

Kaikoura High School

TE PANUI RIKIRIKI

24 February 2015 – No. 1



Principal's Message...

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā Mātua

I would like to welcome you all back to our school for 2016 and particularly our new students and their families. I have personally experienced the genuine warmth of a Kaikoura welcome from your sons and daughters here at school, from parents and from the community at large and I thank you all for that. Those of us new to the school had a special welcome with the powhiri at our school whare, Te Poho o te Matauranga, and I and my family had an equally special powhiri at Takahanga Marae. I certainly feel privileged to be the Principal of such a friendly, helpful and whanau oriented school and community.

I was very pleased with the NCEA results that were achieved by our students in 2015. There has been a steady improvement in these results for all students over the least three years, and that has been the result of a focus on the learning needs of individual students by our teachers and hard work on the part of the students themselves. Not only were overall pass rates a step up but 25% of our senior students (Years 11, 12 and 13) achieved merit and excellence endorsements. We do want to continue to build on these results and have started work on actions which will challenge all of us to attain our highest aspirations in 2016.

The really positive start to the year has been reflected in the way I observe our students interacting with each other and their teachers. Our students are a great group of open and natural young people and I get huge enjoyment from talking with them and watching them work and play together. The swimming and athletic sports were a great chance to do this and I saw keen competition in an atmosphere of support and encouragement for all. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet parents and grandparents who came to enjoy the occasion; thank you for your support of your students and the school.

One of the school values which has been clearly observable to me is awhi or caring for each other, and while I think this is a strongly held value in the school, from time to time we fall short of our aspirations and we need to build better or new skills in this regard. We have been very fortunate to have a recognised expert, Brett Murray, come to Kaikoura to talk with all of the students in Kaikoura's schools about his message of "Make Bullying History". I am sure we will all learn a lot from his seminars. He will also talk to teachers, and a parents evening is included. Being able and motivated to hold to our school values is central to being the special school that we are.

I wish you all a successful and enjoyable 2016. Noho ora mai ra.

John Tait
Principal

English Department

I am very proud to have been appointed to the position of Head of Learning Area for English. I am joined by Sam Gimblett and Jess Claridge, and I welcome them both to the team. Our Learning Area focus this year will be reading. We look forward to your ideas and encouragement to support our tamariki to exercise their reading muscles. We are excited to introduce Reading Badges to Years 9 and 10. These will work in a similar way to the Science badges. All students who have English in Term 1 have been given a list of activities which can be completed as homework tasks. Each task has a number of points allocated. Once students have completed tasks worth 10 points, their work is submitted to Mrs Lean to be assessed for the badge. Many of the tasks link with in-class study and include practical and oral as well as written responses. There are even cooking challenges. We look forward to students taking up this opportunity.

Please feel free to contact me to find out further details of our Reading Badge scheme. Also, if you have ideas of other ways we can promote reading in our school and in the wider community, let me know!

Tracey Lean – CAL English

EVLOCITY (2016)

Are there people in our community that would be interested in supporting any students who would like to be involved with a project to build a sustainable electric vehicle?

Resourcing for this project has come from Mainpower, CPIT, electroflash and Enviroschools.

This would be an extra-curricular activity and there is time set aside for Clubs at 2.00pm on Fridays. Please contact Gayle Cameron if you are willing to mentor a small group of enthusiastic students.

School Surf Champs

We will hold the annual school surf champs from next week onwards on the first suitable day dependent on wind and swell. I will keep the students interested informed on a daily basis, they should be ready to surf on any given day. Any enquiries email me at

blonsdale@kaikourahigh.school.nz or ring me at school 319 5138.

Bill Lonsdale

Year 7/8 Show and Tell

Parents are invited to a sausage sizzle BBQ to meet our new Year 7/8 team. We are also very excited about our classrooms and the programmes being set in the Year 7/8 department. We would love to share these with you.

