

**A REMINDER - SCHOOL FINISHES FOR THE YEAR AT 12.30pm ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER. BUSES WILL RUN AT THAT TIME.**

Kia Ora Tatou!

Of course we are all a flutter with the new government - very exciting to see who is leading us and what this might mean. Last night we had a Board of Trustees meeting - the last official one for the year. This Board works incredibly hard, and are so diligent and enthusiastic at what they do. I am sure we are all grateful to Simon, Rachel, Luke, Scott, Di, and our minute-keeping secretary Paula, for their behind-the-scenes work each month.

Even when we are not meeting, there is work that goes on to ensure that priorities are driven and that good outcomes for the students at Halcombe are high, many, and often.

We had the summary report for our student achievement this year. I am proud to tell you that our achievement continues to be amazing, with the following results based on a variety of standardised and diagnostic assessments:

- Reading: 93% achieving at or above expectation
- Writing: 90% achieving at or above expectation
- Mathematics: 96% achieving at or above expectation

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

### **Prizegiving:**

We hold two formal prizegiving events each year. These are to celebrate student achievements and farewell our Year 8 students. Here are the details for each:

#### **Junior Prizegiving**

- Tuesday 12 December, starting at 1.30pm sharp. Will run through until approx. 2.30pm.
- For the students in Rooms 1/2/3/4.
- Parents and whānau are welcome to attend.
- Students can go home once prizegiving has finished.
- Please park legally, and not on the neighbour's lawn.

#### **Senior Prizegiving**

- Wednesday 13 December, starting at 7pm sharp. Will finish at approx. 8.45pm.
- For the students in Rooms 5/6/7/8.
- Students need to be seated by 6.55pm. Leave yourself plenty of time to get sorted - school is a busy place at that time.
- Parents and whānau are welcome to attend, though please be mindful of how many people you bring. Space is limited, and priority needs to be given to our Year 8 students.
- This event is not suitable for toddlers, as they stray from parents, or provide a distraction. Please be mindful that the focus must be on our students.
- Students are expected to wear their Number One's (nice clothes).
- Please park legally, and not on the neighbour's lawn. Parking is available on both the front and back netball courts.

#### **PTA Shout Out**

Thank you so much to the PTA for their support throughout the year. The PTA, along with our wider school community, raises money for our school that directly impacts our students and in many cases, their families too. Here is a list of what they have paid for in 2023 - how good?

- bus transport - Totara Reserve, senior swimming sports, Hunterville sports exchange - \$2,040
- food - triathlon juicies, prizegiving lollies - \$339
- end of year camp support - \$3,500
- other stuff - art racks, trampoline pads, tools, new swings, sunblock - \$2,111
- junior team trip support - \$288

### Touch Rugby

We are back to having all 16 of our teams playing touch this week - yahoo! Next Thursday 7 December will be the final week of games.

### Christmas Cards

A reminder that students don't hand out Christmas cards, candy canes or similar to their peers at our school.

### School Photos

PhotoLife have emailed you the unique Key Code, so you can now go online to view and purchase the 2023 school photos. Please check your trash/spam folder if you haven't received this email. Please contact the office if you have not received your code. Free delivery expires at midnight on Wednesday 6 December.

### Fun Day Friday

Next Friday 8 December, we will be having a FUN DAY FRIDAY to help celebrate the end of year. Children will take part in a whole lot of crazy activities, including the world-famous Magic Carpet Ride! (see below for more details about this). Everyone will need their togs and towel and a named water pistol if they have one. They should also wear their house colours if possible. (Kauri = red, Matai = yellow, Totara = green and Rimu = blue). This is a day for kids, however, if you want to call in, you are welcome. The action will start at 9am and go through until about 12.30pm.

For many years, the Magic Carpet Ride has been a popular feature of the Halcombe School galas - and we want our kids to experience this awesome activity this year! For those who haven't seen this in action before, it works like this: some generous dads (thanks Chris, Zane, Simon, Stu and Richie) will tow carpet mats behind their quad bikes. Several kids lie down on each mat at a time, as they are towed around the field. All children will wear helmets (these will be provided) and are encouraged to wear long sleeves and pants (bring your own) to prevent carpet or grass burns, and goggles (bring your own) to keep their eyes dust-free. Hundreds of kids over the years have enjoyed this activity - awesome fun! If you don't want your child to participate in this activity, please let us know.

### Water Update

As the weather (hopefully) starts to warm up, it is really important for each child to continue to bring a full water bottle to school each day. Our water fountains are still closed due to issues with water clarity. The Board is working on a solution for the new year.

**HALCOMBE SCHOOL**

# **DISCO**

**FRIDAY 1 DECEMBER**

**JUNIOR DISCO: 5.30-6.45PM**  
**RI, 2, 3, & 4**

**SENIOR DISCO: 7-8.30PM**  
**R5, 6, 7 & 8**

**HALCOMBE SCHOOL HALL**

**TICKETS: \$5**

Buy your ticket from outside R8  
before school one day this week -  
cash only, no online sales.

**Included in the ticket price:**  
**fizzy drink and a bag of lollies.**