



LYNFIELD
COLLEGE

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 5 | 4 APRIL 2025

From Tumuaki Cath Knell

He aha te mea nui o te ao

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

Kia ora koutou

The past fortnight has been a true celebration of culture with student-led activities during Culture Week culminating in our own very special Culture Day last Saturday 29 March. If you missed the opportunity to join us for the performances and delectable food on offer, the link to the live stream recording is still open for viewing https://www.youtube.com/live/wFFI_rO-TVQ. A more detailed write-up of the event by our Culture Captains will be shared next term.

Whānau engagement

Kapa Haka treated us to a final showing of their Polyfest performance set at the **Whānau Hui** on Monday night. While being at school at 5.00am on Wednesday morning to arrive at Polyfest in time for a 9.00am bracket was a challenge for some, we were grateful to be able to have so many of our whānau sit on the dry grass in front of the stage and enjoy the performance before the weather turned! Their performance can be viewed on Māori+. They claimed the stage and we were so very proud of them! <https://www.maoriplus.co.nz/show/division-3-day1-asb-polyfest-2025>

Tuesday's **Talanoa Evening** was again student-led with our Cultural Ambassador and Pacific Pride Leaders sharing their goals and highlighting what is helping them to succeed. Guest appearances from Banapa Avatea, Leadership Advisor MOE, and Marcus Hipa and Esperu Sio, Fonua Ola - Helping Pacific Families, were much appreciated.

Wednesday's **Jazz Combo Fundraiser Concert** in support of getting our students to Tauranga next week was another event supported and enjoyed by our extended families. The huge smiles on our audience's faces as they left said it all! We wish our performers all the very best for the **National Youth Jazz Festival** on Wednesday.

Student engagement

Many of our students have been involved in extracurricular activities during Term 1 as you will see highlighted in the following pages. For those who have yet to find their 'place' we encourage them to get involved in one of the many groups that are running during lunchtimes in Term 2.

Preparing for Term 2

With Daylight Saving ending this weekend (clocks go back 1 hour) and the weather changing we have definitely moved into autumn. Please check uniform items over the holidays to ensure your child has suitable warm uniform clothing for the winter months. Should you need assistance please speak to the Year Level Dean or email Mr Dye, DP, edye@lynfield.school.nz in the first instance.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Tumuaki Cath Knell
- Teacher Only Day
- School Board Elections
- Robotics Give a Little Page
- Cultural Week
- Whānau Hui
- Talanoa
- ASB Polyfest – 50 Years
- Loves Me Not Programme
- Auckland Theatre Co Workshops
- Celebrating Iftar
- Have you downloaded our SchoolBridge App yet?
- SchoolTV – Cyber Safety
- Individual Sports Honours
- Sports Scene
- World Autism Awareness Month
- Uniform & Stationery Shop
- School Holiday Event

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 9 April
SUMMER SPORTS PHOTOS

Friday 11 April
END OF TERM 1

Monday 28 April
TERM 2 BEGINS

Wednesday 30 April
ROAD RACE

Thursday 8 May
BLOOD DONOR DAY

Friday 16 May
PINK SHIRT DAY

Monday 19 May
CULTURAL & LEADERSHIP PHOTOS

Monday 2 June
KINGS BIRTHDAY OBSERVED

Tuesday 3 June
TEACHER ONLY DAY

Eid Mubarak

To our families who celebrated Eid on Tuesday we wish you Eid Mubarak.

With this being the last NewsLink for Term 1, we wish everyone a safe holiday break and to the group traveling to China, safe travels.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

Teacher Only Day Tuesday 3 June

School will be closed for instruction on Tuesday 3 June, the day following King's Birthday. We will be using this Teacher Only Day for curriculum and assessment professional learning. This is in line with the guidelines for Teacher Only Days as advised by the Minister of Education at the end of 2024.

<https://www.education.govt.nz/news/new-closing-instruction-settings>

School Board Elections

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?



THIS YEAR IS ELECTION YEAR. NOMINATIONS WILL BE SOUGHT IN JULY AND CLOSE 12.00PM WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST.

For more information <https://www.schoolboardelections.org.nz/becoming-a-board-member/>

Give a Little Page for the Robotics Worlds Trip

Lynfield College Robotics Team 2915E has spent the past year designing, building, and programming their robots for the 2024-2025 National Championships, dedicating countless hours after school, at scrimmages, and even during holidays to perfect them.

In February 2025, they competed against 76 NZ teams at the VEX Robotics National Championships, securing back-to-back titles! Now, they have the incredible chance to represent New Zealand at the 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship in Texas, May 6-8th.

