

THE BUZZ

Quarterly Newsletter by Halswell Residential College

Term 1, 2020



A word from our
Principal
Janine
Harrington

The beginning of Term 1 was fantastic.

Staff returned before the students arrived, undertaking a whole-school Professional Learning and Development (PLD) that was informative and enlightening. We appreciated the growth that came from that. Little did we know the size of our personal and professional growth to come in the year of 2020.

Saying goodbye to students during the school term because of COVID-19 was hard. It reminded me of the days just after the February 2011 earthquake

in Christchurch when terribly anxious students were put on a RNZAF Hercules and delivered home. It was just three weeks after I started in a job at the College. Fortunately, I wasn't the principal.

Our school-world was turned upside down. As it has been now. I remembered thinking how resilient the team I had just joined was, and how grateful I was to be part of this strong team. As I do now.

Later that year, when the students finally returned, I was acting principal while Paul Kennedy was overseas for three weeks, and I got my first taste of how a residential school is so different from a local school. A once-in-a-half-century snowfall came in thick and fast and I had to work out how we would get staff into and out of the College, while other schools had the advantage of sending their students safely home and closing up.

I borrowed a four-wheel drive and drove over what seemed like mountainous layers of snow that I would never have considered taking on if it wasn't an emergency and necessary to collect staff. I packed a bag and moved into a school flat so I was onsite, while my eldest son celebrated a day off school and his birthday without me.

Other staff did more. They found four-wheel drives and picked up their colleagues. A few moved into the other three school flats, including the all-necessary cook. Some staff walked from their home in the freezing snow because their car wouldn't get them there, arriving with sodden shoes and trousers and saying it was no big deal. I noted a philosophical commitment to the students' well-being I hadn't seen before in other settings and revelled in the camaraderie that comes with enduring something difficult together.

As I write this today we are still in lockdown, alert-level 4. By the time you read this I hope things are very different. I know many reading this will, like my extended whanau, have suffered redundancies, a loss of income, new stresses and loss. The challenging times in life push us to the edge, but we will come out the other side (sometimes it is hard to trust that is true, but it is as sure as the sun will come up tomorrow).

We will be changed. But hopefully we will be more appreciative of the small things, however you measure that... the connections with others, the quiet pause in a frantic life, an appreciation for what we have, a new developed sense of self-reliance, etc.

Our school may not be one of the first to reopen (I currently have no answers re: 'when'), but when we do, you can trust the commitment of the team who work with our students will be strengthened.

Until then, I hope all in the HRC whanau (students, parents/caregivers, staff) are getting all the support needed from us. Please, let us know if we can support you better.

Janine Harrington-



Our 2020 focus

WHANAUNGATANGA BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Te Whare a Owaka

Kia ora, my name is Mihi Christie and I have the honour of being the new house manager of Te Whare a Owaka.

This year we welcomed in a new student; Laura, from Auckland. Laura settled in well and the students of Owaka did their utmost to make her feel welcome and part of their whanau.

Our school focus this year is on 'Whanaungatanga'. We have also been working on 'Being Healthy'.

'Whanaungatanga' to us means being respectful, being a family, taking care of each other, asking what is wrong, trying to be friends, helping someone when they are down, and being supportive.

We have also been working on healthy activities. We enjoy going on walks, bowling, trampolining, drift trikes, going to the fitness centre, and swimming.

Being healthy is about eating healthily; making healthy meals, choosing healthy snacks, engaging in discussions about healthy food, and making healthy choices.

Being healthy also means following self-care routines; taking pride in our appearance, making sure the bathrooms and bedrooms are clean and tidy, washing our hands correctly which is very important for our health and hygiene.

Term 1 was fun, productive, and busy with lots of good learning. The girls are always enthusiastic about getting their wristbands and love the meetings with Whaea Janine.



Ko te manu e kai ana I te miro, nona te ngahere.

Ko te manu e kai ana I te matauranga, nona te ao.

The bird that eats from the miro berry rules the forest.

