

04/09/2017

#### Rugby:

Papamoa College hosted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the Rugby by the Beach Tournament. Again it was another brilliant success giving local as well as out of town visitor's one last chance for the boys to play together as well as try out the upcoming talent. Otumoetai started its campaign off against Hamilton's Fraser High School winning 19-10. Next up was Hillcrest who had some outstanding individual players but the boys managed to play as a team and take the win 19-5. The third match against Katikati College gave us the chance to try out all the young boys with Coaches Paul and Adam Braddock opting to leave out all Year 13 players and let the young boys take over. They played great racing out to a 24-0 lead. Half time saw the Senior Boys get a crack and a classic case of everyone wanting to score lead to the final score being 24-7. The Semi Final was against hosts Papamoa in what looked like would be a close game but the boys went out with a great mind set to win 34-0. The final was played against Te Puke. The Otumoetai forward pack had a dominating scrum all tournament managing to win tight head after tighthead. Te Puke was the first scrum to get parity with the boys resulting in a much closer encounter. Te Puke led 10-0 at half time and the boys managed to dot down at the start of the second spell to make it game on. At 10-8 Otumoetai had a penalty shot which just skimmed the posts and missed. Te Puke managed another try to lead 17-8. The boys gave it their all and a last minute penalty try to the opposition didn't reflect the closeness of the game. Captain Kaden Gordon, Tyler Aitkin-Thomas, Zedek Macklow and Ash Smith all had blunders and made the referee appointed tournament team after great performances. Young Loose forward Ash was Otumoetai's player of the tournament displaying a great athletic performance consistently.

#### Basketball:

The Senior A Boys managed to make the Semi Finals this year. Unfortunately they went down in the playoffs and finished the season 4<sup>th</sup> overall. The Junior A Boys had a nail-biting game that came down to the literal last seconds as the opposition was awarded the chance at the free throw line. The pressure of the play didn't overcome the young shooter and he was able to win the game with the boys spectating the final decider. The Senior A girls managed to trump Waihi College in their last game.

Otumoetai College Senior B Boys Basketball team had a successful season in 2017, which culminated last week in an exciting, close Final, beating Mount Maunganui College Senior B Boys at ASB Arena. There was a raucous crowd and an atmosphere that got both teams pumped up and excited.

The boys always played with heart and true grit throughout the season. Some of our games saw them with just five players, because boys were away sick, and these boys played hard for four quarters. What was most enjoyable about this season wasn't winning, but it was how these boys played with humility.