



South Otago High School

Newsletter 18th September 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

This week we finished the round of community consultation evenings and it has been great to get out and meet with parents and caregivers to discuss what the school is doing well and what we need to develop. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank the parents who gave up their time to come out and meet with me and members of the Board. The information that you have provided is invaluable and will support the future developments for South Otago High School.

As I met with parents I have reflected upon some of the changes during the last four, nearly five, years. By comparison with the feedback from parents after the previous community consultation, we have seen a significant positive shift in the feedback that we have received. There are still new challenges ahead but it is good to know that the community is behind the changes that we have made.

One request that has come through is to be kept informed with the opportunities that are offered to students. These opportunities are advertised in the daily notices for students. A copy of the daily notices is also viewable on the school portal so parents are able to see the wide variety of opportunities that are offered to students. Students can also access the daily notices in the same way too.

Another item that was discussed was uniform and at the next Board of Trustee meeting next week I will be seeking a review of the current uniform expectations. I expect that any changes will be presented for consultation with the community. Once confirmed, significant changes will have a transition period and this will be communicated to our school community. I encourage parents/ whanau to have input into the future of the uniform development.

A move to Covid-19 Alert Level 1

We are looking forward to next week and are hopeful that we will be moving to Alert Level 1 which will ease restrictions for us as a school for events where we may have our outside visitors in school, hosting of large events and be able to return to full school assemblies.

This year has taught us to try to prepare for the unexpected. We have already started our planning for Prize Giving and the Year 13 Graduation Dinner. Whilst we hope that these events are able to go ahead as we would under normal circumstances we are considering contingency plans as we know that this year is far from normal!

Cultural competition

On Thursday we did manage to hold our annual cultural competition albeit under a very different organisation. This year we had to use two venues to provide for social distancing and whilst this did not create the same atmosphere as a whole school event it was still an opportunity for students to lead their houses in an activity which has grown in significance and pride for the school and students.

It is disappointing that we do have a minority of individuals who do not attend and we note this as a higher than usual day of absence. These students not only miss a great event but also 4 hours of quality learning.

Wellbeing surveys

As part of our drive for improvement we are conducting a survey with all students on Monday 21 September which will focus on wellbeing. The survey is designed by the New Zealand Council for Education Research (NZCER) The information provided by students is anonymous and will support some of our future developments for student wellbeing

Jobbortunities

Last week I mentioned a new initiative, Jobbortunities, which has been launched to encourage young people into some of the seasonal work over the summer break. Y12 and 13 students have met and learnt about the opportunity to meet employers on 1 October between 4 and 7pm at the Cross Recreation Centre. I encourage students who are looking for work and to earn money over the summer break to make sure that they pop along to the event and make sure that they meet some of the people looking for workers this summer.

Uniform

We have a number of students who have a number of facial piercings and are wearing nose rings in particular. Under the current requirements these are not allowed. Whilst we understand that some students may choose to get these piercings done it should be timed so as not to interfere with the requirements for school. In the future students can expect to be spoken to and asked to remove these piercings. Support from families and whanau is appreciated in upholding the school expectations. Whilst this may be a consideration for the uniform review until such changes are confirmed we expect all students to comply with the current expectations which parents agreed to on enrolment.

Finally

With the end of term fast approaching I do expect to have a calm finish to the term. We do have a number of events coming up such as:

Interhouse Sports (postponed due to weather)

- RYDA driver training (Y12)
- Talent Quest
- Student Board of Trustee election
- Cross Country
- End of term assembly

I do expect that students will take advantage of these opportunities by participating and support each other as we finish the term. For students who need support with their studies as they prepare to finish courses, next week is the time to discuss with subject teachers how they can access help to improve their studies.

Ka Kite Ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Outward Bound Scholarship Available

South Otago High School with the generosity of the Otago Community Trust have a scholarship available for a current Year12 student who intends to return to school in 2021 to attend a 'Mind Body Souls' course at Anakiwa.

The scholarship is intended to support a student who will personally benefit from such a course and will likely make a contribution to the greater school in the 2021 school year.

The course is tentatively booked for 6th January - 26th January 2021 but could be in December if the lucky candidate wanted.

The cost to the student is \$899.00 plus the cost of a medical certificate and the cost of transport to and from Anakiwa.

Application process:

In the first instance visit www.outwardbound.co.nz and check out the 'Mind Body Soul' courses.

The next action is then to email Mr Munro bmunro@sohs.school.nz who will in turn email the information and application process (which is online) to you.

Applications close at Noon on Friday 25th September 2020.

Barry Munro - Outward Bound Coordinator.

