

Kia Ora Tatou!

This term has been long and full. As we look back over the last 11 weeks, we can take a great deal of pride in the amount of learning done and the opportunities we have given to our students. Well done everyone!

Last week I was asked (along with other principals from every school), to fill in a Ministry of Education survey (fairly dull things, they are). What really piqued my interest and my concern, was that the outcome of this survey was to be sent to the current Minister of Education, Erica Stanford. It seems that Mrs Stanford has made it her job to tell teachers in every school how they will teach Literacy and Numeracy, what tools and resources they will use, and what content is to be taught to children across New Zealand.

After 35 years as a teacher and leader this really concerns me. We have never before had any Minister of Education tell teachers what they will teach in every classroom. On the face of it it might make sense - theoretically, it provides consistency, and means that every child gets the same education. However, I am very concerned: Halcombe School students do very well academically. Overwhelmingly, there are great Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for our pupils, and they progress very well (just see our Achievement Results!) We have excellent teachers and a strong local curriculum with high expectations.

As a parent I would also be very concerned that my child would be held back, because today we are working from this page, and tomorrow the next, REGARDLESS of whether my child needed it or not. This kind of approach being promoted by this Minister is not needed at Halcombe School, or in any other successful schools. It is a practice in mediocrity, and I would hate to see schools like ours being told what to do, when we are doing so much better! I am sure you feel the same way. Watch this space...

We hope all our students have a fantastic holiday. Enjoy your family, and take care of each other!  
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

## **Staff News**

It is with sadness that we announce to our community that Amy Baldacchino has resigned from her teaching position in Room 6. In her short time here Amy brought many good things to the kids in her class, and to us as a school. We have all appreciated her time and efforts, both in the classroom and out of it. We wish her all the best for the future. We are currently working on plans for the on-going learning and development of Room 6 students for the rest of the year.

## **Board of Trustees News**

The first term is almost over and what a busy one it has been! The Board of Trustees acknowledges and thanks the staff for their efforts during the term.

- The Board officially approved 'The Gap' building project.
- Alastair has presented the achievement data to the Board, of all students in reading, writing and maths. As always Halcombe students are doing very well.
- The Board discussed, approved and updated the smoking and vaping policy.

## **Vaping and Smoking - School Trips**

After a discussion at both staff and Board level, the decision has been made to make all school trips completely vape and smoke free. This means parents who offer to help with trips or camps, will not be able to vape or smoke at any time.

## **Student News**

Richie spent time over Easter reading and creating. He made this amazing racing car. Very clever Richie!

## **End of Term**

- School finishes at 3pm this Friday 12 April.
- The first day back after the holidays is Monday 29 April.



## **Athletics Sports**

Congratulations to our 2024 athletics champions:

- Eric Judd Cup - Girls 400m - Maggie
- Ian Fergusson Cup - Boys 400m - Josh
- Parsons Trophy - Girls Athletics Champ - Maggie
- Humphrey Cup - Boys Athletics Champ - Harry
- Junior House Relay - Rimu
- Senior House Relay - Rimu

The house points have been collated for this event too:

1st: Totara (178 points), 2nd: Rimu (177 points), 3rd: Kauri (151 points), 4th: Matai (133 points).

## **Wheels Day - FRIDAY!**

We are looking forward to a WHEELIE awesome day on Friday. Please see the advertisement for more details. Wheels can be taken to the back netball court before school (or the hall if it's wet).

## **Senior Exercise Books**

One of the best ways of keeping up to date with how your child is getting on at school, is by having a good look at their exercise books. The students in Rooms 5-8 will be bringing their books home on Friday, for you to read through over the holidays. Each book contains a comment box, where we'd like you to make a positive comment to your child. Thanks in advance.

## **Term 2 Information:**

- The calendar is filling up for next term already. Please keep up to date with what's on our calendar, which can be accessed through our school website. The calendar is updated regularly.
- It's that time of year again.... time to get the pie warmers out! These will be operational from the beginning of Term 2.
- Students will bring their hats home on Friday. Hats do not need to be worn next term.
- Assemblies will be back! These are held every Friday afternoon, and start at 2.30pm sharp. Classes take turns to host the assembly, starting with Room 8 in Week 1. Parents and whānau are welcome to attend.

## **Interschool Athletics**

Yesterday we had a team of 48 students attend the Feilding Interschool Athletics Champs. It was awesome to see our crew cheering each other on, celebrating some great wins and enjoying the competition with other schools. We are very proud of our team. We had a number of standout performances, and the students listed below finished in the top three in their events. A special congratulations to Josh, Taylor and Harry for breaking records - brilliant!

- Junior Boys: Lincoln - 2nd in high jump and 100m, Luke - 2nd in 800m.
- Middle Girls: Becky - 2nd in 800m.
- Middle Boys: Josh - 1st in long jump and 800m (new records in both), Finn - 2nd = in 100m, Rylan - 2nd in 800m.
- Senior Girls: Taylor - 1st in high jump (new record) and 3rd in 800m, Maisie - 3rd = in high jump, Katie - 3rd = in high jump, Maggie - 2nd in long jump and 800m.
- Senior Boys: Harry - 1st in 800m (new record), Sean - 1st in discus, Tom - 3rd in shot put.



# **WHEELS DAY**

**Friday 12 April  
LAST DAY OF TERM**

**Bring your skateboards, ripsticks,  
scooters, drift trikes, hoverboards,  
skates or rollerblades!**

**No bikes please.**

**We recommend wearing a helmet.**



**Wheels  
Day!  
Yahoo!**

**Ka mau  
te wehi!  
Awesome!**

