



OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

International Department Newsletter Term Two 2021

Term two had an array of activities and there are some international students who are great at participating and making the most of the opportunities. One outstanding person this term has been Well Chomchoei as she was one of three students who with immense bravery shaved her beautiful locks of hair for Shave for a Cure. She was supported by her sister and host mother who both cut some of her hair. She was also interviewed for the Otago Daily Times and you can read the article at <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/braving-shave>. Further in the newsletter, you can read about Well's selflessness written by Hermione. The three students and one teacher raised over \$7000 for cancer. Well is currently on a three-week Outward Bound experience and next term we will hear all about her amazing challenges and achievements.



Our newest student, Allison Han, was awarded a Year 9 academic scholarship. She has also been artist of the week along with another international, Jessica Xue (work on following page).





Other proud accomplishments came in the Otaru Sister City Japanese Speech Competition. Sol Kwon won first place in the senior section, and Daibaihe Jiang won second place in the same section. They had to give a prepared speech then answer questions all in Japanese. What is extra special is that these girls spoke at a high level in their third language. They are pictured here with other OGHS participants.



The annual Tertiary Open Day at Otago University and Otago Polytechnic gave students the opportunity to sit in on some lectures, and visit potential areas of study at these institutions. There have also been visits from other universities around the country so that different locations and courses are available to the students.

Year 10 students travelled out to Puketeraki Marae at Karitane for a one-day experience. It is a very welcoming marae in a most magnificent setting. We are very fortunate to be able to learn and enjoy more of the Maori culture and heritage of our area.

Library Day is always a much anticipated day as we get to plan what we are going to wear according to the chosen theme. Another annual event is the hake competition which was won by Cruickshank.



The students who take outdoor education have a very full schedule throughout the year and are continually testing themselves with their pursuits. The end of the term also had two major events with the senior production of *Cry Baby*, and the year 12 formal which was held at the Town Hall.

International Prefect: Hermione Hai on Well's Shave for a Cure

In the third last week of term 2, Shave for a Cure was held as usual in the hall. However, this time was different. My friend Well participated in and donated her pony tails to the cancer society.



A couple of months ago when I first heard her decision, it shocked me. I wondered how brave a 17 year-old girl like her must be to overcome the hard journey of making this decision. She said it was hard to decide, but then she thought about cancer patients who don't even have a chance to choose whether they want to shave. Apparently the answer is no.

The process was quick and simple. Six of her pony tails were cut by her family members and the students who bought her pony tails via donating to the cancer society. Then the hair

dresser came up to shave her hair. However, surely there was much more than this. She was going to have no hair in the cold winter to keep herself warm and she wouldn't have a lot of hair accessories to wear. And in order to raise more money for the cancer society, she started her baking sales long before the day of Shave for a Cure.

To be honest, I have never seen a kind soul like her and I wouldn't expect to meet such a caring person in my life. But here she came, Well - who cares about not only herself, but also millions of people who are suffering from cancer.

It is a bit shameful to say that every time when I help others I would feel myself a slightly better human being than others. However, perhaps in Well's opinion, being kind is something 'she should do' instead of something 'nice to do'. Her action just reminded me how being kind is a thing we all should do, not something we do for showing off how nice people we are. It is something we need to do by heart, not something to 'perform' our positivities. Well's courage and strength have touched me so much and I just want to say that it's such an honour to be friends with Well.

I hope the world will treat her with faithful love forever just like how she treats it. And I hope this could be one of your daily motivations for being kind.

Thanks for reading
Hermione Hai



Term 3 Events

- Week 2 Open Night (3 August)
Teacher Only Day (5 August) School Closed
- Week 5 Student Learning Conferences for Years 10-13 & Year 9 Day (26 August)
- Weeks 5-6 School Ski Trip (27-31 August)
- Week 6 Subject Selection & Year 10 NCEA Parent Information Evening (1 September)
- Week 8 Scholar Blues Afternoon Tea & Presentation (13 September)
Polyfest (16 September)
- Weeks 8-9 Senior Parallel Exams (15-23 September)
- Week 9 Junior Production (23-24 September)
- Week 10 Cultural Blues (30 September)

***There are numerous other events and activities taking place during the term.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!