

**A REMINDER - SCHOOL FINISHES FOR THE YEAR AT 12.30pm
NEXT FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER. THE BUS WILL RUN AT THIS TIME.**

Kia Ora Tatou,

At our last Board of Trustees meeting last night, we reflected on the year. There are many, many things to be thankful for. On the achievement side of things, our pupils continue to make extremely good progress, with most pupils achieving at or above their expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths.

Our children have been offered excellent opportunities to shine and experience rich activities: on the sports-field, at cultural events, on trips, on camps, in the classroom and out of it.

Our teachers have worked really hard on providing excellent outcomes for our pupils. They know your children very well and respond to their needs.

Our PTA is an excellent example of a committed group of fundraisers, who provide much in the way of the extras - our school seems to want for nothing, and this really helps in adding to kids outcomes.

Our students are excellent too - they display the Triple A Values each day, and overall, are some of the most responsible, caring, respectful and excellent learners a principal could hope for. There is plenty of information about personal development and successes in the **End-of-Year Reports coming home THIS Friday**. Enjoy sitting down reading over these. And remember, don't take the reports in isolation - think about all the information you have received about your child's progress throughout the year.

As you reflect on the year that seems to be whizzing away, I hope that you too, can take great satisfaction from what you have achieved and who has helped you.

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

Prizegiving:

We hold two formal prize-giving events each year. These are to celebrate student achievements and farewell our Year 8 students. Here are the details for each:

Junior Prizegiving

- Wednesday 11 December, starting at 1.30pm sharp. Will run through until approx. 2.30pm.
- For the students in Rooms 1/2/3/4.
- Parents and whānau are welcome to attend.
- Students can go home once prizegiving has finished.
- Please park legally, and not on the neighbour's lawn. Parking is available on both the front and back netball courts, and on the field.

Senior Prizegiving

- Thursday 12 December, starting at 7pm sharp.
- For the students in Rooms 5/6/7/8.
- Students need to be seated by 6.55pm. Leave yourself plenty of time to get sorted - school is a busy place at that time.
- Parents and whānau are welcome to attend, though please be mindful of how many people you bring. Space is limited, and priority needs to be given to our Year 8 students.
- This event is not suitable for toddlers, as they stray from parents, or provide a distraction. Please be mindful that the focus must be on our students.
- Students are expected to wear their Number One's (nice clothes).
- Please park legally, and not on the neighbour's lawn. Parking is available on both the front and back netball courts, and on the field.

Touch Rugby

The final week of touch has been postponed till next Thursday. Unfortunately, this is not going to work for us. With our senior prizegiving that night, and the final day of school the following day, it's too much. Thank you to all our coaches and sideline helpers and supporters. What a great few weeks of touch we had! It is now time to return the touch tops. Please hand these in outside R8 before school this week - due Friday. Coaches, please send your team ball back to school too.

Pool Keys

The school pool will be opened on 20 January 2025, and all families, including community members, are welcome to hire a key for \$40 each. Please come into the office, read the agreement and make payment. Proceeds from the key hire go towards running the pool. **If keys are not purchased before the end of the year, they will not then be available again until the start of the school year on 29 January 2025.**

Morning Bus - Mangone/Makino/Stanway Road

The last day the morning bus will operate for 2024 is Thursday 5 December. Families will need to make alternate arrangements to get their children to school after this. The Tokorangi bus will still operate as normal. Our last day is the 13 December and the Tokorangi bus will operate at 12.30pm.

BOT Summary

The last Board meeting for the calendar year was held last night. Key points were:

- We signed off next year's budget, which has our school remaining in a solid financial position.
- The end of year achievement report was presented and our school continues to maintain very high achievement across all three core areas; reading, writing and maths. A massive thank you to the staff for their tireless work.
- Discussion was had around the school pool and how to address the cloudiness issues. We hope to see crystal clear water come January!
- The BOT thanked the staff, parents and the PTA for all they do to make our school the great place and community it is. 2024 has been another great year of experiences and achievements, including some fantastic camps, which have rounded out the year nicely.

The BOT wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and looks forward to another great year in 2025.

AED Installed

As you may have seen on the school Facebook page, we now have a defibrillator installed and ready to use in an emergency. This joins the ones at the Memorial Hall, and with the Fire Brigade. Since we have so many events involving large numbers of people, it makes sense to have this on our site too. This must make Halcombe one of the most AED-covered places in the country! As we enter the holidays, it might be a good idea to download the AED Location App onto our phones. This app is free, and highlights the places and processes to access these life-saving devices. To access our AED, ring 111 to get the code to the box. Thanks Halcombe Fire Brigade - let's hope we never have to use it!

Christmas Cards

A reminder that students don't hand out Christmas cards, candy canes or similar to their peers at our school.

Fun Day Friday

This Friday, it's FUN DAY FRIDAY - a fun celebration to help celebrate the end of year. Children will take part in a whole lot of crazy activities, including the world-famous Magic Carpet Ride! (see below for more details about this). Everyone will need their togs and towel and a named water pistol if they have one. They should also wear their house colours if possible. (Kauri = red, Matai = yellow, Totara = green and Rimu = blue). This is a day for kids, however, if you want to call in, you are welcome. The action will start at 9am and go through until about 12.30pm.

For many years, the Magic Carpet Ride has been a popular activity at Halcombe School - and we want our kids to experience this awesome activity again this year! For those who haven't seen this in action before, it works like this: some generous dads (thanks Zane, Richie, James and Jase) will tow carpet mats behind their quad bikes. Several kids lie down on each mat at a time, as they are towed around the field. All children will wear helmets (these will be provided) and are encouraged to wear long sleeves and pants (bring your own) to prevent carpet or grass burns, and goggles (bring your own) to keep their eyes dust-free. Hundreds of kids over the years have enjoyed this activity - awesome fun! If you don't want your child to participate in this activity, please let us know.

Plastic Bottle Tops

We have been really impressed with the commitment and dedication our kids have shown in collecting plastic lids. It has been a bit of a job keeping up with the counting, but we are happy to report that Team Halcombe collected 24,005 lids! These were handed over to the Manawatū District Council team today. A reminder that these kind of bottle tops cannot be put into the recycling. We're not too sure if this means we've won the competition, but we've heard that one or two other schools have collected gazillions of lids too. We'll see how we go! Thank you for your support.

Check out these photos of the Magic Carpet Ride from 2023:



Nativity Play &

Picnic in the Park

**6pm Sunday 15th December
@ the Halcombe Domain**

Join us for an evening of

Christmas fun

featuring a great bunch of
talented Halcombe kids!



A BYO family picnic will follow the play, so pack the picnic rug and a basket of goodies!

There will also be a collection of children's gifts for 10th Reindeer, a local charity that delivers children's presents to those in need. If you would like to donate, please bring along an unwrapped (new) children's toy.

<https://www.facebook.com/the.tenth.reindeer.2023>