

Halcombe School



Term Two - Week 7

6 June 2023

Kia Ora Tatou!

I always say to people that Halcombe School is a special place of learning and growing. I know that for all of you who have been here longer than I, this will come as no surprise at all. We have great kids, a great community and great staff.

Part of our success is the continual drive to do our best, in class and out of it, and to deal with any issues early and up-front.

I really appreciate the way our parents keep us in the loop on what is happening at home, especially if it may impact on how a child is feeling, or worries they have. Our teachers do the same thing, either by phoning you, or writing in the KIT Book (which is a very important part of the process). This is crucial communication between home and school and helps us both to be on the same page for our students.

We don't need to know everyone's business, but when it impacts on how our children might be on a particular day, or if your child is going through something that would be good for us to know about, be assured that as professionals, we will keep things private.

We are all here for the most important thing of all - our tamariki. Let's keep the 'clear and often' communication going!

Have a great week,

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Year 1-6 Hockey

Lots of students took home forms for hockey last week. A reminder that these are due (with payment) tomorrow. Any problems, please see Di Simpson.

Rooms 5-8: Chocolates

Keep that chocolate money rolling in! A reminder that all money is due next Friday 16 June. Any unsold chocolate must be returned in perfect condition.

Matariki

Matariki has been celebrated for centuries, and this year marks our second modern celebration as a nation. It is exciting for everyone. As a staff we have learned some interesting things about Matariki from a Te Ao Māori perspective.

This time is recognised by Māori as the beginning of Māori calendar, based on the stars, sun and moon (just like many civilisations around the world before us).

The nine stars of the Matariki cluster each represent an important aspect of life:

- Matariki is the star that signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment, and the gathering of people. Matariki is also connected to the health and wellbeing of people.
- Waitī is associated with all fresh water bodies and the food sources that are sustained by those waters.
- Waitā is associated with the ocean, and food sources within it.
- Waipuna-ā-rangi is associated with the rain.
- Tupuānuku is the star associated with everything that grows within the soil to be harvested or gathered for food. Tupuārangī is associated with everything that grows up in the trees: fruits, berries, and birds.
- Ururangī is the star associated with the winds.
- Pōhutukawa is the star associated with those that have passed on.
- Hiwa-i-te-rangi is the star associated with granting our wishes, and realising our aspirations for the coming year.

Seeing the whole cluster of Matariki and observing how clearly each star can be seen gives us some insight into what may come in the following year, but it is also a time as individuals and families, that we can farewell those who have passed on in the last year and release them, as well as look to the future, our hopes, goals and dreams. We are planning an event to celebrate as a whole school on Thursday 22 June - look out for the note next week.

Remembrance Tree:

Part of Matariki is remembering and farewelling those who have passed on in the last year. Matariki is a time of looking forward and releasing those we have held dear. A Remembrance Tree will be in the office foyer next week, that students, parents and staff can add names to, to help us with this process. Please feel free to come in by yourself, or with your whānau and add your special name to this tree, as you wish. This Remembrance Tree will remain in the foyer until the end of term.

Bus Driver Possibilities:

We are looking at running our own bus for two runs: the Feilding to Halcombe in the morning, and return in the afternoon, plus the Makino Road run in the afternoon. Are there interested parents who might be interested in working for our school in this capacity? Or do you know of anyone who we can approach? Please let Paula know if you are interested, or know someone who might be.