



South Otago High School

Newsletter 27th November 2020

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Whilst I endeavour to keep my newsletter items positive and celebrate the successes of the students at South Otago High School, this week I will start by celebrating the success of two staff members! Congratulations to both Ms Kelly Bensley and Mr Blake Ensor for completing the Queenstown Half Marathon! A good effort and very pleasing to see Ms Bensley taking the lead at the start of the run!

Junior exams

This week we have finished the Year 9 and 10 exams and I have been hearing of some very good results. A number of students have performed above expectation to achieve amongst some of the best in the year cohort. I am sure that this is a reflection of perseverance and effort that individuals have put into their studies and preparation for the end of year assessments. I expect that a number of these students will be acknowledged with awards at the junior prize giving next week.

Junior prize giving

Next Friday (4 December) we will be hosting the Junior Prize Giving event in the school hall. We will be acknowledging both top achieving and diligent students from Year 9 and 10. There will also be an acknowledgement on the top achieving sports people for the year groups too. I hope that as many parents as possible will be able to join us for this event. Please aim to be seated in the hall by 12.00pm. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony students will be dismissed to go home. Bus students will be able to leave but the school buses will run at the normal time.

Senior Graduation Dinner

Sadly, this year we have been forced to cancel the Year 13 graduation dinner. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient numbers to make the event viable this year. I am disappointed not to have the opportunity to thank the parents of our departing students for their support to South Otago High School over the last few years. For me it has been a pleasure to see the current year group grow and progress through the school. This year has been particularly challenging and I have been very impressed by the attitude and leadership our senior students have adopted to overcome the challenges faced by the school community.

I wish all the departing students well for their future endeavours and I look forward to hearing from them in the future.

Activities days

Next week most Year 9 and 10 students will be out and about on their activity days. I do hope that everyone has a good time and values the opportunity to participate in an activity which I expect them to be passionate about.

Finally

On Monday I will be travelling to Roxburgh to participate in the Powhiri to welcome Mr McDowall to his new position as Principal of the Area School. Whilst his departure from South Otago High School will present some challenges I will, on behalf of the staff and community, wish him well as he accepts the challenge of the next stage of his career and takes the first step into principalship.

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Right: Christmas and Exams have come to South Otago High School



Last day of school Friday 4th December.
Even though prize giving finishes early afternoon the buses will operate at the usual time of 3.10pm.

Second Hand Uniform

Please make an appointment by phoning the SOHS Office - 4180517 ext 214 - for purchase of second-hand uniform. Afternoons suit and best before 4pm. The office will not be available from 11th December for uniform sales.

If you have uniform for sale please use the form below. - clothing **must** be labelled and put in a clear plastic bag - i.e. snap lock bag.

Karen Wright

South Otago High School

Second-hand Uniform

Item : _____ Size: _____

Price: _____ O/N/O _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Bank Account: _____

This item is to be donated to SOHS _____

Request payment—Less commission _____

Items will be for sale on behalf of the owner for a period of 12 months only, if you require item back you must contact the school office.

Each item of clothing MUST be Laundered and put in a clear plastic bag with this form attached. Items not to an acceptable standard will not be sold.

Blazer Hire

Students that hired a blazer in 2020 should have it dry-cleaned and returned to school by now.

Blazer Hire in 2021

Students will be notified via the student notices when the blazers will be available to hire.

Library

Just a reminder for all students, your books are due back next week before you leave for the year so they can be added to our annual stocktake. For anyone wanting books to read over the holidays, please come and see Mrs. Pudney in the library before next Friday.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian

A message to our Year 13 leavers and their families

It has been lovely to see so many of our Year 13 students around school over the examination period. The new common room has been a comfortable working space for students. We were sad to cancel the Graduation Dinner this year as it is a time when we can thank our parents and families who have worked with us over the last 5 years (and in some cases many more than that!). I have received a number of lovely emails this week from parents who understood why the decision had been made and wanted to thank staff for their support over the years.

I was privileged to say some farewell words recently as Year 13 Dean, to students in their final assembly. I thanked them for their contribution to our school and acknowledged their hard work and perseverance. Our 2020 Year 13 group has many fine leaders and stories of success. They can all be proud of their achievements. 2020 has been a year of challenges and for some their plans and directions have changed. Next year many of the group are choosing to do different things at Universities or Polytechnics around the country. Others have plans to work locally, and some are taking a gap year. They have all been vital members of our school community, they have helped contribute to our positive culture and have been role models for our junior students. Many have also been an inspiration to our staff and are the reason why we enjoy doing what we do.

So what is next for our Year 13 leavers? The years that lie ahead give them a remarkable opportunity. Heading forward I encouraged them to embrace the incredible adventure that lies ahead. To never lose sight of the things that they are passionate about, to do something awesome with their lives and not to worry if they haven't quite figured out what that is yet. This might mean different things for every one of them. If they are open to possibilities, then eventually they will find their gift to the world and those around them.

