



Board of Trustees News . . .

The Ashburton district is thriving. Good product prices, irrigation supporting productive and profitable farming, the support and export industries complementing agriculture has encouraged growth and a good vibe in our region. This ongoing growth in agriculture has also been supported by new businesses and ventures, which add to the growth of our town.



All of this growth and positive vibe requires new staff in our district to support the momentum and growth. However, this positive growth does come with some growing pains on our community's infrastructure, including Ashburton College.

Whilst our College roll has been stable for some time now, significant roll growth is forecast over the next five years, following the significant growth in our district's primary schools. It appears that young, hardworking people who have taken up the opportunities that Mid Canterbury has to offer have plenty of children.

This roll growth is exciting for us as a College and puts added pressure on negotiations with the Ministry of Education to move quickly with regards to approving a Property Business Plan designed to take our College forward by upgrading or replacing ageing teaching blocks.

As the Principal, Ross Preece, has outlined previously, the Ashburton College Board and the College's Senior Leadership Team have been working with the Ministry to evaluate the best solutions to accommodate roll growth and improve conditions for student learning, and staff working conditions. These are important factors for modern and future education, and the Board is looking for early advice, with our current teaching space at 99% capacity as measured against today's requirements.

Many of our readers will be aware that the bulk of our current school is based on the S68 design, and a number of parents and caregivers currently comment that little has changed since they were at school. This is because there is little you can do with a concrete block building for renovation, which is at the crux of our challenges. The landscape for our students has changed. Opportunities to utilise technologies, changes in teaching style and curriculum changes demand a different teaching environment. For example, students can be taught good English while writing up a Science experiment. Our current teaching spaces do not allow for this collaborative style of learning, and the Board is committed to ensuring that we, as a College, move with the times. Rest assured we are working hard to get resolution for future options, as soon as possible, so that our student learning, opportunities and chances for success are not compromised.

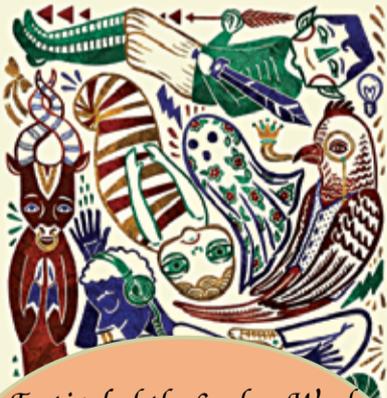
Jeremy Savage
Chairperson

Information

Ashburton College's Annual

Festival of the Spoken Word – 11 April

Come along and enjoy the talent of our students performing across four categories of Serious Monologue, Humorous Monologue, Serious Group and Humorous Group. Each category is divided into Junior and Senior sections.



Festival of the Spoken Word

Wednesday 11 April,

from 7:00pm.

Tickets \$5 at the Student Office

from 26/03/18

Term Dates 2018

Term One		- Friday 13 April	
Term Two	Monday 30 April	- Friday 06 July	
Term Three	Monday 23 July	- Friday 28 September	
Term Four	Monday 15 October	- Monday 05 November	(Year 13)
		- Tuesday 06 November	(Year 12)
		- Wednesday 07 November	(Year 11)
		- Tuesday 11 December	(Year 10)
		- Wednesday 12 December	(Year 9)

Events

Full House for Eleventh Annual AshDance

AshDance was on stage in the College Auditorium on Wednesday 14 March, when students performed to a packed audience. One of the organisers, Claire Robertshaw, said this was the College's 11th annual AshDance showcase.

AshDance is a night to celebrate the talents and uniqueness of our students, through the medium of dance. It is a night full of fun, diversity and energy, and is also a great vehicle for showcasing our culture as a College.

The show was kicked off in grand style by the Year 11 Dance class. This year's show featured our Polyfest group, who were due to participate in Polyfest Canterbury on the Saturday (17 March). There were two Filipino Hip-Hop groups who always deliver an energetic and polished performance, and the audience was also treated to the pleasure of seeing some international-standard Highland Dancing and some moving pieces of contemporary, lyrical dance.

A big 'thank you' is extended to our talented performers and our supportive audience and, as always, to our great tech crew who make the show possible.



(Pictured above: The Polyfest Group with (left to right, front): James Foaga, Maeroanoel Masina, Uatifoti Saofai.



