

Halcombe School



RD 9, FEILDING

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www.halcombe.school.nz

Term 1 Week 3

17th February 2015

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

PTA 'Meet the Teacher' BBQ

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the BBQ last week. It was a lovely evening to welcome new families and catch up with familiar faces. The teachers enjoyed meeting you all.

Huge thanks to our wonderful PTA who organised everything for us: Anne Humphrey, Amy Walters, Paula Stace and Michaela Fox. Thanks also to the students who did such a great job of helping.

Gala Raffle

We would like everyone to send along 2 grocery items for the MONSTER GALA RAFFLE. You can leave your donations in the admin area. If everyone chips in, it will be an amazing prize! Please tick your name off the list. Raffle books will come home next week.

Gala – Saturday March 21st

- Bring those groceries & bottles of wine!
- Come on all of you walkers and runners! Help advertise the Gala by delivering flyers. Call in to the Office.
- Now is the time to bring along those bottles of wine for the spinning wheel. Each spin of that wheel raises \$20 for the school.
- We need lots of sugar and butter for the bakers, cooks and sweet makers please.
- 4 more gazebos are needed
- Pot up cuttings ready for the plant stall and keep watering your veges for the produce stall.
- If you know of anyone who might donate a sack of potatoes/veges for the hangi, we'd love to hear from you.
- If possible, we'd like you to keep those larger items, which can be auctioned, at home until March, as we don't have a lot of storage space. But . . . if you're dying to get it out of the way, do bring it along!
- If you're NOT a cook but would be able to donate sugar or butter for the Annabel Langbeins of this world, please send these ingredients along to the office.
- If you ARE a cook and want to get started baking, or making jam and lemon honey, we can supply the sugar and butter! (see previous bullet!)
- If you have a gazebo we could borrow for the Gala, please let us know. We need at least 4 more.
- NO electrical goods this year, please. That means old TVs, computers, radios, fridges. They just don't sell.
- A reminder just to leave your goodies in the foyer of the hall. We have a group of wonderful parents who are doing a great job of sorting things each day.

Sexuality Education

This is a reminder about the evening workshop at school on Monday 2nd March at 7pm, which will give caregivers the knowledge and confidence to successfully guide and support their children's sexuality education. All are welcome.

Please visit the Good Talks website www.rachelhansen.org for the full range of topics that will be discussed at both the parent & student workshops.

School bank details: 01 0625 0106729 00

Thank you to the many families that are using online banking to pay school accounts. It certainly makes our lives easier! Please make sure payments are made by the due date. You can pay online for most school items or events – school charges, camp fees, stationery, bus tickets etc. An exception will be for this year's Gala (this is a PTA event and we want all the proceeds to go to them). When making a payment, use the "reference line" to tell us what the payment is for, or send an e-mail or a note to the Office with your payment details.

Reporting to Parents

If you have children in their first 3 years at school, we use an 'anniversary' reporting system, based on time at school rather than their year level. Reports and learning conferences will be held after your child has been at school for:

10 weeks, 6 months, 1 year, 18 months, 2 years, 30 months and after 3 years at school.

This means that teachers will meet with parents regularly throughout the year, not just all at one time. We have worked hard to have National Standard expectations really clear for each of these anniversaries, so no child is penalised for being assessed against a standard they haven't yet reached. If you have any questions, please just ask.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

If you would like to discuss your child's progress and levels of achievement at any stage, please contact your child's class teacher to make an appointment. We want our parents to feel informed and help us strengthen the partnership that leads to the best outcomes for our children.

Key Competencies

These are the competencies we want all our children to develop. This term, classes are focussing on children **managing themselves** and **relating well to others**. Below you can see the skills and attitudes we want our children to develop. We know you'll be helping your children with all these skills at home too.

MANAGING MYSELF	ALWAYS TRY TO DO OUR BEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Have a positive, 'can do' attitude</i>• <i>Set high standards and strive to achieve well in everything</i>• <i>set goals for improvement</i>• <i>Persevere to meet challenges</i>• <i>Know that we don't always need to ask for help</i>• <i>Be flexible and adapt to change</i>
	ORGANISE OURSELVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Look after belongings</i>• <i>Use time management skills</i>• <i>Remember what we need to remember</i>
	BE RELIED ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Carry out tasks</i>• <i>Use initiative</i>• <i>Be helpful and reliable</i>
	HAVE SELF CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Choose right from wrong and make sensible decisions</i>• <i>Consider the consequences of our actions</i>• <i>Think before we speak and act</i>
RELATING TO OTHERS	SHOW RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Use manners</i>• <i>Listen carefully to others and be considerate</i>• <i>Know when to speak and when to listen</i>• <i>Know when to compete and when to cooperate</i>• <i>Know the benefits of being in a team or working in a group</i>
	BE A GOOD FRIEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Be kind and caring</i>• <i>Recognise that people have different points of view</i>• <i>Support and encourage others</i>• <i>Appreciate the different attitudes, opinions, values and beliefs of others</i>• <i>Be open minded and tolerant of others</i>• <i>Be aware of how words and actions affect other people</i>• <i>Have the skills to make and keep friends</i>

