



South Otago High School

Newsletter 6th March 2020

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa
Warm greetings to you all

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

It has been a busy week although a little quieter without students on Tuesday! This week also saw the first day of the building course which we run in partnership with **Big River Homes** and **Otago Polytechnic**. On Wednesday it was great to see the new intake of students from South Otago High School and Tokomairiro High School being welcomed to the course, equipped and ready to start building a new small home. This partnership provides great opportunities for our students and past history shows that many will be offered work or further training as a result of participation in the programme.

Pandemic plan

With the news this week that New Zealand now has three confirmed cases of the Coronavirus or Covid-19, the importance of planning for a pandemic in New Zealand has increased. As part of the South Otago High School preparation we have reviewed and updated our pandemic plan. We are reinforcing good hygiene practices with students and also investing in supplies to be able to manage the spread of the infection should this become necessary within the school community.

As part of our plan I would like to reassure parents and our wider community that we are preparing for this situation and the first part of our plan is to reassure our community. We also ask for you to reinforce good hygiene practices with your children. These include:

- ♦ Thoroughly washing hands with soap and water before eating or after toileting or after sneezing/ coughing or before preparing food. This is known to be the biggest factor in reducing the spread of infections. It is also very important should they be sick.
- ♦ Dry hands thoroughly after washing.
- ♦ Sneeze or cough into elbow rather than hand.
- ♦ Use a disposable tissue to blow nose and discard into a bin
- ♦ Keep hands away from nose, mouth or eyes

As we manage this evolving situation we will be taking advice from the Ministry of Health and our local health services. We will maintain contact with our community through newsletters, email, text messages and letters home.

At this stage the focus of the Ministry of Health remains at keeping out the virus and stamping out the current infections.

At the recent conference meetings mentors checked to make sure that we had the correct contact details for parents, caregivers/ whanau. If you were unable to attend

the conference events please do make contact with your child's mentor to discuss goals and plans for this year and also confirm we have the correct contact details for you.

Qualish Group from Thailand

Due to the Covid-19 issues the Qualish group who normally would be visiting next week will now not be coming to New Zealand. We hope that we will be able to resume this trip in the future once the outbreak no longer poses a risk to all concerned.

Conferencing

Thank you to all the parents that attended the conference event. Over 85% of the school was represented at these meetings and I know that some parents have made arrangements to meet with mentors outside of the day and evening that were allocated. The involvement of parent/ whanau in student's education is critical to student success. Thank you for your support in assisting in student development and success.

Year 10 camp

The annual year 10 camp is coming up next week. As I have said previously, this is a valuable learning opportunity and a great way for students to build positive relationships with peers and adults. Students who attend have a good time and thoroughly enjoy the experience, for some, they make life-long friends and reflect upon this camp as the highlight of their time at South Otago High School. Parents, please encourage your son, daughter to attend this camp.

Year 9 Survey

Congratulations to Emily Jenkinson who was the winner of the \$50 Warehouse voucher for completing the parent and student survey for the start of the school year activities. Thank you to all the families who took the time to provide feedback to the school. We appreciate the time and effort that you took and this does inform our future plans.

Finally

This week, the first of autumn, has seen the temperature drop in the morning. Now is the time to prepare for winter and ensure that students have a plain black jacket for school. Hoodies will not be accepted and should not be worn to or from school or during the school day. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a high standard of school uniform.

Have a great weekend.

Ka kite ano
Mr Mike Wright
Principal

PHOTOS

To order class/mentor/year group photos please go to www.geoffhorrell.co.nz find SOHS photos on the home page, click on that then you will be asked to put this code in : sohsc20

ID Photos

Details for ordering ID Photos have been handed out to students at Mentor time last week. The cost is \$7.00. Money/Internet Payments and order form must be in to the office by **Wednesday 11th March.**
NO LATE ORDERS
WILL BE ACCEPTED

Basketball Parents Evening

Please come along to T5 Tuesday 10 March 6pm.
Agenda: Quick meet and greet; Basketball obligations and rules for Basketball Otago; Roster for Drivers; Roster for bake sale fundraising; Information regarding gear. See you there. Parents of Year 10 Basketballers, please come along even if your child is at Tautuku on that day.

