

Kia Ora Tatou,

We were so pleased with the turn-out and your response to our Matariki Celebration last Thursday. Having our whole whānau with us to welcome in the season of Matariki was special for us and we hope it sticks in your memory for a long time to come.

We trust that your Matariki long weekend was a good one with family and friends. Wherever you were we hope that the timeless and cross-cultural messages of farewelling those who have passed away, being grateful for what we have been blessed with right now, and looking forward to the future and using those gifts were celebrated by you and yours. This week is a good time to look back and reflect on what has occurred this term. As always we have done a lot, and achieved well as a school. There have been plenty of times for academic learning and progress. There have been a vast number of times where our whānau members could have come in, partner with us and work alongside our pupils.

We are all looking forward to the rest and relaxation that the holidays bring. We work really hard here at Halcombe, and I know you all feel that too. I hope this especially for our staff: that they take the time to rest and be energised ready for the new term ahead. There's some GREAT plans being made already!

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

Parent Information Evening - Digital Education - Thank you!

It was good to see the turnout of interested parents last Tuesday night. Thank you all for coming out, and a special thanks to the staff who remained here into the night to connect with parents. Thank you to the presenters for their willingness to prepare and share too.

There were many important messages for parents to take away and if you weren't able to come then here are some important takeaways:

- As a parent you need to be VERY interested and involved in your child's online groups and behaviour.
- Do not let kids go onto social media until they meet the age requirement. Err on the side of caution.
- Monitor and talk to your children each week/fortnight about their online chats (who are they talking to? what are they talking about? what are they planning?)

Wet Weather Clothes

With the wet weather and general slippery nature of the grounds, we ask that each child brings a spare set of clothes, particularly pants. We have had several kids slip over, and some have made a right mess of themselves and spent the afternoon standing, as we do not have any spare clothes to give out! Having spares in their bags will help them have fun, but also keep them comfortable.

Pet Day

Lambs and calves born from 1st July to 15th September 2024 are eligible to attend Pet Day this year. Kid goats that are eligible are this season's young. Pet Day will be on Thursday 17 October - Week 1, Term 4.

Senior Exercise Books

The students in Rooms 5-8 will be bringing their exercise books home on Friday. By now, you'll be very familiar with this routine. This is an excellent opportunity to have a good look through your child's books before our 3WCs early next term. Our teachers look forward to reading through the feedback you give your child.

Agri Kids National Finals

Best wishes to Halcombe Red (Jonty, Max S, Maisie) and Halcombe Black (Taylor, Max I, Maggie) who are competing in the National Agri Kids Finals in Hamilton next week. These students have been working really hard to prepare for this event, and are excited to represent both Halcombe School and the Taranaki Manawatū region. Good luck!

Senior Camps

As per the note that has gone home in KIT Books:

- A reminder that camp deposits are due on Friday - for the students in Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8. Thanks to those who have paid already.
- For parents who are able to help prepare food for camp (we'd like to think this is everyone!), or who are interested in putting their name down to attend, forms were due today. However, if any forms slip into the office first thing in the morning, that's okay.

Sports Updates:

- There is netball practice as normal for our Y3-6 teams tomorrow. There is a game for these teams on Saturday (game details in KIT Books).
- Practice is ON for our Y7-8 hockey teams tomorrow.
- There is NO netball practice for our Y7-8 teams on Thursday.
- The Y7 hockey team has a bye this week, the Y8 team has a game at 4pm.
- Our PE focus for the first half of next term will be on gymnastics. Each class will have two sessions a week. Students will need suitable PE gear - shorts, tights or trackpants, and a t-shirt.

Attendance Information

Later this week, you'll see a note in KIT Books with your child's attendance information for Terms 1 and 2. This will help you to be aware of how your child is tracking with their attendance, and gives a mid-year check point. As usual, attendance information will be recorded on our end of year reports too.

INTERHOUSE JUMP JAM CHALLENGE

On Friday, there is something special happening at assembly - an Interhouse Jump Jam Challenge! For those that don't know, Jump Jam is all about dancing! We'll be practicing every day this week to prepare. Kids - don't forget to dress up in your house colours!