

Kia Ora Tatou,

On Friday I was leading a course for local rural principals from around the Manawatū, Whanganui, and Wairarapa. It was really good coming away with such a positive feeling about education from these school leaders.

You may hear in the news of grumbling comments concerning some of the new government education priorities. I am pleased to report that within our vast range of rural principals there was none of this. Of course we are interested in what changes are coming and the implications of these, but on the whole, rural schools also have so many strong attributes that bigger urban schools don't:

- We tend to be smaller and we can be very innovative and adaptable,
- Rural schools have a great can-do attitude - we often adapt to fit the regulations,
- Rural schools often have excellent communities behind them, who provide many opportunities for everyone to have,
- Rural schools are deeply relational - we know your child and we know you.

Rural schools like this make for great teaching and outcomes for students, teachers and a healthy community, and I believe we are exactly like that in so many ways.

As of today, we have 192 pupils at Halcombe School. Our minds are always fully focussed on each of these pupils and providing the best we can. I strongly believe our team, and you, work so well together that this place, despite the whims of government, will continue to deliver great outcomes. Let's keep a positive mindset for the future!

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

## **Quiz Update**

Three more sleeps until the quiz - start studying now!

- Thank you so much to all those who have contributed to our raffles or auction. We sure are lucky to have such a supportive community, and we have been overwhelmed by the fantastic donations we have received. We now have enough bottles, grocery items and things to auction. We don't need anything else.
- On Friday night, there is parking available on both netball courts (don't drive into the basketball hoops). Please don't park on any yellow lines, or on the neighbour's lawn. The field may be open to parking. We'll see how wet the ground is later in the week and post an update to Facebook.
- Bring plenty of cash to buy raffle tickets.
- Cash bar, and we have EFTPOS available too.
- A reminder that as a SCHOOL event, any drinking should be done responsibly.
- Our school grounds are smoke and vape free.
- Doors open at 6.15pm, with the first question at 7pm sharp.

## **Vacancy: Caretaker/Cleaner Position**

In November, our long-serving Caretaker & Cleaner, Alan Martin, will be retiring. We will make sure we farewell Alan properly in Term Four. However, this means we are now on the outlook for a new caretaker and cleaner. These positions do not come up very often and they require a person with a cheerful character, a hard-working attitude, and a lot of practical know-how. If you, or anyone you know might be interested in this position, please go to our website <https://www.halcombe.school.nz/staff-vacancies.html>, or ask at the office for more information.

## **Assembly**

There is no assembly this week.

### **2025 Planning**

We are starting to do initial plans for classes for 2025 already and we need to know if you are likely to be moving away from Halcombe, and if this might affect your child's attendance at our school. Please either email, or phone the office to let us know now.

### **Immunisation Register Update**

As a school we are sometimes sent health updates from Te Whatu Ora. Currently we are aware of a predicted measles outbreak, but there have been other conditions too. In order to keep our records up to date, so we can best help families protect themselves, we keep an immunisation register. This register enables us to contact families who are not immunised if outbreaks occur. Paula is currently contacting whānau who we do not yet have records for. Please send your information back as a matter of urgency.

### **No Morning Bus**

This Friday 6 September, Feilding High School has a Teacher Only Day. This means that the Mangaone/Makino/Stanway Road bus will not be running in the morning. Students will need to make their own way to school.

### **Sports Uniforms**

- ALL netball uniforms should now be returned.
- ALL Y7-8 hockey uniforms should now be returned.
- Halcombe Yellow (Y1-2) and Halcombe Pink (Y5-6) hockey teams - you have a BYE for the final week of hockey next week, so your uniforms need to be returned to school now please.

### **AIMS Games**

We have seven students heading away to the AIMS Games next week. This is a massive sporting event, that takes place in Tauranga each year. All the very best to our team of sporting legends:

- Swimming - Georgia, Lucy, Esther, Jonty and Finn
- Cross Country and Mountain Biking - Maggie
- Tennis - Jamie

### **More Student Awesomeness**

- Apologies to Brock - we accidentally left his name off the list of students who received major awards at the FSMR prizegiving last week. Brock was recognised for his AMAZINGLY AWESOME ball skills.
- Congratulations to our Senior B Netball team, who placed third in their grade. Well done girls!
- Congratulations to those who scooped up the awards at the Y7-8 hockey prizegiving last week:
  - Halcombe Black - most promising: Lucas, most improved: Taylor
  - Halcombe Red - most promising: Osten, most improved: Ethan
  - Halcombe Red was also awarded a trophy to recognise their outstanding sportsmanship.



**Halcombe Red Hockey Team - winners of the sportsmanship cup!**

# Crazy Day

Friday 13 September

## COME TO SCHOOL IN ANYTHING BUT A CAR!

That's right folks, it's time to get creative. This is your chance to arrive at school in a helicopter, or on a horse, or in a wheelbarrow, or riding a motorbike, or in a police car (not under arrest) or even in a boat!

We have heard some interesting stories about how the students are planning to arrive at school next Friday. Very exciting! If you are arriving at school in your normal car, please drop your children off in the carpark. BUT, if you are planning something cool, we'd like you to drop your children off outside the front of the school (Monteith Street), so everyone can get a great view. If you really are going to be arriving at school in a helicopter, please let us know. There are some things we'd need to get sorted for this to happen. If you are arriving in a vehicle that has a siren, please make sure there are no horses around before you let it rip.

## DRESS UP CRAZY!

Find some crazy clothes and wear them to school.  
Year 7-8 students, please be mindful of what you choose to wear - you have Tech.

## AN ASSEMBLY NOT TO BE MISSED!

The staff will be presenting assembly on Crazy Day, and it is going to be awesome! See you there!