The bird that is educated rules the world.



Healthy Eating Meal Ideas

[www.healthykids.org.nz/
eat/recipes](http://www.healthykids.org.nz/eat/recipes)



Te Whare a Makonui



Term 1 is a timeframe that will go down in the history books. From the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic to the abilities of our students who resiliently adapted to a temporarily different way of life. Makonui welcomed Ben to the staffing team; and new student Taylor, who quickly settled into HRC and formed some solid friendships. We were also ready to farewell three of our students Zac, Hunter and Louy who have all done exceptionally well working towards their goals and having fun during their time at HRC. At this stage they have not yet been able to start at their new schools.

A focus this term has been on whanaungatanga/building relationships. Makonui students have thrived; some building relationships through leading by example, some students have used positive persuasion to encourage good decisions by other students, while others have used humour to build relationships. We have seen all our students in Makonui form and maintain new friendships; some of these are bound to last a lifetime, and for some of our students this has been a new experience.

There were many exciting and educational activities that happened in Term 1. One of the Makonui outings that the students loved was the Weka Pass train ride; taking in amazing views and for some it provided their first experience on a train. Another outing was the Washpen Falls walk where students got to see some native flora and enjoy the fresh rural air. A hard walk for most, but all students and staff pushed through to be rewarded near the end with a beautiful waterfall. Another popular outing was the fairy walk which brought out the imagination of all the students while walking through a forest wonderland.

Although the term was short in terms of face-to-face contact, all the students showed extreme resilience in their coping abilities given the upsets of COVID-19. Our students asked appropriate questions and have continued to show their resilience from their homes by engaging in online learning. This shows that the students have resilience across contexts and is a tribute to themselves and their families facilitating this way of learning. Any adult would be proud of themselves had they handled the pandemic as our students have.

On behalf of Makonui - take care.
Tamsyn Hutchings

Te Whare a Tauawa

Kia ora whanau.

Nga mihi ki a koutou i tenei wa.

I hope you are all keeping well in your bubbles.

The new year has produced new changes to staffing in our whare. Whaea Mihi and Moana shifted to Owaka, and we welcomed James, Aaron, and Patrick to Tauawa.

During the first term, students have continued to improve in their day-to-day living skills, some receiving wristbands for their achievements. Jacob worked hard to achieve his blue band. Ka pai.

We welcomed back Phynn, who has been away from kura for some time.

Over the past five weeks, COVID-19 has challenged the way we normally come together and help our tamariki with their education, however, staff are here if whanau need support. What is most important at this time is learning to live together as whanau and supporting each other. It's a great opportunity for our tamariki to share the values of aroha, manaakitanga and whanaungatanga that we live by when we are together at kura.

Noho ora mai i roto i te manaaki o te Atua.

Timoti Christensen-



T-Ball Competition

The HRC Dodgers played in the Wednesday inter-school t-ball competition held at Hagley Park.

The HRC Dodgers had two warm-up games; one against the NZ Graduate School of Education and the other against the staff. The HRC Dodgers won both!

The competition comprised of teams from Waitaha School, Riccarton High School,

Ferndale School, Hillmorton High School and Papanui High School.

The HRC Dodgers played with great skill and sportsmanship during the season, improving in every aspect and being very respectful whilst having fun.



THE BUZZ FROM THE DAY SCHOOL

Raumata

The year started off with a bang and the beginning of Term 1 was a busy one!

We welcomed Zac, Jacob and Todd back to HRC. We also welcomed a new student, Arama, to our class.

The students worked one-on-one with an intern from the NZ Graduate School of Education as part of their teacher training.

The students collectively decided to take on the role of running the school café. Each week a student is assigned a role: barista, chef, or waitress/waiter. This term we decided to make the foods related to foods from around the world. Each student would research a country and find a food to make that originates from their chosen country. The running of the café would not be a success without the wonderful Jane Robb.

