

Kia Ora Tatou,

I have some sad, and perhaps some surprising news to share with you all today: yesterday I met with the Board of Trustees and let them know I will be leaving my position here at Halcombe. I leave to take up a new position leading Aokautere School in Palmerston North, starting at the beginning of Term Two.

After four years leading an excellent team here, and helping to grow our school in different ways, I feel it is time to move on and take some of what I have learned here to strengthen and lead another rural school.

Halcombe School is a strong leader in the education system. We have great practices and strong systems. It does mean that from time to time we will have people taking what we do, and sharing it with other places. This is what good schools do, grow people and send them off. This helps the schooling system generally to be better.

The Board of Trustees will start a process to find a new leader. I thank them for their hard work and diligence in this unwanted extra work. News on this appointment process will come out in due course. In the meantime, there may be some adjustments to how events might work, and timings of activities. I ask that you are patient and supportive of all our staff, as you always have been to me.

I have been very happy at Halcombe School, and I continue to focus on the children's achievement and progress, as all our staff do. The next two weeks are massive for us, with a number of significant events being held, including the triathlon, 3-Way Conferences, and a number of swimming events. The pace we work at, and the opportunities we offer our pupils will not change with a leader changing. The great thing about our school is the way it rallies together and supports each other in our continued common purpose.

Kia Kaha,

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Teacher Only Day

There will be a TOD on Friday 30 May (King's Birthday weekend). The teachers will be using this time to engage in some professional development opportunities.

Three-Way Conferences

We are nearly set for these conferences taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, and we look forward to seeing all of you there. By now you should have booked your time with your child's teacher - if not, please get onto this as soon as possible. To book now, go to <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/hs3wk>. **School finishes at 12.30pm on Monday**, and the bus will run at this time. If you're unable to pick up your child early, please contact us to let us know.

Triathlon - THURSDAY!

Only two sleeps till the Halcombe School triathlon! This will be an excellent chance to put a big tick in the 'adventure' box of our Triple A values! The first event will be the Year 7-8 students, starting at 10.30am. Here is some important information:

- Bikes and helmets go straight to the field before school. There will be senior students there directing you. Please double check the tyres are pumped up, and the seat is set at the correct height.
- No helmet = no go.
- Students will wear their togs to do the run and bike. Wearing a t-shirt and shorts over the top of togs is optional. Footwear is recommended.
- Please name all gear, including helmets and waterbottles, as we know everything will be in a mess at the end!
- Spectators are welcome. Please don't park on the yellow lines, or on the neighbour's lawn or grass verges outside the school. Bring your own chairs and shade!
- If your child needs help at any time, this will be provided by staff, designated course marshals or senior students. It is not necessary or appropriate for parents to run alongside their child at any time. Parents need to stay within the designated areas. Spectators can view the swimming from outside the pool fence.
- Bikes will be left on the field and can be taken home at the conclusion of ALL races, or after school.
- We'd like to remind everyone that this event is all about giving it a go and having fun, though we know that many of the students will naturally make a competition out of it, and that's fine too.
- Each student will receive an iceblock on completion of the triathlon. Thanks to our PTA for shouting this treat.
- Our team for the Manawatū Interscholar Triathlon (Y5-8) will be selected based on the results of our event.

Junior Swimming Sports

The Junior Swimming Sports will be held at school next Thursday 6 March, starting at 1.30pm and finishing by 2.50pm. These sports are for children in Rooms 1 - 4. Parents are welcome to attend.

Senior Swimming Sports

- The Senior Swimming Sports will be held at the Makino Pool next Tuesday 4 March, starting at 12.10pm and finishing by 2.40pm.
- These sports are for children in Rooms 5 - 8 (a few Year 4 students in Room 4 will join us too).
- Transport will be by bus to and from the pool, leaving school at 11.35am. The school is covering this cost.
- If parents are at the Makino Pool when it's time to leave, children may go home with them. There is no need to tell us ahead of time about this - if you're there, we'll assume you can take your child/ren with you after the event.
- All other students will return to school by bus after the swimming sports.
- Children must take their togs, two towels, sunhat, warm clothes, snacks and a drink of water.
- There is no 'grandstand' for parents to watch from. You might like to take your own chair/seat. Parents will be seated on the diving pool side, or at the concrete wall/shallow end of the pool.

School Pool Closure Details

- The last day for class swimming will be Friday 7 March.
- The students in Rooms 6, 7 and 8 have their Fun Swimming Sports event on Thursday 13 March, so will need their togs.
- The pool closes to the public on Thursday 13 March.
- We did have a Swimathon fundraising event scheduled for Friday 14 March, but we have decided to cancel this.

Hall Parking Reminder

The start of year is a good chance to remind ourselves of parking etiquette in about car parking:

- **Hall:** this is very congested currently with the building project ongoing. Remember to come into the carpark **slowly**. Allow others to get out so you can get in! **No-one** is allowed to cross over the park area - keep safe and use the cones/footpath!
- **Willoughby & Monteith St:** There is more parking on these streets, and parents and children cross at the corner, under staff supervision. No one is allowed to go across the road from the front gate. It won't hurt anyone doing a few extra steps by going around the long way! **Please refrain from doing U-turns at or near this intersection.**

Sports Teams

This message is for our new families, but also a reminder to our 'old' ones. Over the year, there are many opportunities for our students to get involved in after school sport. This year, we are most likely going to have netball teams (Y3-8), hockey teams (Y3-8), a basketball team (Y7-8), touch teams (Y1-8), and table tennis teams (Y7-8). Notices are placed in our school noticebook which is read out to each class, and the children who are interested will attend a meeting and be given information for their KIT Books. Of course in addition to this, there are HEAPS of sporting opportunities that happen as part of our PE programme. If you have any sport or PE related questions, please call in to see Di.

Contact Information and Digital Citizenship Agreements - THESE WERE DUE LAST FRIDAY

School Invoices - PAYMENT IS DUE ON FRIDAY 14 MARCH



TOTARA - INTERHOUSE FLIPPABALL WINNERS!