

Kia Ora Whānau,

It is hard to believe we are already midway through the term! It has been an incredibly vibrant week at Halcombe School, filled with physical challenges, outdoor adventures, and forward thinking community meetings.

A massive congratulations to all our students for their outstanding effort in our school triathlon. It was impressive to see such high levels of grit and determination; regardless of where they placed, every student gave it their all.

A special thank you to the parent helpers who joined us on the day, your support is what makes these events run smoothly. Looking ahead, we have a talented group of Halcombe triathletes heading to the Manawatū Interschool competition tomorrow. Good luck - we know you will represent our school with pride and superb sportsmanship!

We welcomed Room 7 back after their recent adventures at Kawhatau Outdoor Education Centre. By all accounts, it was a fantastic trip and I enjoyed the opportunity to drive out and visit. Camps are such formative experiences where friendships are built and strengthened between both children and adults. My sincere thanks to the parent helpers who braved the elements and the bunkrooms to support our kids.

Planning for Term 4: Our senior team teachers are already well underway with planning the Term 4 camps. This is a significant logistical undertaking, but our teachers are committed to ensuring our children get the absolute most out of their Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) experiences. They truly are an amazing group of students, which makes the effort of taking them away all the more worthwhile.

It was great to see new and familiar faces at our first PTA meeting of the year. There is a real sense of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

- Save the Date: The PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on Wednesday 18 March.
- We would love to have your input and energy as we plan for the coming months.

Have a great week everyone!

Warm regards,  
Gene and the 'H' Team

### 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/3yde9>. **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.

### Halcombe School Triathlon

We're really proud of all our kids for their efforts in the triathlon last week. It is such a good event for students to push themselves physically (and mentally at times!) and everyone felt a sense of accomplishment as they crossed the finish line. A special thank you to the parents who helped us on the day - great job team. All the best to our team of 39 who are competing at the Manawatū Interschool Triathlon tomorrow.

### Senior Swimming Sports Information

- The Senior Swimming Sports will be held at the Makino Pool next Wednesday 11 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. There is no charge.
- 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 after the swimming sports.
- Children must take their togs, two towels, sunhat, warm clothes, snacks and a drink of water (not powerade or similar).
- 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.
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### Junior Swimming Sports

The Junior Swimming Sports will be held at school next Friday 13 March, starting at 1.30pm and finishing by 2.50pm. These sports are for children in Rooms 1 - 4. Parents are welcome to attend.

### School Pool Closure Details

- The students in Rooms 6, 7 and 8 have their Fun Swimming Sports event on Thursday 12 March.
- The last day for class swimming will be Friday 13 March.
- The pool also closes to the public on Friday 13 March. Please bring your keys back for the \$10 refund after that.

### Smart Watches

We have noticed that some students have been using the communication function on their smart watches to send messages and make phone calls during the school day. This is a huge distraction from student learning. If your child has a smart watch that **has** communication functions, we will now be treating them like we do cell phones. In line with our school rules around cell phones and now smart watches with communication functions, if students must bring them to school, they need to hand them in to the office at the beginning of the day and collect them at the end of the day. They are also not to use them on the bus. Alternatively, they can be left at home. If these rules are unable to be followed, **all** smart watches will not be permitted at Halcombe School.

### Agri Kids

Best wishes to our teams who are competing in the Regional Agri Kids competition at Feilding High School on Saturday:

- Black - Josh, Louis, Hunter
- Red - Phoebe, Phoebe, Anika
- White - Perez, Zoe W, Harriet
- Purple - Charlotte, Liam, Miller
- Blue - Jack M, Jack O, Richie B
- Pink - Leo, Zoe S, India

### Hall Parking Reminder

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

- **Carpark:** 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! Reverse into carparks please.
- **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. 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.

### Junior Flippaball

It was awesome to see our younger students getting stuck into interhouse flippaball last week - what a great four days of competition they had! Results: 4th - Totara, 3rd - Matai, 2nd - Kauri, 1st - Rimu. Congratulations and well done Rimu! We'd also like to recognise our Year 8 students who 'captained' the teams, came up with the plays, managed the subs, hollered out words of encouragement, and made sure these youngsters are learning sportsmanship skills of the highest order.

