RONGOTAI COLLEGE
30 OCTOBER, 2026
School Newsletter
TERM 4 | WEEK 3

From the Acting Principal

The opening weeks of Term Four have been particularly busy, with much to celebrate and plenty still to look forward to as we approach the end of the school year.



Our senior students are in the final stages of preparation for their NCEA external examinations. Teachers have been working closely with them on revision and examination preparation, while also finalising internal assessments and recording results. I encourage students to make full use of the guidance and support available, and thank staff for the considerable work that goes into this important period.

Our Arts, Culture and Service Assembly and Sports Awards Assembly have provided wonderful opportunities to recognise the achievements and contributions of our students. Extra-Curricular Photo Day was also a great success. This year we broadened participation to include junior teams that had won their competitions, as well as clubs and interest groups not traditionally included. It was pleasing to see so many aspects of College life represented, and I thank the coordinators for ensuring the day ran smoothly.

The election of the Student Representative on the Board attracted strong interest and participation. Congratulations to Sione Moala on being elected for 2026/27. I look forward to seeing the student voice continue to be represented around the Board table. Sione takes over from Desmond Reddy as the representative.

We have also introduced a special Class of 2026 BBQ Lunch for our Y13 students. Unlike the Leavers' Ball, which included partners and some Y12 students, this new occasion gives the whole 'Y13 Class of 2026' cohort a chance to come together informally, celebrate their friendships and reflect on their years at Rongotai before the formal end-of-year events.

As my time as Acting Principal draws to a close, I sincerely thank our students, staff, Board and wider College community for their support. It has been a privilege to lead the College, and I am proud of the positive, collaborative environment we have built together. I look forward to seeing this positive momentum and sense of shared purpose continue.

I wish our senior students every success in their examinations and look forward to the activities and celebrations still ahead this term.

Venkat Reddy | Acting Principal



Academic Information for Families | Helping your son to study

A realistic study timetable, regular routines and a quiet space to work can make a real difference. Encourage your son to organise his notes, review the topics identified by teachers and explain what he has learned in his own words. If he is uncertain about a topic, he should seek help from his teacher well before the examination.



REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE:

EMAIL: attendance@rongotai.school.nz
PHONE - 24/7: 04 939 3050 - press 1

170 Coutts St. Kilbirnie, 6022
PO Box 14-063, Kilbirnie, 6022
+64 4 939 3050
the.principal@rongotai.school.nz
www.rongotai.school.nz
www.facebook.com/RongotaiCollege

2026 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

Examinations available digitally shown in blue

Date	Session	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Scholarship
Tuesday 10 November	AM	Mathematics and Statistics	Geography Latin	Dance	Classical Studies
	PM	Te Ao Haka	Japanese	Digital Technologies Samoan	Media Studies
Wednesday 11 November	AM			English	
	PM	Gagana Tokelau Korean	Te Ao Haka	Cook Islands Māori	Geography
Thursday 12 November	AM		English		Chemistry
	PM	Physics Earth & Space Science	Chinese	Physics Te Ao Haka	French
CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY (Friday, 13 November)					
WEEKEND					
Monday 16 November	AM	French	Lea Faka–Tonga Te Reo Māori	Calculus	Samoan
	PM	Te Reo Māori	Chemistry	German History	Statistics
Tuesday 17 November	AM	English			Accounting
	PM	Geography	Dance Korean	Biology	Art History
Wednesday 18 November	AM	History	Art History	Health Japanese	Physics
	PM		Physics	Economics	Psychology
Thursday 19 November	AM		Mathematics & Statistics	Making Music Spanish	Economics
	PM	Chemistry and Biology	Accounting		Biology
Friday 20 November	AM		Biology	Chinese Drama	
	PM	Religious Studies	Cook Islands Māori Drama	Chemistry	Agricultural & Horticultural Science
WEEKEND					
Monday 23 November	AM	Japanese	French	Latin Psychology Te Reo Rangatira	English
	PM	Spanish	Business Studies	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Earth & Space Science
Tuesday 24 November	AM	Commerce	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Statistics	Te Reo Rangatira
	PM		History	Geography	
Wednesday 25 November	AM	Health Studies	Te Reo Rangatira	Lea Faka–Tonga	Calculus
	PM	Science	Classical Studies	Accounting	Drama
Thursday 26 November	AM	Digital Technologies	Media Studies	Te Reo Māori	
	PM	Vagahau Niue	Health	Media Studies	Chinese
Friday 27 November	AM	Reo Māori Kūki ʻĀirani	Economics	Music Studies	Spanish
	PM		Digital Technologies	Art History	History
WEEKEND					
WESTLAND AND CHATHAM ISLANDS ANNIVERSARY DAYS (Mon 30 November)					
Tuesday 1 December	AM	Social Studies	Earth & Space Science	Classical Studies	Te Reo Māori
	PM	Lea Faka–Tonga	Music	Home Economics	Digital Technologies
Wednesday 2 December	AM	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	German Social Studies	French	Japanese
	PM	Gagana Sāmoa		Earth & Space Science	Religious Studies
Thursday 3 December	AM	German	Home Economics	Korean	
	PM	Chinese	Educat. for Sustainability Samoan	Business Studies	
Friday 4 December	AM		Spanish	Social Studies	German



