



South Otago High School

Newsletter 21st August 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

With the announcement last Friday that our region remains at Alert Level 2 we have been busy preparing for off site visits and trips as well as the possible implications for the winter tournament week. We accept that this does provide considerable uncertainty for both families and businesses that may be supplying services for our students.

Whilst we work through these issues as fast as possible I do appreciate your patience. Our priority is to ensure that students have a positive and safe experience.

Community Consultation

As indicated in the newsletter a few weeks ago, we are starting our round community consultation and will be hosting a series of meetings around the region and we would like to meet parents to discuss what is going well at South Otago High School and areas that we can develop in the future.

The information gathered from these meetings will be used, alongside other feedback to develop the school strategic plan for the future of the school.

As we are working under Covid-18 Alert Level 2 at the present time I would ask that you please register for one of the meetings. We will ask participants to use the hand sanitiser provided on arrival and we will have a contact register for each of the events. Please contact the school office so that we can prepare and know who we expect to attend for each event. The meetings will be held:

Clinton, Community Centre, Monday 24 August at 7pm
Clydevale, Greenfield Tavern, Monday 7 September at 7pm
Kaitangata, Community Centre, Thursday 10 September at 7pm
Balclutha, Town and Country, Tuesday 15 September at 7pm

Vaping

Whilst I enjoy celebrating the positives at school in my column for the newsletter, it is disappointing that I have to raise a concerning trend in our school community. We are finding that we have had a number of students who have been experimenting with the use of vaping devices in school. This includes vape devices being shared amongst students which presents very obvious risks of infection at this time.

As a school we do not allow vaping in school by students (or staff). We treat vaping the same as smoking. In addition we have great concerns regarding what is contained in the vape device and being inhaled by students. This could potentially have a significant impact upon health and safety particularly if a student's judgement is impaired and they are then participating in 'high risk' activities such as sport, activities, operating machinery in a school work shop etc.

Advice from the police states: "Vape devices and e-liquids are also regulated under the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990. It is an offence to sell nicotine vaping products to young people aged under 18. Learn more about vaping law and policy at vapingfacts.health.nz."

Where students are found in possession of vape devices the school will be confiscating these as we believe that they are a risk to health and safety. Parents will be able to collect the devices. We will also be writing to all parents of students who we believe have been vaping.

Pomahaka Block

The builders are moving out of Pomahaka Block as the first stage of the redevelopment is completed. The painters are finishing off their work and the new furniture has arrived and being put into the rooms. On Monday we will have a formal blessing and opening of the block with students able to access the new facilities and enjoy their new learning environment from P1 on Monday. This is exciting and has been a project a long time in coming to fruition. I am looking forward to stage 2 of the project getting under way and I know that costings for the work is underway at the present time. I look forward to the work commencing as soon as possible.

Class Act

Next week I was looking forward to accompanying Luka Wilson and James Briones with their whanau to meet the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern and for our students to be presented with the Class Act Awards. Sadly, the Prime Minister has had to cancel her participation at this event due to the Covid events. This is very disappointing so we will ensure that there is an acknowledgement for these students within one of our school events.

Clarity around COVID-19 test and treatment

The Ministry of Education has asked that the following information be passed on to parents:
COVID-19 related care – including diagnosis, testing and treatment – is provided and free of charge to anyone who requires it, who has symptoms.

This is irrespective of citizenship, visa status, nationality or level of medical insurance coverage. The only time a person should be charged is when they ask for a test in order to enter another country. Please share this information with your staff, students and parents.

Ministry of Education Parent web site for Covid-19:
Information and resources for parents can be found at:
<https://parents.education.govt.nz/essential-information/covid-19-information-for-parents-and-whanau/>

Finally

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended conferences this week. If you were unable to meet with your child's mentor please contact them directly to arrange an appointment either in person, online or over the phone. The conversations with mentors and parents participation and support does have a positive impact upon student's achievement.

Ka Kite Ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Cups and trophies are required to be returned, clean, to the school office by Friday 18th September.

