



South Otago High School

Newsletter 24th July 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Welcome to the first newsletter of the third term. I spoke to students in the assembly on Tuesday that although it is the third term it does feel like it is only the second term after a chaotic first half of the year due to Covid-19.

I trust that students have returned to school refreshed and ready for their studies this term. For all students I expect that they will have reviewed their achievement and work towards their goals. For some now will be the time to redouble their efforts and to push for their full potential. For others they may be feeling confident and have a number of achievements recorded. For these students they should continue to work as they have as the second half of the year will go by very fast!

Past holidays

With the winter weather making its presence felt during the holidays I am sure that there would be many like me who struggled to find the motivation to get out doors. I did spend a very pleasant morning watching the First XV play against Wakatipu High School on the last Saturday of the holidays. It was good to see so many supporters travel to encourage our team. Sadly they were defeated in the last play of the match but it was still a pleasure to see them being able to play when earlier in the year it looked so unlikely.

Farewell to Stephanie Carson

This afternoon we will farewell Stephanie Carson who has been a long serving member of the cleaning staff at South Otago High School. Stephanie has decided to retire as she has decided that her wellbeing should now take priority. We wish Stephanie well with her retirement and thank her for her service to the school.

Year 9 and 12 Parent/ student surveys

On Thursday and Friday this week Year 9 and Year 12 students have been issued with a survey. This survey is done every year with a group of senior and junior students and the feedback supports the development work which we undertake at South Otago High School to meet the needs of our students and community. There is a section for parents to complete and we ask that the completed surveys are returned to the school office by Friday 14 August. Student/parents who complete and return the survey do go in the draw for \$50 Warehouse voucher. We do value your honest feedback and encourage you to complete the survey.

Parent/ Kamar Portal

I am aware that some parents have been having issues with access to various aspects regarding the parent portal including being able to see the accounts. During the holidays we have had a new system installed and some of our settings have changed as a result. We are responding to the issues and working to resolve these as fast as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are still having difficulty in accessing information.

SNOB

Next Friday is the Senior Night of the Ball (SNOB). I am looking forward to the event. Thank you to those parents who have made payments to clear outstanding balances. This is a school event that we enjoy hosting on behalf of

the students. This year it has been challenging following the postponement due to Covid-19 and the timing to enable minimal disruption for student learning. However, I would like to thank the SNOB Committee for their work and the support of Mr Douglas and Ms Jory to ensure that students do not miss out this year.

Start of 2021

In the coming weeks we will be finalising the start dates for 2021 for South Otago High School. We are expecting that course confirmation for senior students will take place in the last week in January as normal followed by one day for Year 9 and 13 students with a full school opening the following week. As soon as we have confirmed dates for 2021 these will be published to enable parents and students to make plans for their summer break.

Positive feedback from the Ministry of Education

This week I have received acknowledgement from the Ministry of Education for our planning and reporting documents. Their letter concluded with; 'Strategic planning reflects the strong commitment to continual improvement and to the wellbeing of students and staff. It is pleasing to note the positive shifts in both student engagement and overall achievement'

40 Hour Famine

At the end of last term I also received a letter from World Vision following the student lead activities and work done on the 40 Hour Famine. Excerpt from their letter is presented below:

I wanted to send a personal thank you for championing the 40 Hour Famine at South Otago High School. This incredible youth movement is only possible with your support. We're forever grateful for your commitment to inspiring and leading your students to become global change makers. Thank you!

I look forward to welcoming the World Vision team to school next week when they will be presenting in assembly. Congratulations to the student leaders who worked so hard on this event and the thanks for the support from Ms Kelly Bensley.

Finally

This week has seen some very wintery weather. Parents please do make sure that your son/daughter has a suitable uniform jacket, jersey and shoes for the conditions. With your support we can ensure that we do not have to talk to students about incorrect uniform items and the potential conflict that this can cause. The correct uniform is important as it is part of demonstrating being part of our community/ organisation and is a visible demonstration of pride in our school.

With winter conditions we will use the school text service and Facebook page to communicate issues with bus travel, school closures or delayed openings. We will do this as soon possible when needed.

Ka Kite Ano

Mike Wright
Principal

Tertiary Open Day Monday 10th August

Parents/Caregivers and students have received a letter with information about the day. Please have permission slips back to the office by Monday 27th July so that we can confirm places on the bus (\$15 donation). The bus leaves for Dunedin from the school bus bay at 7:30am sharp returning by 4:30pm, students are not required to wear their uniform on the day.

Study/Resilience Workshop Friday 21 August

Senior students have received information on a workshop run by 'The Art of Learning'. They specialise in effective study skills for individuals; skills like note taking, time management, resilience, failing well and mindset. The intensive two hour coaching session for Year 11-13 starts at 10am. It aims to help students have success and get them into the best possible position to actively engage in exam preparation. The cost is \$15 per student, payment to the school office (by 14th August so that we can confirm numbers and venue) please reference TAOL.

