



APARIMA MATTERS

The Grass is Greener

We all know the cliché “The grass is greener on the other side of the fence”. This keeps us aware that we tend to compare ourselves and think that other people have it better. This is just perception! If you really want ‘greener grass’, take care of your lawn. Water it. Fertilise it. Instead of looking at what other people have, take care of what you have, and watch it flourish.

We at Aparima College have worked hard to create a learning environment where our students are succeeding. Our NCEA results this year are again, above the national average. Our sports teams and sportsmen are competing and holding their own against the larger urban schools. We form strong relationships with our students, where they are valued and mentored to be the best they can be.

Our point of difference is our small class sizes. Each student gets noticed, it is more difficult for students to hide or get left behind. Research has shown that secondary school students in smaller classes have higher grades. With fewer students in a class, individuals can connect more closely with their peers and become more confident and comfortable sharing their ideas. Teachers can spend more time teaching and less time getting the attention of those who get distracted. Teachers can also cater to students’ different learning styles and ensure that they stay engaged and understand what is being taught. Teachers have more time to individualise their feedback, and to work one-to one. At the end of each day, we can sit back and know that every student at our school has had positive interactions with adults who care. We are enriching our ‘grass’ so that it thrives, it is definitely greener at Aparima College.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your homes with peace, joy and love. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Keep safe and have a wonderful holiday.

Leah Fraser
Acting Principal

**Merry
Christmas**



Year 9 Camp – Borland Lodge

On Monday 20 November the Year 9s left school and headed to Borland Lodge. We arrived at Borland around 10:30 am and as soon as we hopped out of the van we got attacked by sandflies. After we got into our cabins and set up we played a few games of kabaddi and survive challenges 9B vs 9G and of course 9B won. Then we headed into the bush to set up camp for the night, the girls went one way and the boys went another. The boys got split into two groups and began making our bivvies, the girls one slowly started to look more and more better than the boys. Later that night we began to get ready to play spotlight. We got our game faces on and got all blacked up with charcoal then headed to the field we were playing in. After a few games were played Mr Fraser proved he was the master at spotlight, then we headed into the bush for a long cold night in bivvies. We boys went to our spot, got in our sleeping bags having a few yarns then Miss Careswell wished us all goodnight and assured us that the blue man wasn’t going to sneak off with our sleeping bags.

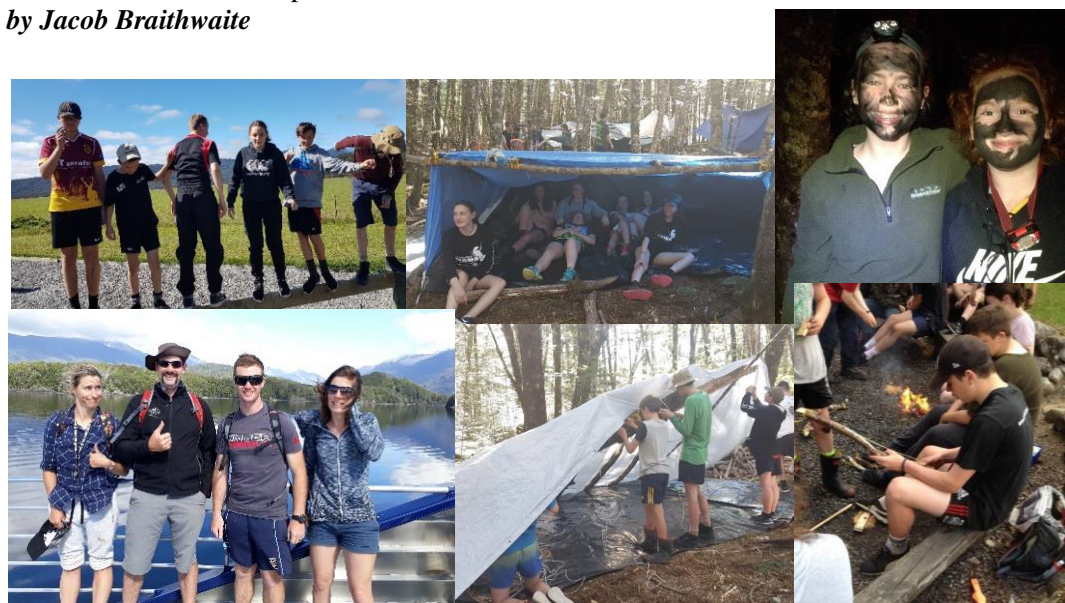
Day 2 Tuesday 21st

We woke up around 5.45 am. We headed back to camp had showers and then set off in our groups. My group had fishing first so we loaded up in the vans and headed to the river. We ended up getting nothing which wasn’t cool then we had kayaking, went on low ropes which was fun then we went for a walk, played some ball rush then headed in for tea, the food was really good especially Mr Fraser’s steak which tasted amazing!