Homework and Home Learning

Most of you will be aware of our 'No Homework' policy in the traditional sense. Teachers reviewed this again at the start of the year. Below are our expectations around Home Learning:

- Apart from reading, basic maths facts and a little spelling, no homework will be 'set'. If your child needs help with learning their basic facts or spelling, teachers will send activities home. It would be fantastic if you could help them with this.
- Children from home learning environments where reading is valued, new ideas are seen as exciting, and simple fun activities are provided, will enjoy learning.
- Please read to your child and/or listen to them read each night, and for older children, encourage them to read – every night. This should be a relaxed time for enjoying books. Show children that reading is valued in your family, by reading too, even if it's just the newspaper. There is overwhelming evidence to show that reading is the most important skill for children

to develop and leads to success in all other areas of learning. Reading to your child, with your child and alongside your child is clearly crucial to success at school. It's important for our boys that they see male role models reading too.

- Play games with your children which involve counting and maths ideas, such as 'Ludo' and cards, and talk about numbers in everyday life, for example on number plates and phone numbers. Involve your children in activities which involve measuring and have problems to solve.
- From time to time, older students may choose to complete a task at home. That is their decision.

Many thanks for your support.

Teachers at Halcombe School

Halcombe School Board of Trustees

Last night the Board met and were joined by Brian Ahern. Brian is from the New Zealand School Trustees Association and upskills Boards regarding their 'Self Review' process. Brian spoke to us about the importance of knowing and understanding what it means by 'accountability' and knowing what we are accountable for at our school. He took us through the policies we should have and made several suggestions to the Board that will help improve our performance as Board members. It is always great to have external advice and it was a very worthwhile exercise.

In other matters:

- Megan Skiffington has been confirmed as Chairperson for 2015. Congratulations, Megan!
- Sue presented End of Year student achievement data and analysis in Reading, Writing and Maths for 2014. It highlighted how well our students are doing at Halcombe and also areas for growth.
- Megan Skiffington presented a revised version to our Portfolio Responsibilities (trustee duties). We will be looking at each of the portfolios and placing actions to these. Currently the portfolios are allocated as: Health and Safety - Megan Skiffington; Property - Kevin Darling; Personnel - Tamzin Darragh; Grants and Funding – Annie O'Fee; Finance – Anne Langtry. The review and development of portfolios will be happening this term.
- We currently have a Grants and Funding application in for some new basketball and netball hoops for the back courts.
- Our School Charter has been reviewed and is now in its final draft. It will be ready for submission to the Ministry at the end of this month.
- As part of this review, a 'Values' consultation has been sent home with this newsletter. We would love your feedback, so please take a moment to consider the Values presented, add your comments and return it to the Office.
- The next Board meeting is on Monday 23rd March 2015 at 7pm in the staffroom.

Anne Langtry for the Halcombe School Board of Trustees

Flippaball

There has been a great Interhouse Flippaball Tournament over the last week at lunchtimes. Well done to all the students who signed up to play and get involved in a fun lunchtime activity. The final was won by Rimu.



Kind regards

Sue Simpson
Principal



40 metres of FUN at the Gala!

Thunder Run 'The ultimate challenge!'



HALCOMBE SCHOOL IDOL IS BACK!

Wanna be "World Famous" in Halcombe?



The Halcombe School Idol Competition will be happening again at the Gala on Saturday 21 March, and any child from Halcombe School is able to audition.

- There are 2 sections: Juniors Year 1-Year 4 & Seniors Year 5-Year 8
- After auditions, three children will be chosen from each section to sing at the Gala.
- Prizes are - \$30 for first place and \$15 for 2nd and 3rd places.
- Children – you will need to choose a song with appropriate lyrics, and have a backing track with no vocals on it. (Miss Jeynes has some, if needed)
- If you're keen – see Miss Jeynes for a form that your parents need to sign before next Tuesday, and get your music organised.
- Auditions start the week of Monday 2nd March.

GOOD LUCK!

Miss Jeynes