

Kia Ora Tatou,

Kia kaha Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori! Aotearoa has come a long way since I was a kid, with the acknowledgment and use of our indigenous language. TV and schools have led the way in this education of the nation.

It was met with initial reluctance, some begrudging hesitation, and now it seems as though we are learning more and more te reo each week, and now we see an increasing embracing of learning.

Short phrases, greetings and waiata, and our national Matariki celebration are things that have routinely built on our use and respect of te reo Māori. From small seeds, big things grow, and this annual week of Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori helps all of us to embrace and grow our own understanding, respect, and use.

I'm pleased to say that our use of te reo Māori is increasing in school too. Each day, each class has a karakia and waiata to start the day. Our teachers use te reo phrases in natural ways, and our pupils respond accordingly. Debbie Turner's oversight of the kapa haka team is something that allows all pupils to learn more and enjoy a deeper cultural connection.

For those reluctant for an increase in knowledge around tikanga and te reo Māori, I simply say that this is Aotearoa New Zealand - nowhere else on Earth do you find this culture and we need to protect and grow it. German, Dutch, English, and Swedish are all strong in their country and within families, as they should be. Here, we need to make sure our own country's culture and language is as strong, because it is unique and special to us. Kia kaha, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori

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

Final Quiz Update

The numbers have been crunched. The invoices have been paid. The dollars have been added. We are beyond thrilled to announce that our quiz night raised a grand total of \$14,984. This is an unreal result and once again, we'd like to thank our super duper community for their support. Seeing this number got us thinking. How did this quiz night compare with our previous events?

- 2016: \$8,430
- 2018: \$9,000
- 2020: \$9,560
- 2022: \$11,007
- 2024: \$14,984
- Grand Total: \$52,981

Dance Display and Winter Sports Prizegiving - Heads Up

On the final day of term (next Friday), we'll be having a dance display followed by our winter sports prizegiving. Kick off is 1.45pm.

Farmyard Ultra

Best wishes to 37 of our Year 7-8 students who are competing in a massive running event on Friday. In the Farmyard Ultra, an event hosted by Feilding High School, students need to run 3km every hour, on the hour, for six hours. What a challenge! Good luck to the 14 parents who are joining them too. Go well team!

Health Education Programme - Survey Time!

Please look out for an email from Paula, that has a link to a survey we'd LOVE you to complete. We are seeking your input on our health education programme. It will take five minutes of your time. The survey will close on the last day of term, Friday 27 September. Thank you in advance.

Speeches

Up until this year, speeches have been done by Year 7-8 students only. This year, we extended this, and over the past couple of weeks, all students in the senior team have written and presented speeches to their class. The topic? 'If only...' There were so many good ideas, and we're really proud of all our kids for giving this activity their best shot. To be able to speak with confidence in front of a group of people is not something we all feel comfortable with, so it has been a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop their resilience, sense of self belief and their ability to step out of their comfort zone.

Congratulations to the three finalists who have been named in each year group. They will be attending the first ever Halcombe School Speech Finals next Tuesday night. Good luck to you all.

- Year 5: Emily, Becky, Nellie
- Year 6: Harriet, Lucy, Perez
- Year 7: Brock, Hannah, Lucy, Esther
- Year 8: Lucas, Spencer, Georgia

Feilding Saturday Morning Netball Prizegiving

Our three netball teams attended prizegiving on Saturday, to celebrate the end of the season and to present awards. In addition to the fantastic trophy that Halcombe Red was awarded for winning their grade, well done to the following students were recognised:

- Halcombe White: Most Improved - Lorna, MVP - Georgie
- Halcombe Red: Most Improved - Lucy, MVP - Phoebe
- Halcombe Black: Most Improved - Marley, MVP - Zoe

Pet Day

All the information you need to know about Pet Day was in last week's newsletter. If you've lost the entry form, please collect another one from the office. A reminder that entries are due next Wednesday 25 September. For those who are new to our school, Pet Day is a big deal here, and is always one of the highlights of the year. There is one more thing you need to know about.... something new and very exciting - a BEST DRESSED PET COMPETITION! Here are the rules:

- This is optional.
- If children want to be involved in this, they can dress their pet AFTER the judging for their section has been completed. They'll have a few minutes to organise this.
- No dress up stuff should harm the animal in any way.
- Pets will be dressed for the Grand Parade.
- Teachers will be the judges for this, and will announce 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Senior Camps

Letters went home with all the students in Rooms 5-8 yesterday. Please ensure you have read through this information carefully. Permission slips for all four camps are due on Friday.

AIMS Games Report

Our team of seven athletes had a phenomenal time away in Tauranga last week. This was a fantastic experience, and they achieved loads of great results. Most importantly, they held true to the Halcombe School values, and did a superb job of cheering each other on, and supporting the team. Well done kids, we're really proud of you.

- Jonty - para swimming - achieved eight PBs, gold 100m backstroke, silver 100m breaststroke, silver 50m breaststroke, silver 100m IM, silver 50m butterfly, bronze 50 freestyle.
- Georgia - swimming - competed in ten events, achieving PBs in nine of them and placing well in a massive group of 12 year old swimmers.
- Lucy - swimming - competed in eight events, achieving PBs in seven of them and placing well.
- Esther - swimming - competed in 13 events, finishing in the Top 20 for 100m IM, 200m IM, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle.
- Finn - swimming - 4th place overall in 200m backstroke, 12th 100m backstroke, 14th 200m IM, 15th 200m breaststroke.
- Jamie - tennis - played some great games against some very slick opposition.
- Maggie - cross country and mountain biking - finished 13th out of 133 in cross country with a time of 11.59 for 3km, and then managed to take the gold in the mountain biking.