

TERM ON SPORTS SUMMARY

It has been a busy start of the year for sport. Here is a summary of what has taken place this term:

Swimming Sports - Friday 24th February at Northcote College



School swimming sports was a very quiet affair this year with less than forty students choosing to compete. While the plan was to walk up to Northcote College, the day started with rain so we ferried participants to the pool in the school van. Once there we moved through the programme with some speed with many events only having two heats.

After a couple of years being unable to run swimming sports or having zone days it was fantastic to get back into it. Sadly the teachers' strike meant that the zone day was never held and attendance was based on the top times for swimmers at club events. We submitted times for a number of students but none of them were selected to represent the North Shore at the Auckland Champs unfortunately.

Swimming Sports results:

YEAR 7 GIRLS		YEAR 7 BOYS	
50m Breaststroke		50m Breaststroke	
1st	Ruby Swiggs	1st	Kristian Meyes
2nd	Savannah Price	2nd	Ollie Britten
3rd	Summer Malins	3rd	Caleb Shanks
4th	Matilda Holmes		

50m Backstroke		50m Backstroke	
1st	Evie Martin	1st	Kristian Meyes
2nd	Beth Sharp	2nd	Ollie Britten
3rd	Ruby Swiggs	3rd	Zabian Mead
4th	Ashling O'Leary		
50m Freestyle		50m Freestyle	
1st	Ruby Mallin	1st	Kristian Meyes
2nd	Evie Martin	2nd	Ollie Britten
3rd	Ruby Swiggs	3rd	Zabian Mead
4th	Beth Sharp	4th	Caleb Shanks
YEAR 8 GIRLS		YEAR 8 BOYS	
50m Breaststroke		50m Breaststroke	
1st	Charlotte Welsh	1st	Luke McDermott
2nd	Olivia Warr	2nd	Robin Millar
3rd	Madeline Sims	3rd	Faren Poorekhorsandi
4th	Rosie Beck	4th	Carter Cheetham
50m Backstroke		50m Backstroke	
1st	Charlotte Welsh	1st	Luke McDermott
2nd	Madeline Sims	2nd	Samuel Blackburn
3rd	Rosie Beck	3rd	Carter Cheetham
4th	Amy Pheasant	4th	Robin Millar
50m Freestyle		50m Freestyle	
1st	Charlotte Welsh	1st	Luke McDermott
2nd	Olivia Warr	2nd	Robin Millar
3rd	Madeline Sims	3rd	Samuel Blackburn
4th	Rosie Beck	4th	Carter Cheetham
OPEN BOYS		OPEN BOYS	
100m Freestyle		100m Freestyle	
1st	Charlotte Welsh	1st	Luke McDermott
2nd	Olivia Warr	2nd	Samuel Blackburn
3rd	Madeline Sims	3rd	Faren Poorekhorsandi

4th	Rosie Beck			
50m Butterfly		50m Butterfly		
1st	Charlotte Welsh	1st	Robin Millar	
2nd	Madeline Sims			
3rd	Olivia Warr			

Softball Boys Zone Day - Wednesday 1st March at Rosedale Park

This was the first zone day of the year and we had 12 students attend. With one player having played competitive softball and no pitcher we were treating the event very much as an opportunity to try a new sport ...and we did. The first game was against Orewa who went on to win our pool. While we learnt a lot against a very good side, we did not trouble the scoreboard. Both Jayme Smith and Taira Byrne tried their hand at pitching - a tough assignment against a top team.

Next we challenged Albany Junior High which was a much closer game with the margin a much improved 0-3 loss in what was a good hearted competition. By the end of the game we had tried another two pitchers but were struggling to get consistent balls over the plate.

The final game in pool play was against the rather intense Murrays Bay team who were under no illusions that they were out to win the competition. Unfortunately for us they had just lost to Albany and were out to get as many points as possible to qualify for the semi-finals. The final score was a less than credible 1-13 but the highlight was Sebastian Nicholas getting home for our first run - something the team were quick to celebrate.