All students of Raumata have worked on their coffee making skills. While they are home, make sure to ask them to make you a coffee; I think you will be impressed. Jacob and Todd refined

their skills and can make coffees unassisted. Fantastic job Jacob and Todd!

We had Louy, and Lee Tacon join us late through the term. It was fantastic to have them join us with their positive attitude to learning - although their time was fleeting as the term finished abruptly.

This term we farewelled Zac and Louy, who were both due to leave Halswell Residential College. It was sad to see them go but we wish them all the best at their new schools. It has been a pleasure to teach them both.

Stay safe, kia kaha.

Teacher: Jess Grenfell

Teacher Assistants: Jane Robb, Lee Tacon



STEAM CHALLENGE
PIC-COLLAGE



Te Puna Wai

Teacher: Nicole Todd

Teacher Assistant: Jaimee Newton



Kia ora whanau.

In Te Puna Wai during Term 1 we focused on emotional awareness. We have been learning this through the Zones of Regulation programme.

There are **four zones** - our feelings and states determine our zone.

The **Red Zone** is used to describe extremely heightened states of alertness and intense emotions. A person may be elated or experiencing anger, rage, devastation, or terror when in the Red Zone.

The **Yellow Zone** is also used to describe a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions, however a person has more control when they are in the Yellow Zone. A person may be experiencing stress, frustration, anxiety, excitement, silliness, the wiggles, or nervousness when in the Yellow Zone.

The **Green Zone** is used to describe a calm state of alertness. A person may be described as happy, focused, content, or ready to learn when in the Green Zone. This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

The **Blue Zone** is used to describe low states of alertness and down feelings such as when a person feels sad, tired, sick, or bored.

We have also been learning about New Zealand native birds. This has tied in nicely with doing Kiwi Guardian challenges where we have been on forest walks observing birds. We also had an outing to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve where we got close to many different birds, including the kiwi.

We enjoyed all our usual term activities - all students have become more confident at cooking in food technology and our t-ball skills improved greatly.

Goodbye to Jaimee Newton and thank you for helping our students during your time at HRC.

I hope everyone is keeping safe at home and I am looking forward to seeing all the smiling faces in front of me as soon as is possible.

Kia kaha.

Learn more about the Zones of Regulation at <https://www.zonesofregulation.com/learn-more-about-the-zones.html>

Zones of Regulation



THE BUZZ

Tihao

Teacher: Briar Dumelow

Teacher Assistants: Lee Tacon, Ruth Baker

Term 1 in Tihao brought new students and staff to the classroom.

We welcomed Cameron, Ruby and Louy to the class as well as Ruth Baker. It was awesome to have a new combination of students who enjoy learning in different ways! Part-way through the term, Louy moved to Raumata to experience a bigger classroom with more students. This was to support Louy in his transition to his new school for Term 2, 2020. We wish Louy the best in his new school.

We were also lucky enough to spend every Friday with Simon Gannaway, a new teacher at the school. Simon has done some really interesting activities with the students. The nail polish art was a highlight of the term with each student making their own unique piece of art to take home.

The students of Tihao have been focusing on Zones of Regulation this term, and this will continue to be a focus across the year. We have seen great insight from the students around what makes them happy and how to get themselves back to being happy. The students have also been looking at expected

and unexpected behaviour. I'm looking forward to seeing what knowledge we can build on in the following terms!

Our other focuses during class time have been around the history of toys, animals, and the environment. We had some interesting investigations into the price of toys and how toys have changed from the 1930s to now; even the staff have been learning new things. Our animals topic is based around looking at the impact that environmental change has on animals' lives. Our friend David Attenborough helped us with this. The environment topic was eye-opening about how to dispose of waste appropriately - it turns out that used pizza boxes can go in the green bin!

We hope that everyone stays safe, happy and healthy during their time at home. We've got a new challenge of online learning during next term. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school soon!



Jon Purdue

*Associate Principal
Residential*

Term 1 was a memorable term which was significantly interrupted as we are living through a major world event.