Nga mihi

Nisa Hasanbegovic
TIC Basketball

Driver Needed

Kia Ora Katou

We are looking for a driver to take students to a polytech course in Gore every Friday. Drivers are paid for 4 hours work and can stay in Gore or do 2 return trips. Van departs school at 7.55 am and leaves Gore at 3 pm. Any interest please email Deputy Principal Paul McDowall on pmcdowall@sohs.school.nz or phone him on 418 0517

Scholarships

Information comes into the school on a range of opportunities for students. There are many scholarships offered nationwide and these are shared with students through email or google docs as they come to hand by year level Deans. This week we received information on the YFU (Youth For Understanding) Student Exchange Programme (students 15-18 years) <https://www.yfu.com.au/scholarships-discounts/>

There are scholarships available for students who are "demonstrating community or issue based engagement that is making, or has the potential to make a difference to the world around them."

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean

Senior Volleyball

Senior girls volleyball is going extremely well this season. On Monday night the girls were super positive which created a great team environment and they played extremely well to take out a very convincing win which was especially sweet due to a loss to the same Logan park team in the first round!

Morgan Kinzett
TIC Volleyball

Junior Volleyball

Junior girls volleyball is going very well this season. The girls are doing extremely well considering it is most of these girls first year playing volleyball. They are always keeping the other teams on their toes and work really well together as a team! We look forward to seeing how much they improve throughout the term.

Mack Maaka Year 12
Kacey Hislop Year 12

Upcoming Events Term 1 2020

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Tuesday 3rd March..... | Conference Day |
| • Wednesday 4th March..... | Conference Evening |
| • Friday 6th March..... | Paid Union Meeting 1 - 3pm |
| • Monday 9th - Friday 13th March..... | Year 10 Tautuku Camp |
| • Tuesday 17th March..... | "Shave for a Cure" |
| • Monday 23rd March..... | Otago Anniversary Day School Closed |
| • Tuesday 24th March..... | Taieri Summer Interchange |
| • Tuesday 7th April..... | Swimming Sports |
| • Thursday 9th April..... | Last Day Term 1 |

Pictured are some of our Year 9 students with their Year 13 Peer Support leaders. The groups meet Thursday mentoring times during term 1 and on other occasions during the year.



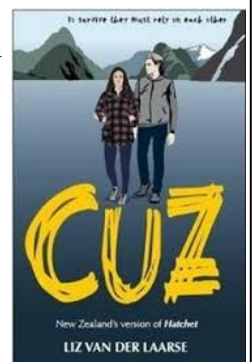
News from the Library

This week in the Library we have started our annual chess competition, we have seven boys and one girl participating and they are off to a great start.

The book I am reading this week has been written by a New Zealand Author by the name of *Liz van der Laarse* who lives at the top of the North Island and is also a primary school teacher. The book called *CUZ* which is published by One Tree House is an adventure-packed story about two young Maori cousins River and Huia who embark on a fishing expedition to Milford Sound. When their adventure turns sour and they end up just trying to survive, Huia must teach River how to live off the land. Will the knowledge that her nan has handed down to her be enough for them to make it home alive?

This book is a great read, especially for those who may be a bit reluctant as it is exciting, informative and fast-paced. Well worth a try.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian



Science

9O have been working hard in science so far this year. In the photos they are working hard on Education Perfect activities on their chromebooks to back up their learning. The chromebooks are a fantastic resource because they give students access to further scientific communities and the opportunity for more engaging activities. They are also involved in a science competition against 9T.



The year 9 classes are now working on their first investigation for the year. They are investigating what volume of water makes the most oat seeds germinate and are enjoying learning about how the scientific method works. This is 9T showing off their seed cups.



In Year 13 Biology we are currently learning about Homeostasis (keeping a stable internal environment). These students are testing thermoregulation by putting their hands in hot and cold water then (after 5 uncomfortable minutes in the different temperatures) into room temperature water. The brain deals with the two different inputs by saying the room temperature water is either too hot or too cold (based on what one it was previously in).

Melissa Murdoch
Science And Biology