Pomahaka Block Upgrade



Re-establishment of SOHS Calf Scheme

As part of our SOHS local fundraising efforts the BOT would like to re-establish our previous fundraising cattle scheme.

We are looking for any farmers who would be willing to donate grazing to finish cattle – If you would be willing to help us out with this please contact Bronwyn Campbell 027 208 4115

Bronwyn Campbell
BOT Parent Representative

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

Kia ora Basketball Whanau,

Thank you for your continued support of our three teams. We are always grateful that you have time for us and can share the load of driving. We are also really pleased with Basketball Otago and Dunedin Schools for their response to AL2, with contact tracing, use of zones, the one way system for entry and exits, and sanitising. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will take this opportunity to let you know that the teams are enjoying the sport and last week Dallas Kupa-Pickering drew admiration from the opposition team and officials when he scored 60 of our 96/45 win against Kavanagh. He averaged an insane 4.3points per minute, sinking 3 x 3 pointers in less than two minutes, and the Kavanagh Coach commented that watching Dallas was absolutely the most entertaining high school basketball he had ever witnessed. Well done, Teams. Keep up the great work.

Nga mihi
Nisa Hasanbegovic
TIC Basketball

BLUES AWARDS

We are calling for nominations for our prestigious Blues Awards. Please find the form attached, or you can pick up a paper copy from the school office.

Remember to check the criteria carefully. The due date is the 12th October.

Jo Jory
Pam Cullen

DAFFIDOL DAY
Friday 28th August
that's next Friday!

If wearing mufti, you need to be wearing something **YELLOW**.
Gold coin donation for this worthy cause that affects so many people in our community.

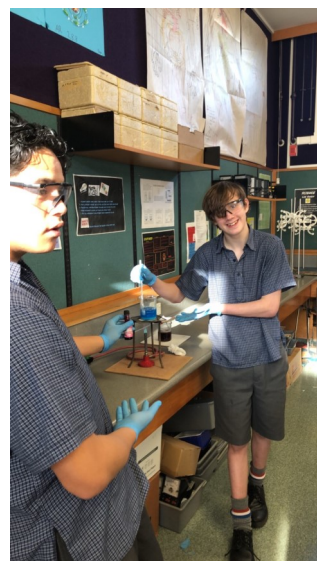
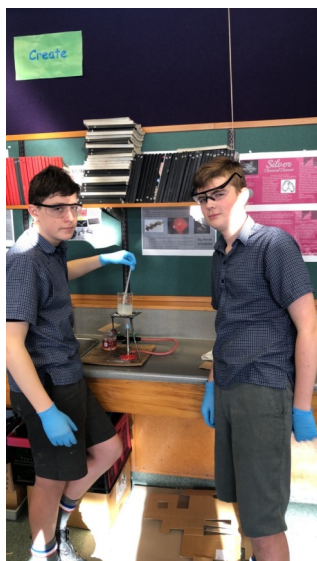
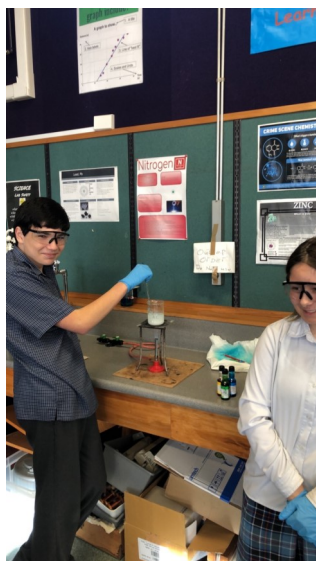


PIC•COLLAGE

Science 10T

In science, 10T have been focusing on some earth science recently and have been learning about the rock cycle. On Friday they made some borax crystals using pipe cleaners and warm water. Each student got to take their own crystal shape they made home.