So what does success look like for them as they leave South Otago High School? Do they have what it takes to get there? We believe that they do and that their time at South Otago High School has prepared them for the ups and downs that will inevitably come in life. Success requires step after step after step and choice after choice after choice. It requires grit and determination. It requires getting up when we fall down- again and again and again. Throughout their years at school we have tried to instill in our students the values of respect, excellence and perseverance. Their time at South Otago High School has been important, they have mattered to us as a part of our school family.

It is important to acknowledge the many supports that these students have all had to get to this point: friends, family, whanau, teachers, support staff, other students and people within our school community. Their words of encouragement and guidance echo within the walls of our school and they have sustained them at home and at school. No one achieves anything alone. We thank them for the important roles that they have played encouraging their success. We can all learn from the Māori proverb *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi he toa takitini* *I didn't get here by myself I got here with the help of others.*

As the students left they were encouraged to go after what they want in life. Make what they do matter, make it count for something good and never lose sight of it. On behalf of our school community we thank our leavers and their families for their contributions and we wish them every success for the future. We know that they will take away special memories of their time with us at South Otago High School.

I think that the message is a good one in this little starfish story, our leavers have all made a difference during their time at South Otago High School and they can all make a difference in the world as they leave school, whether that difference is positive or negative is up to them.

"Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing.

He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach he saw a human figure walking like a dancer.

As he got closer he saw that it was a young man and he wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean. As he got closer he called out,

"Good morning! What are you doing?" The young man paused, looked up and replied.

"Throwing starfish into the ocean.

"I guess I should have asked WHY are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don't throw them in they will die." But young man didn't you realize that there are hundreds of miles of beach and starfish all along it you can't possibly make a difference."

The young man listened politely then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea past the breaking waves and said.

"I made a difference to that one"

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean



Below: Year 13 2020
(Photo by Barry Munro)



Upcoming Events Term 4 2020

- *Monday 30th November*..... Leadership Training Year 12*
- *Friday 4th December*..... Junior Prizegiving 12pm

*Non uniform, 10am - 12pm, SOHS Library

Upcoming Events Term1 2021

- *Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January*..... Course Confirmation for Years 11, 12 and 13
- *Friday 29th January* Year 9 and Year 13 Students start School (8.30am)
- *Monday 1st February*..... Full School starts
- *Monday 8th February*..... Waitangi Day School Closed for Instruction

**Junior Prizegiving
4th December at 12.00pm
School Hall**

Y9		Prize List	Y10	
Ashlee	Anderson		AJ	Afato
Jordan	Atkin-Coutts		Liam	Anderson
Cohen	Bethune		Laila	Asman
Madelene	Bielski		Malachi	Batt
Bella-Rose	Brown		Charlotte	Benington
Callum	Brown		Emma	Bennett
Pagan	Buchanan		Shaun	Bennett
James	Budge		Sarah	Bloxham
Brayden	Chaplin		Lilly	Campbell
Ashlyn	Cloete		Evie	Copland
Leticia	Cochrane		Amber	Craig
Amara	Coll		James	Dobbie
Holly	Davidson		Brayden	Ferguson
Kingston	Davis		Katy	Gilder
Julia	Fernandez		Tiffany	Henry-Hewson
Cooper	Hale		Latoya	Hewitt
Johannes	Human		Aimee	Johnson
Zoe	Hyslop		Sandy	Johnson
Kate	Inder		Xavier	Kee
Emily	Jenkinson		Annie	Lawrence
Ben	Judson		Anna	Lloyd
Paige	King		Bridee	Lumb
Hadley	Lowry		Chloe	McKenzie
Greta	Luke		Felix	McKenzie-Woods
Regan	Macdonald		Alec	Mills
Clay	Marshall		Georgia	Milne
Sydney	Marshall		Ashton	Navarosa
William	Maze		Eliza	Non
Harry	McHaffie		Byron	Odell
Millie	McNab		Althea	Pagarigan
Eli	McRae		Jahnae	Palmer
James	Michie		Pinky	Promsuwan
Jessie	O'Hara		Nicholas	Roy
Liam	O'Riordan-Lawlor		Tiare	Rubay-Brown
Nic	Ramsay		Ingrid	Scoon
Wyatt	Shanks		Madox	Solomon
Archie	Smith		Olivia	Soper
Brendan	Soper		Abby	Stewart
Leah	Stephens		Ben	Storer
Morgan	Stephens		Devin	Thomson
Kaine	Stewart		Zara-Lee	Tuhura
Cameron	Stirling		Breanna	Uren
Brooke	Stratford		T-Jae	Valli
Chase	Te Moananui-Currie		Jethro	Ware
Leila	Thomson		Ali	Wynyard
Zara	Upston			
Tipene	Wereta-McDiarmid			
Ryan	Williams			