Day 3 Wednesday 22nd

After a comfy sleep we woke to breakfast and clean-up duties before we set off on our walk. Through the bush to Lake Monowai. It was another scorching hot day and the walk proved quite the mental challenge for a few of us. We cooled off with a swim in the lake before hitting the road back to Riverton. A big thanks to Peter and Lynne at Borland Lodge and to the teachers who ran the camp for us.

by Jacob Braithwaite



Gateway Programme

This is an exciting programme where senior students actively participate in structured workplace learning. It offers them a chance to gain new skills and knowledge in a workplace in the community while still working towards NCEA credits. The learning is hands on and practical and is an opportunity to begin a career pathway while still at school. Please note that this is unpaid work.

One day a week for a minimum of ten weeks students will go to their respective work places and work towards achieving Unit Standards, the support from Employers is valued and their skills and knowledge will help students to achieve not only academically but also with learning how to work as a team and what exactly the job entails. Each student is required to complete 20 credits during this programme which can be completed at school or in their own time.

This year we have placed students in: Kindergarten, Childcare, Radio, Farming, Hospitality, Tattooist, Building, Animal Welfare, Butchery and Mechanical. Many students over the years have been offered full time employment or the opportunity of an apprenticeship from being on the Gateway Programme. This year three students have taken up employment through this Gateway programme. This programme gives students the opportunity to show the employer what they are capable of and if they impress they never know what may come out of it. We also encourage students to ask for a reference at the end of their placement as this can be very helpful for the future. I would like to thank all our employers for taking the time to give our students this opportunity and for taking them into their work place to show them the ropes and allowing them to be hands on.

I would like to encourage parents/caregivers of senior students to discuss Gateway as an option for 2018 and if a student is interested in finding out more either see myself or Mrs Fraser the first week back in 2018.

Tania Cleaver
Gateway Coordinator



Year 10 Camp – Te Anau

On 27 November the Year 10's headed to the Te Anau Lakeview Holiday Park where we spent two nights (three days). After arriving there around midday we were greeted with sunny weather. After unloading the gear we headed to Rainbow Reach to start a 3 hour walk along the Kepler Track to the camping ground. It was boiling hot! Needless to say lots of water was drunk and sunscreen applied. To cool off we all went for a dip in the lake. Later that night we headed to Fiordland Cinema to watch 'Only The Brave' it was a good and very heartfelt movie and a few tears were shed.

The next day we were split into four groups and worked away at many activities. It was a perfect day for sailing, the wind wasn't too strong. Mr Van and Mr Hillman were there to help us along. The water was clear and we saw some fish but they weren't interested therefore we weren't able to reel any in. The bike ride was good, some uphill's and downhill's. The track was nice with a view of the Waiau River most of the way. Kayaking was great it was nice and flat and perfect weather for it. We played a few games in/with the kayaks and some of us were allowed to jump off the wharf. Later that afternoon Mr Fraser got his boat out and we got to go biscuiting out on the lake. Most of us got wet by either being pushed in or falling off the biscuit. Later that night we had a bbq for tea followed by some hilarious skits.

On our last day we packed up and left the camp grounds. From there we headed to Lion Park and hopped on a Real Journeys boat and headed to the glow worm caves. The trip was nice and smooth but was a bit chilly on top deck. The scenery around us was magnificent. Once we arrived at the caves we were greeted by the staff and headed into the caves in two groups. It was beautiful and although it was very cold and wet, there were lots of glow worms out to greet us. After the cave we hopped back on the boat and arrived back in Te Anau 25 minutes later. We headed home to Riverton around midday and unpacked all the gear. It was a great camp. Thank you to the teachers, parents and students who helped make lots of great memories for our last school camp.

by Briana Blasco and Olivia Black



Tree Project Update

We are just writing a quick progress report. You already know that we are waiting for the chipper to come and chip the branches in the area beside the river. We already have some funding from Fonterra and we are in the process of applying to other organisations for specific sections of the project.

