

Kia Ora Tatou,

Week Three already?! The first full week of the year, and I hope that the sleep I mentioned last week is going well for your children?

This week sees our two senior classes heading to Kawhatau Valley for their beginning of year camps. On top of the EOTC events we have already had, as well as options like Agri Kids, there are so many opportunities for all our pupils. We are told in the national curriculum that EOTC is an **essential part of school life in New Zealand**, and yet it seems to be reduced in many places. Some of this reduction is because of the amount of perceived health and safety rules and responsibility teachers must deal with, and also the amount of time that has to be spent on planning and preparing.

All these things are true to a certain extent - we are concerned about the health and safety of all our pupils, and we seriously plan for and consider things that might go wrong. For every off-site camp, the Board of Trustees has clear guidelines and signs off on each event. Each teacher spends a huge amount of time planning and considering the camp, and making sure that it actually adds learning value to our pupils.

I am very proud to be the principal of a place that supports these activities. What we don't do here is let the rules and concerns get in the way of providing great experiences for our kids. And we know we have the backing of our community that has consistently said that EOTC is important and is supported.

Bringing the curriculum alive, and learning safely go hand-in-hand here. Let's hope this lasts for a long time for our kids!

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

Agri Kids

On Saturday, a group of our students travelled to Stratford to participate in the Taranaki Manawatū Agri Kids Challenge. They had to work their way through seven modules, with 35 teams trying to score a Top 7 position for the Race Off. Halcombe Blue (Anika, Phoebe and Hunter) and Halcombe Purple (Brock, Max and Blake) made it through to the Race Off - an awesome achievement. Both teams did really well, but did not finish in the top three. As always, it was great to see our kids giving everything their best shot, and supporting each other. Well done Agri Kids!

Contact Information

These forms are being sent home today for every family. Please check all details and the contact information and update if necessary. Please return it to school by next Friday 21 February.

Digital Citizenship Agreements

This document has undergone an extensive review, and we have updated it to reflect our thinking in 2025. Please ensure you sit down and read through the information with your child before signing it. It's important. Once it has been signed, please return it to school by next Friday 21 February.

School Invoices

School invoices are being sent home this week. Payment is due by Friday 14 March.

Yummy Stickers

Make sure you collect all the yummy stickers from the fruit you're eating. Stick them to the chart attached, and drop it into the office when it's full. Paula does a great job of keeping track of all this! We exchange the stickers for sports gear! We estimate we have received at least \$5,000 dollars worth of sports gear in recent years. Thank you for your support.