After pool play we were playing off for 5th-8th place and faced traditional rivals Birkdale in a fantastically natured match. Birkdale led from the start up 4-0 after the first inning, and then 7-0 after they batted their second innings. With no points on the board and one innings to change this, the team were ecstatic as we scored our first run. Moments later Sebastian got home giving us two points. Things were silent for a couple of minutes before Levi Campbell thumped a huge hit into the outfield when we had loaded bases, sending Jordan Botes, Levi and two team mates home. With time nearly up and the momentum well and truly with us, the hooter rang and we had five minutes to get one or two points, sadly it was not to be on this occasion with the score remaining 6-7 to Birkdale. A fantastic match marked also by some speedy pitching by Levi Campbell and some brave catching by both Liam Bain and Filianga Fine.

The final match of the day was against Glenfield. With both pitchers struggling to get the ball over the plate, and the day running late, the match was ultimately called a draw with the score at 4-4. We had retired a 4-0 after batting first under the agreement that if they reached 4 the match would be called a draw. So a 4-4 draw for the final match and a great experience for a fantastic bunch of students.

Softball Girls Zone Day - Thursday 2nd March



Like the boys the day before, we entered a mixed year 7 & 8 team in the Year 8 grade. We had 14 players at the zone day with all but two new to competitive softball.

The day started with us facing favourites Northcross. While it was clear that Northcross had a number of club players, both teams had similar strength pitchers so the game remained competitive although Northcross were able to run the bases better and emerged winners. Despite the loss, Vienna Campbell played amazingly well as catcher in her first competitive game, no easy task when our pitcher Tamaku Howell was pitching at a reasonable pace.

Game two was against Birkdale whose average height was nearly a foot taller than us. This difference showed in our opposition's batting prowess. Despite the difference in height, we picked up our first runs and Ava-Rose Feary demonstrated her flexibility playing on second and first bases with a couple of run-outs.

The third game against eventual champions Murrays Bay was a dramatic match with both our regular pitcher and catcher rostered off. April Peita took on the role of pitcher and Maeghan Cutler played as catcher. Both deputants played well and we took charge of the match, batting first and accumulating a first innings lead against the team that would ultimately win the Zone Day. In the second innings we batted well again with Etoile Gashema shining as a batter and also getting a couple of run outs. When the final time siren sounded we were leading 6-3. The rules stipulated that if they had players on bases and could win the match, then an additional five minutes would be added. In a dramatic finish Murrays Bay got an additional three players home and the match finished 6-6 - our best result of the day!

The final match was a play-off for third and fourth against Birkdale where we took our learnings against Murrays Bay and pushed Birkdale. While we did not get the win, some smart batting from Chloe Huntington, Olive Humphries and Etoile Gashema ensured that we remained competitive.

Like the boys, this was a fantastic bunch of students who anyone would be proud to take away on any zone day - truly a pleasure to look after!

Tag Zone Day - Wednesday 8th March



We travelled to Freyberg Park for the zone day getting there just in time for our girls team to change into their shorts and take the field.

With the first seven games being back to back, we were in for a busy first half of the day with boys and girls alternating straight after each other for the first seven games. Mr Peters had the honour of coaching both teams so spent the majority of the day on the sideline.

The first game went well, we did not beat Murrays Bay, but there were a number of positives and things we would develop over the day.

Next the boys played Mahurangi and it became clear that Gino Calla Moret was going to be a handful for any defence as he stepped, darted and weaved his way through the opposition on a couple of occasions in what turned out to be a convincing first-up win.

As the day unfolded both teams developed steadily. The boys quickly found that wearing last season's boots was less than ideal as they were now a size larger! Over the day we saw some fantastic runs from Keidis Burgess, lightning runs from Miguel Garcia Mirabeti, and some gutsy defence from Noah Taylor and Jimmy Duff.

The girls were spirited and had a number of bumps and crashes during the day - nearly running through the referee, a couple of robust collisions with opponents and Olivia Warr who, well, was a magnet for every kind of scrape and bump. In all we had icepacks out on five occasions! While the girls team was somewhat bump and crash prone, they were steadily improving and they pulled off their first win over Mahurangi where everything just seemed to work - diving defence from Te Amorangi, skillful marking from Seini Palu, great ball distribution from Loise Tuitupou, threatening runs from Meg Leywood and Mackenzie Hulse, and the turn of pace from Dominique Malby which accounted for most of our tries.

All things considered it was a good day that leaves us confident that we will improve on this year's results in 2024 with the majority of students being year 7s.

Cricket Boys Zone Day - Thursday 9th March



Year 7 Boys

Our Year 7 team had a mixture between boys that regularly play cricket & those who were trying it for the first time.

