

Halcombe School



Term One - Week 7

14 March 2023

Kia Ora Tatou!

You all now know that all teachers are striking this Thursday 16th March. Thank you for your support, in keeping your children at home - we have been told by you that there are not going to be any children coming to school on Thursday. We take this as a high level of support for what teachers are striking for - the ongoing resourcing of schools for kids, as well as the problems our nation is having in getting and keeping teachers to staff our schools.

We know this will be an inconvenience for you as parents, but our collective teacher union (NZEI) members have voted in favour of striking because our tamariki need a quality education and we want to give that to them. Unfortunately, the funding for our schools and kindergartens is not enough for us to give us the time we would like to support all our kids to thrive. We need to attract and retain educators by ensuring that teaching is a valued and attractive profession. Principals and teachers have considered at length, offers from the government to settle our respective collective agreements. The offers did not meet our expectations, nor make sufficient steps towards the changes we need for our children to succeed.

Striking is the last thing we wanted to do and the decision was not taken lightly. We felt that this was the only way the government would listen and recognise that when they support our children to learn and succeed, they are supporting whānau and communities to thrive.

On our strike day we are gathering with the multitude of teachers from around the Manawatū to protest in the Square in Palmerston North.

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

PTA AGM: Tomorrow Night!

The PTA is one of the most important groups we have in school. Since arriving here I became very aware very quickly of the motivation, energy, and generosity of the PTA fundraising and support for our kids and school community. Last year alone they raised \$28,000, and spent over \$35,000 on equipment, experiences, resources for classes, PE, Art, buses, sports teams, camps and our Year 8 students. The PTA are a group of parents and teachers, whose focus is on raising funds, but also having a terrifically fun time doing it! ***Our AGM is tomorrow night, in the staffroom, at 7pm.*** Come along and be involved. You are needed as a parent of our school, it is a great way to be connected to others, and you will enjoy it. And no - you won't be given a job straight away.

Use of Social Media: Parents Be Aware:

Recently, we have had to deal with some issues between children that have come about due to the use of social media apps at home. When children, who are not yet mature enough to think carefully about what they say online, are left to do their own thing, they often get carried away with comments. These comments can be hurtful, nasty, and bullying. We do not want that for any of our Halcombe kids! Kids Messenger, and Snapchat seem to be the big issues right now. As parents, we all need to keep tabs on what our kids are doing online - checking daily what is being said, and how late our kids are up online for. The easy way to handle this is to get devices at the end of the day and have them placed in an open place in the home, so you can keep an eye on them. A weekly glance over conversations and what your children are either saying, or seeing is also recommended. We thank our parents for being vigilant.

Manawatū Representatives

Well done to Isaac who is currently representing Manawatū in cricket, and Jamie and Blake who are representing Manawatū in tennis. Great work boys - and good luck for the rest of the season.

What's Coming Up?

We have a number of events coming up, and we wish all the students involved the best of luck:

- Interschool Triathlon - tomorrow - 33 students
- Interschool Swimming - Monday 20 March - 16 students
- Tinui School visit - Tuesday 21 March - 20 students
- Tough Kids - Friday 24 March - 110 students

Netball

It's time for us to start organising our netball teams. This is open to students from Y3-8. Those who were keen took a notice home yesterday, but if someone has been missed, please send your child to see Miss Simpson to collect a notice. Forms are due back on Friday.

Swimming Pool

As you know, our pool is now closed for the season. If you hired a pool key, please return this to school.

School Stationery Invoices

A reminder that school stationery invoices are due for payment by this Friday 17th March.

Senior Swimming Sports

What a fantastic afternoon our senior students had at the Makino Pool last Wednesday. We had 55 events, with every student competing in at least three events. Everyone gave their very best, and should be proud of their achievements. Well done to Totara for winning the junior relay and Kauri for winning the senior relay.

A special congratulations to our 2023 champions:

- Blunden Cup: Junior Girls Champ - 1st Esther, 2nd Lucy C, 3rd Mia
- Blunden Cup: Junior Boys Champ - 1st Finn, 2nd Joshua, 3rd Gus
- Wishnowsky Cup: Senior Girls Champ - 1st Maggie T, 2nd Sophie, 3rd Maggie L
- Wishnowsky Cup: Senior Boys Champ - 1st Max C, 2nd equal Ben C & Toby, 3rd Cash
- Monk Cup: Most Improved Swimmer - Ruby T
- Barnett Cup: Open 50m Freestyle - Max C

6 weeks Skills and Drills for Year 0-6 5pm to 6pm

Monday 1st May 2023 - Monday 12th June (Term 2)

SIGN UP: at www.feildingjuniorhockey.co.nz

