

# Halcombe School



RD 9, FEILDING

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**Term 2 Week 9**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

*Tena Koutou Katoa* - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

## **Reading Workshop**

There was an excellent turn-out to the Reading Workshop last Wednesday with almost 30 parents attending. Barbara Davies did an excellent job of showing parents how they can help their pre-schoolers and young 5-year-olds with their reading. It was lovely to meet new families of children who will be enrolling at Halcombe School shortly. Thanks everyone for your support and to our wonderful PTA and their team for providing the supper.

## **"Friends of the PTA"**

Our PTA meets regularly and takes on a number of roles to support Halcombe School. We also have a "Friends of the PTA" group of parents who we know we can call on for extra help. This might involve providing afternoon tea for a school event, helping with classroom tasks or collecting things from town. It has been a while since we put this group together and we know there will have been some changes to peoples' commitments, so we encourage current "Friends" to sign up again (if you are still available) or come join us for the first time! Please complete the slip below and return it to the Office. We'd love to know that we can call on you.

## **Support Staff Day**

Last Wednesday was Support Staff Day. This is the day when we officially recognise and celebrate all the wonderful work the Support Staff do in our school. To Alan Martin (our amazing cleaner and caretaker), Paula Stace, Annah Carey and Jacqui Emery (our fabulous and dedicated Teacher Aides) and Kirsten Otter (our 'one of a kind' and extra special secretary), our sincere appreciation for all that you contribute. We are so lucky to have such a superb team of Support Staff.

## **Year 4 – 8 Reports**

If there is anything in your child's report which you would like to talk about, please return the form that was enclosed by Thursday at the latest. An interview time will be sent home on Friday.

## **BOT Change of Policy re Enrolment**

From next term, new entrant children will start school on the Monday following their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. This will make enrolment procedures smoother for staff.

- If Monday is a public holiday, then children will start on Tuesday.
- If their birthday is a Monday, they can start that day, or the following week.
- Children will not be able to attend school until all paperwork has been received at the Office.

## **Board of Trustees News**

- At the recent Board meeting, Sue presented the STAR results (Supplementary Test of Achievement in Reading), and while the overall results were not as high as in previous years (85% compared with 89% in 2014) they were still well ahead of national scores. Trustees discussed the support offered to students, possible reasons for a drop in performance, and likely targeted groups for increased teacher-aid time. We have increased teacher-aid time available, which will make a difference.
- The Board received a report on Technology at Year 7/8 from Dianne Simpson and Chris Ricketts, which shows that an excellent programme is being delivered.
- The installation of heat pumps into all classrooms and hand driers into the toilets are ongoing projects which are being investigated.
- The school has received an impressive ERO report which will be published soon. We have much to be proud of. The Board would like to extend their congratulations to the staff and Sue for all their hard work in preparing for this review and their input into this report.
- Trustees are working on their portfolios for the various roles they play on the Board. We are mindful that, with Board elections happening in 2016, we will need new members. With this in mind, we would like to invite any interested potential Board members to attend our next meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 7pm with a view to being a part of the 2016 Board of Trustees. There will be time at that meeting to ask questions of current trustees. This is a rewarding and worthwhile role, so please consider coming along to find out more if you are interested.

*Tamzin Darragh for the Halcombe School Board of Trustees*

**2016 Enrolments - REMINDER**

It seems very early to be asking about 2016 enrolments, but there are several reasons for doing so. If you know of families in town who are considering Halcombe School for their children next year, please urge them to contact us as soon as possible. We are conscious that the class sizes in some rooms are larger than usual, so being able to forward-plan for next year’s staffing will make a big difference. We lose very few children at the end of the year, so bus space is limited for 2016. Bus spaces for new Feilding families will be available on a first in, first served basis.

**Chocolate fundraiser**

Reminders have been sent home and chocolate money is due by the end of next week. We do have some chocolate bars left, however, and are happy to extend this fundraiser for motivated students in Room 5 & 6 who would like to raise more money for their camp fees. Please contact the Office for details.

**Turners Sports Tournament**

Today we have 20 students taking part in the Turners Sports Tournament at North Street School in Feilding, playing netball and rugby against local schools. The weather is great and we look forward to hearing how they get on! Thanks to Mr Ricketts and Mrs Turner for managing the teams and to the many parents that have helped with transport.

**National Young Leaders 2015**

Today four senior students – Ffion Barr, Sophie Langtry, Jorja Henderson & Madison Tai – are representing Halcombe School at the National Young Leaders Day in Palmerston North. This is a great event with excellent speakers that encourage young people to take on life’s challenges and be motivated to succeed. We look forward to their reports on the conference. Thanks to Miss Simpson for her involvement.

**Ukulele/Guitar lessons**

A number of students have signed up for lessons and these will begin tomorrow Wednesday at 3.10pm in the school library. If you are interested in lessons or need more information, please phone Trish Smart directly on 323 8575. Bus students – make sure you have informed Mrs Otter of your plans.

**Assembly**

This week’s assembly will be hosted by Room 1 and begins at 2.30pm. All welcome!

Kind regards

Sue Simpson  
Principal

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Baby sitter required**

We would like to find someone in Halcombe/Mount Biggs area to look after our 3 boys, ages 9, 7 and 4 for evening babysitting on weekends when needed. Anyone interested please call Julie 328 8808 or 027 544 0131.

**School holiday care available**

School holidays are nearly here again. Are you stuck for care for your child. I have limited spaces available in private home care. Cheaper rates than after-school care providers. Times negotiable; \$30 daily/casual fee or \$120 for full week. If interested, please call or text Gill Atkinson (registered early childhood teacher) 0274 051 675 to reserve your place.

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**A FRIEND OF THE PTA**

We encourage current “Friends” to sign up again (if you are still available) or come join us for the first time!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

✓ Yes! I want to be a “Friend of the PTA” and can dedicate some time to Halcombe School.

Please return this slip to the Office. Your support is appreciated!