

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,

Welcome to the beginning of Week 3. If the first two weeks of the term was about settling in, this week has certainly been about resilience. It is remarkable how much can change in seven days; we have pivoted from the scorching heights of summer to navigating significant storms and unpredictable power outages.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our entire community for your patience and understanding regarding our recent school closure. We were among many schools across the Feilding and Rangitikei regions facing the same difficult call.

The decision-making process began late in the evening when our Director of Education contacted local principals to advise us to make an informed choice based on local conditions. Please know that closing the gates is never a decision we make lightly. However, when weighing logistical challenges against the safety of our students and staff, the choice becomes clear: our community's wellbeing is paramount.

Despite the flickering lights and the wind, 'business as usual' is returning. I have been immensely proud to witness the resilience of our pupils, parents, and staff. We have a wonderful knack for adapting and carrying on with a positive spirit, which is exactly what we do best here. Order is being restored, and the classrooms are buzzing once again. We spare a thought for Room 8 who have had their Kawhatau camp plan affected by the conditions, once again they will show their flexibility and resilience to adapt to a new plan for the week. No doubt they will still get all the benefits of a new range of activities with the revamped plan - go well Room 8!

I am determined not to let the stormy weather overshadow what was a fantastic school trip to Foxton Beach last Thursday. It was, quite simply, a memorable day. The water was the calmest I have ever seen it, providing a perfect backdrop for our students to explore and enjoy the coast. Most importantly, our pupils represented our school with immense pride. We received numerous unsolicited comments from members of the public regarding our students' excellent behavior and manners. Seeing them engage with the environment and each other in such a positive way was a highlight for us all.

Looking Ahead: as we settle back into our routines, please keep an eye on our school Facebook page and website for any further updates regarding rescheduled activities following the weather disruptions.

Thank you for your ongoing support, have a great week

Warm regards,  
Gene and the 'H' Team

## **Halcombe School Triathlon - NEXT FRIDAY**

This event is fast approaching and is 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.
- Our team for the Manawatū Interscholar Triathlon (Y5-8) will be selected based on the results of our event.

**Swimming Sports Information**

Look out for more detail about these events in next week's newsletter:

- Senior Swimming Sports (Rooms 5-8) - Wednesday 11 March - Makino Pool: 12.10-2.40pm
- Junior Swimming Showcase (Rooms 1-4) - Friday 13 March - Halcombe School: 1.30-3pm

**Digital Citizenship Agreements**

These were sent home in an envelope last week. 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 this Friday 20 February. Thank you for your support.

**Halcombe School Triathlon**  
**27 February 2026**

10.30-12.30pm  
**run - bike - swim**

**students must bring:**  
 togs & towel  
 running shoes  
 bike & helmet  
 (make sure the tyres are pumped up)




THIS EVENT IS ABOUT GIVING IT A GO AND HAVING FUN!  
**WHĀNAU WELCOME**

**If you don't have a bike, please let us know so we can get something organised.**



GROUP	RUN	BIKE	SWIM DISTANCE
YEAR 1 & 2	collect 2 bands	collect 3 bands	50m (4 lengths)
YEAR 3 & 4	collect 3 bands	collect 4 bands	50m (4 lengths)
YEAR 5 & 6	collect 4 bands	collect 5 bands	100m (8 lengths)
Year 7 & 8	collect 5 bands	collect 6 bands	100m (8 lengths)

If students cannot swim the distance, they can walk, run or use a flutterboard. Any stroke is acceptable



Three Mondays. Any pace.  
 Fresh air, farm tracks, good vibes  
**9<sup>th</sup> March / 16<sup>th</sup> March / 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
 210 Mt Biggs Road, Halcombe  
 Start time: 5:45pm (but rock up when you can!)  
 Course closes at 7pm  
 2km track with the option to do multiple 1km loops  
**All proceeds go towards building a community walkway network**

Register at: halcomberuralrunseries@gmail.com  
 use the QR code below or go to  
<https://forms.gle/3WzCSay7VAAtYFTiV9>




**COST OF ENTRY**  
 All three events series passes  
 • \$30 per individual  
 • Family Concessions (children under 12)  
 • \$50 - Family of 4 (2 adults + 2 children OR 1 adult + 3 children)  
 • \$90 - Family of 5 (2 adults + 3 children OR 1 adult + 4 children)  
**Series pass entries are not transferable**  
 On-the-night entries will also be available at the door. Cash or bank transfer.  
 Per night: Individuals \$15 / Family of four \$40 / Family of five \$50

**NO DOGS ALLOWED**



Each Term we want to share our school whakatauki (proverb or significant saying), these are pertinent to our focus as a community and we encourage all of our learners, staff and whanau to learn and understand how it applies to all aspects of our daily lives. This term's whakatauki has even more relevance given our start to the week!

**Ehara taku toa i te  
 toa takitahi, engari  
 he te toa taki tini.**

My strength is not that  
 of an individual but that  
 of the collective.