We aim to grow lots of trees, so we have begun by constructing a Propagation Area at school using some of the wood recycled from the Junior Block classrooms refit. We are looking for donations of fish tubs to grow the seedlings in, and we are also hoping for a thousand litre water drum for irrigation. To stabilise the ground we are hoping to plant lots of yellow lupins, and will be collecting the seeds over the summer.

by *Genna, Ethan, Nic, Kalani and Rose*



Thanking our Knitters

On Monday Aparima Scarves had the pleasure of shouting a lovely morning tea for the residents of Longwood Care Home and our wonderful community volunteer knitters. As part of our company's values we wanted to give back to the community and with Christmas approaching we loved the idea of interacting with our elder community. Once again we would like to thank our knitters for all the time they have put into knitting our scarves for us. We are excited to travel to Wellington on Wednesday to attend the awards night and gala dinner to proudly represent Aparima College and the Southland and Lakes Districts.

by *Emma Ronald*



Changes to Our Communication System

Next year we are changing our student management system to Kamar which uses a different system of communicating with parents and caregivers. Before school starts in January you will receive a message containing your log on and password for a portal. This portal provides information on daily notices, student attendance, NCEA summary, current year results, and comments from teachers etc. We have email addresses for most of our parents and caregivers, if we do not have yours please update our records by emailing your name and that of your child to office@aparima.school.nz. If any problems occur, please phone the office on 2348900. Also, check for updates on our Facebook page.

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Teagan Ashley who won a Silver medal in the Junior Girls Hammer at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships in Hastings. A huge throw of 40.15m!! Awesome work Teagan!



Term Dates 2018

Term One	Between Monday 29 January to Friday 13 April (102 half days)
Term Two	Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July (98 half days)
Term Three	Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September (100 half days)
Term Four	Monday 15 October to no later than Tuesday 18 December* (86 half days)

*Or to a day in December which ensures the school has been open for instruction for 380 half days in 2018. This final day may change due to staff professional development and NZQA exam dates.

Office Hours and Opening Information 2017/18

Monday 11-Thursday 14 December 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Office will reopen on:

Monday 22 January – Thursday 25 January 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Monday 29 January

Teacher Only Day

Tuesday 30 January

9:00 am Year 11 students course confirmation

10:00 am Year 12 and Year 13 students course confirmation


Followed by Year 13 Peer Support training Year 11 – 12 classes

Office hours 8:00 am – 4:00 pm


Wednesday 31 January

All students to attend




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Community Notice

RIVERTON CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT MARKET

Where: Palmerston Street, The Postmaster Bakery, RSA, Flecks Hall, Union Church.

Shops will be open.

When: 8th of December 2017

Time: From 5pm -8pm



Variety of stall available (from home, décor, craft, food etc.), Merry-go-round, Wood-chopping demonstration by the Southland Otago Axe men, Mr Whippy, Face painting and much more..
Road closure in place from 3pm until 9pm Palmerston Street.



Southland Summer Reading Challenge - The Great Escape – Wild About Reading 2017

School age children, and their families, can register now at Southland District Libraries for the Southland Summer Reading Challenge – The Great Escape: Wild About Reading, which rewards reading between **1 December 2017 and 31st January 2018**. The challenge is to read 12 books over this time and once done, Southland District Libraries will give you a \$15 Paper Plus voucher – only one per registered person, and family entries share one voucher. You will need to drop in to the library to have your reading chart stamped along the way. Books can be borrowed from Southland District Libraries, be personal books, or school books, or books from other libraries. *Books need to be relevant to your reading level.* The exception being a parent reading to the family in the Family category. For every 4 books you read you can enter a craft challenge. There are 3 in total and the entry judged first in each category wins a \$25 Paper Plus voucher. Photograph and email your entries to library@southlanddc.govt.nz if you cannot bring it in to show us. You do not have to enter craft activities to gain the Paper Plus voucher for **12 books read**. Craft activities will not be judged if the reading has not been completed for that line, 4 books at a time. Go *Wild About Reading* this summer break at Southland District Libraries!

WE'RE OPENING OUR GATES

COME AND VISIT A DAIRY FARM

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO ONE OF THE FARMS WE'RE OPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS DOWN ON THE FARM. YOU CAN TALK TO A FARMER ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO HELP CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND'S WATERWAYS. SEE WHERE MILK COMES FROM, AND ENJOY A FUN DAY OUT WITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS AND A FREE ICE CREAM FOR ALL.

10 DECEMBER 2017

BOOK YOUR VISIT AT OPENGATES.CO.NZ

Dairy for life



A busy 2017



Remember Prize Giving tonight 7:30pm in the College Hall – All welcome

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