	Friday, 30 October	Parents' Association Food Fair
	Monday, 2 November	Po Whakanui Awards Evening
	Tuesday, 3 November	Fiafia Awards Evening
	Wednesday, 4 November	Last day for senior students
	Tuesday 10 November	NCEA Exams begin
	Friday, 13 November	Y8 Orientation Day
	Wednesday, 18 & Thursday, 19 November	Junior Assessments
	Friday, 20 November	Teacher Only Day
	Wednesday, 25 to Friday, 27 November	Y9 Activities Programme and Y10 Camp · Survivor Rongotai (Y9) [25-26] · Y10 Camp [25-27] · Social Action Day (Y9) [27]
	Thursday, 26 November	Board Meeting
	Wednesday, 2 December	Last Assembly
	Thursday, 3 December	Prize-Giving @ 7.30pm
	Friday, 4 December	Term Four Ends (Teacher Only Day)

TERM DATES 2027

Term One 2027	**Thursday 28 January to Friday 9 April**	*Waitangi Day Observed: Monday, 6 February* *Good Friday: Friday, 26 March* *Easter Monday: Monday, 29 March* *School Closed: Tuesday, 30 March*
Term Two 2027	**Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July**	*Anzac Day Observed: Monday, 26 April* *King's Birthday: Monday, 7 June* *Matariki: Friday, 25 June*
Term Three 2027	**Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September**	
Term Four 2027	**Monday 11 October to Friday 10 December**	*Labour Day: Monday 25 October*

Rongotai College Christmas Appeal



As part of Social Action Day, Y9 students will assemble care packages for the Salvation Army to distribute locally. Donations particularly suitable for teenage boys and their families are welcome, including grooming products, sports equipment, games and Christmas treats.

Care packages can be left at the College Reception.

Celebrating Excellence at Rongotai College: Honours and Merit Awards

Our two recent assemblies celebrated student achievement across sport, culture and the arts, with Honours and Merit Awards recognising outstanding performance, dedication and contribution.

The Sports Awards Assembly included the inaugural McEvedy Shield Points Scorers' Pins, an initiative introduced by former PE teacher and McEvedy coach Stephen Isaac, who returned for the occasion. Guest speaker, Old Boy and former Samoan Olympian Shaka Sola, shared his experiences and encouraged students to strive for excellence. (Photos on next page).

A particular highlight was the recognition of four students who have represented New Zealand in their respective sports. Congratulations to all award recipients, and thanks to the staff, coaches and supporters who contributed to their success.



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

HONOURS AWARDS



ARTS & CULTURE – HONOURS

Tahu Lowe	Kapa Haka
Willie Uelese	Multicultural Group
Kanah Pahulut	Multicultural Group
Carlos Vakaloloma	Multicultural Group
Levi Aukuso	Multicultural Group
Upuia Lualua	Multicultural Group
Samson Tafili	Multicultural Group
Ben Povey	Multicultural Group
James Ririnui	Multicultural Group
Billy Smith	Multicultural Group
Hamish Tutaki-Campbell	Multicultural Group
Liam Hendry	Multicultural Group
Tahu Lowe	Multicultural Group
Billy Smith	Music
Edward Holben	Music