But they need your help, please donate on their [Give A Little](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/lynfield-college-robotics) page <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/lynfield-college-robotics> or use the QR code.

Your support will help cover travel, accommodation and competition costs, bringing them closer to the world stage. Every contribution counts. Thank you for being part of their journey!



Cultural Week





Whanau Hui

On Monday night we hosted our Term 1 hui whanau in the whare, with a stacked agenda including: Whakawhanaungatanga, celebrating excellence in NCEA for our Akonga Māori, attendance, Numeracy at Lynfield, Kapa haka, Whanau voice, student voice, Māori games and kai.

The evening was run by our Young Māori leaders, Pacific Pride Leaders and supported by the Māori focus group.

Ka nui te mihi ki nga rangatahi Māori me nga rangatahi Pasifika mo to ratou mahi i te po.

Thank you to all whanau and kaiako who attended, supported the tamariki and sent through feedback about our hui which aims to meet our kura goals of whanaungatanga tika (promoting positive relationships).



Talanoa

On Tuesday evening we welcomed family and friends to the first Talanoa evening of 2025 which was organised and presented by our Pacific Pride Leaders. There was information on students achievement, attendance and engagement along with an adults versus students numeracy challenge - proudly won by the students!

It was an honour on the evening to welcome and have the support of Banapa Avatea, Principal of Flat Bush Primary School and Leadership Advisor Pacific at the Ministry of Education, and Marcus and Eps from Fonua Ola.

The highlights of the evening though were the performances from the Samoan girls and Tongan boys groups.



ASB Polyfest – Celebrating 50 Years

Te Rōpū Kapa haka o Te Kāreti o Pukewīwī

Lynfield College Kapa haka staged at Polyfest on Wednesday 2 April. 50 years of Polyfest and the biggest number of entries on the Māori stage since it started. It was amazing to be a part of this event. The ākonga have worked many hours on their bracket under the expertise of tutors: Matua Tu Tata and Jas Rāwiri-Tata. We also had 2 past students return to assist with tutoring: Hunter Savieti and Dylon Motufoaki.

To Ngā Whaea, whānau, kaiako who offered their time, brought kai, helped with kakahu, over the last 10 weeks, we appreciate you and are grateful for your commitment to the kaupapa.

Ms Knell, cultural leaders, kaiako and whānau were there to support our rōpū in-person and to all our Lynfield whānau, kaiako and ākonga watching online and sending messages of support, ngā mihi.

The bracket performed included some original items written by tutors and kaiako. The kaupapa for Māori stage was 'He oha no tua he taonga tuku iho' which Danyon Varney (kaitātaki tane) spoke about in the whaikōrero. Our kaitātaki wahine Wikitoria Herewini had a powerful voice throughout the performance. The biggest group we've had in many years. Our aim is to build our rōpū and perform at future events. Whakatipua te hiranga, ko te kāreti o Pukewīwī.



Loves Me Not

Last Tuesday, our Year 12 students participated in the **NZ Police Loves Me Not** programme, an important initiative focused on fostering healthy relationships and preventing harm. Lynfield teachers teamed up with a Police Officer in teaching each class for the day. Through engaging discussions and activities, students learned about respect, consent, and identifying unhealthy behaviours in relationships. We appreciate the NZ Police for their valuable contribution and support in delivering this programme to Lynfield College students.



Auckland Theatre Company Workshop

Lynfield College hosted a theatre educator from Auckland Theatre Company as part of their English and Performance studies. The workshop built on their recent trip to the theatre to see "a mixtape for maladies". Visiting specialist Lerato discussed the key ideas in the play, had the students up on their feet in engaging activities and ended with an activity around students making their own mixtapes. It was a creative way to start a school day.



Celebrating Iftar

Our senior male and female Muslim students organised events for students to break their fast together during Ramadan. 60 boys and staff attended the boys' event, and 20 girls and staff attended the girls' event. Each event had delicious food, and it was lovely to see all year levels come together.

Thank you to the student councils for their work, including liaising with the local community. Special thanks to Zeta Greek Restaurant for their contribution towards the boys' event.

Have you downloaded our SchoolBridge App yet?

