

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

Kia Ora Tatou,

I was getting my hair cut last week, and the barber was busy telling me how easy teachers have it (of course we do, why else am I doing it?! More on that another time...), but his main beef seemed to be the fact that schools have holidays and he/his partner had to take time off work to look after their child, or (worse) he had to put them in a holiday programme. This is something that every family has to deal with and is part and parcel of being a parent. Holidays are times for kids to refresh and rest - it's basic common-sense. The holidays are also time for teachers to do the same as well as prepare for the coming term (yes - they do plenty of work in this non-contact time!)

When I thought about it, I thought that this parent has his concept of school all wrong. School is here to educate kids, to help prepare them for their life ahead, and to develop their social, emotional and physical needs too. School should never be seen as a child-care facility! Schools are never that.

Here at Halcombe we take the education of each child very seriously indeed. We have a sense of urgency to see each child progress in all areas of learning. The partnership we have with whānau is important too - to support the Three-Rs, but also to do the majority of the coaching for morals, and life-skills. The way this works at Halcombe is extremely good - we have great tamariki, great whānau, and community, who all know and respect their roles. Long may that remain in action!

Having said all that, the idea of after-school care is still being investigated as an option for our families. The issue the provider is working through at the moment is about finding the right person to run it. We'll keep you posted when they come back to us.

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

### **PTA Meeting**

We have a PTA meeting tomorrow at 7pm. All welcome.

### **Enviro Club**

Our team of student volunteers are developing raised gardens and helping to maintain our existing gardens. A recent job was to get the top soil ready to place in the planter boxes. Well done kids and Mr Martin!

### **BOT Election**

Nominations are open for parent representatives. The Board requires 5 trustees. To date, nominations have been received for eight people: Nathan Barrack, Aaron Meurk, Luke Shannon, Kristy Staples, Simon Wishnowsky, Rachel Lane, Rochelle Chase and Scott Linklater. Nominations close tomorrow Wednesday 3 August 2022 at noon. More information at [halcombe.school.nz/school-board-elections-22.html](http://halcombe.school.nz/school-board-elections-22.html)

### **3WC**

Three-Way Conferences are a way of having 1:1 time with your child's teacher in a formal way. If you missed this week's conferences, don't worry - you can make a time to meet with teachers in the future at any time. Normally we would have two sets of conferences a year - compulsory ones at the beginning and 'as-you-need-them' ones at this time.



### Mask Wearing In School:

You all know that all schools have been asked by the Ministry of Education and Health to enforce mask wearing by Yr4-8 students, and adults in school. This is due to the need to protect people, to help with absenteeism and to calm COVID-anxiety. As a Board and school we have tried really hard to find a middle road to this guidance, as we have the whole way through COVID.

In the meantime, until our community is adversely affected by any new wave of COVID, we have asked all adults coming into school to wear a mask. This models good habits to our children and also protects them and staff against bugs that may be lurking, but are unknown.

At our 3WConferences, at assembly, coming into classes or to the office we ask that all adults wear a mask for these short times. We know that some have exemptions from mask wearing. However, for our children, for our staff we ask that you do. We have spare ones for you to wear if you need them.

### Awesome Writing: Xavier, Year 3

Well done Xavier, we think your writing is pretty cool! What a wonderful imagination you have!

Once upon a time, there was a little boy and his mother. They were very poor, so they had to live on what they could find in the forest they lived in. One day, the boy's mother told him to get some water from the river. It was a long and dangerous journey to the river, so he packed as much as he could for the trip. He was walking through the forest when he saw an ancient hall. He went to see what was in it, and he saw an amazing sight. The boy saw a powerful crystal that gives everyone who holds it magical powers. He picked it up and a stream of light shot up. He put the crystal in his pocket and continued his journey to the river. He was surprised when he saw water rising up into the air and shoot into his basket! He carried the basket home for dinner. At home, a lot of strange things happened to him. He was cooking dinner when suddenly, lasers shot out of his eye and cooked the food for him.... TO BE CONTINUED!

### Year 1-6 Hockey

What a great start our Y1-6 hockey players had to their season last night! 57 kids. Eight teams. Balls and sticks flying. Awesome sideline support. First game done! Thanks to our coaches and Feilding Junior Hockey for their fantastic organisation. And to the Green Team, who had a bye last night, we know you'll be excited to play your first game next Monday. Good luck to everyone for the rest of the season.

Don't our Year 1-2 hockey players look awesome? These students definitely enjoyed their first ever game, playing for the mighty Halcombe School!

