



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents, Caregivers and members of our community,

This evening marks the opening night of our spectacular School Opera, **Shrek the Musical!** This highly anticipated event is the culmination of many months of preparation, hard work, and remarkable teamwork. A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated cast, crew, the supporting staff, and the wonderful parents who have collaborated to bring this show to life. For all of you attending, we are confident the show will be a huge hit. The talent on display is truly exceptional, and we know you will be thoroughly entertained.

To our incredible cast and crew: break a leg! We are all so proud of you and the effort you have put in. Enjoy every moment on that stage.

Introducing the International Baccalaureate (IB), Primary Years Programme (PYP)

This year marks our inaugural year as an IB PYP candidacy school, and we are thrilled with the progress so far. The PYP is not a new curriculum, but rather an enhancement to the New Zealand Curriculum that will enrich our children's learning experience.

Throughout 2025, our teaching staff have been working behind the scenes, developing their understanding and skills in the IB framework. You may already see elements of this approach woven into learning in some of our classrooms.

The PYP places a strong emphasis on fostering a deep connection between our specialist and homeroom teachers. The programme also prioritises a sense of belonging, the ability to make a meaningful contribution, and the skills to take greater responsibility for their own learning. These skills will prepare our students for a changing world.

While the approach to learning will see subtle adjustments for our more junior year groups, we are especially excited about how our senior students will grow as independent learners.

We encourage you to keep an eye out for more information in the following pages of this newsletter and in the coming months.

Keryn Bindon, Headmaster

SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boarder of the Week



Henry Opie:
for being helpful in many ways

WaiMaths Champions



Amelia Li, Hannah Grayling,
Theo Chen

Year 3 - Values Certificates



Gabriel Qiu, Riley Wu, Achita Sea, Sara McLeod, Arya McCormack, Henry Norton,
Henry Copeman, Paige He, Brooklyn Fleming, Sophie Hill, Joshua Farrow,
Tumanako Houppapa, Mia Dyke



Olivia Barnes, Lockie Smith, Zahara Ukra, Chloe Yang, Grace Alipate, Oliver
Anderson, Finn Borman, Arlo Catley, Leah Chen, Damien Swanepoel

SOUTHWELL NEWS - AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

YEAR 7 & 8 PENNANTS

Awarded to those students who have displayed sustained effort and diligence during homeroom time.



7TR -Blake McIntyre & Guus Holloway
7GML-Saniya Ahmed & Otis Finlayson
7JMC -Hannah Grayling & Taj de Groen
7BH - Rylee Vining & Yamaan Mohammed
7DH - Ava Boynton & Jack Baldock
7RvH - Vanessa Green & Rahil Singh



8KMA - Bella Jiao & Siddharth Nair
8CH - Emerson Kay & Joshua Nicholson
8DR -Ruby Johnston & Gus Hammonds
8PH - Anabelle Martin & Harris Li
8RS - Shaylee Beuzeval & Joy Wang
8MP - Lillyana Andrews-Wright & Mitchell Merritt

Junior Regional Chess Competition



Edwin Zhou, Kieran Yu, Andy Shi, Charlie Liu, Moses Lim, Veronica Lee, Leo Xu

Regional Interschool Chess Championship



Alexandra Lee, Jaden Lee, Zayne Sebastian, Siddharth Nair, Kevin Zhang, Theo Chen

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CROSS COUNTRY 2025



YEAR 1 GIRLS WILSON CUP

- 1st - Olivia Alipate
- 2nd - Zahra Jennings
- 3rd - Delta Vining

YEAR 1 BOYS ION CUP

- 1st - Zac Stevenson
- 2nd - Franco Polzleitner
- 3rd - Kylem Jones



CROSS COUNTRY 2025 PETCH TROPHY YORK HOUSE



Southwell Diamonds

Year 8A2 Grade Champions



Stevie-Lee Lowen, Shaylee Beuzeval, Maia Filipo, Tilly Langsford, Mischa Shen, Anabelle Martin, Miah Donald, Gracie Drummond, Libby Germann



NIWA SCIENCE FAIR PRIZE WINNERS



Sophia Ma
Siddarth Nair & Kevin Zhang



Amy Rose Hooper



Ella Schuster

GYMNASTICS

SOUTHWELL NEWS - AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



AIMS GAMES SWIMMING MEDAL HAUL



Charlie Alderton

YEAR 3 AND 4 ORATORY CUP WINNERS

Year 3



1st Olivia Williams, 2nd Milla Xu, Viva Khonchandani

Year 4



1st Adelaide Oehley, 2nd Rio Leith, 3rd Rylah Jones

WFPSA REGIONAL SPEECH COMPETITION

Our school's senior orators truly knocked it out of the park at the Waikato Full Primary Schools Association regional speech competition. The evening was a showcase of articulate, well-structured speeches delivered by students from member schools. The atmosphere was filled with positive energy and support for all the competitors.