While challenging, it provides us with a great opportunity to improve as a people and do some things that will be cherished memories for years to come.

Living our HRC values of **Relationships, Reflection and Resilience** is even more important now to help us come through the COVID-19 crisis with some positive memories and the knowledge that we can persevere and see through difficult situations.

We have all learned new things in our social bubbles as we work from home. When we return to normal the challenge for us all will be to build on these so we can be the best we can be.

Whakarangatirahia.

Kawatea

Teacher: Sarah Hall

Teacher Assistant: Denis Carroll

Term 1 certainly proved to be one we won't forget. It started ordinarily enough and ended very promptly three weeks early as New Zealand's response to the worldwide COVID-19 situation ramped up. Since then we have been working towards a different way of delivering learning to our students with the hope that we'll all be back at HRC very soon.

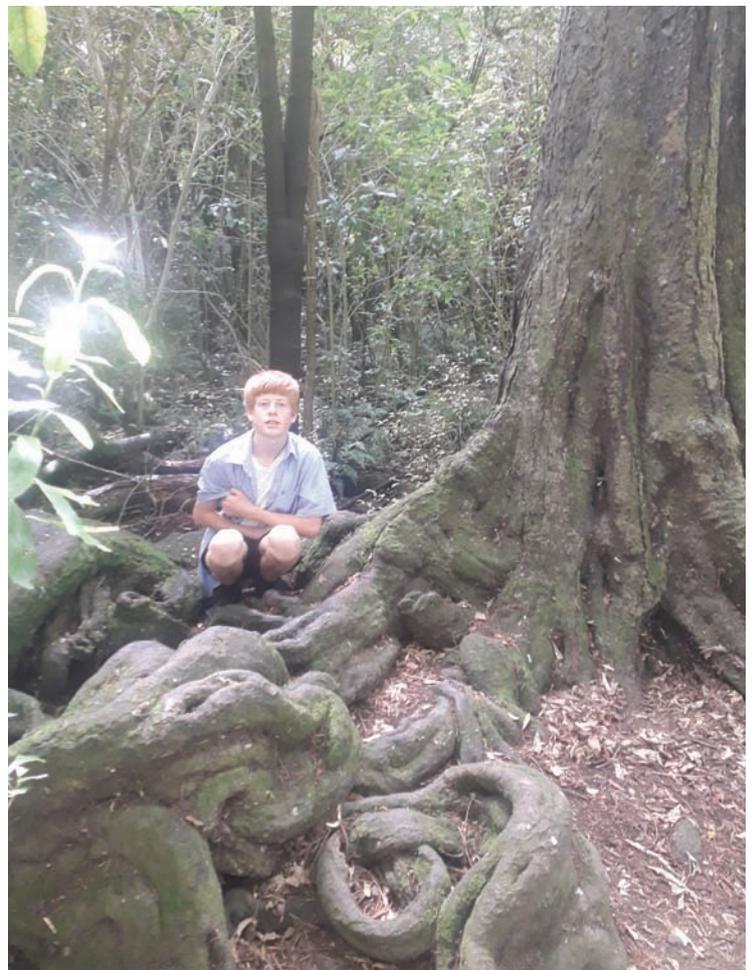
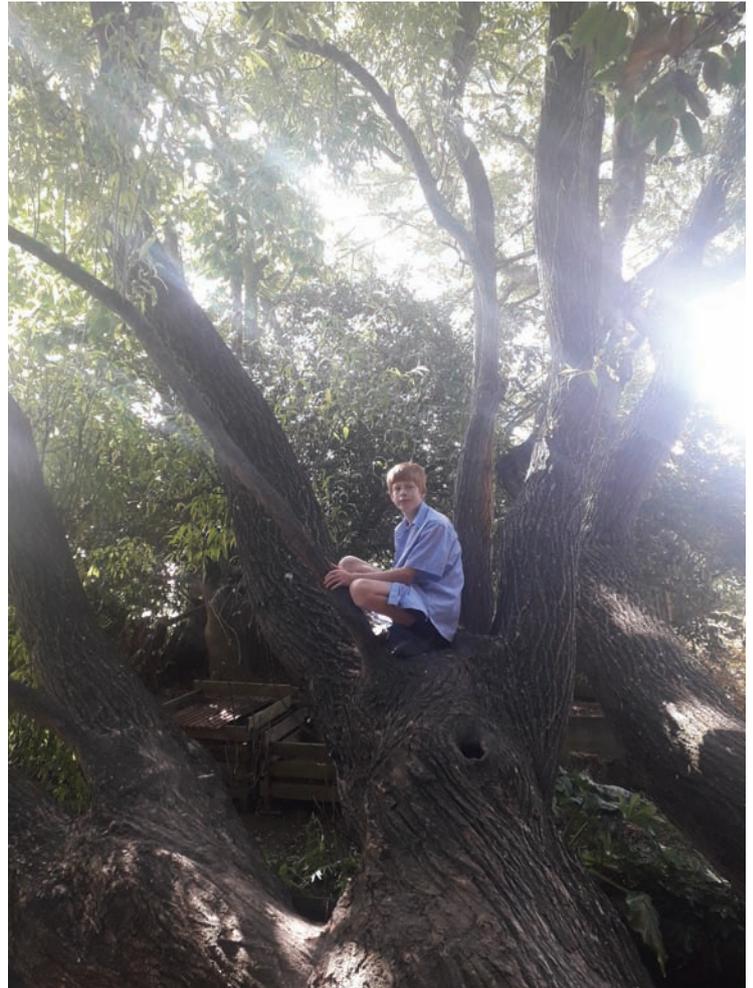
During Term 1 we had a few other changes in Kawatea. We began the term with Hunter and Jimmy. Hunter was our only student until we welcomed Taylor. Towards the end of the term we were planning Hunter's transition to his new school and his farewell from HRC. The disruption to the end of the term meant we were not able to farewell Hunter, nor any other students, as we would have liked at our usual end of term assembly. We will hopefully find a way of celebrating Hunter's time with us when we return to normal business.

