

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

Kia Ora Tatou!

Time is fast running out and there is still so much to do. What a great week we have ahead of us. Last week I had a catch up with our Education Review Office expert. This is part of the on-going process of contact they have with schools now. They are impressed and pleased with the achievement and opportunities for our pupils, that we all contribute to. ERO had a final quote that I wanted to share with you:

*'ERO are pleased to see the continued high achievement of Halcombe School pupils. They are reflective of very good teaching and learning, and leadership. Your consistency of approach provides a total package focussed on kids'*

This kind of comment makes a principal happy, and we have to thank everyone for this. You can all take heart at the part YOU play in helping Halcombe School continue to be a great school.

Thank you and have a great Christmas,  
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

### **Teacher Announcements:**

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Aimee Faulkner (current Room 5 teacher), who is off to further her teaching career at St Peter's College next year. She will be a welcome addition to the maths team there. Aimee has been with us since 2020 and been a good contributor to our team, offering her support and talents in many areas. Our children have been well-served by her dedication and hard work. She will be missed by her colleagues and students too. We wish her all the best for the next stage of her career in the high school setting.

We have been fortunate to have attracted a very high calibre of applicants and are pleased to announce that from the beginning of 2024, Elizabeth Gibson will be joining our team here at Halcombe. Elizabeth brings not just her enthusiasm and sporting abilities, but also her dedication to seeing our kids achieve highly. She is looking forward to joining our team.

And of course, we will be farewelling Jan and Sue once again. We are so grateful that they stepped in to co-teach in Room 6 earlier this year, and will end this co-teaching position in our school next week. Thank you so much to Jan and Sue for filling this role.

### **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.

## Reports

Reports are coming home on Friday, along with student exercise books. We trust that over the year you have had plenty of good information on the progress and achievement of your child. Enjoy reading these with your child and reflecting on what areas need more practice, and how you can support your child in 2024.

## Sports Uniforms

Other than uniforms that are being used for touch, all other school uniforms should now be back at school. We have good systems in place to ensure our gear is returned, but if we've missed something, please return this to school now.

## Pool Keys

The school pool will be opened on 24 January 2024, and all families, including community members, are welcome to hire a key for \$40 each. Please come into the office, read the agreement and make payment. Proceed from the key hireage go towards running the pool. **If keys are not purchased before the end of the year, they will not then be available again until the start of the school year on 31 January 2024.**

## Fun Day Friday

It's only three more sleeps till FUN DAY FRIDAY! 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.

Check out these pictures from our Magic Carpet Ride in 2017!





HALCOMBE COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS CAROL

**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**6pm Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
@ the Halcombe Memorial Hall**

Join us for an evening of  
Christmas fun

featuring a great bunch of  
talented Halcombe kids!



Please bring a plate for a shared supper

Donations of food items will also be  
collected to support

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Reindeer  
charity food hampers**

<https://www.facebook.com/the.tenth.reindeer.2023>

**FUN DAY**



**FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER**

**GEAR LIST**

togs and towel

wear house colours

waterpistol (if you have one)

goggles, a long sleeved top and long  
pants (optional but recommended)

**PLEASE PUT YOUR  
NAME ON EVERYTHING**