Library

A reminder this week, as next week is our last week of school for the term can all student's come to the library and return the books they have finished reading and come and get any they are still reading renewed for the holidays. Please have a good look around at home and get them back to school before the end of next week. Any books that are very overdue and not returned will be added to accounts.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian

Cricket Meeting

In Term 4 I would like to enter a SOHS team in the Dunedin Secondary Schoolboys Competition. I recently attended a meeting at Otago Cricket and they have agreed to allow SOHS to play half our games in Balclutha. In order to gauge interest in this competition and to discuss other matters around trainings etc I would like to invite students and parents/caregivers to a meeting on Wednesday 23rd September at 5pm in the school library.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to play in the Saturday Competition please email me at nking@sohs.school.nz

Please also note that the McCullum Cup (T20 Competition) will be played in Dunedin on the Sunday 25th and Monday 26th October (Labour Weekend) with a warm up game against the Waiholo Swans on Saturday 17th October.

TIC Cricket
Mr King

Upcoming Events Term 3 2020

- *Friday 25th September*..... Last Day Term 3

Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

- *Monday 12th October*..... Start of Term 4
- *Friday 16th October*..... Pink Shirt Day
- *Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October*..... Senior Practice Exams
- *Monday 26th October*..... Labour Day - School Closed for Instruction
- *Wednesday 11th November*..... Last Day for Seniors, Senior Prizegiving
- *Monday 16th November*..... NCEA Exams start
- *Friday 4th December*..... Junior Prizegiving

Exam Timetable

	Monday 19/10	Tuesday 20/10	Wednesday 21/10	Thursday 22/10	Friday 23/10
Assemble: 8.45am	12 Maths 13 Geography	11 Science 12 English 13 Chemistry	12 Bio 13 English 12 Music in E1	11 Maths 12 Geography 13 Statistics	Catch ups 11 History 12 Chemistry 13 Calculus
Exam: 9.00am to 12.00		<i>Note: some 12 English in computer rooms</i>	<i>Note: 13 English 13 in computer rooms</i>		<i>Note: some 11 History students in computer rooms</i>
Workshop:	11 Art	13 Art	12 Art	13 PE 12 Maths	11 PE
Assemble: 1pm	11 English 12 History 13 Accounting	12 Physics 13 History	11 Geography 11 Accounting 12 Accounting 13 Physics	13 Biology 19 11-12-13 Drama	Catch ups
Exam: 1.10pm to 4.10pm	<i>Note: some 12 History students in computer rooms</i>				
Workshop:	12 PE	12/13 DMT	12/13 Building 12/13 Graphics	12/13 Outdoor	

This is the practice examination timetable for the 2020 senior practice examinations. We have moved the timing of these slightly later into the year so that they are closer to the real NCEA examinations and will provide better preparation. We have high expectations that students take these seriously and work diligently towards them.

Our exam week also includes workshops. These are an opportunity for students to complete work on their internal assessments. Teachers will inform students if they are to attend these workshops or not and it is an expectation that they do so. If there is a clash between a workshop and an examination students are to attend the examination.

If students have a clash, where they have more than one examination at a time or they miss an examination they will complete the examination at the next available time or on the Friday morning “catch up” session. If there are any issues see Mr Scarth and alternative arrangements will be made where appropriate.

If a student does not have a workshop or an examination they are expected to be revising or completing internal assessments at home on study leave.

Exam information

- Mr Scarth will call students into the Hall before the exam starts so students need to be at the front of the school 15 minutes before their exam starts.
- Students need to have their calculators, pens, pencils and other materials in a clear plastic bag.
- No mobile or electronic devices are allowed into the Hall so students need to think about the devices they bring to school.

Mr Scarth - Deputy Principal.

NZ Secondary Students' Choir 2021-2022:

Applications to audition close soon

Applications to audition for the NZ Secondary Students' Choir 2021-2022 close on Sunday! If you are a singing teacher, school or community choir director, know a young singer, or are a young singer yourself, you can find out more by visiting our website here.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR SINGERS AND WHĀNAU

ONLINE AUDITIONS: If you are concerned about safety and travelling to audition in person, we have a system ready to go that will allow you to audition online.

PLANNING for PLAN A and B: We have two plans for the 2021-2022 cycle, Plan A involves national and international touring, as well as full rehearsal and normal activity. If travel or gathering restrictions come into effect, Plan B will still ensure a full engagement programme, with a combination of online, regional and sectional rehearsals, and different performance opportunities.

NO COSTS FOR NO INTERNATIONAL TOUR: There will be no costs for singers or whānau for international touring that does not go ahead as planned.

"Truly unforgettable. I had never seen so much musical passion and talent in one place until joining NZSSC."

For more information see Mrs Bensley or go to <https://www.nzsschoir.com/> or check them out on Facebook.