What we did manage to do during Term 1 was experience some nice outdoor walks at the Botanic Gardens, Riccarton Bush and Sumner Beach. We're so lucky to have these amazing spaces in the city. On our walk at Riccarton Bush, Taylor was amazed at all the pigeons that were living amongst the undergrowth. It was nice to see how engaged he was in the environment.

Seesaw has been a great resource in the classroom. We can immediately share pictures of what students are doing in the moment, and share classroom work. The great thing about Seesaw is that families can see and comment on what their child is doing. It's a great way to stay in touch and see what is being achieved. We are currently uploading activities onto Seesaw to help with our online learning delivery during lockdown.

We're all aware that it is a very stressful time for everyone at the moment. Please stay safe and stay in touch.

Together we can get through this challenging time and we're here to support students and whanau where possible.



Seesaw Training Available

Please check the
'Professional Learning and Development'
page on our HRC website for a
link to an online tutorial.

new faces *on the team*



Simon Gannaway
Teacher



Ben Featherstone
Youth Worker



Patrick Fitzgerald
Youth Worker



Aaron Fuglestad
Residential Assistant



Linda Bougen
Nurse



Josie Stuart
Future EA Extraordinaire

Unite
against
COVID-19

COVID-19 Information

Ministry of Education

<http://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/>

Ministry of Health

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Next edition of The Buzz

We'd love to focus our next edition on ...

The Buzz from our Bubbles

To do this we kindly ask for two things
from our HRC students and staff:

1) A short blurb about life in your bubble.
(just a couple of sentences will be perfect).

It could be about who is in your bubble;
one thing you have enjoyed doing during lockdown;
or something special about your bubble.

2) Create a picture of life in your bubble.
It could be a photo, or perhaps a drawing.

Then please email your submission to:

executive.assistant@halswellcollege.com

or parents/caregivers can send it to your teacher/IEPC.

Thank you.