

Kia Ora Tatou!

When I arrived here two years ago, I was told stories of the generosity and the strength of connections we have here. This was fully seen in action on Friday, when the Swimathon for Flood Relief was held. I was at a course in Auckland, but in seeing the photos and hearing the stories during the day, my heart was really here. Anyone hearing the story of our action, our commitment, and involvement will probably not believe the outcome - we swam the equivalent of going to Tinui and then some, AND we raised over \$9000! To all those involved, who counted, and came to cheer, for the organisers and the staff who made it happen - **THANK YOU**. You make Halcombe School the best place to be!

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

Three-Way Conferences

These began yesterday, and are one of the most important ways we communicate clearly to you about your child's progress. As well as sending exercise books home, and having end-of-year reports, these are a special way we communicate your child's progress at school this year. We expect every family to come and spend fifteen minutes with their child, who will explain what they are proud of, and what they are working on, and their teacher, who will be there to talk about how the students are achieving and what you can do to help at home. You also have input, (for these are three-way conferences), to tell us more about your child, and give teachers more insight into your child. It is a time when you can explain your expectations too. Halcombe School has a proud tradition of keeping our parents in the loop. These 3WC's will help establish good relationships, and ways forward which will be tracked during the year. Come with expectation, with trust, and with ideas to make this time as valuable as possible.

Possible Teacher Strike Action - Heads Up

It is possible that teachers across NZ may vote to strike in support of their pay and school resourcing claims. We will hear of the outcome of teachers voting after school this Wednesday and we will keep you up to date as soon as possible on the effect on Halcombe School. Strike action might be called for NEXT Thursday, 16th March, but this is yet to be confirmed.

Swimathon

WOWSERS! Friday was a special day for us. You can't beat the vibe, feel-good factor, determination and drive towards smashing out a shared goal. Team Halcombe came together to achieve something remarkable: 330kms, 26,400 laps and more than \$9,000 raised. We know Tinui School will be VERY impressed. A huge thank you to the lap counters, parent swimmers, people who came along to watch, sponsors, Kirsten and Maria who ran the show like pros, and of course the kids! Well done everyone.

Now it's time to finish rounding up the sponsorship money, and send it to school. **This is due tomorrow.**

Senior Swimming Sports - TOMORROW

The Senior Swimming Sports will be held at the Makino Pool tomorrow, Wednesday 8 March, starting with the Barnett Cup at 12.10pm and finishing by 2.40pm.

- These sports are for children in Rooms 5 - 8 (a few Year 4 students in Room 4 will join us).
- Transport will be by bus to and from the pool, leaving school at 11.35am. There is no charge.
- All students will return to school after the swimming sports.
- Children must take their togs, two towels, sunhat, warm clothes, snacks and a drink of water.
- There is no 'grandstand' for parents to watch from. You might like to take your own chair/seat. Parents will be seated on the diving pool side, or at the concrete wall/shallow end of the pool.

Junior Swimming Sports - FRIDAY

The Junior Swimming Sports will be held at school this Friday 10 March, starting at 1.30pm and finishing by 2.50pm. These sports are for children in Rooms 1 - 4 (excluding some Year 4 students who are going to attend the senior swimming sports - you know who you are). Parents are welcome to attend.

End Of Swimming Season

We have enjoyed six weeks of solid daily swimming this term. The recent 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!

Rippa Rugby

We have made the decision not to enter teams into the rippa rugby tournaments that are being held later this term. We had an incredible response, with lots of students wanting to be involved, but we just can't fit it in. Our priority needs to be on athletics (including senior champs, 400m heats and house relays), and the other events we already have scheduled: interschool triathlon, interschool swimming, Tinui School visit, Tough Kids, Jump Jam training, school athletics sports, interschool athletics, Striders Road Race, Kids Lit Quiz, and Wheels Day. Phew, a busy few weeks ahead!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ōroua Junior Badminton Club

Ōroua Junior Badminton Club begins on Tuesday March 14 for ages 7 and up. Club nights are Tuesdays during school terms, 6pm - 7:30pm, at the Feilding Civic Centre, until the end of Term 3 in September. \$5.00 per night, with the first night free! Club racquets are available. Please wear non-marking footwear. For more information, please contact David Wasley on 021 249 1150.

Pumpkin Harvesting Job Opportunity:

Somerset Farms, on Makino Road, have a HUGE crop of pumpkins and are looking for more people to employ this year, over a two-week harvest period (starting around the 20th March). The hourly rate is \$23/hour, and they need people from 9am-3pm. Work includes cutting the crop (done walking along with loppers - could be a good thing for lighter-duty people), then placing the pumpkins in the big bins. Pumpkins can weigh as much as 9kgs this year, so this needs good backs and shoulders. Jill, from Somerset Farms can be contacted on 027240 6136 if you are interested.



HALCOMBE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOWING THEIR TRIPLE A VALES AT THE SWIMATHON!

