

Kia Ora Tatou,

As we dive into spring, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate what makes Halcombe School so special. Here at Halcombe, we're not just a school; we're a close-knit family that thrives on the beauty of our landscape and the strong connections we have with each other.

One of the best things about being a rural school is the strong relationships our teachers build with students. These connections create a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and understood. It's all about fostering a sense of belonging and helping our kids grow into confident, capable individuals.

Living in this beautiful part of New Zealand gives us amazing opportunities to connect with nature and learn in hands-on ways. Whether it's working on agricultural projects or getting involved in community events, our students are gaining valuable life skills and a deep appreciation for the environment around them.

As we celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students this term, let's keep embracing the spirit of our rural community. Together, we can inspire our young learners to reach for the stars while staying rooted in the values that make Halcombe School truly unique.

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

## Staffing

We are very pleased to announce two staff appointments going into the future:

- R6 teacher: Nicki Baker has accepted a permanent teaching position in the senior team, teaching in Room 6. Nicki has certainly shown her worth this year, and we are pleased to see her return to add her skill for our students.
- Caretaker Cleaner position: As we know, Alan Martin leaves us in a fortnight - with big shoes to fill. We are pleased to let you all know of the appointment of Simon Stace to the staff here at Halcombe. Simon will do both cleaning and caretaking, and his commitment to our school and ensuring we keep having the best environment to support our kids is something we are looking forward to.

## Cross Country Results

Congratulations to all our students who ran in the cross country last week. We're proud of everyone who gave 100% and didn't let those steep hills get the better of them! Awesome work! Thank you to all those who helped us make the day possible. Best wishes to those who have been selected to represent our school at the interschool cross country in Hunterville on Friday, and the Manawatū Striders Road Race on 12 November. House points:

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Rimu - 30 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> =</b>	<b>Matai - 25 points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> =</b>	<b>Kauri - 25 points</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Totara - 12 points</b>

## Top Five Finishers:

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Year 0-1 girls	Lola	Maisie	Bonnie T	Mckenzie	Bonnie S
Year 0-1 boys	Otis	Boyd	Cooper	Archie	Noah
Year 2-3 girls	Matilda	Heidi	Lucy	Isla	Lorna
Year 2-3 boys	Lachie	Luke	Richie	Hadleigh	Ryker
Year 4-5 girls	Becky	Grace	Hermione	Ella	Lydia
Year 4-5 boys	Rylan	Finn	Louis	Diezel	Henley
Year 6-7 girls	Lucy C	Anika	Phoebe Link	Phoebe Lint	Lucy M
Year 6-7 boys	Josh	Hunter	Brock	Lee	Osten
Year 8 girls	Maggie	Taylor	Georgia	Maisie	Chelsea
Year 8 boys	Harry	Spencer	Tom	Max	Lucas

## Senior Camps

The main focus for our senior classes now switches to camp! The kids are excited. The teachers are excited. It's an exciting time, and a real highlight of the year for many. It takes months and months of planning to prepare for these camps - do not estimate the challenge of taking a class of kids (and parents!) away for a multi-day camp! Best wishes to all our classes, and may the sun shine in your favour! We look forward to hearing about your adventures.

- Room 5 & 6 - Foxton Beach - 51 students - 15 parents - three nights
- Room 7 - Castlepoint - 28 students - 8 parents - four nights
- Room 8 - Nydia Bay - 30 students - 11 parents - five nights

## Board of Trustees Update

The Board met last week - their second to last meeting of 2024. Here is a summary of the main points:

- 'The Gap' building project is about to launch! The start date is less than a week away. You'll certainly be able to get a good view as the project progresses. Please be aware that access to some parts of the school will look a little different for a time, and the building team will be using a few of our car parks.
- The Board thanks and congratulates the PTA on another awesome lamb fattening fundraiser.
- The Board congratulates Nicki Baker (R6) in her appointment to a permanent teaching position at Halcombe School, and Simon Stace into the role of cleaner/caretaker.
- A successful lockdown practice was held earlier this term. This was supervised by the New Zealand Police, and they were impressed with the operation and efficiency of our procedures.

## Counter-Top Oven For Sale:

We have a Breville BOV800 Smart Oven to go to a good home. It's about 6 years old and was bought for our Technology programme, but has been of little use. It is clean, tidy and everything is there. Be ideal for a bach, or an extra benchtop oven for those big events, like Christmas time.

If there is someone out there willing to donate between \$100-200, we'd be pleased to send it your way - please let the office know if you are interested. First in -first served!