Wallace Trust Art Awards 2020

Congratulations to Hannah Laugesen in Year 13. She is one of the selected Art Finalists for 2020. The Art Awards are open to senior Art students in NZ. Hannah's painting featured above is titled 'Changing states of mind'. Her painting will be on display in the Finalist exhibition held in October and November in Auckland. This is a prestigious event on the NZ Art calendar each year. This painting was recently also displayed in the Dunedin School of Art Celebrate Art Exhibition and is one of her Level 3 Painting Portfolio artworks.

Helen Williams
HOD Arts



Today in 10T science are looking at *computational thinking*. Making a lego car that will move.



Co-Ed Tournament

We have been lucky enough to have three sports invited to attend this tournament in Dunedin on Thursday 24th September the sports are:

- Senior Girls Basketball
- Yr 10 Netball (Alpha)
- Mixed Badminton

Mr Bertanees, Mr Sly and myself will be taking these teams. Please students can you bring your notices back ASAP.

Sports Leaders Breakfast

This event is being held Friday 25th September and involves all schools in our region. The speaker this year is Tony Brown (Highlanders Rugby Coach). This year because of Covid, Otago School Sports Association are only allowing four students per school, normally there is eight.

Students attending:

- Kobe Thomson (Cricket, Rugby, Touch)
- Kaya Laban (Netball)
- Josh Harrison (Trapshooting)
- Amber Mowat (2020 Sports Prefect)

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

Netball

Year 9 Netball South Tournament

Sunday and Monday our Year 9 (Blue) netball team competed in the Netball South Tournament at the Edgar Stadium in Dunedin. Although results didn't go our way for the two days this tournament the girls had four losses and two wins. The tournament was valuable for our Year 9 team who this year have not had any tournaments to attend. Thanks to Meisha Cochrane and Samara Soper for their efforts with coaching these girls.

Umpires

We had four umpires also attend this tournament:

- Maddie Deacon
- Olivia Davidson
- Lilly Campbell
- Anna Lloyd

Netball South really appreciated our girls attending this tournament with all girls getting great games. Lilly Campbell had eight games in the two days, Olivia Davidson umpired a semi final. Anna Lloyd gained great confidence on the whistle and Maddie Deacon passed her zone practical exam during the weekend.

Pam Hannah

Netball



Girls Rugby

On Wednesday our Seniors played St Hildas White at home and our Juniors played the Combined team at Opoho in Dunedin

- Seniors 36-52 St Hildas
- Juniors 65-26 Combined (Kavanagh, Logan Park, Kaikorai Valley)

Both teams are in finals next week. The draw is still being finalised.

- Seniors default to Taieri at Taieri
- Juniors vs Queens at SOHS

Pam Hannah

Girls Rugby

Rugby

This is likely to be the last of the rugby newsletter items for the season. It feels as if it has been a long season and in some ways it has. For a season which was supposed to start in May and then eventually pushed back to June due to COVID we have finally finished our last games. Results from the weekend below:

- First XV (26) – Wakatipu (29)
- Colts (10) – Dunstan (17)
- U14 Blue (71) – Kings (0)
- U14 Red (32) – Kings (17)

There are lots of people who work to make rugby at SOHS possible and I want to mention some of those people below. My apologies if I have missed anyone out.

In the First XV we have the amazing coaching staff of Clark Stephens, Craig Shanks, Suzie Roy and Jules Witt. Jules has provided huge support as manager this year and his weekly reports in the Clutha Leader are a highlight reading of the week. Kay Merrett has also been amazing with her camera. Ever since I started the rugby job in 2017, she has been on the side line and will be deeply missed next year. The First XV mums who were in the kitchen throughout the season, you know who you are and you guys are amazing.

In the Colts grade we have Craig and Chris who have worked so well together. The culture they built in the team this year was amazing and the boys have so much respect for these men. Lisa Cowie, the team photographer uploads her photos to Facebook every weekend. She deserves a massive thanks for being at every game and taking amazing photos.

In the U15 grade, Tony Valli is in his second year and Nathan White in his first year. They have worked very well together and the boys really seem to enjoy training under them. Andrew Harrex and Gary Ross also deserve a mention as while they did not have a coaching role, they both worked closely with Nathan and Tony and assisted them where needed. I need to mention our tournament mums, Davina Robson and Linda Booth who came down to Invercargill and did pretty much everything for the boys.

In our U14 grade we had our coaching staff of Tony Mallon, Adam Wyber, John Puna and Hannes Human. These guys were at every game and worked so well with the boys who they coached this year. We saw some really good results with both U14 teams.

There are also the coaches of the girls team that I believe Pam will thank in her Girls Rugby report, however, I would still like to recognise the efforts of Dan and Tony. Both of these guys have been solid coaches for the girls and I know that they have really enjoyed training under you two.

Behind the scenes we have had our jersey washers, Lucy Kell, Jasmine Goodwin, Gary Ross, Rebecca Mallon and Ingrid Willis.