Morgan Kinzett - Science



Library

This week I have been busy cataloguing new books for our library and I have come across a nice new NZ book called *Flight of the Fantail*. Published in New Zealand by Huia Publishers and written by Steph Matuku it is an exciting story about a group of teenagers who are off on a school trip together on the bus when disaster strikes. As they are climbing up a hill on a gravel road their bus driver passes out. The students try to control the bus but his foot is jammed on the accelerator and they career off the road and down a cliff towards the river. What happens next and how does this story end, come and check it out in the Library

Katrina Pudney - Librarian



Upcoming Events Term 3 2020

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

Hockey

Tuesday 11th August presented another tough challenge for the SOHS 11 a-side with a game versus the table topping and undefeated John McGlashan 2nd XI. The pregame talk from Johnnies was all about an easy win and how many goals they were going to score. This was motivation enough for SOHS to get stuck in. In our typical dogged style we defended hard and made everything difficult for Johnnies when they had the ball. Close to half time Johnnies managed to get a scrappy goal in and another followed from a penalty corner rebound. The second half remained goal less and the final score was 2 nil. Our defence was excellent but again our weakness was converting the few opportunities we created, which would have really applied the pressure to the opposition. Overall a good game especially considering we only had the bare 11 players. Player of day went to Vaughan Watt who led the defence really well.

Tuesday 18th August we were up against Bayfield High School in a game we knew we could win if we played well. Unfortunately we were very slow to get going and basic skills seemed to desert us for much of the first half. Bayfield scored a really soft goal but we managed a reply before halftime to make it 1 all at the break. After a bit of a rev up at halftime things improved slightly in the second half. We were creating plenty of chances but the Bayfield keeper was doing a sterling job of keeping the ball out. Finally Lachie Bennett latched on to a rebound off the keeper's pads and snuck the ball into the goal. Shortly after a great turnover and long pass into the circle from Vaughan Watt created an opportunity for Kelan Smith to score a goal. Bayfield scored a nice goal against the run of play to make a tense finish but we held our nerve to take a scrappy 3-2 win.

For the 6 a-side on Tuesday 11th August, we played against Otago Boys High School Red, without a goalie. Alec stepped into the gear for the night and proved a formidable defender. However, a strong attacking team proved too much with a loss for the SOHS team. Shaun scored two goals and Maddox one from opportunities set up by the other players. Clay Marshall was our player of the day.

On Tuesday 18th August we played against Taieri College Black. Due to sickness we were down players, but that did not deter the team, and everyone who played managed to get a goal, ending in a 8-0 win. Congratulations to James Dobbie who was player of the day.

At the time of writing, the draw is not yet out on Otago Hockey website. We will post on facebook/email the draw for next week as soon as we know.

Simon Cullen 11 a-side

Jo Bennett 6 a-side

Rugby

Last weekend was an interesting one with all rugby cancelled due to our Level 2 announcement. It is positive to see that rugby is back tomorrow and all of our teams are playing. There are some protocol that need to be followed and I have listed these below:

- Teams **MUST NOT** use the shared drink bottles. All players must bring their own drink bottles to games.
- **No supporters will be allowed on the SOHS grounds on Saturday. Only team management, coaches and medics.**
- Any of your players or coaching staff who are feeling unwell **MUST** stay at home.
- Any presentations/speeches need to be done on the field post game.
- There will be no after functions. As soon as the game is over, players are to get changed and leave school grounds ASAP (after changing rooms are cleaned).

Games this weekend

- First XV vs Waitaki Boys (1.00pm) - SOHS #1 (New Gym)
- Colts vs Cromwell (1.00pm) - SOHS #2 (Old Gym)
- U15 vs West Otago (11.15am) - Clutha #2

We are unable to thoroughly clean the changing rooms at school in between games, therefore I have moved the U15 team to Clutha #2. Unfortunately you will not have access to the changing rooms so you will need to get changed on the side of the field.

- U14 Blue vs Dunstan (11.15am) - Alexandra

Vans will be leaving SOHS at 8.00am. Please contact Tony if you would like picked up on the way. Dunstan has also asked that no spectators attend their game this weekend.

