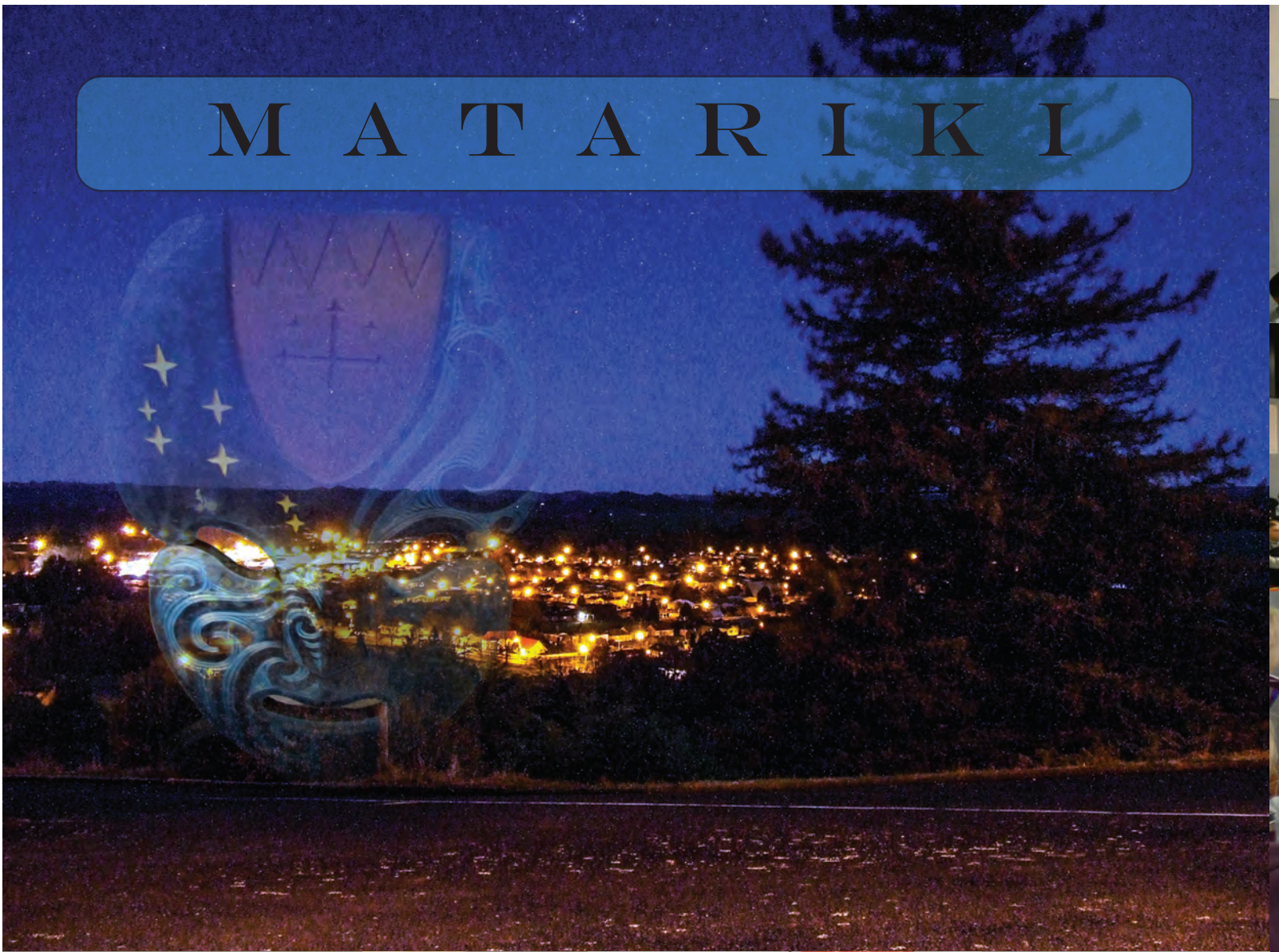


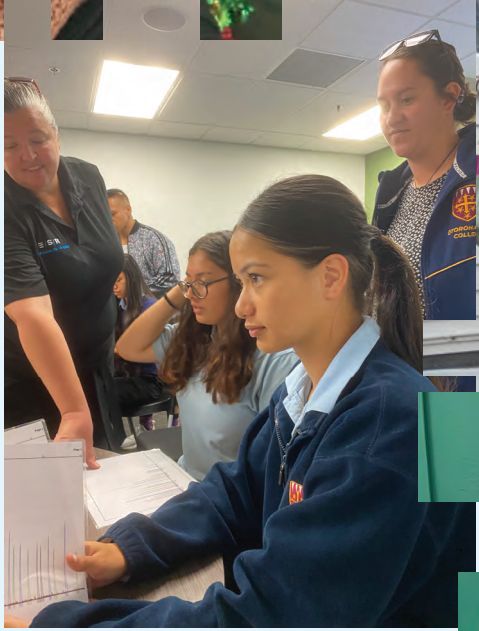
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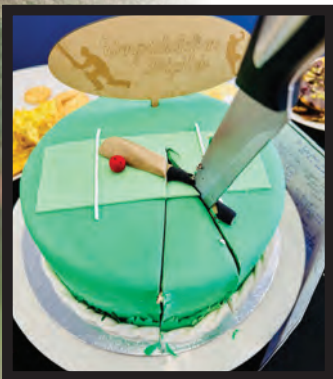


