



ŌTOROHANGA COLLEGE WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Term Four, Week Two – Monday 13th October – Friday 17th October 2025

MĀORI FACULTY

The junior students are embarking on an exciting, hands-on exploration of pūrākau (stories) this term!

They kicked off the unit with collaborative group mahi (group work), which involved sharing stories and closely examining images to uncover the deep narratives and meaning (kaupapa) embedded within them. This early work is focused on understanding how pūrākau, whether they are creation myths or local legends, act as a vital roadmap for cultural knowledge and identity.

A key focus for the remainder of the term will be mahi toi (art). Students will be challenged to use various artistic forms and creative expressions—to reinterpret traditional pūrākau. This artistic process will serve a dual purpose, they will both retell existing stories through their artwork and ultimately, craft their own unique stories to be communicated entirely through mahi toi. This project connects the deep wisdom of pūrākau with the expressive power of mahi toi, encouraging the juniors to see themselves as both the inheritors and the creators of new cultural narratives.



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RANGATAHI DAY WITH TNN

On Tuesday, a group of students visited Te Kuiti High School to participate in a day of Hauora-based activities organised by Xavier Turner and Te Miri Tamaki. This event was part of a Te Nehenehenui Trust initiative that involved secondary schools from across the region.

We were just getting started when a weather warning was issued, prompting us to leave in case the situation escalated to a state of emergency. We are grateful for the time we spent there and look forward to participating again next year. We are also thankful to have returned home safely, thanks to our amazing driver, Selwyn. The drive back was quite an experience, with the sight of the damage reminding us just how fortunate we are to have the stop bank in Ōtorohanga.



VOICES OF RANGATAHI

Congratulations to Zach Davey for winning the prezzy card for participating in the Voice of Rangatahi Survey held last term. This survey was important in gathering student voice for our Active As programme within our College, helping us understand which activities and initiatives would best engage our students. We would also like to extend our gratitude to everyone who took the time to complete the survey; your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of our programmes.



SUPPORTERS EVENING

Kai Tahī Crew Shines At First Event!

Our new Junior Kai Tahī Crew knocked it out of the park at their inaugural event last night! A group of our junior students prepared and catered drinks and nibbles for approximately 35 College supporters. They worked incredibly hard, displaying excellent confidence and a brilliant work ethic right to the very end. A huge congratulations to the crew for a brilliant start – we are so proud of their effort and professionalism.



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CHEMQUEST 2025

On Wednesday a group of our senior chemistry students took part in ChemQuest 2025 at the University of Waikato, an exciting annual chemistry competition that brings together 85 teams from schools across the region. Students worked in groups of three to solve a series of practical and theoretical chemistry challenges, testing their knowledge, creativity and problem-solving skills.

It was a fantastic opportunity to experience university-level science in a fun and hands-on way and to see how chemistry connects to real-world applications.

Congratulations to all our students for representing our College with enthusiasm and scientific spirit!



HUNGER BALL

On Tuesday we had an awesome visit from Hunger Ball and our students had an absolute blast! The inflatable pit brought heaps of energy and excitement as everyone got stuck into the different game variations - from football and basketball to dodgeball and more. It was fantastic to see students laughing, competing and building positive relationships through active play. Even the teachers could not resist jumping in and giving it a go!



This experience was an Active As initiative, giving students the chance to try new and exciting sports while promoting fun, movement and connection across the College. A huge thanks to the Hunger Ball team for bringing such a memorable day to Otorohanga College!



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HOSPITALITY REWARDS TRIP

What a wonderful way to celebrate the conclusion of years of hard work in Hospitality and the first year of The B-Hive Cafe! Our Year 13 Hospitality students enjoyed their well-deserved rewards trip to Rotorua this past week, experiencing service from the other side of the table for a change.

The group kicked off the trip on Monday and Tuesday with a stay at the Rotorua Thermal Holiday Park, including a relaxing swim before heading out for an authentic Mexican dinner at El Mexicana Cantina Zapata. The evening finished with a magical night walk through the towering trees of the Redwood forest.

On Tuesday, the action continued with an action-packed morning enjoying the thrills of the Luge Rotorua before heading back to Ōtorohanga. The trip was a special way to celebrate the students' dedication and a brilliant success!



KEY DATES AND FUTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Year 13 Spirit Week - Monday 20th October to Friday 24th October

Gumboot Friday - Friday 24th October

House Chant Competition - 24th October

Labour Day - Monday 27th October

Kapa Haka and Pasifika Performance Evening - Wednesday 29th October

Senior Prizegiving at 6pm - Thursday 30th October

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