It was great to see the encouragement given to the boys who were unfamiliar with cricket by their teammates. This positivity not only lifted their spirits but also enabled them to play to their potential.

Special mention to Jamie Smith who embraced what the Cricket Zone Day was all about, giving everything a go with a great attitude.

The highlight for the boys over the two games played was a hat-trick to Max Fyffe who went on to take 4 wickets in the one over earning him MVP.

Girls Cricket Zone Day - Tuesday 21st March

We were the hosts of this zone day which featured 12 teams. There are no Auckland Championships for Cricket so the day was primarily about participation with most teams (other than Murrays Bay) fielding teams primarily made up of beginners.

Throughout the day our two teams battled against Belmont, Birkdale, Takapuna, Carmel, and Murrays Bay. When the final round draws came about, we faced two local derbys - Northcote 1 v. Birkdale 1 and Northcote 2 v. Birkdale 2. Our teams rose to the challenge

winning both final matches, successfully wrestling bragging rights back from Birkdale who had narrowly defeated us at the recent softball zone day!.

All students were eager to learn throughout the day. Some notable statistics for the day included Rosemary Dagger who finished the round robin stage of the day with 5 wickets for 15 runs! Other notable results included Sienna Fitzgerald who picked up 3 wickets for 15 runs, and Ava-Rose Feary who was the best of our scorers with 26 runs from 21 balls.

Thank you to Juan Le Maitre from Birkenhead Cricket Club who organised the grounds and provided teams with all the equipment needed for the zone day (wickets, bats and balls for all teams). Thank you also to Connor Westbury from Northcote College who provided umpires and scorers as well as administrative support for the zone day!

Orienteering Zone Day - Thursday 23rd March



We were greeted by a beautiful day for this year's Orienteering Zone Day. Twenty-Four students travelled to Moire Park in Massey for the event which was the first time orienteering for all competitors. On arrival Mr Peters went through the basics of how to read a map and how the event would work and did his best to reassure students that no one would get lost - and none did!. There were twelve different courses that students were randomly allocated to ensure that no one could follow another student. All our students finished with run times ranging from a little over 13 minutes to 23 minutes. Interestingly, it was not our best runners or most sporty students that posted the best times, it was those students who took the time to accurately read the map and were able to make the best route choices. At the end of their events nearly half of our students wanted to run again and a similar margin were wanting to know where the next event was and/or if the sport was offered at College next year - so all things considered, the day was a huge success. Thank you to Ian Tripp for helping with transport and acting as our photographer! Thank you also to the seemingly numerous volunteers at Auckland and Counties Manukau Orienteering Clubs who put on a spectacular event attended by hundreds of students. Special mention to Kristian Meys and Ollie Hall who posted the top times for their respective maps and in doing so qualified for the Auckland

Championships. Our top team result (top 5 runners in a category) were the Year 8 girls who finished 4th out of 17 teams.

Tennis Zone Day - Wednesday 29th March



This year we were able to field two teams in the Boys Day but none in the Girls Zone Day. This was due to insufficient numbers of players that had played competitive tennis (a basic selection requirement for schools attending). We could have easily entered four boys teams on numbers, unfortunately we were only allowed two.

The zone day was divided into singles before lunch and doubles after lunch - two separate competitions. Before lunch our teams both acquitted themselves well finishing 2nd in their respective pools and meeting each other in the 5th-8th play-offs, team one winning and eventually finishing 6th and team two finishing 8th (of the 16 teams in the competition).

In the doubles it was more of the same with the teams again finishing second in their pool and playing off for 5th to 8th. This time our teams did not have to play each other with team one beating Pinehurst in a countback on points in the first play-off game before they defeated Kristin to claim 5th overall. Team two drew their last match and finished 7th equal.

While we lacked the firepower of representative players, we had a number of very able players which included Meg Zhang whose ability earned her a place in one of our boys teams. Across the day our teams won twelve and drew one of their twenty matches with Zachary Wells our strongest performer followed closely by Ollie Britten. Highlights included the scrambling determination of both Shingo Edwards and Ollie Hall which made for some dramatic points that must have left their opposition feeling like they were hitting against a volleywall at times!

While the temperament of some students from other schools was sometimes questionable, our students remained humble in victory and gracious in defeat. During the day, two students behaviour went above and beyond expectations - Kristian Meys and Oban Sills-Jones.

