

# Halcombe School



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Term 4 Week 3

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

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

Kia Ora Tatou,

As a nation we are going through some interesting times in order to respond to COVID. The overused phrase is that this virus is 'tricky'. Well, tricky it is, and tricky are the decisions we are making as a country and individually. Each day it seems that we have a new guideline to help us navigate how we can help protect our people. This is sometimes hard to keep up with, but I for one am glad that we have authorities that are working hard to keep us safe. All this is natural and necessary as we, as a country, all respond together to do the right thing.

We all know about the immunisation roll-out, but we have recently had additional guidance to implement at school too.

- 12yr olds needing to wear masks on school buses
- Limitations on numbers for Prize Giving
- Strong advice for school camps

All this is about protecting everyone and ensuring we are safe.

This generation of people (you and me) are some of the most privileged to have lived. Previous generations have been asked to do incredibly hard things - wars, pandemics, financial collapses, great unemployment. Each generation is asked to do something that is about putting ourselves aside and thinking of the greater good. The way we are responding to the COVID rules says a lot about us and our generation.

I want to say to all our Halcombe Community that we at school greatly appreciate your support and following of the rules at school. When we get the advice we will always try to make sure that our kids are still given every opportunity to continue to thrive. As adults we are all asked and encouraged to play our part. We all need to think about the balance between individual rights and the greater good of keeping people safe. Whatever we need to do, and can do, we should do.

Have a great week.

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

### Board of Trustees Meeting News

News from the Board meeting held Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October:

- A robust discussion was had about the Government Covid 19 vaccination regulations and how they are going to impact the wider school community.
- Discussion was had about the fantastic student achievement at pet day, cross country and the speech competition. All these events were held in the first two weeks of Term 4 so a mighty effort! The Board recognised and thanked the staff and parent for their support in being able to still allow these event to go ahead under level 2.
- The staff were thanked for her work ensuring a touch rugby competition could still go ahead for Halcombe School pupils.
- A list of property projects have been put forward to the Ministry of Education for approval. These projects are being paid for by the extra SIP funding schools received from the Government and needs to be spent by June 2022. With time motoring on, discussion was had about how to improve efficiencies, especially with the project management, to ensure the projects are completed by the cut off.
- Work is currently underway on drafting the schools 2022 budget.

### COVID-19 Immunisation Implications: 2022

At the last Board of Trustees meeting we discussed the implications of the mandatory immunisation for adults who may work in close contact with pupils after January 1st 2022. While this is still an evolving area **we do know that any parent volunteers (Team Coaches, Camp Parents, School Trip volunteers) will need to be fully immunised next year.** If not then we may not be able to have you coaching, on camp or transporting. This will be strange and possibly detrimental to the opportunities we give our pupils.

However, the talk about parents being banned from school grounds or not being able to attend parent interviews is crystal-ball gazing. These activities will have some guidance on them at some point, but right now we do not know for sure. We want all our community to know that we will work within any rules laid down, but we will work hard to ensure that our school operates as normally as possible to allow our close partnership with parents to endure.

To immunise, or not to immunise is an individual's choice. What individuals need to do is think about the implications of that choice for the future.

### Sun Safety

As well as the compulsory wearing of hats at this time of the year, sunblock is provided to all classes. Younger students are given regular reminders to protect themselves from the sun. Students in Room 5-8 are responsible for their own sun safety.

### School Photos

School photos will be taken tomorrow, Wednesday 3rd November. This year you can view and purchase photos online, all information about ordering was in last week's newsletter. Sibling photo requests can be collected from the office BEFORE photo day.

### Cross Country

We are so proud of all the kids for their outstanding effort at our cross country last week. It's not easy running up and down those steep hills, and through the mud patch and the bog. The kids smashed it though, and many of them made it look easy! We had five records broken - an awesome result. Well done to Anika, Maggie L, Esther H, Millie and Jordan. Jordan's time for 2.7km was 10.37 - not too bad at all. Thank you to Neil for letting us use his farm, Louise for taking the photos, Stu for being the quad bike master, the Feilding Police for helping us cross the road, and all the parents who gave us a hand to pack up.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Year 0-1 girls	Lincoln	Jono	Miles	Miller	Caden
Year 0-1 boys	Lydia	Georgie	Emilelia	Heidi	Madelyn
Year 2-3 girls	Anika	Phoebe Linklater	Becky	Sian	Zoe W
Year 2-3 boys	Joshua	Hunter	Rylan	Finn	Louis
Year 4-5 girls	Maggie	Georgia	Lucy C	Taylor	Indy
Year 4-5 boys	Harry D	Tom H	Lee	Spencer	Lachlan
Year 6-7 girls	Esther	Sophie	Stevie	Paige	Layla
Year 6-7 boys	Ben C	Carter	William	Campbell	Eddie
Year 8 girls	Millie	Sarah	Ruby	Emily	Lily
Year 8 boys	Jordan	Lachie	Max	Austin	Augus

### Touch

A copy of the draw and information about wearing masks went into KIT Books last week. Please ensure you have read this information.

### Camps

It is great that we still have camps going ahead, and we are grateful to our volunteer parents and the teachers leading these events. We are one of the few schools operating this, and doing so safely. All the students are excited and really looking forward to these camps and the challenges they pose. Camps are a great time to be with friends, adults and learn more about our great outdoors! Good luck to all pupils and adults going away. We wish you all well and can't wait to hear about your ADVENTURE!

### Scholastic Book Club

The latest catalogues are out now. You have the option of ordering online directly from Scholastic via their new LOOP website. Your books are delivered to the classroom as usual. You can still send in cash. See the catalogue for the order forms and full details. Orders close Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### Young Achievers

Congratulations to Jayda, Lily, Lachie, Seianna and Jordan - our 2021 Young Achievers! These students were selected because of their awesomeness in the following categories:

#### **JAYDA - INSPIRATIONAL LEADER**

Jayda is a leader and role model of excellent character. Her ability to lead and inspire others is something that comes naturally to Jayda. She gets involved in all aspects of school life, and always leads by example. Jayda is mature, has an excellent attitude and maintains high standards in all areas. Her fun-loving, friendly personality means she relates well to people of all ages, and is respected by everyone at our school.

#### **JORDAN - 110% EFFORT**

Jordan is completely focused on achieving excellent results in all areas. He maintains very high standards, and continually looks for ways to improve. Jordan has many interests, and shows passion and enthusiasm for everything he does. His outgoing personality, and fantastic sense of humour make Jordan an outstanding role model.

#### **SEIANNA COOPER - CULTURAL CHAMPION**

Seianna is caring and compassionate, embracing all in her school community. She is gentle and considered in her actions and in the words she uses when interacting with others. Seianna is intuitive to, and understanding of, the differences that make us all unique. Seianna is a senior member of our school kapa haka rōpū, leading by example and with mana.

#### **LILY - BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATE**

Lily has a passion for gymnastics, and has been a member of the Manawatu Gymnastics Club for seven years. She spends an immense amount of time training - more than 16 hours per week. She competes in competitions all around the country, and is a role model for younger gymnasts. Lily also uses her skills and knowledge to support her peers in gymnastics lessons at school.

#### **LACHIE HAWKER - KAITIAKI (AGRI YOUTH)**

Lachie is passionate about all aspects of farming, and has an extensive knowledge of farm life. He has excellent practical skills, and regularly helps out on the family farm, with everything from drafting to shearing to stockwork. He has raised many pet lambs, feeds 100 calves each morning, and always has a story to tell about his latest farming adventures!