A huge congratulations to our representatives, whose hard work paid off:

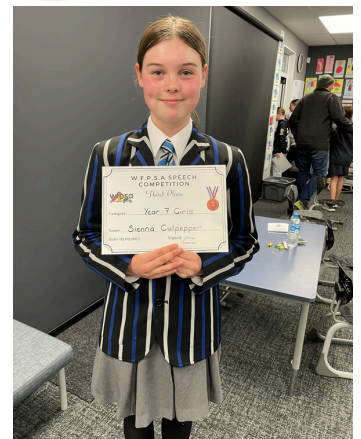
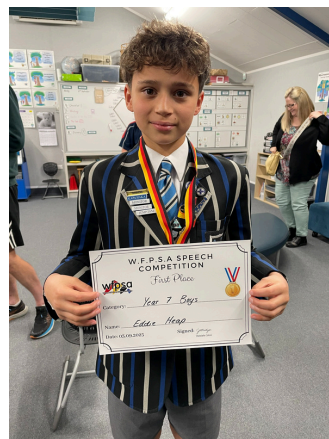
Abir Mahajan - 1st Place, Year 8 Boys for his speech, "The Power of Dreaming"

Maia Robinson - 2nd Place, Year 8 Girls for her speech, "Why is our Generation Doomed(or is it)?"

Eddie Heap - 1st Place, Year 7 Boys for his speech, "When Life Gives you Lemons"

Sienna Culpepper - 3rd Place, Year 7 Girls for her speech, "Why Lying is Not Always Wrong"

We are so proud of their incredible achievements! First and second place getters proceed through to the Grand Final.



SOUTHWELL NEWS - ASSEMBLY

THE BELOW IMAGES WERE DISPLAYED ON THE LARGE SCREEN AT ASSEMBLY

WHO DISPLAYS TOLERANCE?



WHO IS RELIABLE?



FIRST DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

What to do if your tamariki see something upsetting online

Sometimes tamariki will see inappropriate, offensive or illegal content online even if they haven't sought it out. It can pop-up during a game, someone could share a link, a search can show explicit images or a misspelt word could return unexpected content. It can be hard to know what to do in this situation so Netsafe has developed some [advice for parents and young people](#).



Netsafe tips for safer online accounts

[Secure your accounts against privacy breaches](#) with this six-step advice from Netsafe. Find tips and simple steps to help protect your personal information from unauthorised access. Need advice about safer internet use? Contact the [Netsafe helpline](#) for free confidential advice: 0508638723

Southwell Alumni Girls Event



Calling for Goodie Bag Contributions!

As we prepare for our special Alumni Girls' Event on Thursday, 31 October, we are looking to create memorable goodie bags for our Old Girls who return to celebrate this milestone with us.

We would love to showcase the generosity and creativity of our Southwell community, and we are asking if you, your family, or your business would be willing to contribute.

Items could include:

- Free products or samples
- Discount vouchers or special offers
- Gift cards
- Branded merchandise
- Any small treat or item that would make our alumni feel valued and celebrated

This is a wonderful opportunity to put your brand or business in front of a highly engaged audience of alumni, parents, and friends of Southwell, while helping us make the evening extra special.

If you can help, or if you know of someone we should contact, please reach out to us at alumni@southwell.school.nz. We'll make sure your support is recognised and appreciated as part of this event.

Together, let's give our Alumni Girls a warm and thoughtful welcome home!



1989 - Letter from the Form 2 boys

In 1989 a combined disco for the Form 2 boys (Year 8's) and Dio girls was held.