COLLEGE PHOTOS





LEIGHTON PARSONS



Cake by Mrs Buckley

Leighton Parsons:

A Cricket Journey Culminating in New Zealand Over 40s World Cup Selection

In a jubilant announcement following the conclusion of the National Inter Provincial Cricket tournament in Christchurch, Leighton Parsons expressed his delight at being named and selected to represent New Zealand in the inaugural Over 40s Cricket World Cup in Cape Town, South Africa. Scheduled for February next year, this prestigious event marks the pinnacle of Parsons' remarkable 36-year cricketing journey.

Despite showcasing his skills in cricketing arenas across England, Australia, and the Cook Islands, the dream of donning the national colors and participating in an event as illustrious as the World Cup had eluded Parsons until now. His selection for New Zealand at the Over 40s World Cup is not only a testament to his enduring commitment to the sport but also a fulfillment of a longstanding aspiration.

Parsons, a recent key member of the New Zealand A Over 40s squad, boasts an impressive track record, holding the record for the top run-scorer against Australia's international side. Over the last two seasons, he represented Districts (Northern and Central Districts combined) at the New Zealand Inter Provincial tournament, a crucial stepping stone to his selection for the national squad.

With a cricketing journey deeply rooted in the Waikato Valley, Parsons spent six years in the representative side, captaining the team for three of those years. Notably, he became the first Waikato Valley player to achieve the remarkable feat of 1000 runs and 50 wickets, a record that endured for many years. His outstanding all-round performance earned him the titles of Northern Districts Cricket Association Player of The Year and Waikato Valley Senior Men's Player of the Year in the 2011/12 season.

Parsons' leadership qualities did not go unnoticed, as he was selected as the captain for the inaugural Northern Districts Maori team, a position he still holds on occasion. This role has seen him lead the team through international fixtures, New Zealand Inter Provincial Tournaments, a memorable tour to the Cook Islands, and numerous domestic fixtures. In early 2023, Parsons attended Maori nationals in Whangarei, opening the batting for Northern Maori.

Locally, Parsons captains the Ōtorohanga Senior Men's club cricket side, where his leadership has been instrumental in clinching multiple Waikato Valley One Day Competitions and Twenty20 titles. His influence on and off the field has left an indelible mark on the cricketing community in Ōtorohanga. At the time of writing, Parsons has 34 centuries for Ōtorohanga and two 6-wicket bags. His highest score for Ōtorohanga is 202 not out, coming one run short of his highest ever, which was 203 not out playing for Northern Maori. In his senior career, Parsons boasts an impressive 51 hundreds, with the majority for Ōtorohanga and five in the United Kingdom.

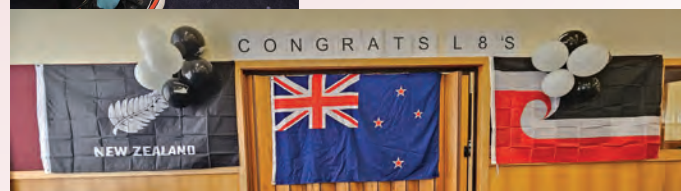
Behind Parsons' cricketing success lies a solid foundation of support from his family and local community. A dedicated PE teacher at Ōtorohanga College, Parsons has spent many years as a coach and mentor, imparting his knowledge and passion for the game to aspiring cricketers. Off the field, his commitment to fitness and conditioning is evident. This year alone, he completed both the Rotorua and Hamilton Marathons, showcasing not only his cricketing prowess but also his endurance and determination. In addition, Parsons has embraced ZUU classes, contributing to his sound fitness base, which undoubtedly has been a key factor in his success on the cricket field.

As Parsons sets his sights on the Over 40s Cricket World Cup in South Africa, he emphasizes the team's determination to secure victory. The challenge presented by South Africa and the prestigious World Cup stage is eagerly anticipated by the entire squad. For Parsons, stepping onto the pitch in Cape Town is not just about personal achievement; it's about representing his whanau, his kura, his Ōtorohanga community, and, of course, his country.

As the cricketing world turns its attention to the Over 40s Cricket World Cup, Leighton Parsons stands as a testament to the unwavering passion, dedication, and skill that define a cricketing great, supported by the love of his family, the encouragement of his local community, and a commitment to excellence both on and off the field. New Zealand's journey in the Over 40s Cricket World Cup kicks off with a thrilling encounter against India on February 19, 2024. Cricket enthusiasts worldwide can catch the live action on YouTube at International Masters Cricket and on Facebook at New Zealand Over 40s Cricket. As the excitement builds, Parsons and the entire squad are gearing up for this monumental challenge, aiming to make their mark on the international stage.



