

Halcombe School

RD 9, FEILDING

PHONE (06) 328 8845; FAX (06) 328 8847; office@halcombe.school.nz

www.halcombe.school.nz



Term 4 Week 4

5th November 2013

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Huntermville Cross Country Results

Congratulations to our Cross Country Team, who all ran so well at Huntermville last week. It is a very challenging course with up to 100 top runners in each race. Thanks to those parents who provided transport and also to Kelly Campbell, who looked after the team. Top 20 finishers were:

Cameron Robinson 3rd, Elen Barr 3rd, Ffion Barr 10th, Molly Alcock 14th, Greer Mudgway 17th, Nelly Skelton 19th and Alex Baker 20th.

Sixtus Lodge



Room 5 spent 4 fantastic nights at Sixtus Lodge last week. We were lucky to have great weather which allowed us to get out and enjoy the amazing environment of the Ruahine Ranges. There were many highlights including: a night trek through a water-filled cavern where we saw eels, wetas and glow worms; a 7-hour expedition high up into the ranges, where we had magnificent views of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro; a water-soaked scramble over logs and through water pools up a twisty limestone crevasse; and a 4-hour expedition into the heart of the ranges and the source of the Oroua River. There was even time for building kiwi houses, eeling, racing boats down the river, a concert night, cricket, rounders, tug-o-wars and confidence course races! We wish to give a huge "thank you" to the parents that were a fantastic help on camp. Visit our [Room 5 blog](#) for more camp reports and photos. *Chris Ricketts, Room 5*

Totara Posts

We still require a few totara posts to complete our nature walk path. If you are able to help, please ring us. We are happy to collect any donations.

Scholastic Book Clubs

A reminder that book club orders need to be in by 9am this Friday please. Make cheques payable to "Scholastic New Zealand", please. No online payments. This will be our last "Lucky Book Club" round for the year.

Board of Trustees News

The October meeting began with a presentation by teachers of Halcombe School sharing their target groups for 2013.

- Each teacher had selected groups of students and an area of the curriculum that they felt needed extra attention to lift achievement. They presented their teaching strategies, resources used, additional support from teacher aides or other teachers, and shared their own professional learning as they worked with the target group/s. They had documented their teaching through the year & reflected on the progress made.
- Anne Langtry (Chairperson) & Sue Simpson expressed HUGE thanks to the teachers for their excellent reports and for sharing their amazing progress with the Board. While understanding that not all strategies will be successful, everyone has done a terrific job and it is great to see the teachers working so hard for their students. The teachers should be very proud of their achievements. The Board is assured of the quality of teaching that is happening at the school and will share this with the parents. ERO should hear these stories too!
- The school is required to do electrical testing, which is an important safety consideration. This will be seen to as soon as possible. There will also be a Health Curriculum consultation in this week's school newsletter.
- The Room 2 classroom upgrade is going well with the class due back in their classroom by the end of next week.
- Wormald carried out a training session on the "School Building Systems and Features Manual (BSFM)" and the monthly safety checks that we do as required by the Building Act and as part of our Building WOF.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 6.30pm.

Annie O'Fee for the Halcombe School Board of Trustees

Sexuality Education

In Week 7, the Year 5 - 8 students will participate in a sexuality education programme. This is part of our Health Curriculum. The programmes will be presented by Rachel Hansen from 'Good Talks'. The programmes aim to empower students to trust and love their bodies and encourage positive relationships based on respect, equality and healthy choices. Please follow this link for a detailed description of the [topics](#) each session will cover.

Rachel will also offer an evening workshop at school on **Monday 25th November at 7pm**, designed to give caregivers the knowledge and confidence to successfully guide and support their children's sexuality education. All are welcome.

The PTA has kindly offered to cover the cost of this programme, which we really appreciate.

Health Consultation

The Board of Trustees must consult regularly with the school community about the delivery of the health curriculum. We wish to determine, in broad terms, the health education needs of the students at the school. The Board aims to inform the school community about the content of the health curriculum and ascertain its wishes regarding the way in which the health curriculum should be implemented, given the views, beliefs, and customs of the members of our community. You can view our Health and PE Curriculum documents [online](#) or, for those who wish, paper copies are available to view at the office. We would welcome any comments or feedback.

Transition to School - Information Evening for Parents

We are hosting an information evening on Wednesday 13th November (week 5) at 7pm, for parents of pre-schoolers, and children who have recently begun school, on making a smooth and successful transition to school and how to prepare young children for a lifetime of learning! Everyone is welcome.

Doodle 4 Google

A huge "thank you" to everyone who voted for Tyler Jefferies and Alexander Baker in the recent Doodle 4 Google competition. Unfortunately our boys did not win, but to have 2 finalists in the national competition is a real credit to these young artists and their teacher, Dianne Simpson. Visit [Doodle 4 Google](#) for the full results.

Stationery 2014 - a "heads up"

We are looking ahead to 2014 and making plans for "back to school":

- In previous years we have run a stationery shop from our school Hall. Families have come out to school, before the start of the school year, to buy their stationery. As we expect renovation work on the Hall to begin in the summer holidays, the Hall will not be available for us to use in January.
- Rather than run a shop, we will supply student stationery in packs, delivered directly to the classroom, at the start of the school year. We are currently getting quotes for the stationery - it will be competitively-priced and of excellent quality.
- Packs will include all the books, pens, pencils etc that a student needs, plus EZ Covers for the books. EZ Cover is a great product - they are vinyl, slip-on covers that are easy to use and reasonably-priced. Students will have a choice of covers and will be able to cover their own books in class.
- We will invoice families later in Term 1, giving you extra time to save up and pay.
- Families will have the chance to "opt out" of having their stationery supplied in packs - they can collect their stationery lists from school and make their own arrangements for books and covers.

More information, including cost of the packs and a registration slip, will be in upcoming newsletters.

Tall Poppies Drama - end of year pantomime

Students from the "Tall Poppies" drama group will take part in the end-of-year pantomime "The Mystery of Aladdin's Lamp" on Monday 9th December at the PNBHS Speirs Centre, at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend! Tickets are on sale at www.tallpoppiesdrama.co.nz or phone 0800 4 POPPIES. There is also a performance on Tuesday 10th December.

Repeat Notices:

1. Agricultural Club Championship Day this Saturday 9th November. Contact Raewyn Hills for information: e-mail agclub@inspire.net.nz
2. Please return trophies for Prizegiving.

Kind regards

Sue Simpson
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Halcombe Community Development Group AGM

This will be held on Monday 11th November 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. We are very pleased that Shane Casey has been appointed as our new Council liaison person.

Feilding Police "Blue Light" Disco

Friday 15th November 2013 at the Feilding Civic Centre. Dress Up 'Halloween Theme'!

Year 1-4 5.00pm - 6.30pm; Year 5-8 7.30pm - 9.00pm. \$2 entry and you MUST have a signed permission slip with you at the venue - permission slips available at the Halcombe School Office or at the door. Parents need to fill them out. Drinks, chippies, lollies & glow stick's for sale at venue - \$1 each. Contact: Scott Mackenzie 027 241 6407 or John Samuela 027 221 8547