

Kia Ora Tatou,

What a term ahead it's going to be! Last term was a rip-roaring romp, full of many different events and activities. This term proves to be somewhat calmer, still with lots of great activities and learning, but without the timetable being so crammed with events that influence our normal operation. We are all thankful for that.

Our main topic of learning throughout the school (nice to once again be doing a whole-school focus), is a Technology-based unit around researching, designing and constructing items for consumers to buy. The culmination of this is the whole-school Market Day later in the term. It's going to teach our pupils a lot about the technological process, but also about resources, spending, consumerism, marketing and better understanding about finances. I expect this will create lots of good discussions around your dinner table.

The start of winter sports is something looked forward to by the kids, and we thank the parents who once again have offered to coach and support the teams. Halcombe School is known for its competitive nature, but this is always tempered by a supportive and very positive community spirit too. Enjoy the frosty mornings...

Enjoy the settled weather while it lasts,
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Staff News

We are very fortunate to have the Dynamic Duo of Sue Simpson and Jan Casey once again coming to our rescue, and teaching our Room 6 pupils, while we wait for our new teacher to begin in Week 5. Sue, Jan - thank you for stepping up to teach this lovely class. We know you'll all enjoy the month ahead.

Nicky Baker will join us soon enough to take up the full-time reins in Room 6, and we are really looking forward to having a settled, focussed and enjoyable time for these students.

Athletics

Apologies to Harmony - her name was left off the list of Top 3 placings for interschool athletics at the end of last term. Harmony placed third in the junior girls high jump. Great job Harmony!

Two Important Events - Heads Up!

- Over the next few weeks, our students will be preparing for the Halcombe School Market Day! The kids will be making products to sell, and they are very excited about this already. You'll be hearing a lot more about what's happening, and some of you will be 'volunteering' to come along and help create the products. The Market Day is being held on Wednesday 12 June, from 6-7pm. All students are expected to attend.
- We are planning a special celebration to mark Matariki this year. We will be asking students and whānau to be at school at 7am on Thursday 27 June. School will finish at 12.30pm.

Sports - Term 2

We have a very busy term ahead with the start of winter sport. We have two Y7-8 hockey teams, six Y3-8 netball teams and one Y7-8 table tennis team. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help coach and manage our teams. We really appreciate your support. Please keep a close eye on KIT Books for team updates and the weekly draw. Best wishes to all our teams, and those involved in other sports, for a successful season.

- Y7-8 hockey practices - Wednesdays, starting tomorrow, 3.20-4.20pm
- Y3-6 netball - Wednesday, starting tomorrow, 3.30-4.30pm
- Y7-8 netball - Thursdays, starting this week, 3.30-4.30pm (A and B only)

Pie Warmers

The WORLD FAMOUS pie warmers are back! We have three pie warmers that are used to heat up food - very popular on cold days!

- lunches need to be wrapped securely in tinfoil, or put in small tin foil trays.
- lunches need to be **CLEARLY** named with a vivid marker and with a room number.
- if you're making lunches for the freezer, name them before putting them in - vivid doesn't work on cold tinfoil.
- children put their lunches in the pie warmers when they arrive at school (after they have put their bags away).

Senior Exercise Books

Thank you parents! The staff have really enjoyed reading through your positive comments and feedback in your child's books. Hopefully you saw this as an excellent opportunity to keep your finger on the pulse of what your child/ren are working on at school. Books will go home again at the end of this term.

Term 2 Calendar

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.

Assemblies

Now that Term 2 has arrived, we return to the weekly Friday assemblies. These are held every Friday afternoon, and start at 2.30pm sharp. Classes take turns to host the assembly, starting with Room 8 this week. Parents and whānau are welcome to attend. Our carpark is usually really full on Friday afternoons, so please be mindful of where you're parking if you don't get one in the carpark. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Club

The latest catalogues are out now. You have the option of ordering online directly from Scholastic via their LOOP website or pay cash at the office. See the catalogue for order forms and full details. Orders close 17th May.

Senior Technology

Our Year 7-8 students are very excited about this annual highlight. They will be participating in a series of technology based activities over the next twenty Friday mornings! They will be participating in woodwork, cooking, knitting, clay and robotics. A reminder that the \$55 Tech fee is due this Friday 3 May.

Taonga Puoro Performance

Next Thursday 9 May at 1.30pm, our students and staff will be treated to a special performance of Taonga Puoro (Māori musical instruments). All whānau are invited to attend. Here is what we're being treated to:

Power to the Puoro Show

This is an interactive experience where students connect through the power of Taonga Puoro and our natural environment relevant to Aotearoa. Grammy-award winner Jerome Kavanagh (Puoro Jerome) shares his whānau's collection of Taonga Puoro mixed with modern sound technology to bring together the ancient and the new. Share in the sounds and stories of these ancient instruments gifted by our ancestors from these lands.

Large Desk

Mr Schaw's old desk is seeking a new home. It is a very large desk, that comes with shelves. Let us know if you're interested.