(Pictured above): A second Polyfest Group performance with (left to right, front row): Kimberly Sagun, Ela Reyes, Shrina Afu.



(Pictured above): LDA Group Performance - 'Tribute to Cory'. (Back row, left to right): Abbie Wallington (obscured), Kirstin Steer, Anna Bennett, Rebecca Joseph (centre), Monique Pretorius, Brooke Halliday (obscured).

(Front row, left and right): Lusungu Mbambo, Jadah Wilson.



(Pictured above, back row, left to right): Part of the YFC Hip-Hop presentation: Chrizia Cayanan, Arnold Pantoja, Ernest Encarnado (obscured), Ken Bulagnir. (Front row, left to right): AJ Sanchez, Carl Cayanan, Zam Balagulan.

Polyfest Canterbury 2018

Polyfest 2018 was an absolute success! Sixty students performed in Ashburton College's Polyfest group this year which, Pasifika Support Events Staff Co-ordinator James Jenkinson said, resulted from excellent leadership from both students and staff alike. The students were described as great ambassadors for our College.

The Polyfest student leaders Uatifoti Saofai, her sister Lupepe Saofai; the Afu sisters - Shrina and Jacklynn; James Foaga and Sonia Stephens-Tahuri, did a stellar job of choreographing and teaching the other performers the twenty three minute-long routine for this year's festival!

Special thanks goes to parent helper, Antonio Collins, for his time and expertise in choreographing the routine as a whole. There were also many, many more parent helpers who gave up time during the week and on weekends to help polish the performance - thank you all very much!

Further thanks go to staff members Hayley Wards, Tony Robson, Bernadette Thompson and Marg Macpherson, for the countless hours spent supervising, giving feedback, organising equipment and even washing thirty five puletasis and twenty lavalavas after the performances!

Lastly, we thank Paula Preece, for producing such exquisite costumes for our students to perform in this year, they really did look fantastic!

James said that he is 'very proud of all of the students for how they conducted themselves throughout preparations for this year's festival and I hope to see even more students taking part in next year's Polyfest!'



(Pictured above: front row, left to right): Joseph Collins, Ofaloto Teulilo, James Foaga, Sam Latu.

(Pictured right rows one and two, left to right): Ela Reyes, Melina Fakataha, Anjali Savaiinaea, Sheena Pasion, Lupepe Saofai, Remi Shirai.



(Pictured left, left and right): Jacqueline Teulilo and Melina Fakataha front this performance, dressed in ta'ovala or 'mats', a Tongan dress worn by men or women at all formal occasions.



(Pictured above: Deputy Head Girl, Uatifoti Saofai performing as a Taupou or Samoan Princess. Uati is wearing a siapo (Samoan bark cloth art) and a tuiga (ceremonial headdress), with the ula nifo (whale tooth necklace). She is performing the Siva Samoa dance. The head piece originated from Samoa.

Students involved this year, in addition to the student leaders, were - Eiana Apiti-Vaevae, Fred Belford, Kiana Bulagnir, Blanch Chute, Jaimee Chute, Joseph Collins, Pedro Collins, Tau Daniel, Kyla de Leon, Easterlin Faamausili, Melina Fakataha, Palolo Faoagali, Joshua Fepuleai, Ricky Fuluasou, Mai Hasegawa, Christine Horne, Rita Iakopo, Salatielu Iakopo, Nelly Kaitao, Teague Kruger, Yuki Kurokawa, Sam Latu, Seflinga Maamaloa, Misty Mafiti, Rangaikore Makutu, Roi Makutu, Queenie Marquiller, Maeroanoel Masina, Sayime Metuatini, Natsuki Mori, Samantha Naui, Sheena Pasion, Mahina Pongia, Ela Reyes, Kimberly Sagun, Era Santos, Lupepe Saofai, Anjali Savaiinaea, Remi Shirai, Sonia Stephens-Tahuri, Naupara Strickland, Pevlise Taeauga, Rene Tanaka, Avefua Teomatavui, Lagisa Teomatavui, Sivailoa Teomatavui, Naumai Terekia, Jacqueline Teulilo, Ofaloto Teulilo, April Tiatoa, Christine Tomokino, Elama Touli, Toetu Touli, Isileli Ula, Ocean Waitokia.