- U14 Red vs Waitaki Boys (11.15am) - Oamaru

Van will be leaving SOHS at 7.30am.

J Palmer (TIC Rugby)

Girls' Football

It has been a win and a loss over the last two weeks for both of our girls' football teams.

The game with Logan Park last week for our first eleven did not start well, We were 2-0 down in the first 15 minutes despite some fantastic saves from Caitlin Scherp in goal. As has been the problem this season we were finding it very difficult to break down the opposition back line or giving the ball away in the middle of the field. We hung in there for the rest of the half though and did not concede again before the break. The second half saw a far better performance though. Abby Stewart dropped back into the midfield and along with Grace Jessop saw us controlling that part of the pitch more. This allowed us to begin to find more space up front and out wide and this changed the game markedly. We spent the entire half on attack and created numerous chances. but superb work from their keeper meant that only Caitlin was able to score a goal for us. it was however a much improved performance and we can count ourselves unlucky not to have taken more from the game. Player of the game for us would have been Caitlin for both her keeping and second half in the first. Abby and Olivia Stewart both also had strong games and it would be hard to fault any players on their second half effort.

In what appeared to be very similar to the movie "Groundhog Day" the first eleven game yesterday appeared to be following a very similar pattern to previous weeks. Against Columba we went a goal down early and were still trailing at half time despite being the more dominant side. The opposition having a goal keeper who could kick the ball the length of the field was not helping us but credit to player of the game Sarah Van Asperen and Chloe Henderson who both combined well in the centre of defense to negate this. In what is getting to be a familiar halftime talk we discussed the need to be more clinical in front of goal so as to get the just reward for the way we were playing. After a nervous first ten minutes of the second half Olivia Stewart broke through the defense and powered the ball home to bring us level. With more belief at that point both Jess Coetser and Bridee Lumb scored goals in similar fashion to give us the victory. With the tournament coming up it is good to see the way this team is playing and improving each week.

The seconds had their first win last week but unfortunately it was due to the other team defaulting. Once more it was great to see a number of players come and support the firsts in their game.

Yesterday the seconds came up against top of the table Kaikorai Valley College. The score was significantly reduced from last time the two teams met but it was another defeat for us unfortunately. A change in positions saw Evelyn Thorn and Anna Lloyd move into the midfield and this seemed to blunt a number of the opposition's attacks. The team found it hard to decide on a player of the day so awarded it to three players. These were Charlotte Bennington for her good work in goal in the second half, Bella-Rose Brown for her attacking play and Megan Park for her tackling on defence. A special mention too for Madeline Bennett for going in goal for the first half and playing well. On a disappointing note our players are becoming increasingly frustrated with the behaviour of a number of rugby players while we are both playing and training. The jeers, the comments, the whistles and the cat-calls are not welcomed or appreciated. We are there to have fun and enjoy ourselves and would appreciate those boys involved leaving us to do so.

Mike Beeby

TIC Girls' Football

Girls Rugby

Unfortunately we have had to pull out of the 1st XV competition because of NZ Rugby's stance on Year 9 girls playing in that grade, so we have split into two teams with our Senior Girls playing in the Open 10s Juniors in UN 15s.

- Seniors vs St Hildas had a big win
- Juniors 40-35 St Hildas Highlanders (Tony Browns coached team)

Next week's draw

- Seniors vs Taieri @ Taieri College @ 4.10pm
- Juniors vs Queens @ Opoho G2 @ 4.30pm

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

Canteen

After looking at the Ministry of Health guidelines we have decided to resume counter service at the school canteen.

We will have cones out to indicate where students should queue.

- Online ordering is still possible and a line at the canteen will be used for those who do this.
- Lollies and ice creams will not be sold to reduce the number wanting to use the canteen
- Payment by eftpos is possible and preferred. We do not want to handle cash
- Canteen workers will not be handing BOTH food and the eftpos machine.

Mike Beeby TIC Canteen