

Kia Ora Tatou!

Well, what a week, hey?! Camps were organised, camps came back, other camps on site went ahead (and had a great time). We tried to organise for the senior camps to go ahead in different venues, BUT the cyclone and the aftermath are terrible, and we have succumbed to the inevitable.

Seeing the images of the devastation in Hawkes Bay, Gisborne, Wairoa, Northland, Coromandel, Auckland, as well as Wairarapa and in our own backyards in Pohangina Valley, we can feel so overwhelmed. That's when the Halcombe community, and other rural ones like it, find the strength to help others in need. In the past our own community has been the benefactor of help in disasters, now it is our turn to step up too.

It's great that the Halcombe Community Group have organised for future containers to meet need, and it's great that the community are beginning to 'Bake for the Bay', to gather food and notes of encouragement to go out in the future too.

As a school we have our up-coming Swimathon. This is to raise funds for school, and to have some fun together, but we want to turn our support to those affected by the flooding, and offer the proceeds from the Swimathon to those in need. We are particularly thinking of another rural school community who may greatly appreciate our help in a practical way. In our networks we have found Tinui School, in the Wairarapa, who are a two-teacher school, not far from where we take our bi-annual camp to Castlepoint. Their school has had floodwaters through it and is in need of support. The Ministry may dry out the buildings, but doesn't fund the resources and equipment that are used daily, so we want to support that.

In the meantime, we encourage all of us to think about how we might be able to contribute to these, and the national programmes of support.

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

### Three-Way Conferences

On 6th, 7th and 8th March (Week 6), we have our annual Three-Way Conferences. This is where all parents and students come along to meet with the teacher. Conferences are student-led, with teacher support. **School will finish at 12.30pm on March 6th, and buses will run at this time.** If you're unable to pick up your child early, please contact us. This is an important chance for information to be shared, and your attendance is compulsory.

This year we will use the online booking system for you to find the best time to meet with your child's teacher. Bookings for parents will **OPEN TOMORROW**, Wednesday 22nd.

To book go to [www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz). Click 'Make A Booking', and enter the **event code: xxhks**

You can then enter your details and select the teachers and time. An email will be sent to you to remind you of the details. If you have any trouble, you can ring or come in and we can make the booking for you. Spaces will fill up fast, so we urge you to make your booking as soon as possible.

### Halcombe School Swimathon - RAISING MONEY FOR TINUI SCHOOL

Like you, we have watched the news coverage of how Cyclone Gabrielle has destroyed communities and lives. And like many people, we want to help! The community of Tinui (halfway between Masterton and Castlepoint), was badly flooded last week. Despite this, the area has received little coverage by the media, who have been focused on the Hawkes Bay and Tairāwhiti regions. We know that the schools who have been badly hit in these areas have received significant help already, and will continue to do so. We want to make sure Tinui gets the support they need too. Our senior students have some knowledge of Tinui, as they travel through this area on their bi-annual camp to Castlepoint. We have been in touch with the staff at Tinui School, and they are very grateful for any help we might be able to provide. So here is our plan:

- We have redirected our ideas for the Swimathon/Gala event we had planned. The gala part of this is now cancelled.
- We will be having a Swimathon, on Friday 3 March - that's next week! We are aiming to 'swim' to Tinui and back. 330 kilometres! During our last Swimathon in 2021, we managed to swim to Kinloch (near Taupō), which was a 260km effort. We'll need to do better this time!

- We are asking our students to collect sponsors to raise money for Tinui School. We know many of you will have already donated to the various groups supporting the cyclone recovery efforts, and there is no pressure to contribute financially here.
- We have exciting plans for how we can use this money to bring some joy to the 50 students who attend Tinui School. Our students are also going to be writing letters and messages of support.
- When the staff and students at Tinui School are ready, we'll send a group of students to their place, to deliver some goodies.
- Today, sponsorship forms are being sent home with each student. When it has been filled in, please return it to the school office. These are due back by next Wednesday 1 March. Don't send any money yet, we'll collect this later.
- We are looking for some parent volunteers to come along next Friday and help us count laps. This is a very serious business! You'll be rostered on for an hour or so at a time. We also want to ensure we take advantage of our lunch hour, and want to have people swimming throughout this time. This is PARENT HOUR. If you are happy to count laps, or come along and smash out some lengths between 12.30-1.30pm, please get in contact.
- Let's go Team Halcombe!