Cath Bloxham

Year 13 Dean

YEAR 9 and 10 Swimming During Physical Education

Year 9 and 10 students will be beginning aquatics which will involve visiting the swimming pool during their timetabled Health and Physical Education lessons this term. Your child will participate in approximately 8-10 lessons based around water safety skills and investigating how water based environments can be used for recreation, fitness and wellbeing. This unit is part of an ongoing assessment and each lesson your child will work towards a grade which will go onto their online portal report and towards their overall SOAP score for the year.

Your child will be required to bring their swimming togs, towel and any other equipment they require twice per week for the classes outlined below. Students will be transported in the school van by a teacher or support staff. Students will be required to follow the instructions and rules of all school and pool staff to, from and at the pool. It is an expectation that students positively demonstrate all school values during this time. We would appreciate it if you could support us to encourage and foster safe water practices with your child. You can do this by supporting them to remember to pack and bring their equipment during the times their class is going to the pool.

Your child will also be given a letter by their Physical Education Teacher to bring home with specific dates and times for their class.

| Period | Times | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 8.40am-9.40am | 9T (26) | | 9P (28) | |
| TT - 9.40am-10am | | | | | |
| 2 | 10am-11am | | 9O (24) 9U (26) | 10P (24) | |
| INTERVAL 11-11.25am | | | | | |
| 3 | 11.25am-12.25pm | 9P (28) | | 10T (26) | 10U (19) |
| 4 | 12.25pm-1.25pm | 10P (24) | | 9T (26) | 10 O (16) |
| LUNCH 1.25-2.10pm | | | | | |
| 5 | 2.10pm-3.10pm | 10T (26) | 10U (19) | 10 O (16) | 9O (24) 9U (26) |

Should your child not be able to partake in a lesson please ensure you provide a written note with the date, your phone number and your signature which can be presented to your child's teacher.

If your child is unable to participate they will be required to stay at school and will have set work to complete in the back of a senior class supervised by another teacher.

If you have any questions please feel free to make contact with your child's Physical Education Teacher.

Hannah Gold, Head of Health and Physical Education

Parent helpers required for SNOB

Friday 31st July 2020

**If you are able to help anytime during the day or evening
Contact Sandra Watt 0273080046 for information.**

Small-Bore Shooting

Had a big group down at small-bore shooting this week, with a bunch of new faces which is awesome to see. Some of them moving up to shooting using a competition sling!

This week we had Petra Anderson, Alize Camp, Jayden Read, Brayden Ferguson, Felix McKenzie-Woods, Robbie Sneddon, Koen Robson and Faith Batt returning. With Sophie Hunter, Luke Holden, Blake Henderson, James Budge joining us for their first shot with this club.

Keep up the amazing work team!

Melissa Murdoch

TIC Small-bore shooting



Disability Parking

CCS Disability Action is the largest pan-disability and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. We support over 5000 disabled people and their families through 16 branches across the country. We also manage the Mobility Parking Permit Scheme which supports over 150,000 permit holders.

One of the ways we currently support the correct use of mobility parking spaces is through a smart phone app we have developed called Access Aware. This app allows users to report people parking in mobility parks without a permit in real time. We have a number of councils, supermarket chains and private car park providers now using the app and it is fast gaining traction across all sectors.

View App here: <https://ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/mobility-parking/access-aware/>

Through thousands of reports made on the app we can see that a large amount of mobility parking abuse and mismanagement happens around schools, including yours. It is never acceptable to use a mobility park without a permit – even for a few minutes. So, we are hoping we can help you educate your parents and caregivers about how they negatively affect the lives of disabled people when they use your designated mobility parking spaces without a permit. We have also noticed an increase in grandparents providing transport to and from school and this leads to an increase in the demand for mobility car parks by permit holders.

Please consider using correct signage on the mobility car parks at your school, indicating if they are reserved for individual students or are available to all permit holders as this would make compliance easier.

We encourage you to give some space in your newsletters to a photo of the mobility car parks on your grounds and on the road with a request they be strictly used by permit holders only.

You are welcome to call me on 0508227322 to discuss this further. I look forward to working with you to ensure the rights of your disabled students and community members are upheld.

Raewyn Hailes

Access Aware Coordinator

DDI: 04 5678913 Mob: 027 6003828

EML: Raewyn.Hailes@ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

www: ccsDisabilityAction.org.nz

Library News

A remainder to all students: If you borrow a book it is your responsibility to ensure the return of this book to the Library. Unfortunately, a few students have misplaced their books lately. I would like to encourage students to take their books with them when they leave a classroom. Books that are not returned or mysteriously go missing will be added to accounts so please look after them and return them when they become overdue. Email's are sent out every morning as soon as a book becomes overdue. Please remember to check those email's!