Perhaps the best example of this was during a match where a golden point was needed to decide the match. The opposition thought he had hit the ball long and the scorer was ready to give the game to Oban who accurately corrected the scorer saying the ball caught the line and therefore his opposition won the match.

Triathlon Zone Day - Fri 31st March



Twenty three students attended the zone day, a postponed version of what was rained out earlier in the term. Both Robin Millar and Zackary Wells completed in the individual events and the other twenty-one were part of four girls and three boys teams.

First to race were the individuals where Robin Millar finished the swim mid-field with Zac Wells a few places back. Across the bike and run Robin passed most of those in front of him, ultimately finishing 4th in the Year 8 Boys.

In the team races we had a number of good results, with the Girls Team of Zoe Buell (swim), Olivia Warr (bike), and Dominique Maltby (run) the best of the teams finishing second and narrowly running out of course to run down Year 8 Girls champions Murrays Bay. The event was made that much more interesting when a report of a shark sighting at a nearby beach came in just before the girls took the water. After consulting with the head lifeguard responsible for the event, the course was changed to be waste depth water flanked by a huge number of lifeguards meaning competitors effectively were duck-diving along the shoreline.

Futsal Zones Days (Y7 Boys, Girls, Y8 Boys) - Mon 3rd, Tue 4th, Wed 5th April



It was a fantastic year for Fustal with our Y7 Boys 1 winning the zone day. The team had been coached for a couple of weeks leading into the zone day and they did not disappoint. They achieved their tournament goal of not conceding three goals in all their matches. This was achieved in no small way with the tireless effort of Year 7/1 goalie Freddie Cawkwell who had a sublime zone day in goal.

The girls zone day was also full of great hope as we fielded a number of strong players in our year seven team while our year eight team had two footballers and a large number of sporty students that were not footballers. The year eights qualified second in their pool then suffered two very close 1-point losses in play-offs to finish 8th. The Year 7s won their first two pool games and then lost 3-0 to Murrays Bay to set up a semi-final against Northcross who won the other pool. At full time the score was 0-0 so a penalty shoot-out was used to decide the match, which we won 2-1 to gain a rematch against Murrays Bay. In the final we trailed 2-0 with a minute to go when we gained ascendancy. With 47 seconds remaining the ball was put out the side near the Murrays Bay goal and their goalie went to get it, an act that would usually have taken 5 seconds. On this occasion the goalie stopped and started walking slowly then stood and looked at the ball making no attempt to pick up the ball and return it to the field of play until they were questioned by the referee. When the ball returned to play there were 8 seconds left and despite being given possession for our opposition time wasting, we did not have enough time to score so had to accept second place. Murrays Bay were the stronger team and only the efforts of our goalie kept us in the game, that said it was a bit deflating to have the opportunity to tie-up the game and force a penalty shoot-out taken from us.

With lofty expectations and a few practices under their belt our year 8 boys teams had high hopes of improving on last year's second place. For the top team the goal was simple - don't let the opposition score. This worked all the way to the final when Murrays Bay had the audacity to score against us with us up 1-0. The reaction was a bit of a shock by players and even Mr Davids. This shock was short-lived as our team went to another level with players like Ben Strudwick really standing out in what became our second title in three days! As Northcross have lost the trophy, we now wait with bated breath for them to send us a new one!

A huge thank you to Mr Davids and Mr Lemon for looking after the zone days. Also a big mention for our B teams, futsal and football are strong at our school because of depth, and the ability for us to field six teams at three futsal zone days has been fantastic.

Tania Dalton Foundation Boost Programme - Wed 5th April



The Tania Dalton Foundation Boost ‘give it a go” Day was aimed at improving levels of confidence for young women. Teachers selected a student or students in their class who would benefit from the experience and twenty students attended the day. Our students were one of six different schools taking part in the day - a total of 120 students.

Across the day students tried a range of activities including Rugby, Netball, Hip Hop, AFL, Volleyball and Hunger Ball - a mini sports camp of sorts. Lunch was provided and students were given a teshirt and basketball to keep as well.

Throughout the day a number of our students came out of their shells, made new skills and grew in confidence. The day was a huge success in no small way due to the fantastic organisers who were able to make sports like rugby and volleyball fun as our students laughed their way through a number of the activities in what was a really inspiring day.