This gives you easy access to report an absence, see attendance, results, ability to pay any fees, see sports draws, and reports. Information about the app and login details can be found **here**



<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/schoolbridge/id1563090571>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.inboxdesign.SchoolBridgeApp>



SchoolTV

CYBER SAFETY

In today's digital world, young people are more connected than ever, using technology for education, social interaction, and entertainment. While the internet offers incredible opportunities, it also presents significant risks, including cyberbullying, online predators, exposure to inappropriate content, and excessive screen time. Cybersafety is about equipping children and adolescents with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

To find out more please <https://lynfield.nz.schooltv.me/newsletter/cybersafety-nz>



Individual Sports Honours

RAJAL SHARMA, YEAR 12

Rajal won a Gold medal in the Open Compound Men's Division and a Bronze medal in the Mixed Compound Matchplay at the 2025 North Island Senior Championships held at the Shore Archery Club on 29th and 30th March. Congratulations Rajal on your awesome achievements.



If your son and/or daughter has achieved representative status (Auckland or NZ) or has competed in such events the Sports Office would very much like to hear about this. Please either ask them to bring proof of the team they made/ level they achieved (eg. certificate, letter of selection etc) so we have the exact wording of their achievement, or email these details to sport@lynfield.school.nz

Sports Scene

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

HOUSE TAG

During weeks 7 and 8 of Term 1, our Sports and House Captains ran our first weekly House Competition which was House Tag. This had an incredible reception from many of our students which made for some intense and closely fought matches. Congratulations to Fatialofa and Reid who came out as joint winners of the Junior and Senior House Tag competitions! A special thank you and congratulations to all of our Sports Captains and House Captains who did an incredible job running their first House Competition. We look forward to the Term 2 House Volleyball Tournament!

ROAD RACE

Our next event lined up is the school Road Race which will be held on **Wednesday 30th April**. We look forward to the day and seeing all our students out running and taking part in the race, earning house points and taking on the challenge. For the first time in a while, we will have all year 9 students running on the day. Sign ups will be posted out in Week 11 for year 10, 11, 12 and 13 so keep an eye on the notices!

TEAM TALK

NZSS TOURNAMENT WEEK

Volleyball

This year our Senior Boys Volleyball team travelled down to Palmerston North to compete in the New Zealand Secondary School Volleyball Nationals Competition. Unfortunately, due to their seedings, our Senior Boys were 1 spot off the Div 3-6 entry but still had a tough road ahead of them. Coming out of pool play, the boys were undefeated and lost only 1 set in 4 games which put them in a great position for the rest of the week. On Wednesday the boys played 2 games against Wellington High School in the morning and then Aotea College in the afternoon. They won the first game in 2 sets 25-21 for both but unfortunately went down to Aotea 17-25 and 23-25, however this still kept them in contention where they faced Whitby Collegiate in the quarter finals. This was an incredibly tough match and was very close for all 3 sets played, ending in a 25-23, 24-26 and 15-13 loss.



Meaning our boys once again played Aotea in a rematch, this game went a bit better for Lynfield losing the first set 14-25 and winning the second 25-15, however Aotea hung on and had a little bit more energy to narrowly win the final set 15-12. Friday was finals day and our team was facing local rivals Onehunga High school for 7th and 8th place. We once again went down in the first set 20-25 but brought it back in the second 25-21 where we then went on to unfortunately fall short in the final set losing 11-15. Despite the result being a bit disappointing, we are still proud of the boys for how they performed over the week and put their all into all their games. A couple thank you's to go out, firstly for Carmen Hansel who coached the boys throughout the season and while down at tournament. Her guidance and knowledge was pivotal in helping our boys learn and improve throughout the season. A massive thank you to Peter Jamieson. It is incredibly rare to find someone so committed and so passionate about coaching, developing and facilitating sports for our students. The amount of your time that you dedicate to Lynfield Volleyball and your hard work is greatly appreciated by not only the school but also the students.