Obviously the boys enjoyed themselves and penned this letter:

"On behalf of the Form 2 boys of Southwell School we would like to request another Disco between Southwell and Dio in the near future. We would also like to take the chance to thank all Staff that made this all possible. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. In the next Disco if possible could we please have more girls present?"

SOUTHWELL NEWS

FAIRFIELD CLUSTER INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS



The blue and white stripes of the Southwell shirt was spotted everywhere at the recent Fairfield Cluster Interschool Cross Country (Years 4-6) Champs. Congratulations to everyone who proudly represented our school, and a special mention to our competitors who were placed in the top 3.

Year 4 Girls, 1st Faryn Bourke

Year 5 Girls, 2nd Willa Crome, 3rd Lottie Bourke,

Year 5 Boys, 1st Daniel Bell

Year 6 Girls, 2nd Emily Aquilina

Year 6 Boys, 1st Deagon Everton



2025 Itinerant Concerts

Is your child involved in the Itinerant Music and/ or Speech & Drama programme?

Please click [HERE](#) for important information regarding the Term 4 Music/ Speech & Drama Itinerant Concerts



WAIMATHS CHALLENGE: A DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

The numbers are in, and they tell an incredible story. A team of three Year 7 students-Theo Chen, Amelia Li, and Hannah Grayling - didn't just compete in the Waikato Mathematics Assoc. WaiMaths Challenge; they dominated it.

Against 20 schools from across the Waikato, our team took on 20 complex problems in 45 minutes. With a maximum score of 60 points on the line, our students put on a masterclass, earning an impressive 55 points.

For the first time in our school's history, we are bringing home the prestigious WaiMaths Shield. This victory is a testament to their relentless dedication, fueled by countless lunchtimes and extra homework sessions. They didn't just solve problems; they mastered the art of teamwork. Amelia's lightning-fast problem-solving was supported by Theo's meticulous cross-checking, while Hannah kept the calculations on track.

This is a victory built on collective genius and a fierce competitive spirit. We couldn't be prouder of their achievement and the way they represented our school.

AMP'D OUT AND LEDEEZ ROCK IT AT BANDQUEST!



What an incredible night! Our bands Amp'd Out and LEDeez absolutely rocked the stage at the recent Rock Shop BandQuest. The energy was electric, and we couldn't be prouder of their performances. A huge congratulations to all the band members, their tutors, and teachers for their hard work and dedication. Their efforts truly paid off!

Special shout-outs go to:

LEDeez, who took home the coveted **Rockstyle Award**
Amp'd Out, for their amazing performance that earned them **2nd place overall**
Theo Chen, for being crowned the **Killer Guitarist**

It was a night to remember, and we're so excited to see what these talented musicians do next!



SOUTHWELL SCHOOL

International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP)

UPDATE 1

UNDERSTANDING THE 'WHAT' AND THE 'WHY'

This year marks our inaugural year as an official International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) candidacy school. This is not a new curriculum, but an enhancement to the New Zealand Curriculum framework that we already have in place. PYP enriches our teaching practices and prepares our students with adaptable, transferable skills for a changing world.

Throughout 2025, our teachers have been developing their understanding of the IB framework, and you may already see elements of this approach woven into our classrooms. While our junior students will experience subtle adjustments, our senior students will gain greater autonomy over their learning and a deeper understanding of their personal strengths.

Today we share the first of our four-part parent information series on the PYP.

What exactly is the IB PYP?

At its core, the IB PYP is a framework for organising and connecting learning. It is a way of teaching that helps students see how different subjects - like reading, writing, and science - are all linked to big ideas and real world issues. The PYP provides a structure that encourages inquiry and deep thinking, helping students to become active participants in their own learning. It is a powerful lens through which we will deliver our existing curriculum, making learning more meaningful and engaging for every child.



Why the IB PYP?

Our current approach to the delivery of the New Zealand Curriculum is very strong, and similar in nature to the IB PYP. However, we believe it's our responsibility to seek ways to improve and innovate. The IB PYP will help our students to connect each of the curriculum learning areas and become more adaptable, curious, and critical thinkers - skills that are essential for success in high school and beyond. For our teachers, this is a wonderful opportunity for professional growth. They will have access to high-quality professional development and rigorous critique of their professional practice. Our teachers will be able to collaborate with other IB schools both here in New Zealand and around the world, ensuring we are always providing the best possible education.



International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP)

What's coming up?