Thursday 3rd of March at 5.30pm-7.00pm

This will be a great opportunity for you to meet your child's homeroom teacher and other subject teachers and ask any questions you might have.

We would love to see you all there.

Regards – Year 7/8 Homeroom Teachers

Academic Achievement: Interim NCEA results

Kaikoura High School students are celebrating after receiving some impressive results in their NCEA exams. The school was really pleased to see a big improvement. An increased focus on the students' individual needs is at the core of this.

Congratulations to the students and teachers, but also to their families – they are all part of the picture.

The pass rate at Year 11 (NCEA Level 1) was 83%, while at Level 2 the Year 12 students achieved a 96% pass rate, which was 16% higher than the Government goal for 80% of students to achieve Level 2. There has also been a marked increase in the number of Merits and Excellences awarded this year. This is about students having higher aspirations than just passes. Getting a Merit or Excellence can also help with university placements as well as scholarships. A lot of hard work goes into achievements like these.

Kaikoura High School is well-placed to continue to improve in NCEA results as the size of the school and closeness of the community means teachers have a shared knowledge of individual students' learning needs.

Piercings

Facial piercings are not part of the school uniform and students will be asked to remove them whilst at school.

Head Lice

We have had reports recently from parents that their children have head lice.

Please help eradicate this problem by using the appropriate prevention and treatment.

If you have any queries, or would like more information please contact the school office, or our school nurse, Megan Fissenden.

Contact Details/KAMAR Portal

It is important to have accurate contact details in order to communicate well with parents and caregivers. At present the most efficient way is through our parent portal. If you do not have access to a computer please let the school office know and we can make other arrangements.

Can you please let us know if your contact details have changed since last year, especially your email address. This can be done easily by logging on with your 'Parent' logon and password to kamar.school.nz. If you do not have the 'Parent' logon and password, please contact the school office.

Old Newspapers

The Art Department always needs old newspapers. Instead of putting them in the recycling can you please bring them into school. Thank you.

Helen Parkinson – Teacher in Charge of Art

2016 Term Dates

Term 1 – Wednesday 3 February to Friday 15 April

- Monday 8 February – Waitangi Day
- Easter - Friday 25 March – Good Friday & Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 April – Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday (a school holiday)
- Monday 25 April – ANZAC day (falls during the school holidays)

Term 2 – Monday 2 May to Friday 8 July

- Monday 6 June – Queen’s Birthday

Term 3 – Monday 25 July to Friday 23 September

Term 4 – Monday 10 October to Wednesday 14 December

- Monday 24 October – Labour Day
- Monday 31 October – Marlborough Anniversary

Up Coming Events – Term 1

Please note these dates on your calendar:

- Tuesday 1 March – Year 7/8 Netball Trials
- Wednesday 2 March – Combined Country High Schools’ Athletics
- Thursday 3 March – Year 9/10 Netball Trials
- Tuesday 8 March – Senior Netball Trials
- Wednesday 9 March – Assembly
- Monday 14 to Friday 18 March – Year 9 Camp
- Monday 14 to Friday 18 March – Year 12 Biology Camp
- Wednesday 30 March – Assembly
- Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 April – SISS Athletics
- Monday 4 to Friday 8 April – Year 12/13 PE Camp
- Saturday 9 April – Netball Grading Day
- Monday 11 to Friday 15 April – Mainpower Sport
- Wednesday 13 April – Assembly
- Easter:** Friday 25 March – Good Friday
- Monday 28 March – Easter Monday, and
- Tuesday 29 April – Easter Tuesday (a school holiday)

Friday 15 April – Last day of Term 1

Monday 2 May – Beginning of Term 2

Kaikoura Amateur Swimming Club

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS @ LIONS POOL

5:00pm Friday 4th March **Length & Width** (1/2 Length) Races

9:00am Saturday 5th March **Length Races**

All Swimming Club members welcome.

Families and friends welcome, as spectators.