SUMMER SPORTS

Cricket 1st XI Girls

For the first time, Lynfield College 1st XI Girls Team was able to compete in the Div 2 Auckland Secondary Schools Cricket Tournament held at Lloyd Elsmore Park. They started off in a pool of 4 where they faced Diocesan 1st XI on Tuesday morning. Lynfield batted first and set a target of 117, not a huge score but still a defendable target. Diocesan then went out to chase the target and it was getting incredibly close with a few overs remaining. With 2 overs left, Diocesan were 3/102 so were needing 16 runs to win the game. Despite a wicket being taken in the 19th over, Dio were able to earn 9 runs and needed 7 off the final over which they unfortunately managed to track down with only 2 balls remaining. The girls were extremely disappointed with this result but didn't have long of a turn around before their game with Macleans College. This was yet again an extremely closely fought match. Macleans made 131 runs for 4 wickets but our girls were determined to win this game and stay in contention for the top spots at the tournament. They had an awesome fight back and needed 2 runs off the final over. This time however, we came away on the positive side of it winning with 2 balls remaining! This was a highlight of our tournament and a nice reunion with their previous coach Swatna Lal. Their final pool play game was against Selwyn who had been undefeated so far. Despite Selwyn reaching 146 runs, our girls bowled really well but unfortunately fell short with 119 runs. Next up was Mt Roskill in the 5th-8th place semi finals, always a great time for a local rivalry. The solid target of 114 runs proved to be a bit too much for Mt Roskill to handle as our bowling held them down to 60 runs in the 20 overs. This meant that our girls would be playing in the 5th and 6th match against St Mary's. The Lynfield Girls set a great target of 138 which proved to be far too much for St Mary's to handle, getting all out for 51 runs. Congratulations to Tanvi Rana on taking a 5 wicket haul in that match and congratulations to the team and staff for their performances and contributions across the season!

Cricket 1st XI Boys

The Term 1 Cricket 1B season has started off very well for our 1st XI Boys. They have so far gone 7/1 losing only to Avondale in an extremely close match. This has set them up for an exciting finish in Term 4 sitting 2nd on the table and ready to fight for the championship. Some notable individual performances include: Atharva Muley - 6 wicket haul vs ACG Parnell, Atharva Muley - 112 runs vs St Paul's, Yug Sharma - Hat-trick vs Long Bay and Vyom Barot - 127 runs vs Liston. Congratulations team.



Cricket Junior Boys

This term we have been fortunate enough to have 2 Junior Boys Cricket teams. This has allowed for players of different skill level to compete at their correct level and has made for some special moments within the groups. In particular, our Junior Open team who are playing in the 40 over format have gotten off to a great start to their season, winning 6 out of the 7 games they have played. This team plays with so much passion, enthusiasm and commitment which is what has kept them all locked in for all their matches this season. Lead by Xavier Pearson (2nd top run scorer AND 2nd top wicket taker in the grade!) the team are looking to take this momentum into the term 4 season and secure promotion for next year. Our Junior T20 team have had an awesome season as well, winning 4 of their 7 matches this season and securing 3rd place in their grade! Similarly to our Junior Open boys, this team is extremely passionate and enthusiastic about their cricket which makes for so many players being keen and looking to learn and improve for the future. For being the first year with 2 junior teams, we are incredibly proud of their results and look forward to the future of Lynfield Cricket coming through. A massive thank you to Claire Reti and Glenn Pearson for their work with these teams. Not only have they coached and managed both of these teams, they have also been at every game, problem solved and been so supportive of our Junior Boys and facilitated them to be able to play cricket this year. Thank you so much!



Orienteering

Following the same trend from the past few years, Orienteering at Lynfield continues to grow more and more. Their season has now come to a close but the improvements seen in our athletes from their first event to the final have been enormous. This group of students is an extremely positive and fun group which has been awesome to manage and drive for over the term. Congratulations to the following students on their qualifications for the Orienteering Sprint Finals.

Year 9 Girls	Anna Brown, Grace Vashi
Year 9 Boys	Reed McLean
Year 10-11 Girls	Annika Vashi
Year 12-13 Girls	Michelle He, Emily Yang
Year 12-13 Boys	Mahant Agrawal Ray Chen

Athletics Championships

On 18th and 20th March, 5 of our athletes competed in the Auckland Secondary School Athletics Championships. Although there was some very tough competition in their events, we are still proud of the results they achieved and their never give up attitude during their events. Congratulations:

Llewellyn Butcher, Ray Chen, Grace Parkinson, Annika Vashi, Grace Vashi

Archery

Lynfield College archery is small in numbers but big on dedication. We have had a good year. We had one very windy day and one very rainy day but our archers persevered in the challenging conditions.

Anika Wong had another podium finish. In 2024, she came 3rd in barebow and, in 2025, achieved 2nd place. Western Springs students came 1st, 3rd and 4th so Anika managed to break into their stronghold. Well done, Anika!



Holly McCutcheon, competing in recurve, a category with 146 archers, came in the top 25%. Her best score was on the windiest day!

Rajal Sharma, shooting in the compound section, came 4th and continues to impress with his focus. His score in the ranking round was 291, the second highest.

Austin Walton, in his second year of College Sport, improved his final points by 25% in barebow and got his best score on a rainy day.

Beth Eyre, a newcomer and entered for recurve, didn't shoot in the first round but, by the end of the competition, beat 24 people who had shot in all the rounds.

If you are interested in archery, speak to one of these students or the sports office and start practising for 2026!

World Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness month. The Māori word for autism is beautifully expressed by the word takiwatanga, meaning 'in his/her/their own time and space'.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects approximately 1 in 54 people, according to Autism NZ. The traits associated with autism span a wide spectrum and lead to a different way of seeing the world and interacting with others. Autism New Zealand (www.autismnz.org.nz) has delivered many educational programmes to increase public understanding of autism. It is a place where autistic people, their whanau and those who make up their support network, can learn about autism and also find the supports and services they would like to access.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life for those with autism.

Altogether Autism (www.altogetherautism.org.nz) is another organisation where knowledge and support can be accessed. Parents of autistic students can also find support through Disability Connect www.disabilityconnect.org.nz. Their Monday night parent zoom sessions (between 7pm and 8 pm) can provide support for parents who need to connect with others.

If you wish to know more about autism, you can find a lot of information on Youtube.

Belinda Kusabs, SENCo, HOD Learning Support

Young Māori
and Pacific Pride
Leaders present...

IPU TI

WEDNESDAYS

WEEKLY ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

Open to all students!

- Unfinished work?
- Due dates looming?
- Need help?

3.15 PM - 4.30 PM
JOIN US IN I2/I3 (END OF CORRIDOR IN THE UPPER GYM)



Please Help Support Kowhai Kai

Kōwhai Kai is a student wellbeing programme that supports Lynfield College students and their whānau who are experiencing hardship. At the start of lunch time, kai is provided in D12 for students who do not have the means to bring lunch to school. If you want to find out more, you can contact Mr Dye, Deputy Principal edye@lynfield.school.nz. This has been able to operate thanks to the generosity of our community. We would love to make connection with new corporate sponsors.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO: LYNFIELD COLLEGE, 12-3049-0248027-00, REF: KŌWHAI KAI

Uniform & Stationery Shop

HOURS

The Uniform and Stationery shop is open to all students on site for their uniform and stationery needs during interval and lunchtime Mondays to Thursdays, and on Fridays before school at 8am and interval.

We are not open on Saturday and Sunday, Teacher Only Days or the between term holidays.

Parents can attend the shop at the following times:

Monday – Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm and 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Friday 8.00am – 11.30am

SECOND HAND CLOTHING

The Uniform and Stationery Shop also sells second hand items. We ask that if you wish to purchase the second hand items, you do not come during student's morning tea or lunchtimes.

Please be aware that we do not have the full size range in the second hand items. Proceeds from secondhand uniform sales go to our hardship fund to support students in need.

LYNFIELD COLLEGE BLAZER

The Lynfield College blazer is available to all students. The cost is \$260 and it can be purchased from the Uniform Shop. We only have a few available in each size at the moment, but if we have high demand, more stock can be brought in.

ONLINE ORDERING

Online ordering is available through our website <https://lynfield.school.nz/shop.html>. Payment can be made by direct credit or credit card and students onsite are able to collect the items from the shop during the above times. Orders are usually ready the next day.

RETURNS POLICY

We require a purchase receipt, tags and the skirt "runner stitch" to still be in garments to process returns. Please be aware that we can only return items up to 90 days from the date on your receipt.

LOST PROPERTY

If your child has lost uniform items, please ask them to check the Lost Property bin outside the uniform shop.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM.

Community News

FREE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH

Shama
Supporting Ethnic Women
8 Liverpool Street, Hamilton Central, 3204
PO Box 4218
www.shama.org.nz

FREE School Holiday Program
In Auckland CBD
Aiolalanga Community Space
14TH - 17TH APRIL
10am-4pm
AGES **13-17**

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Make new friends
- Fun outdoor & indoor activities eg. escape rooms, kayaking etc.
- Free food!
- Learn about healthy relationships & self-confidence

Registration begins:
March 10 - April 5th 2025

Use the QR CODE to register or visit our website for more information or email prevention@shama.org.nz

FOR SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH!

[HTTPS://SHAMA.ORG.NZ/](https://shama.org.nz/)

SCAN ME

The term South Asian includes communities from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Pakistan. It also includes diaspora communities such as Fijian Indian, as well as South Asian individuals from other continents such as Africa.



NOMINATIONS OPEN

NEiTA is an incredible way to celebrate teachers work and it really highlights the work that teachers do and makes their efforts feel seen and heard and valued too

— Amie Roberts (2023 NEiTA winner)

Winners receive a grant of up to \$10,000 for professional development.

Visit neita.com or simply scan the QR code to nominate



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY **FUTURITY**
INVESTMENT GROUP