



Fiordland College Newsletter

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Final Newsletter for 2020

From the Principal's Desk

Reflecting on the past year, it becomes obvious our lives have changed in immeasurable ways.

We are all coming to terms with the realisation that the mark of the Covid-19 pandemic is not temporary. Our way of life will not quickly go back to the old normal and many of the setbacks we have faced will not quickly be resolved.

As I write this final 2020 Newsletter comment, I am reminded of the quote by Lailah Gifty Akita – "Confidence, courage and determined spirit are vital for surviving hard times." I have been heartened by the demonstrations of courage and determination I have seen this year and by the confidence evidenced in the actions of so many in our school community. We have seen hard times, but we have adapted.

I have no doubt that there are good, positive experiences to look forward to in 2021. So I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and trust you will take the opportunity to have a well-earned break this holiday period.

Kia māia, kia toa, kia whakatau
Be confident, be courageous, be determined

E haere rā
Lynlee Smith



Thank You

As part of our last newsletter for the year we wanted to recognise our staff who cover so many extra activities for your children. All of the "extras" that staff voluntarily give their time for are over and above what they are employed to do, either through school or in the community.



THANK YOU — These extras are what helps make our school and community so special.

Special thanks must also go out to the parents, caregivers and members of the community who have given their time, knowledge or expertise in any way to help our students.

We really appreciate everything you do



And last, but not least, thanks to all our amazing students! You are the best and we love being able to help you navigate your way through your school years.

Principal's Awards

Congratulations to the following junior students who received a Principal's Award for Excellence in their End of Year Reports.

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|-----------------|--|
| Year 7: | Aani Tapper, Alexis Reynolds, Alice Meskauskas, Grace Perry, Greer Knowles, Maki Kameyama, Morgan Sandilands. |
| Year 8: | AJ Magness, Beth McBride, Brooklyn Day, Ella Johnstone, Georgia Watson, Nina Menegatti Zink, Olivia O'Neill, Sophie Wright, Talia Brown. |
| Year 9: | Callum McMurtrie, Hamish Mann, Max Kempthorne, Mia McRae, Riyanna Stevenson. |
| Year 10: | Franki Campbell, Gabbie Fox, Josh Ruddenklau, Maddie Wilson, Riley Taylor, Sophie Willans. |



Meningitis

Meningitis is a dangerous bacterial infection that can be life-threatening and deadly in just a few hours. People who survive meningococcal disease often have serious long-term effects.

The Ministry of Health recommends that young people living close together in places such as halls of residence be immunised against meningitis. Please find attached the Ministry of Health's brochure regarding meningitis and vaccines available to your child as they perhaps move on with their tertiary education and start flatting or living in halls of residence.

Please also note that hard copies of this brochure are available free through the HealthEd website as follows:

<https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/immunise-against-meningococcal-disease>

From the Office

School Accounts

The statement for your child's account has been emailed. Please pay any outstanding amounts in full by 24 December 2020 to assist with our end of year balance. The school bank account number is on the statement for your convenience. Thank you.

Last Day Highlights

On the penultimate day of school our Year 7-10 students had a fun day that included a Maths competition in the gym; a swim at the lake and various other activities.



Over the past few years we have developed what is now becoming a tradition around tree planting. Our Year 13s plant a tree on their last day, and any International or Exchange Students also plant a tree on their departure.



Praise for Students

We received this wonderful letter full of praise for some of our students and wanted to share it with you all.

As the organiser of the 2020 Kepler Challenge volunteers I would like to share how amazing these young people are:

Lucy Homes Crombie, Zoe Denley, Tallulah Cockburn, Charlie Cunningham, Tessa Gamble, Paige Grieve, Emma Wilson, Megan Wilson and Oliver Mann.



Oliver has been helping out with this event for many years; he has shown great leadership and initiative. He has respect for the people around him and has a can do attitude – such a lovely young man.

The other first year helpers were amazing – putting their hand up to help out when we really needed it and expecting nothing in return. Within a community, that speaks volumes about their character. Last night at the de-brief we heard about how wonderful they were at their aid stations – in fact they were called out by the competitors in the votes for the best aid stations. They were all very positive and encouraging to all the runners – vocal in their support and this was appreciated by everyone.

Well done to you all, and on behalf of the organising committee and the Kepler Challenge Trustees, we thank you. You are amazing young people and we are so grateful you are part of our community.

*Kind regards
Jan Lieshout
Co-ordinator Kepler Challenge Volunteers*



A post on our school Facebook page also received this lovely comment from the mother of one of our exchange students.

I'm Chiara Zopetti's mother. Chiara spent 6 months with these wonderful boys and girls. I'll never stop thanking you for the wonderful experience you have made Chiara spend!!!! A huge hug to everyone.

Prizegiving 2020

Thank you to everyone who attended our College Prizegiving last Wednesday night.

Congratulations to the large number of students who have worked so hard to achieve the well deserved acknowledgement they received on the night.

This year our Dux sponsor “changed hands”. The College would like to thank Real Journeys for all the years they have supported our students through the sponsorship of the Dux Award. It is a huge commitment and although they wanted to continue with their support, due to the downturn in tourism the hard decision had to be made to end this long-term partnership with the Dux scholarship.

We would also like to thank Meridian Energy for picking up the sponsorship of Dux Award. We are very fortunate to have a local company which was in a position to take this on. Mr Brett Horwell presented the Meridian Energy Excellence Award to the 2020 Dux at Prizegiving, along with a new award, based on values, called the Meridian Values Scholarship. Thank you so much.

From Meridian:

Meridian Energy is super proud to support local Fiordland youth. Values are at the heart of what we do as a company and as individuals. Supporting the Fiordland College Values Scholarship and the Dux Scholarship fits with our commitment and passion for supporting our local communities. Our message to all school leavers is simple. Live life outside of your comfort zone. Push yourself to try new things and live life to the fullest. Recognise Te Anau is a great place to grow up (supportive community, endless access to the outdoors) but a very small place on a planet with a lot of different cultures and traditions to explore.

Well done to Iona Brimecombe and Lucy Schuck for your notable achievements.

The Meridian team



**Meridian Energy Excellence Award and
Manapouri District High School
Memorial Trophy for Dux**

Lucy Schuck
with Brett Horwell from Meridian



**Kiwi Country Award for
Proxime Accessit**

Jessica Willans
with Sarah Greaney from Kiwi Country



Meridian Values Scholarship

Iona Brimecombe
with Brett Horwell from Meridian