Over the next few newsletters, we will be sharing more detailed information:

Newsletter Update 2 (Term 3, Week 9): What the PYP will look like in the classroom and how it will enhance, not replace, core subjects like reading, writing, and maths.

Newsletter Update 3 (Term 4, Week 2): How the PYP will be tailored to different age groups across our school, from our youngest learners to our Year 7 & 8 students.

Newsletter Update 4 (Term 4, Week 4):
A final overview of the programme, including how it prepares students for secondary school and how it fits into the broader IB continuum.



Upcoming Parent Information Workshops

As we prepare for our 2026 academic year, we will be hosting a series of IB PYP parent information workshops in Term 4. We encourage you to attend the session most relevant to your child's age group:

Years 5 & 6 Workshop:

Week 3, Tuesday, Oct 21st, 8.30 am - 9.10 am

Years 7 & 8 Workshop:

Week 4, Wednesday, October 29th, 8.30 am - 9.10 am

Years 0-4 Workshop:

Week 5, Tuesday, November 4th, 8.30 am - 9.10 am

These sessions will provide a deeper dive into what the PYP means for your child and will include examples of what learning will look like in practice. Please note, we will also hold ongoing information sessions in 2026 for new families and provide regular updates as the programme develops over the next few years.

Further information on how to register your interest to attend these workshops will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

We look forward to partnering with you on this exciting journey.

NIWA WAIKATO REGIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

Our students have once again demonstrated their scientific prowess at the NIWA Waikato Regional Science and Technology Fair, showcasing their innovative projects and talent. Categories included Traditional Science Fair Boards (where a question is investigated, data collected and a conclusion derived), Wall Charts, Scientific Drawing, Photography and Video. Eligible students ranged from Years 7-13. The event saw a fantastic display of inquiry, creativity, and problem-solving from all participants.

We are incredibly proud of our students, **Amyrose Hooper, Sophia Ma, Siddharth Nair and Kevin Zhang** who were selected as finalists and prize recipients in their chosen categories, a testament to their dedication and the high quality of their work.

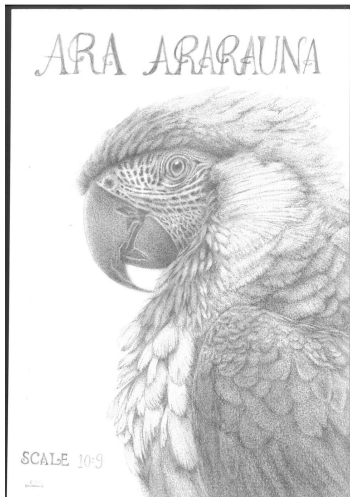
The NIWA Waikato Regional Science and Technology Fair is an event Southwell values being part of, providing a platform for young minds to engage with real-world problems and develop their scientific inquiry skills. Our students' strong performance this year highlights the bright future of science and technology in our community and their ability to compete at the highest level.

Congratulations to our students, we look forward to seeing their future scientific endeavors.

SOPHIA MA

Y7/8, 1st - Scientific Drawing

Y7-13, 1st - Wall Display



AMYROSE HOOPER
Y7, Highly Commended Living World,

SIDDARTH NAIR & KEVIN ZHANG

Y7-13, 2nd - Scientific Video

Click [HERE](#) to view the full video

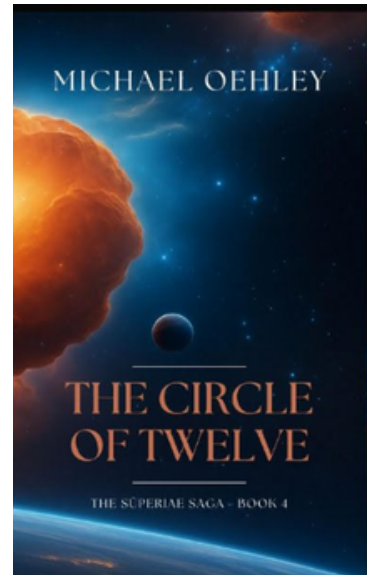


SOUTHWELL NEWS



BOOK LAUNCH - MICHAEL OEHLEY

We're thrilled to welcome back Old Boy and current parent, Michael Oehley, as he prepares to launch his fourth thrilling science-fantasy novel! This new book, aimed at intermediate readers but perfect for any Year 6 who loves an epic adventure, is set to release late in Term 4.

