

## **ALASTAIR'S FAREWELL ASSEMBLY: THIS FRIDAY 11 APRIL - 2.15pm KICK OFF (note the earlier start time)**

Kia Ora Tatou,

I see from the above title that the end has finally arrived for me. I go into this week with mixed emotions, of course: some excitement at what the future will bring, but also some sadness and melancholy to be leaving a special school.

Halcombe School is a very special place to work, to learn and to grow. Since coming here four years ago, I can seriously say that this has been the best school I have led. The excellent students. The professional and hard-working teachers. The absolutely wonderful parents and community. The capable, focussed and fun Board of Trustees. The motivated and generous PTA. I have felt that I have been the most fortunate principal in the area.

I will miss seeing The Gap being used and the difference it will make. I will miss the plans being made by staff for future learning and opportunities. I will miss working with such dedicated adults. But, of course, I will miss seeing our students grow, develop and become the next generation of great people.

I'll have only a little more to say at our Friday assembly, but in the meantime just know that I will take this school and so many of its special characteristics and memories along with me. Thank you for all you have done for me.

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

### **Staffing**

We are excited to announce that we have found our teacher for Room Six! Starting on day one next term, we welcome Ms Mel Hoskins to the teaching team here at Halcombe. Mel is a very experienced and hard-working teacher, and has taught most of her career in middle school. Mel is currently teaching at Kimbolton School. She has shown a strong desire to teach in rural schools and she has strengths in art and science. Mel has even been a parent of our school when her three boys were here as pupils not so long ago (Fergus, Machar and Gordy). Parents will find her open and friendly, with a well-organised and dedicated classroom programme. We count ourselves fortunate to have found Mel so quickly. Welcome (back), Mel!

**Farewell Nicki Baker:** This means that we also farewell Nicki Baker this Friday too. As Ms Hoskins is able to begin so quickly, the timing for Nicki to be moving to her Resource Teacher of Learning & Behaviour position is good too. Nicki has been with us for a year, and has contributed so well to the team. She has brought very strong routines and learning to Room 6, and we are grateful to have had this time with her. We will miss Nicki's expertise and her laughter. Nicki has set the classroom up for continued success and I am sure that Ms Hoskins will appreciate that. Nicki will be farewelled at this Friday's assembly along with that other plonker.

### **New Principal Update - Term Two - What's The Plan?**

The Board is well into the process of appointing a new principal for the greatest school on Earth. They hope to be able to make an appointment about half way through next term. In the meantime, plans have been made to cover the role of principal until the new person is ready to take over. While there might be a few things that look a little different for our staff, we're very much aiming to achieve 'business as usual'. Here are some key points to know:

- Hannah and Di will be acting co-principals.
- There won't be anyone sitting in the principal's 'chair'. If you need to speak to Hannah or Di, please make an appointment through Paula. Please be mindful that they are also teaching full time, so they won't be able to get back to you immediately.
- A reminder of the procedure for dealing with an issue:
  1. Empower your child to speak to their teacher first - if the teacher doesn't know about the problem, they can't help.
  2. If the problem is not solved, speak to your child's teacher.
  3. If you're not satisfied with the outcome of this, contact Hannah (junior school) or Di (senior school).

### **End of Term**

- School finishes at 3pm this Friday 11 April.
- The first day back after the holidays is Monday 28 April.

### **Parent Questionnaire: PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY**

The Board of Trustees invites all our parents to have their say about the future direction of Halcombe School. Thank you to the 11 people who have completed the survey so far - we'd love to see more responses this week (apologies for the glitch with the link in last week's newsletter).

In order to have your ideas included all you have to do is either go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ncZ3HpYoPNOx1UMH-TYnogPpNDPglyiDFB88v78v6aw/edit>

Or scan this **new QR Code** to take you there on your device:

The survey will remain open for another week. Thank you for your support.



### **Relationships and Sexuality Education**

Next term, all classes will take part in our Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme (RSE). Please note that this is the same programme we have delivered in the past. If you'd like to attend our parent information session/s - it's on for tonight! See you in Room 8. All welcome.

- Year 1-4 - 6.30pm
- Year 5-8 - 7pm

### **Athletics Sports**

Congratulations to our 2025 athletics champions:

- Eric Judd Cup - Girls 400m - Emma
- Ian Fergusson Cup - Boys 400m - Josh (equalled the record)
- Parsons Trophy - Girls Athletics Champ - Te Rina
- Humphrey Cup - Boys Athletics Champ - Ollie
- Junior House Relay - Kauri
- Senior House Relay - Kauri

The house points have been collated for this event too:

1st: Kauri (211 points), 2nd: Totara (198 points), 3rd: Rimu (152 points), 4th: Matai (135 points).

### **Senior Exercise Books**

One of the best ways of keeping up to date with how your child is getting on at school, is by having a good look at their exercise books. The students in Rooms 5-8 will be bringing their books home on Friday, for you to read through over the holidays. Each book contains a comment box, where we'd like you to make a positive comment to your child. Thanks in advance.

### **Term 2 Information:**

- The calendar is filling up for next term already. Please keep up to date with what's on our calendar, which can be accessed through our school website. The calendar is updated regularly.
- It's that time of year again.... time to get the pie warmers out! These will be operational from the beginning of Term 2.
- Students will bring their hats home on Friday. Hats do not need to be worn next term.
- Assemblies will be back! These are held every Friday afternoon, and start at 2.30pm sharp. Classes take turns to host the assembly, starting with Room 8 in Week 1. Our calendar shows which class is hosting assembly each week. Parents and whānau are welcome to attend.
- A reminder that we have a Teacher's Only Day on Friday 30 May. School will be closed.

### **Spring Bulbs**

We would like to plant some bulbs to brighten up the new swan plant area. If you have any spring bulbs 'spare' and you would like to donate them, please drop them in the box on Room 1's cloak bay area. Thank you!

### **Sports Fees**

A reminder that the fees for netball and basketball need to be paid by the end of this week.

### **Year 7-8 Hockey**

There has been a change to the calendar here. The first game is now being played on Friday 9 May (end of Week 2).