Katrina Pudney
Librarian

Below: Here are a couple of pictures of 9U investigating fluid density by making and flying hot air balloons in science.

Ken Nicholson
Science



Hockey

It was a frustrating game of hockey for the SOHS 11 a-side team on Tuesday night. Up against Kings B we had the better of them for two thirds of the game. We penetrated their circle numerous times from creating turnovers and good passing but just could not put the ball in the back of the net. It was nil all at half time and we were well in the hunt. Eventually, in the second half, Kings created and finished some chances. Final score was 0-3 but should have been at least 6-3 to us, such were the opportunities squandered. Big thanks to Madox Solomon and Shaun Bennett for stepping up to the 11 a-side team. Both played well and Madox earned player of the day for his efforts

The 6 a-side team played on a very mild and calm Monday night. It was a disappointing loss to JMC Grey, who fielded 5 subs to our one, putting the pressure on from the beginning. Memphis played in the back sweeper position, and was a machine at saving goals. Madox, Breanna and Alec enjoyed their game, making strong tackles in the mid, while Shaun, Wyatt and James held positions on the wings. It is great to see the team progress, and their skills are noticeably improving each game. Player of the day went to Shaun Bennett who was a strong player moving the ball up the field in attack.

Next week (28 July 2020):

Both teams are playing on Tuesday night.

11 a-side vs OBHS 2nd XI at 5.40

6 a-side vs Kings Juniors at 6.40

Simon Cullen 11 a-side

Jo Bennett 6 a-side

Rugby

Last weekend I was lucky enough to be able to travel to Queenstown with the First XV where they took on Wakatipu. We travelled up on the Friday night and stayed at the Arrowtown Holiday Park. It was a very exciting game to watch with South Otago only scoring in the 56th minute after being down 17-0. Two more tries followed in quick succession which gave us a 2 point lead. Unfortunately we conceded a penalty right in front of the posts and Wakatipu kicked the ball over and taking the win 20-19. I want to thank all of the parents and coaches that made this trip possible.

This weekend we will have four teams playing away, while the First XV will have a home game at Toko. Please see the draw as well as bus departure times below.

- U14 Red vs Mt Aspiring – 1.00pm (Wanaka Showgrounds)
- U15 vs Mt Aspiring – 1.00pm (Wanaka Showgrounds)
The bus for the above two games will leave South Otago High School at 8am sharp.
- U14 Blue vs Waitaki Boys – 12.30pm (Kensington #3)
- Colts vs OBHS – 12.30pm (Logan Park #1)
The bus for these two games will leave the high school at 10.30am sharp. It will drop the U14 boys at Kensington and carry on to Logan Park. After the Colts game, it will return and pick the U14 boys back up from Kensington. This bus will pick the Toko boys up outside Toko High School at approximately 10.50am.
- First XV vs St Kevins – 1.00pm (Tokomairiro rugby club)
All players will need to bring a plate of food which will be dropped off at the clubrooms prior to the game starting. I will need some parents to help out in the kitchen please.

On Sunday the 16th of August, the Otago Country rugby combine is being held at Molyneux Park In Alexandra. This session will run from 10.00am – 2.00pm. This session is designed for players who would usually put their hand up for representative rugby, or for any players wanting further development. The course targets U18 & U16 boys as well as U18 girls. There is the opportunity for U16 girls to trial as well, however, they must be confident that they can 'foot it' with the U18 girls.

There is no cost, however, players will be required to find their own transport to this combine.

For U18 players who are interested in making the Highlanders U18 Schools camp. To be eligible to be selected for the Highlanders U18 Regional Camp each player is required to attend the Combine. This Combine will deliver important content which would normally be presented at camp so all players including those injured should attend. This will allow more time to deliver positional specific skills, holistic development presentations and interaction between player and coach. The Highlanders U18 camp introduction will be held directly after the combine.

If you are fully committed (you cannot pull out) to one of these combines then please email me (Mr Palmer) with your name and date of birth. I need this information to me by Friday the 31st of July.

Jason Palmer
TIC Rugby

Upcoming Events Term 3 2020

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|--|----------------------------|
| • <i>Friday 31st July</i> | SNOB - Senior Ball |
| • <i>Wednesday 19th August</i> | Conference Evening |
| • <i>Thursday 20th August</i> | Conference Day |
| • <i>Wednesday 26th August</i> | NCEA Option Evening |
| • <i>Monday 31st August - Friday 4th September</i> | Tournament Week |
| • <i>Tuesday 15th September</i> | Sports and Cultural Photos |
| • <i>Friday 25th September</i> | Last Day Term 3 |

Year 13 Biology Trip

The year 13 Biology class went to the Otago Museum to engage with the human evolution course. They got to engage with some of their excellent resources and expert instruction as well as look around the museum. They enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot from their time with the fantastic demonstrator. The demonstrator commented numerous times that they were an amazing group.

Melissa Murdoch
Science

