

Kaikoura High School

TE PANUI RIKIRIKI



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TERM 1 – March 2017 – Issue No. 1

Principal's Message...

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā Mātua

I am pleased with the settled way the school has started this term notwithstanding our post-earthquake challenges. Work on our buildings continues and our gym should be open for school and community use next week. It is to be expected that this year will be a little different with new challenges for us all. Some of the planning around this is detailed below in this first newsletter of the year.

We will continue to keep whanau/caregivers informed by email and our school Facebook page on a regular basis.

Noho ora mai ra.

John Tait

Teacher Only Day - Monday 27 March 2017

School Closed

We wish to advise that the school is closed for instruction next Monday, 27 March, while staff professional development on Curriculum Mapping is conducted.

Student Well-Being

The staff and I have a closer focus on student well-being this year as post-earthquake stresses and anxieties can effect behaviour and learning. We learned from the Christchurch experience that these can impact students and families for a number of years. The Ministry of Education have been very helpful in giving us additional staffing and we are currently in the process of appointing a qualified Guidance Counsellor as a full-time employee of the school. We have also been in regular talks with other health providers to ensure that appropriate expertise is available when it is needed.

My own view is that student well-being is essential to learning and they need to know that the school cares about them. While the normality of settled classroom learning with friends makes a positive contribution to well-being, we are also planning a series of speakers and activities throughout the year which will be informative and uplifting so that students have strategies they can exercise for themselves. Kereama Carmody will lead workshops with Year 9 to 13 students on alcohol and drugs in the week 3-7 April. He is experienced in working with adolescents and all of the evidence shows that alcohol use in particular rises in post-traumatic situations. We also hope to have Marcus Akuhata Brown, a well-known international motivational speaker, this term.

I want our students to feel that they have agency in the challenging times ahead and that the school has a part in preparing them for these challenges.

Welcome to our new staff

I am pleased to welcome new teachers to our school and the new skills they bring for the benefit of our students.

- Mr David Anderson – Hard Materials
- Mrs Irene Anderson – English/Social Sciences/Health
- Ms Madi Burnett – Drama/English
- Ms Marika Holloway – Physical Education
- Mr Ezra Lamond – Mathematics/Physical Education
- Ms Genna McLaughlin – Physical Education
- Mr Paul Threadgill – Science
- Mr Peter Turner – Food Tech

Lottery Earthquake Relief Fund

Our thanks go to Jo Fissenden who completed a number of funding applications to the Lottery Earthquake Relief Fund on behalf of the school.

These applications have been successful;

- funds to allow the School Ball to be held with minimal costs to students,
- a large number of sports and cultural trips out of town will have travel costs subsidised,
- two new outdoor basketball hoops and a school set of archery gear and targets have been purchased.

The school community thanks the Lottery Grants Board for their support.

Beach Sports (9 February 2017)

Because the town swimming pool was damaged in the earthquake our school was unable to hold its annual swimming sports this year. As an alternative we held a Beach Sports day at Gooch's beach with a range of different aquatic activities such as canoe and paddle board racing, beach sprints and an ocean swim. It was a highly successful day with enthusiastic participation by students. A number of parents also attended and one of the grandparents remembered the days when the High School swimming sports were always held at the beach as at that time the town had no swimming pool.



Athletics

On Wednesday 15 February we held the annual Athletics Sports. Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather. Students participated in many events and showed our school values throughout the day. Thanks to all the parents who came to watch - it is always great to see so many of you.

On the day we had a record broken by Samantha Fissenden in the 200m Sprint. It was held by Amanda Ford since 1985. Amanda's time was 27.92sec and Samantha ran 200m in 27.22sec. Well done Samantha.

This year we took 20 students to Combined Country High Schools' Athletics in Christchurch where we did very well. From there we now have five students heading to the South Island Athletic Champs in Dunedin; Hayden Rush, Samantha Fissenden, Grace Fissenden, Emily Kenning and Matthew Getz.

We wish them luck and hope they do well.



Student Attendance

Thank you to all the parents that advise us of their children's absences. Attendance rolls are marked period by period through the day and it is important that we know where everyone is. Misty Gillies has taken on the role of the district Attendance Officer for 2017. It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that if your child is unwell a medical certificate is to be provided for absences of more than three days. If your child is going to be absent from school for an extended period a letter to the Principal would be appreciated. Please continue to ring Sandra in the school office if your child is going to be absent from school for any reason.

Donations and Fees 2017

Although voluntary, the annual school donation is essential if our school is to provide a full range of equipment and educational, cultural, sporting and social activities. School donations are used to specifically benefit your child through the purchase of sports equipment, library books and computers as well as to subsidise transport for student trips in some instances.

The donations for 2017 are:

2017 School Donation		Discounted Rate if an Automatic Payment is set up, or payment is made in full before the end of Term 1	
1 child	\$140.00	1 child	\$120.00
2 children	\$200.00	2 children	\$180.00
3 or more	\$250.00	3 or more	\$230.00

School fees/levies are charged for take home components.

We strongly suggest that you set up a weekly automatic payment for school fees – \$5.00 per week for 40 weeks, which equates to \$200.00 for the school year. You may also choose to make the weekly payment a little more to cover the likes of sports trips and performances that come up throughout the year. Please contact Sandra in the School Office if you would like to discuss setting weekly payments up. Monies owed to the School can also be paid directly into our School bank account via internet banking. Our account number is: **Westpac 03-1586-0023051-00.**

School Magazine

Unfortunately due to the earthquake the publishing/printing of the 2016 School Magazine was delayed. However, we received it last week and are very excited about distributing it to our school community and 2016 Leavers. This is a magnificent record of our school's events; academic, cultural and sporting.

Special thanks to Paper Plus and Harcourts who generously sponsored this publication.

Contact Details

If your contact details have changed recently e.g. address, phone numbers or email address, please advise Sandra in the school office. It is very important that you help us keep this information up to date particularly in our post-earthquake environment.



Emergency Procedures

We recently held an earthquake drill and evacuated the school to the high ground behind our playing fields. While most aspects of the drill were satisfactory we have consulted staff and students on what improvements are needed. The main focus is on getting our students to higher ground more quickly and improving our procedures for accounting for all personnel. Our overall plan is the same as notified to you in my letter of 31 January 2017.

2017 Netball Season

The 2017 Netball season is due to start on 29 April for A & B Grades.

Subs

- Year 7/8 – \$ 40 per player
- All other Grades – \$50 per player

The Year 7/8 grading day will be Saturday 6 May 2017.

Please phone Rosie Clemett at school if you require more information.

Upcoming Events

Check out the school website for upcoming events. We are also putting regular posts on our school Facebook page. Parents should also be accessing the KAMAR Parent Portal for information on upcoming events and student information. This can be accessed through <http://kamar.kaikourahigh.school.nz>. If you are not sure of your password please contact the school office.