### Manawatū Tough Kids

A reminder that forms and payment for the Tough Kids event is due tomorrow. We have over 30 forms where people have ticked the 'I will pay online' box, and payment has not yet been received.

### Triathlon

We are all go for the Halcombe School Triathlon being held next Wednesday 1st March. We are expecting all students to participate this year - it is suitable for all ages and skill level (please let us know if your child doesn't have a bike - we can help). We have designed this event to be all about fun, and giving it a go. This is a fantastic spectator sport too, so we hope to see lots of parents there, cheering on the kids! Please see the attached advertisement for more information, or come and see Di if you have any questions.

### Thank You!

Thank you to Brendan and Julie McKay from AES Engineering for helping us to take the metal poles off one of our trampolines. The net has been removed from one of the tramps, and will be used by the older students. The younger kids will continue to use the tramp with the net. Unfortunately someone stabbed holes through one of the mats recently, so that has been taken away for repairs.

### ERO Review Update:

You may remember that the Education Review Office was here mid-2022. After a lot of back and forth, and after a lot of in-depth discussions and evidence, ERO has decided to confirm what you already knew - we are a highly effective and great school! Te Ara Huarau is the new evaluation approach that the Education Review Office (ERO) uses in all schools. This is an evaluation where ERO and our school work together over time rather than one-off reviews that happened previously. ERO maintains a regular review programme to evaluate and report on the education and care of young people in the schools. **Our school worked alongside ERO to write our Profile Report.** This is the beginning of several reports that will occur over the next three years, as we keep in touch with ERO to maintain the effectiveness of the school. Future reporting will show our progress and achievement towards meeting the goals we have set. Public reports like the Profile Report are published on [ERO's website](#). A Board Assurance Report that shows how we are meeting regulatory and legislative requirements has also been published. That's the long way of saying we are a very effective school, the pupils get a great deal of opportunities and they progress well here. Please feel free to read the ERO report on their website. It's only two short pages long. Enjoy!

### Swimming Sports Information

Look out for more detail about these events in next week's newsletter:

- Senior Swimming Sports (Rooms 5-8) - Wednesday 8 March - Makino Pool: 12.15-2.30pm
- Junior Swimming Showcase (Rooms 1-4) - Friday 10 March - Halcombe School: 1.30-3pm

### Golf

Good luck to our golf teams who have their first session at the Feilding Golf Club this afternoon. Let us know if anyone scores a hole in one!



Room 1's long-awaited verandah has been completed. Already the deck is taking on a new use, with Room 1 children being able to have an outside learning flow. You can see the excitement on Mrs Casey's face!

# Halcombe School Triathlon

## 1 March 2023

10.30-12.30pm

run - bike - swim

students must bring:

togs & towel  
running shoes  
bike & helmet

(make sure the tyres are pumped up)



THIS EVENT IS ABOUT GIVING IT A GO AND HAVING FUN!

# WHĀNAU WELCOME

Everyone is going to join in this event - yahoo! If you don't have a bike, please let us know so we can get something organised.

Thanks to the PTA,  
everyone will receive  
an iceblock as they  
finish the event!

GROUP	RUN DISTANCE	BIKE DISTANCE	SWIM DISTANCE
YEAR 1 & 2	2 laps of field	3 laps of field	50m (4 lengths)
YEAR 3 & 4	3 laps of field	4 laps of field	50m (4 lengths)
YEAR 5 & 6	4 laps of field	5 laps of field	100m (8 lengths)
Year 7 & 8	5 laps of field	6 laps of field	100m (8 lengths)

If students cannot swim the distance, they can walk, run or use a flutterboard. Any stroke is acceptable.