

UPCOMING EVENTS

Market Day - Wednesday 12 June, from 6-7pm. All students are expected to attend.

Matariki Celebration - be at school at 7am on Thursday 27 June. School will finish at 12.30pm.

Kia Ora Tātou,

What a great weekend we have had! I hope all our mothers were reminded of your importance to your whānau. They really couldn't operate as well as they do without your guidance. Kia kaha mums!

A great scientific phenomenon was seen all round the Manawatū in pretty amazing clear skies: the Aurora Australis. Its incredible light show in the heavens showed the majesty of a pretty amazing creation. I didn't see it much myself (I blame the city lights), but the pictures shared on social media were fantastic. A really nice way to become enthused about science and being out on a cold night.

This week I have a challenge for you: Do you know where your child is at for reading, writing and maths?

As a school we are really proud of our achievement results and the way we inform you about your child's progress. Is this true for you? I'd be really interested in hearing from you if it isn't.

You see, not all schools operate as well as we do, and some families around the country might not know as well as you do, how their child is doing, and whether their child is making any progress at all. This is concerning to us too, because now our new Minister of Education is seeking to make it mandatory for all classes and all teachers to teach using one approach, use one programme, and do it all at the same time, regardless of the school's current achievement. This would only any sense to me, IF we were not doing a good job of teaching and learning here.

Halcombe School has had a long history of great teaching and learning, and I would be very reluctant to introduce a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. As a teacher and leader it worries me that each teacher might have no choice but to follow a set regime, instead of being allowed to be a professional and make sure that each child is given the equipment, the learning activity and the pace that best suits them.

I am sure you know your child well. We do too, and I hope that good schools like ours will be allowed to continue to provide the best learning possible for all our pupils. Watch this space.

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

Pie Warmers

Many students enjoy a hot lunch during Term Two and Three. We have three pie warmers that are used to heat up food - very popular on cold days!

- lunches need to be wrapped securely in **tin foil**, or put in small tin foil trays.
- lunches need to be **CLEARLY** named with a vivid marker and with a room number.
- if you're making lunches for the freezer, name them before putting them in - vivid doesn't work on cold tin foil.
- children put their lunches in the pie warmers when they arrive at school (after they have put their bags away).
- Please: NO crockery - it becomes too hot to handle!

Calendar Updates

We regularly update our school google-calendar. Please make it a place you go to see what is going on ahead of time.

Note our upcoming Matariki Celebration, to which all our families are invited. We are starting very early - 7am to welcome in Matariki, and will finish school at 12.30pm that day. This way you can all enjoy your whānau's plans for a long Matariki Weekend.

Congratulations

We have just heard that one of our farming families, the Rangiawha & Hinton whānau, have been named NZ Share Farmers of the Year (see the BIG trophy in the picture)! This is great news and we can all celebrate with them on the effort and their outcome. Well done whānau!



Parent Information Evening - READING

Next Tuesday, we are hosting an information evening for parents. Many of you will fondly remember the awesomeness of the basic facts focus we had at our information evening last year. Reading is the Number 1, the Top Priority, the most important thing kids learn to do at school. This will be a fun, interactive, light-hearted session and is ideally suited to parents (of both junior and senior kids) who would like to know how they can support their child/ren at home with reading. If you'd like to come along, the session will be held in Room 4, next Tuesday 21 May. Kick off is at 7pm. Please return the slip below by Thursday if you will be joining us. Here is some of what will be covered:

- what do our reading programmes look like across the school?
- how can you help your child with reading at home?
- what apps can be used to support learning?
- how to choose (or help your child choose) great books to read?
- what are some top tips for reading aloud to kids?

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READING INFORMATION EVENING

- YES! I will be attending the reading information session.

Name: _____