SPORT – HONOURS

Brooklyn Boyd	Athletics
Desmond Reddy	Athletics
Caeden Ioapo	Basketball
Carlos Vakaloloma	Basketball
Desmond Reddy	Cross-Country
Marcus Young	Floorball
Roshan Dias	Football
James Aitken	Futsal
Dylan Anderson	Hockey
Gabriel Rees	Hockey
Lome Va'a	Rugby
Caeden Ioapo	Volleyball

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES

Brooklyn Boyd	Athletics
Desmond Reddy	Cross-Country
Marcus Young	Floorball
Adam Jokuti	Waterpolo





(L-R): Stephen Isaac, Shaka Sola, Ross Bond, Venkat Reddy. (Inset): The new McEvedy Pin; Shaka speaks at the Sports Assembly.







Learning Beyond the Classroom

Materials Technology - Concrete Cricket Bat Challenge

Rongotai's Materials Technology students won the Concrete Cricket Bat Challenge, sponsored by Concrete NZ.



Competing alongside university teams from around the country, they designed and presented concrete bats to industry professionals before putting them to the test. The challenge combined practical investigation of concrete's structural properties with innovation, teamwork and presentation skills.

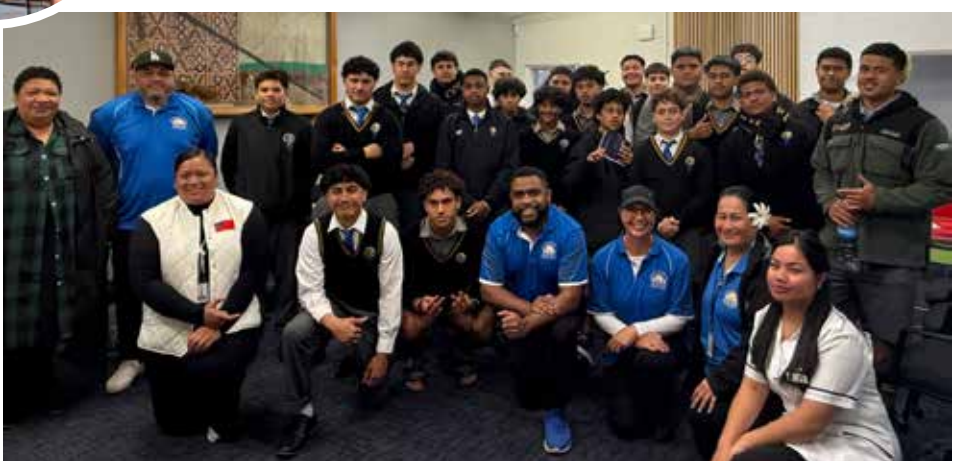


CAPITAL GYMNASTICS

Capital Gymnastics offers recreational classes, holiday programmes and competitive gymnastics with a focus on confidence, friendships and belonging. Visit www.capitalgymsports.org.nz or email office@capitalgymnastics.nz.

TRI WELLINGTON YOUTH SQUAD

Tri Wellington's youth programme helps 11–18-year-olds develop swimming, cycling and running skills through Foundation and Development squads. Youth membership is free. Sessions are listed for Mondays, 4.30–5.30pm, at Wellington Velodrome, Hataitai Beach and Kilbirnie Park. Details: https://wgtntriclub.com/join/youthsquad/



Pacific Health Science Academy

Students visited Pacific Health Service in Lower Hutt and the High Performance Sport Centre in Upper Hutt, exploring nutrition, vital signs, mental wellbeing and elite sports training. The experiences connected science with health, culture and possible future careers. Thank you to the host organisations and to Te Whatu Ora, Whitireia Polytechnic and the national Pacific Health Science Academy network for their support.

Y13 Spirit Week Celebrations



As part of Spirit Week, a number of our Y13 students joined students from other Wellington secondary schools in Uniform Swap Day, a fun initiative celebrating friendship, school spirit and the connections between our wider school communities.



Another highlight was our inaugural Y13 BBQ Lunch, which saw staff swapping their usual duties for a stint 'on the tools' behind the barbecue, cooking up lunch for our senior boys. It was a great opportunity for students and staff to come together, share a few laughs and celebrate the final weeks of their Rongotai journey.