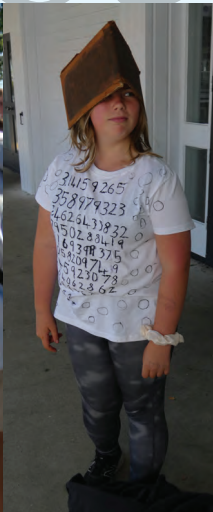
Staff celebrate Mr Parson's accomplishment



Pink Shirt Day



Pie Day



SCIENCE SPINNERS



SCIENCE SPINNERS

Year 10 students attended Science Spinners - Creative Lab in Hamilton. It was a fabulous day of hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers experiences. Students experienced:

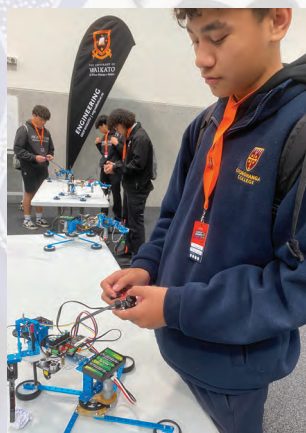
- *being inside a computer algorithm
- *town planning
- *operating a robotic arm
- *taste testing and scientifically testing honey
- *making popcorn and ice cream
- *how to plant to reduce farming runoff into waterways
- *looking at microbes that inhabit water
- *how to design and build a strong and stable structure.



Year 11s attended Science Spinners - STEM Hub. This was a step up with presenters exploring roles and concepts in greater detail. These students experienced:

- *what a mechanical, civil and electrical engineer does
- *how a person is kept alive when they require open heart surgery
- *all the different roles that are required to successfully generate and distribute electricity.

Both days enabled taura to learn about a variety of careers in a fun and hands on way.



Tarewaanga Marae Opening



Planting Day Waipa Awa



COMMUNITY PLANTING

A group of Year 9 students volunteered to participate in the community planting day alongside the Waipa awa this week. This is a great initiative that was driven by our local council as part of Te ara a Waiwaia River Project. The timing of this project was opportune because it aligned with the focus in the Social Sciences and Science units this term which are Sustainability and Botany.

Permission to use image with Keri Neilson was sought. Keri is Zone Manager for Waikato Regional Council.

PASIFIKA

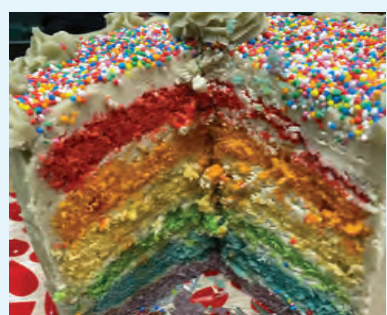
A new cultural group named Pasifika was formed under the guidance of our Principal's PA Seilala Makasale. It was pleasing to see a mix of senior and junior students join this group for weekly practises to learn routines for performances. To date they have performed at the O'Factor Talent Competition, Senior Prizegiving and Junior Prizegiving. This group is now well established and look forward to performing in more community events in the future.



Back Row: Vianni Ward (Teacher), Quincey-lee Marsters, Hayley Parker, Seilala Makasale (Teacher)
 Front Row: Dequan Tapu, Mana Tutuila, Tenanoa Tiimi

RAINBOW YOUTH GROUP

At Ōtorohanga College we have run a Rainbow Youth group for 3 years. The group is focused on upholding and maintaining safe places in College for rainbow young people. Our space welcomes all rainbow young people and their allies. In our meetings we use the time to identify any issues or opportunities to discuss. There have been many opportunities for our ākonga to provide their perspectives or feedback to the College. This helps to enhance inclusion and rainbow youth voice. In our Wednesday meetings we talk about any up and coming events, discuss important issues and then get into some fun activities. There's music, dancing, painting and most importantly there is fun. One of the highlights for this year was a trip to meet the Te Kuiti High School Rainbow Youth. The whakawhanaungatanga was rich and vibrant. Together we shared kai and participated in activities. We would like to thank Jess Banga for their awesome leadership in Rainbow Youth. We look forward to our fourth year in 2024 and welcome new and old members to join in the fun.



Proud to be **MĀORI**

We are very fortunate to have a team of dedicated staff and community members who provide our students with opportunities to share and enhance their Māori identity within our College and community.

Our students who stood at the Tainui regionals as a part of Te Waikowharawhara were phenomenal.

Puhoro has strengthened our students understanding of Putaiao.

Matariki celebrations showcased a lot of talented individuals on stage, presenting speeches and cooking delicious kai inspired by the whenua and moana.

Our Faculties have all incorporated Te reo me ona tikanga Māori in lessons and there have been memorable trips to historically important sites throughout the rohe.

“Tuhia ki te rangi, tuhia ki te whenua
Tuhia ki te ngākau o ngā tāngata
Ko te mea nui, ko te aroha
E te iwi, kia Māori to tu
Kia Māori te ao...”