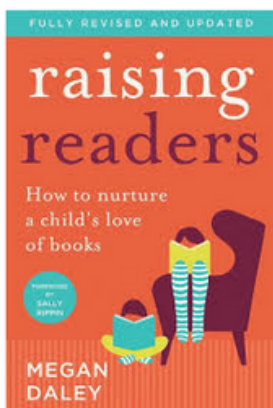


To celebrate, Michael will be with us on December 1st for a special school visit. He'll be:

- Speaking with our Year 7 and 8 students.
- Leading inspiring writing workshops with a group of our budding Year 7-8 authors.
- Officially launching his new novel, along with refreshed editions of his first three books.
- Hosting a book signing so students can get their own signed copy and meet the author!

HOW TO ORDER:

Simply complete the payment slip at the end of this email
Make your payment online - *special prices offered to Southwell students only*
Return the slip to dr.michael.oehley@gmail.com by
Friday 24 October 2025 (end of Week 3, Term 4)



Listen Up: A New Approach to Reading

We wanted to share a fantastic podcast episode from the Your Kids Next Read series. In it, librarian Megan Daley (a true hero for Mrs. Walch!) reads from her updated book, Raising Readers. She uses a wonderful analogy, explaining that teaching reading is like baking a cake—the "science of reading" is the recipe that helps you get it right. It's a great listen for anyone interested in helping their child become a confident reader. Click [HERE](#) to listen.

Est. 1911
SOUTHWELL SCHOOL
production of

SHREK
THE MUSICAL

**5TH - 12TH
SEPTEMBER 2025**
CENTRE OF PERFORMING ARTS, SOUTHWELL SCHOOL
FOR TICKETS PLEASE VISIT WWW.SOUTHWELL.SCHOOL.NZ



CLUBCARD FOR SCHOOLS

**SUPPORTING OUR
COMMUNITY**



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**SOUTHWELL
SCHOOL**

How It Works

By simply scanning your **Clubcard** every time you shop at Rototuna New World, you can help contribute to our school. It's a simple, yet powerful, way to make a difference. The more families that sign up and scan their cards, the more opportunities we can provide for our learners.

How to Get Involved

Getting started is easy:

All you need to do is share your **Clubcard** with 'Southwell School' via this [form](#).

Shop at New World Rototuna and scan your **Clubcard** with every purchase.

Rototuna New World will donate 1% of all sales from registered Clubcards directly to our school. Please share this form with family and friends.

If you do not have a **Clubcard**, simply register [here](#) to join. Then complete this form when you have your **Clubcard** number.

You can rest assured that your personal **Clubcard** rewards, like Airpoints, won't be affected. This is a separate programme funded directly by Rototuna New World.

Questions & Answers

Can extended family and friends participate?

Yes, we encourage anyone connected to Southwell School - grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends-to register their Clubcard with Southwell School via this [form](#) and help support our school.

Will this impact my personal Clubcard rewards?

Not at all. This programme is separate from your personal rewards. The funding comes directly from Rototuna New World based on the sales from all registered Clubcards. You'll continue to collect your usual Clubcard and Airpoints rewards as normal.

Ready to Help?

Register your **Clubcard** with Southwell School today and help us enhance our students' learning experience.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ARTZ
ON
SHOW.

DANCE

DRAMA

VOCALS

ART

ENROL NOW
FOR MOANA!

www.artzonshow.co.nz

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
29 September - 3 October

SOUTHWELL SCHOOL



UNIFORM SHOP



SCHOOL HOLIDAY HOURS

MONDAY 29TH SEPT - FRIDAY
3RD OCT
9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

Term 4 is changeover to summer uniform. All students must return to school in full summer uniform; **short sleeve grey shirts, girls culottes & boys summer shorts, sandals, sunhat, togs**

If you are sending your child to the Uniform Shop to update their uniform, please ensure you provide them with a note, fill out our eForm, or email uniform@southwell.school.nz to give your permission.

School
NURSE

A reminder from Nursee -
Due to a number of students who are anaphylactic to nuts, we request that no nuts or nut products are sent to school with students.

Thank you.



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SOUTHWELL
SCHOOL

SNAPSHOTS