Spanish Takes Flight

Our Spanish students enjoyed an unforgettable visit to Life Flight, where they explored the fascinating world of aviation while putting their Spanish language skills into practice.

Helicopter pilot, Harry Stevenson, who has extensive flying experience, including working in Bolivia, shared insights into his career and the important work carried out by Life Flight.

Students explored the helicopter, learnt about infrared cameras and were lucky enough to watch the crew practise winching patients into the aircraft.

A special shout out to Alexis Duncan for confidently asking questions in Spanish and to Marco Stevenson for delivering a lovely thank you message in Spanish on behalf of the group.



A huge thank you to Harry and the Life Flight team for such a warm welcome and an inspiring experience. What a fantastic way to bring Spanish learning to life beyond the classroom!

This was also our Y13 Spanish students' final outing, making the day even more special. We wish them all the very best for the future and every success in whatever they choose to pursue!

House Competitions

House Chess Competition



In Week 2, the Houses came together for calculated and positional Chess games. Each House fielded two juniors and two seniors.

While this particular competition contended with sporting and cultural photos and the Y10 Market Day, much intellectual and silent tactical play took place. **Lock House** were the Chess competition winners.

House Dodgeball Competition

This week has seen strong arms and nimble minds at play in the House Dodgeball competition. Twelve junior and senior players from each House took to the court to battle it out with powerful throws, agile moves and lightning-quick reflexes. The spectators were treated to a high-intensity final between Renner and Mackay with **Mackay House** taking first place.



Tunes Club: Jossie Patel

At Tunes Club we blast the songs, sing along if we want, snack on some snackseroos and have a rockin' great time.

Tunes club is a weekly lunch club hosted by Jossie Patel and his learning support team on Tuesday. It is for students who love music and who want to come together to watch and listen to their favourite Youtube songs. The Tunes Club has been operating for over a year and we have listened to a wide variety of songs over that time.

How it works is that students email me, Jossie, their song requests on a Monday. With my learning support team, I create a playlist with info about the song, the YouTube links and who has requested the song. On the day, club member Joseph 'puts on the slides' and operates the playlist for us on the big screen in the Ballinger room. My favourite song to play is *Tunes Club Rock* (a song I wrote the lyrics for) and I will be performing it at the Tamatoa concert with the Tamatoa crew.







Music and Performing Arts









Four Gold Awards at MEFA

Four Rongotai ensembles earned Gold at the Musicworks Ensemble Festival of Aotearoa (MEFA): *RC Big Band, Disciples of Leigh Jazz Combo, Flying Funk and Rakatū Rongotai.* Congratulations to the musicians and their teachers on this excellent result. RC Big Band: Harry, Barton, Miles Cottman, Jude Fifield, Isaac Franklin, Jackson Garland, Edward Holben, Sioeli Me'afo'ou, Sione Me'afo'ou, Tāiki Ormsby, J J Popham, Harvey Garland, Griffin Romily, Jack Scanlan, Billy Smith, Caleb Stark, Rijker van der Meel, Gagan Yadav and Marcus Young.

Jazz and Ensemble highlights

Disciples of Leigh Jazz Combo; Edward Holben, Billy Smith, Harry Barton, Caleb Stark, Jude Fifield, Harvey Revell and Tāiki Ormsby.

Flying Funk; Mesepa Fepulea'i, Jude Fifield, Tāiki Ormsby, Harry Barton, Sikeli Tikoimatuku (Mr Jacob Gates filled in for Sikeli at the event).

Rakatū Rongotai; Jude Fifield, Caleb Stark, Miles Cottman, Tāiki Ormsby

Congratulations also go out to JJ Popham who was a featured guest at Capital City Big Band's high-profile kaupapa. He performed to a sold out room at Wellington's prestigious Opera House, as part of te Wiki o Te Reo Māori celebrations, performing with great passion and mana.

He also was a featured soloist at The Hannah Playhouse as part of the Wellington International Jazz Festival. Link to showreel here https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Eoy5ZXj5C/

Rongotai was lucky enough to have five successful auditionees for this year's version of The Wellington All Stars Youth Big Band (WAYBB). They performed at MEFA and for the Wellington International Jazz Festival, with other successful students from all over the lower North Island. They were: Harvey Revell, Harry Barton, Jude Fifield and JJ Popham. Congratulations on their successes.

