



South Otago High School

Newsletter 13th August 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Whilst I know that we will all be concerned about returning to Covid-19 Alert Level 2 I would like to start this newsletter by concentrating on some positive news from South Otago High School. I am very proud to announce that Keely Hill (Year 12) has been selected to train and play with the Otago Spirit Womens Rugby Team. This is a great achievement and well deserved for Keely and we look forward to seeing her playing career progress in the future.

Also, this week some of our Kapa Haka and Whanau group students have been performing. This first was for an invited audience at school and then on Tuesday evening as part of a welcome to Sir Stephen Tindall to a community event. The student performance was extremely good and I received a lot of positive feedback from members of the community who were very impressed by our students.

Covid-19

This week our region returned to Alert Level 2. As a school we have reinstated a lot of the measures that we had in place when we were last at this level. On Wednesday afternoon we provided letters to every student and posted information on the school Facebook page.

On Friday we are expecting an announcement from the government as to our future alert level. If we progress to Alert Level 3 this will mean that face to

face teaching will be suspended. As we understand currently, the school will open for children of essential workers in years 9 and 10 who require supervision so that parents can continue with work. I expect that we will communicate with parents of Y9 and 10 to determine who will need supervision.

Conferences

At the present time we are looking at how we manage our forthcoming conference with students. I anticipate that we will be providing information early next week to families for how we will be conducting these meetings.

Finally

Last week I provided the following information to parents. I find that I am having to repeat this request for parents to communicate with school directly before collecting students for what ever reason.

'Whilst most students are aware of the process of reporting to the school office if they are feeling unwell during the school day we are finding that some students are leaving the school site without informing the office. We are also finding some parents are collecting students without the school being informed. We ask that parents reinforce with their children that the school office is informed prior to students leaving the school grounds.' (Newsletter, 7 August 2020)

Ka Kite Ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Conferences

We look forward to seeing you at Conferences on Wednesday 19th August from 4pm to 8pm or Thursday 20th August from 9am to 3pm. To book an appointment with your child's mentor please go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and use the booking code **cdarw**.

The aim of this round of Conferences is to review your child's progress towards their goals and to adjust these as necessary for the rest of 2020. I would encourage you to talk to your child about this before the appointment and it is expected that students attend with parents or caregivers.

To assist you in talking to your child about their progress I will email shortly with information and reminders on how to log onto the portal along with what the information means.

Mr Scarth
Deputy Principal

Scholarships

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships to support their future plans and directions. The links below are for Otago University and Otago Polytechnic. Year 13 students have a full list of what is available on their key dates document. Other senior students thinking about their future plans are encouraged to look at the Money hub website for a comprehensive list of scholarship opportunities.

<https://www.moneyhub.co.nz/scholarships-nz.html>

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/index.html>

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/future-students/fees-and-scholarships/index.html>

<https://www.op.ac.nz/students/scholarships>

Cath Bloxham

Year 13 Dean

Board of Trustees

Student Representative

Would you like to represent the students on the Board of Trustees?

This is a 12 month position—you attend Board of Trustee meetings in the evening, once a month (from 6.30pm onwards)

Petrina Scherp is the current Student Representative

Nominations open

Tuesday, 18th August

and close *8th September*

Voting for the student rep will be held at the end of Term

Call at the office for a nomination form and job description after 18th August

Kapa Haka

On Tuesday this week the South Otago High School Kapa Haka group were asked to perform a bracket for the Clutha Foundation. Special guest Sir Stephen Tindall was in town to promote the Clutha Foundation. The students were excited to meet Sir Stephen and showcase their passion and skills. Many thanks to their tutor Timikuka Walker for all the hours of practice and also for speaking on behalf of the school. It was a great evening and a great opportunity to show off how dedicated the group is and how far Kapa Haka has come in the school. As the teacher in charge I can't speak highly enough of these young people and the role they have in promoting Tikanga Māori in our school and community.

Paul McDowall - Deputy Principal



Right: From Left to Right: Daeshaan Stapleforth, Sir Stephen Tindall, Aroha Stapleforth and Trey Stapleforth



Above: The Kapa Haka Group performs a Powhiri for Sir Stephen Tindall on Tuesday evening

Upcoming Events Term 3 2020

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Wednesday 19th August..... | Conference Evening |
| • Thursday 20th August..... | Conference Day |
| • Wednesday 26th August..... | NCEA Option Evening |
| • Monday 31st August - Friday 4th September..... | Tournament Week |
| • Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th September..... | Year 8 Enrolment Interviews |
| • Tuesday 15th September..... | Sports and Cultural Photos |
| • Friday 25th September..... | Last Day Term 3 |

Year 11 PE LEAP Trip to Dunedin



Netball

The shortened 2020 netball season came to an end last Saturday in the South Otago Netball competition. Senior A team still have their competition in Dunedin and whether this goes ahead this Saturday is still unknown. Netball New Zealand are to make a decision country wide on Friday afternoon. Our Senior A Team were to be heading to the annual Barbara Bell Tournament on Saturday to play Sunday whether this goes ahead depends on NNZ's guidelines that are put in place we won this tournament last year and really wanted to retain it in 2020.

Results from Saturday:

- A won against Southern Plumbing
- B a draw against Hillend Social
- C a win against Lawrence A
- Alpha a loss to Johnstones Electrical
- Beta won against Catlins B
- Blue lost to Hillend Shotz

Our Green and Red played each other with Green getting the win.