There are also our sponsors who we need to support where we can, I really hope that I have not left anyone off the list. Unifone, Demie Contracting, New World Balclutha, Hollows Timber, Balclutha Auto Electrical, GD Rural Forestry, East Coast Excavation Ltd, NM & TW Roy Contracting, Southern Lending Specialists, South Otago Transport, Milton Night & Day, Barclay Engineering & Fabrication, S J Clark Contracting, Mel Kenny Harcourts, Cowley Electrical Dairy & Pumps, Cleverleys, Clutha Valley Transport, Balclutha Motors.

There are also the sponsors of the Otago Secondary Schools Rugby Competition who provide us with travel assistance throughout the year. Ritchies Coachlines, Otago Daily Times, Lion Foundation and Bendigo Trust.

Finally I would like to invite you all to the South Otago/Toko/Catlins/LAS combined rugby prizegiving on Thursday the 29th of October. This will be held at the Balclutha Town & Country Club from 7.00pm. There will be a bar operating, a guest speaker and some good entertainment. I will send more information out about this in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you everyone for your support throughout the season. So many of you helped out at the start of the year when I was trying to juggle a sick child as well as rugby and for this, I will always be grateful. I am hoping to be back as TIC of Rugby in 2021, however, after four years in the job, it may be time for someone to come in with fresh ideas.
Jason Palmer (TIC Rugby)

LOST PROPERTY

If Lost Property is not claimed by the end of Wednesday 23rd September it will be disposed of.

Staff vs Council Netball



Hockey

It was the second edition of the battle for Clutha District honours on Tuesday night when SOHS 11 a-side took on Toko High School 1st XI. We expected a fired up Toko team given we had beaten them 2-1 the first time around, with a bit of luck going our way in that game. Surprisingly it was SOHS that started the game in the best form. Some minor positional changes in the forwards seemed to be working. With good team passing, plenty of space was found in behind the Toko defence. We quickly converted the pressure into points with well taken goals from Brayden Campbell and Kelan Smith. Our defence was mostly doing a good job of tidying up Toko's unstructured attacking style and we went into halftime 2 -0 up. The second half was more of the same and we controlled the game fairly well. We didn't score again but neither did Toko and we finished with a satisfying 2-0 win. Well done to Ashley in goal and the rest of the defensive unit for the first clean sheet of the season. Player of the day went to Brayden Campbell who set the example for the rest of the team with a huge workrate in the second half both on attack and when trying to win the ball back. Toko get another crack at us next week as we playoff for 7th and 8th in Division 2 in our final game of the season.

The SOHS 6 a-side team played against OBHS Blue, who we previously have played for a narrow 9-8 win, so we were expecting another tough challenge. The first three quick goals on the slippery turf by OBHS almost predicted our thoughts. However, SOHS pulled together in fantastic form and proved yet again that they are a great team with their skill level improving all the time, and they all worked together preventing OBHS from scoring for the remainder of the game. The team went on to score a fantastic 10 goals, winning the game 10-3. Maddox Solomon with four goals was our top goal scorer for the night, and Clay Marshall scored two, with James Dobbie, Shaun Bennett, Liam O'Riordan and Wyatt Mellon scoring one each. Maddox, Shaun, Wyatt and Clay are now all vying for our top goal scorer of the season. Memphis Cook stepped up to goalie, and is gaining confidence every time he steps on to the turf. Bree Uren in control of the back, and Alec, our one-handed hockey player, not shirking away from the ball and tussling with the opposition, winning the ball to send back up to the front many a time. Player of the day was Maddox.

Next week is our last week of the season.

- * SOHS 11 a-side will play against Toko High School at 6.40pm for 7/8 position.
- * SOHS 6 a-side will play against OBHS Blue at 6pm for 5/6 position.
- * 6 a-side game will be on MONDAY night

All supporters are welcome!

Simon Cullen **11 a-side**
Jo Bennett **6 a-side**

Intercollegiate Trapshooting Tournament

This annual event was hosted by Blue Mountain College at the West Otago Gun Club. Roxborough and Catlins Area School joined the competition along with the hosts and SOHS. Our team included: Elliott Budge, Adam Craig, Josh Harrison, Lachie O'Hara and Jack Pow.

The first round was a 10 Target Eye Opener. Lachie shot well in this round hitting 9 out of 10 targets. The second round was a 15 Target Point Score which was shot in the rain. Adam shot well hitting 13 out of 15 targets. The SOHS team was second overall with a total of 137/180. They were just beaten by 3 points by Blue Mountain College and only 2 points ahead of third in a really close competition where every shot counted.

Next year will see spaces on the team for new talent with us saying farewell to a couple of our top Year 13 shooters. Josh Harrison in particular has represented the school very well and today was no exception - he didn't miss a target all day.