Five Rongotai musicians also contributed to Wellington East Girls' College's Ngā Kaitiaki Toi Arts Prizegiving: Harry Barton, Billy Smith, Antony Jesset, Thomas Hendry and Griffin Romilly. The host school praised their preparation, reliability and musical contribution.

Southern Voices

Southern Voices represented Rongotai College at the National Barbershop Competition in Lower Hutt. Although the Choir did not place in the top three, the boys performed proudly and received encouraging feedback. This marked Rongotai's return to the competition after 20 years, an achievement in itself.



Congratulations TO OUR NZ UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We are proud to congratulate the following students who have been awarded New Zealand University Scholarships in recognition of their outstanding achievement, leadersinp and potential.

STUDENT	UNIVERSITY	SCHOLARSHIP
James Aitken	Victoria University Canterbury University	Raukaraka Leadership Scholarship Leigh and Judith Pownall Scholarship
Seb Heaphy	Victoria University Otago University	Raukaraka Leadership Scholarship Vice Chancellors Scholarship
Noah Galloway	Victoria University	Totoweka equity school leavers scholarship
Mohammad Sarkout	Victoria University	Totoweka equity school leavers scholarship
Edward Florentine	Otago University	Richard and Diana Somerville commerce scholarship
Desmond Reddy	Waikato University Otago University	School leavers scholarship Leaders of tomorrow scholarship
Hunter Taylor	Otago University	Leaders of tomorrow scholarship
Ollie Earley	Massey University Massey University	Undergraduate First Year Scholarship Food Tech Undergraduate Scholarship
Hamish Tukaki-Campbell	Victoria University	Kahurangi Māori Student Scholarship
JR Martin	Victoria University	Tangiwai Excellence Scholarship
Billy Smith	Victoria University	School leavers scholarship
James Ririnui	Otago University	University of Otago Māori Entrance Scholarship
Liam Hendry	Otago University	University of Otago Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship
Tobie Crawford	Otago University	University of Otago Māori Entrance Scholarship
Dion Leslie	Victoria University	Robert Bostock Scholarship
Faizaan Saiyad	Victoria University	Robert Bostock Scholarship

Sports News

Summer sport and McEvedy preparation

The summer sports season is underway, with 24 teams competing across cricket, futsal, water polo, floorball, volleyball and touch, alongside two rugby sevens teams participating in the annual Labour Weekend tournament. Students also continue to represent the College in regional cycling and swimming events.

Preparations for **McEVEDY** 2027 are gathering momentum, with pre-Christmas training commencing across the various disciplines. The Director of Sport has engaged a number of external coaches and Old Boys to assist in the training in each discipline.

Swimming: National success

Congratulations to Harvey Revell on an outstanding performance at the NZ Short Course Swimming Championships in Christchurch! Representing Nga Tai Tūātea a Taraika in the Men's 15 Years category, Harvey claimed silver in the 200m butterfly and bronze in the 400m Individual Medley, alongside three other top-ten finishes. A fantastic achievement!





Rongotai College celebrates 20 nominations for College Sport Wellington Awards

Rongotai College is delighted to have received 20 nominations across 16 individuals for the 2026 College Sport Wellington Sports Awards, recognising the outstanding achievements and contributions of our students and staff.

A special congratulations to Desmond Reddy, who has received three nominations for Service to School Sport, Athletics and Cross-Country/Road Race, and James Aitken and Caeden Ioapo, who have each received two nominations.

Our nominees are:
- Desmond Reddy: Service to School Sport, Athletics, Cross Country/Road Race
- James Aitken: Student Coach of the Year, Futsal
- Caeden Ioapo: Basketball, Volleyball
- Monty Shirtcliffe: All Rounder of the Year
- Tim Henderson (Staff): Coach of the Year
- Noah Galloway: Athletes with a Physical Disability
- Felix Galloway: Athletes with a Physical Disability
- Kingsley McGuigan: Bike
- Spencer Ravji: Lawn Bowls
- Cooper Burwell-Garratt: Cricket
- Marcus Young: Floorball
- Roshan Dias: Football
- Dylan Anderson: Hockey
- Lome Va'a: Rugby Union
- Te Kahika (TK) Maladina: Softball
- Adam Jokuti: Water Polo

We are particularly pleased to see staff member Tim Henderson recognised for his contribution to school sport through his nomination for Coach of the Year.

