



# Haere Mai

*From the International Department of William Colenso College  
to our partner agencies and parents of current international students.*

March 2026



## International Department

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Current student Numbers:

- Japan - 8
- Germany - 10
- Cambodia - 1
- Finland - 1
- Norway - 1
- Brazil - 4
- Italy - 1

## Kia ora koutou katoa,

Welcome to our first 2026 newsletter. We have hosted 26 students this term, almost back to our pre-covid numbers. As you can see on the left we have students from across the world and they give our school a culturally diverse feel.

Please be sure to download the latest versions of visa applications to give to your students as these have changed, as have the fees.

Enjoy our highlights from Term 1.

Ngā mihi

Laura



Orientation at the Mataruahou (Napier Hill) lookout, where students posed for their photo. At Te Mata Peak they were keen to find the best location for a photograph.

Dressed to impress in their blazers for the Hawkes' Bay Mayoral visit where Aoi from Japan spoke for the group.

## Rotorua Culture and Adventure



Check out the photos from the Rotorua trip later in the newsletter.

## Whakawhanaungatanga - getting to know one another



Our first few days involved the whole school involved in fun activities to get to know each other. Above Manuela and Luiz from Brazil and Felix from Cambodia prepare to drop their eggs in the Egg Drop Challenge - whose egg would make the fall without breaking? Principal Mrs Auld and Mr Adams check for damage on landing.



Tug of War and Tabloid Water Sports were great ways to get acquainted and cool off at the end of a hot day. Here is Aoi from Japan competing in the obstacle course. Out of shot are students with water pistols trying to wet the competitors. Tabloid sports is an event run by the student leaders.





## Art Deco

This annual event saw students and their homestays dress art deco style to enjoy a lovely sunny weekend of deco activities.



## Creating a pounamu taonga



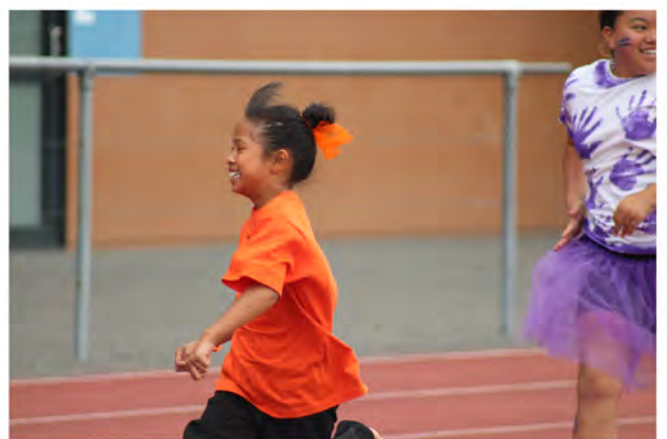
Aaron Greaves, a local legend in the greenstone carving field, came to guide our first group of students in creating their own pounamu (greenstone) taonga (treasure). Hours of sanding and polishing is rewarded with a beautiful treasure to take home.



# Athletics Day



Athletics Day was a chance to dress in House colours. Our four school House groups are named after the mountain peaks in the Ruahine ranges that can be seen from Napier. Each house has a colour which students wear for sports events. Remutupo is orange, Waikamaka is yellow, Tupari is green and Maropea is purple. There is good competition for the best house chant, best dressed house and points for participating and placing in the sports events.



# Rotorua 2026

23 international students enjoyed a fantastic 3-day trip to Rotorua in March as part of our international programme here at William Colenso College. We explored Aotearoa's beautiful nature, enjoyed canoeing across a lake, hot pools, gondola, luge and zipline, walked

the Redwood forest treetops at night, watched a Māori cultural performance and more. Students worked in teams, supported one another and made memories to last. In the words of a student "one of the best trips so far!"



## Cultures Day 2026

It was the tastiest and most exotic buffet in town - sweet treats from Finland, Norway and Japan lined up alongside savoury dishes from Brazil, Tonga, South Africa, Cambodia and more. It's hard to imagine a more delicious celebration of diversity!



Head students Crissell and Kelly dressed up in flags for the occasion.

Luiz Otavio, Maria and Manuela enjoying the day.

Year 7-8 teacher Ms Stewart dressed as a pavlova with principal Jocelyn Auld.



# Cultures Day Performances



The performance was opened by our 40 strong kapa haka group and rounded off with a Pasifika dance.. Singers from Japan, Brazil and the Philippines rounded out the performances.



A highlight of the performances was a Scandinavian polonaise led by Venla from Finland and Mia from Norway - a festive conga-style line that had more than 150 students jigging and bunny-hopping around the hall.

It started like this .....and ended like this.



The final farewell Kapa Haka performed by the whole school for those students leaving had some students in tears.

