

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

Halcombe School is one of those very special schools, where community and educators come together and work very well to support all our learners and see them provided with many chances to experience and succeed. I was very pleased to present a summary Achievement Report to the Board of Trustees for the end of 2021 data for Reading, Maths and Writing. I am very happy to share with you the following:

- Reading: 93% of our pupils are achieving at, or above expectation
- Writing: 80% of our students are achieving at, or above expectation
- Maths: 95% of our pupils are achieving at, or above expectation

Any principal would be very pleased with these results. Within this data, we have some learning needs, and we cater for them with our learning support programme of course.

Apart from the COVID carry on, there have been some comments made by politicians about a lack of standards in our schools, or a slipping of standards. This concerns me, as this is not the case in our school, and hasn't been for a long time. We do not need a return to pseudo National Standards - that would be a huge distraction.

A lot of the success of Halcombe is about the academic focus we have, BUT it is also about making sure all our pupils are well-rounded, that they know how to learn, know what they are good at, and experience a broad learning programme. EOTC is important. Sport and physical development is important. Social development is important. We all need a sense of challenge, rich experiences, and achievement **to thrive**.

So, what am I saying? Don't let people who are out for a vote tell you that standards are slipping in schools. As a parent, get involved in the life of our school, and provide help to run the extras - you will love it and the kids will too. Halcombe School will continue to provide challenging and supportive learning. We will continue to strive for broad experiences to be offered. We will continue to provide physical and social development opportunities. All this together, in one package, ensures our students achieve highly.

Have a great week,
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Three Way Conferences Cancellation

Thank you so much for your support around the cancellation of our 3WCs. This was a difficult decision to make, and as you know, we have tried very hard to maintain normalcy in these COVID times. We don't like cancelling things! However, in the end, we felt the safety of our school community and our teachers is the most important thing, and that cancelling was required.

All is not lost however! Today, your child has their 3WC information in their KIT Books. This was what was going to be shared with you during your conference. Your child should be able to talk through the information, share their goals, and answer any questions you might have. Later this term, when things have settled down, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher if there are things you'd like to discuss.

End Of Swimming Season

We have enjoyed six weeks of solid daily swimming this term. The fine weather and heated pool have meant our students have enjoyed a fantastic swimming season. Friday will be our final day of swimming lessons this year, so students won't have to bring their togs next week.

The pool will be closed to the community after this too, so please ensure keys are returned to school. From here, our focus in PE shifts to athletics...

Manawatū Representative Honours

Congratulations to Isaac (U12) and Finn (U13), who have been selected to represent Manawatū in cricket. Well done boys - and good luck for your games!

Y6-8 Swimming Sports - Tomorrow!

We are very much looking forward to this event - the forecast looks awesome! The students have been training hard to prepare for the events they have entered. Some key reminders:

- Students have been reminded, but will need togs, two towels, sunhat, food and drink and a warm sweatshirt. A reminder that these students are responsible for their own sun safety.
- See last week's newsletter for the list of parents/whānau who are attending. If you feel unwell, please stay home.
- Enter through the Grey Street gate, and show your vax pass to MAC staff on arrival.
- Sit on the grass area (bring your own seats), well back from the concrete path (don't sit on the bench seats).
- You will not be able to access the toilet facilities at the MAC.
- You are strongly encouraged to wear your mask.
- All students will travel to town, and back to school afterwards, by bus.
- The first race, the Barnett Cup, will be held at 12.15pm.

Year 4-5 Swimming Sports and Y1-3 Swimming Showcase

Both these events are being held this Friday. Please check KIT Books for details.

Property Matters

Some of you may have noticed the work going on outside Room 1. This is part of the overall development of the school facilities. Room 1 is having access to the outside enhanced: a sliding door, a large deck, and a roof over the top, with sides for cooler or windy days. The builders have been going great-guns in getting this work done. The next stage of property work will be the edging alongside the front gardens.

Teachers Only Day

The Board has approved a TOD for Friday 1st April. School will be closed on this day.

Our staff enjoyed a 'team challenge' on Friday afternoon - the Tourists and the Dominoes were ready for anything!

