic of relationship abuse. It was heartwarming to see how this event successfully engaged our young students in understanding the qualities of positive relationships and addressing the crucial subject of relationship abuse.

The workshop provided students with real-life skills that are invaluable in today's world. They learned about the importance of consent, the power of being an active bystander and the art of building positive relationships. These skills are not only vital for their personal growth but also for creating a safer and more compassionate community. The Loves-Me-Not workshop was an eye-opener for young minds, it instilled in them a sense of responsibility and awareness that will undoubtedly have a positive ripple effect throughout our College and beyond. Students left the workshop feeling more confident and empowered, equipped with the knowledge and tools to foster healthy relationships in their lives.

Through interactive activities, group discussions and thought-provoking scenarios, students not only gained a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding relationships, but also developed strong connections with their peers and the adult facilitators. The atmosphere in E Block was filled with positivity and support and students left the workshop with a new found sense of community.

As we reflect on the success of the Loves-Me-Not workshop, we cannot help but celebrate the dedication and commitment of the adults who made this event possible. Their passion for nurturing the next generation and guiding them towards healthier relationships is truly commendable. This workshop exemplifies the incredible potential for change that can be achieved when a community comes together to educate and empower its youth. In the aftermath of the Loves-Me-Not workshop, our Year 9 and 10 students are now better equipped to create a safer, more caring and respectful environment for themselves and their peers. This event has undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of our students, reminding us all of the incredible potential that young people hold and the power of positive relationships. The future looks brighter with this new generation leading the way.

SNOW TRIPS



In October students had two great days enjoying the snow at Mt Ruapehu. This was a fantastic opportunity for students who had never been to the snow or tried skiing or snowboarding to try something new and challenging themselves.



The beginners were tested and the perseverance and resilience paid off when the improvements were made over the day. Magic carpets, chairlifts, t-bars, turns, stops and new tricks were some of the challenges.

Our intermediate and advanced students enjoyed exploring the higher slopes and our beginners celebrated their progress. We look forward to more snow trips in 2024.



HOUSE ACTIVITIES

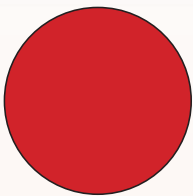
HOUSE CHANT COMPETITION



This year a new activity was added to the Interhouse Competition calendar. House Leaders along with students in their House wrote, rehearsed and encouraged those in their House to participate. The results were:

1st Brown House,
2nd Eveleigh House,
3rd Kedgley House and
4th Hotson House.

Cure Kids Red Nose Day



Red Nose Day was supported at the College by wearing mufti and Red Band gumboots. This is a charity event which supports and raises awareness around Child Cancer in New Zealand. The red noses symbolise the clowns who go in to hospitals to help bring joy to the children undergoing treatments and throughout their journey. On average, 150 kids from newborn to 14 years of age are diagnosed with a form of cancer each year and their lives are completely changed. Our support today helps to put money towards cancer research and raise awareness within our communities.

The day began with an assembly where students' donations were collected and they received their red nose and wrist band. The wristbands have the slogan promoting FUND THE CURE - FIND THE CURE.



LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES



Buttabean

DAVID LATELE AKA BUTTABEAN MOTIVATION

Our junior students, along with student leaders and staff, were privileged to host David 'Brown Buttabean' Letele, Founder of Buttabean Motivation. David shared his story of the struggles and hardships that led him to his work today. He shared with us some valuable lessons on breaking the cycle, having empathy and helping others, as well as the four pillars within his motivation programme. David's main messages were: find your why, greatness comes from struggle, no excuses and most importantly, if your why is strong enough you can overcome anything. Overall, his empowering story and strong messages made him a positive and excellent role model for our rangitahi.

Pā atawhai

NO EXCUSES



SURROUND YOURSELF WITH POSITIVE PEOPLE