Thank you to our coaches, managers, scorers, umpires and supporters for all their efforts over this shortened season. I want to make a special mention of our departing Year 13 girls who have served SOHS netball so well over the five years:

- Senior A: Cassidy Robertson, Amber Mowat, Brooke Storer and Kaya Laban
- Senior B: Holly Storer and Brooke Walsh
- Senior C: Jessica Davidson

I will especially remember our Australian trip with you all.

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

Congratulations to Keely Hill on making it into the Otago Women's Spirit Squad for 2020. We are super proud of you Keely. Making this squad in Year 12 is awesome!!



Country Coaching



Year 9 Science

Three of our students participated in Aurora science fair held in Dunedin last week. They did a fantastic job and put in heaps of effort. It was a tough competition with lots of high standard research. Well done to Alanah and Zara who impressed the judges with their innovative cakes. Congratulations to Ryan Williams who won 4 awards- University of Otago Biochemistry, University of Otago Chemistry, University of Otago Botany and Oil and Gas Education award. Alanah and Zara got Highly commended certificates for their project in science fair.

Shobhana Bir Science



Above: From left to right: Ryan Williams, Alanah Anderson and Zara Milne.

Loves Me Not

Today we have had a team of Police officers from Dunedin and Balclutha present the Loves Me Not programme to all our Year 12 students. Working alongside senior school staff the Police presented this full day programme which was developed after the death of Sophie Elliot in 2008. During the Police investigation it became clear that her murderer was a typical abuser who had a track record of treating partners badly. Sophie's mother Lesley Elliot has written a book 'Loves Me Not'. International research suggests education is the key and Lesley set up the Sophie Elliot Foundation to raise awareness among young people, their friends and families of the signs of partner abuse. The programme was developed by the NZ Police in partnership with the foundation and the Ministry of Social Development. Its primary aim is to help young people keep safe. We are grateful to the Police for their continued support of this programme in our school.

Cath Bloxham - Guidance Counsellor



Library

This week sees the completion of our final Chess Competition for the year and I would like to congratulate all our players this year for showing such good sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the games they played throughout the competition. Our final game was held between Luka Wilson and James Briones, a great game took place but alas there could only be one winner and Luka Wilson was triumphant. Well done boys you played a great game.

Our book of the week this week is SS Penguin SOS written by Adrienne Frater and published by One Tree House Ltd. This fictional account is based on a true story and is focused on how the SS Penguin ended up being a shipwreck and becoming one of New Zealand's worst maritime disasters. A disaster that not many people in New Zealand are aware of. This is a heart breaking account of what happened that fateful evening on the 12th of February 1909 and is told from the Author's perspective as she is the great-niece of the only woman on board who survived the sinking.

**Katrina Pucney
Librarian**



Rugby

The John McGlashan train came down from Dunedin on Saturday with two U14 teams. The SOHS U14 blue team played against the JMGC U14 White team and went down 48-10. On the other field, the SOHS U14 Red team came up against the JMGC U14 Blue team and went down 27-24. Meanwhile in Cromwell, the SOHS First XV took on Mt Aspiring and were beaten 33-5. On Saturday we have all five teams playing:

- First XV vs Combined Co-ed (12.30pm) – Mosgiel
- Colts vs KV-EO-BAY (11.15am) – Toko
- U15 vs Kings U15 Tigers (11.15am) - Hancock Park
- U14 Red vs Taieri Juniors (11.15am) - SOHS #2
- U14 Blue vs Wakatipu (1.00pm) – SOHS #2

Obviously we are now in Level 2 and this will mean there are some changes to rugby. Under COVID-19 Alert Level 2, all rugby activity throughout the rest of NZ can continue if MOH and NZR COVID-19 guidelines are followed. I have included these below:

- Personal Water bottles are to be used. No use of team water bottles.
- If the boys are feeling unwell then please stay at home.
- Coaches will be keeping a register of what players are attending each game/training

On Wednesday, Slade McDowall came down to SOHS to chat to the Year 12/13 rugby players about the transition from school rugby to senior rugby. This was a beneficial talk for all the boys involved and I want to thank him and his team for taking the time to come down.

Congratulations to all of the boys who made the U15 Tournament Team. They had their first training session on Wednesday and they are looking very sharp. I want to acknowledge the time and effort that Adam Wyber, Nathan White and Tony Valli are putting into this team.

Finally, I want to pass on a huge congratulations to Keely Hill who made the Otago Spirit squad. This is an incredible achievement for a Year 12 student. Keely plays for SOHS but also for Otago University (who have their final tomorrow).

J Palmer (TIC Rugby)



Kia ora Basketball Whanau,

Please be advised The Edgar Centre and School Gyms have continued to employ strong hygiene practices. However, in Level 2 these new standards must be followed:

- No spectators both at the arena and at the schools our junior team plays. Please do not be offended.
- Only the team playing, coach, manager courtside with game officials
- No warm up or cool down time is allocated
- Five minutes either side of game time is permitted at the arena and gymnasiums
- Continue to follow the one way system at the arena and schools
- No handshakes at the conclusion, 1m parallel line instead
- Use of sanitiser before and after games. Toilets still operating
- Score sheet used for contact tracing.

I will double-check our students' subs for correct details. We will adhere to these requirements. Please continue to drop off and collect your child from the teacher carpark, but please there is no need to exit your vehicle. Any changes to our community circumstances will be forwarded to you asap.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nga mihi nui

Nisa Hasanbegovic - TIC Basketball