These nominations reflect the breadth of sporting talent at Rongotai College, along with the dedication, commitment and sportsmanship demonstrated by our boys and those who support them.

Congratulations to all our nominees. We wish you every success at the upcoming awards!

1st XI Cricket in Hawke's Bay

During the Term Three holidays, the 1st XI Cricket team travelled to Hawke's Bay for a three-day pre-season tournament against strong opposition from Hamilton and Christchurch. The team performed competitively, with a highlight being their T15 victory over St Bede's College.



National Schools' Road Cycling Championships

Our cyclists also delivered strong performances in the tough, windy conditions at Halcombe during the National Schools' Road Cycling Championships. Sam McNaughtan (Y9) finished sixth and Leonard Lawrey (Y9) seventh in the Boys'

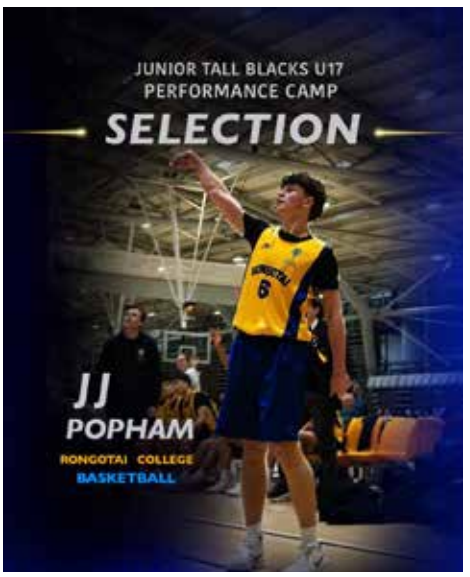
U14 race. Thomas Woodward (U15) placed 23rd, while Kingsley McGuigan (U16) finished 30th in a competitive field.

Basketball Selection

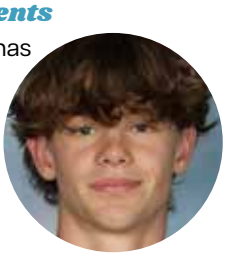
Congratulations to JJ Popham on being selected for the Junior Tall Blacks U17 Performance Camp!

JJ will head to Auckland in January 2027 as part of the 2027 Oceania Cup selection process. His hard work and big part in the Senior A Basketball team's success this year have not gone unnoticed.

We wish you the best of luck.



Hockey achievements



Dylan Anderson (Y13) has been selected for the Falcons U18 team to compete in the Future Hockey League this December.

Congratulations also to Aditya Ramji (Y11), Loren Renton (Y10), James Burttram (Y9) and Ravi Ishver (Y9) on representing Wellington at the U16 Regional Development Tournament. Remy Boswell (Y11), Lucas Henwood (Y10) and Mick Saunders (Y11), represented Wellington at the National U16 Boys Tournament over the holiday. The team finished fifth nationally and the boys had strong tournaments. Our Old Boys Suneel and Sajan Patel won bronze in the National Hockey Championships Tier 1 Men's competition, while Liam and Rohan Patel claimed bronze in Tier 3 Men's.

Congratulations to Mr Tim Henderson



and Mr Levi Loudon on their coaching successes, and to Old Boy and former Director of Sport, Hemant Lala, Head Coach of the victorious Wellington Women's team.

CSW Condor Sevens

Rongotai College was represented by both a Senior A and Under 15 team at the recent Sevens Tournament in Lower Hutt. On a very blustery day, the Seniors lost in the Semi-Final to the eventual finalists, Wellington College.

Thank you to our coaches and supporters

Our sincere thanks go to the many coaches, managers and supporters who generously contribute their time and expertise to College sport. I would also like to acknowledge our Director of Sport, Ross Bond, for his outstanding commitment to strengthening relationships with sporting clubs and the wider community, coordinating an extensive sporting programme and consistently going above and beyond his role, including providing additional coaching opportunities such as informal cricket training sessions. His enthusiasm, initiative and dedication to creating opportunities for our students are greatly appreciated.

Staff who coached, managed or served as teachers in charge of teams were also acknowledged with gift cards in recognition of their contribution.







