



South Otago High School

Newsletter 5th February 2021

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Welcome to the first newsletter of a new school year. It has been a pleasure to see so many of our seniors returning to South Otago High School to continue their education in 2021. It was particularly pleasing to greet students during the course confirmation days at the end of last week and hear of their results. During the coming weeks I will be sharing some of the significant achievements of our students in 2020

Mihi Whakatau

On Monday morning we welcomed our new staff and students to South Otago High School with a Mihi Whakatau (an informal powhiri). This year, unlike in other years we were not able to hongi and even refrained from shaking hands. This was a response to the health risks which we currently face in New Zealand and internationally, as the world grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic. Personally, I missed this traditional greeting as I 'elbow bumped' each of our new student and staff members. To me the hongi is a very personal welcome to the South Otago High School whanau and something which I have missed this year far more than I would have thought!



Student achievement

In this newsletter we are publishing a list of students who have achieved merit and excellence endorsements in NCEA Levels 1-3 as well as Year 9 and 10 students who were awarded endorsements for the year of study in 2020. As you will see from the list there are a significant number of students who have achieved results of which they should be very proud. We take pride in celebrating this success with you and our wider community.

It is also worthy of note that our endorsement rate in NCEA L1 and L3 was better than we had anticipated at the start of last year (Before any thought of lockdowns and disruptions of a global pandemic) It is also a reflection upon the work and commitment of students who worked through a very challenging year in 2020. We attribute this improved achievement to the feedback we have received from students where they have said that our mentoring programme helps them understand where they are at with their achievement and also the next steps in their learning.

Mentor time

In response to the feedback from our community we are making changes to the mentor time in a morning. We are now asking that all students have a book or magazine to read. Our aim is to try to get students to engage in reading to support their learning and also to take a break from 'screen time'.

Protecting the health of our community

With the recent scares regarding community cases of Covid-19 in both Auckland and Northland recently we are reviewing our pandemic response plan. As we did last year, we have ensured that all toilets have access to hot water, soap and drying facilities. Classrooms have hand sanitiser and we have several hand sanitising stations about the school.

We expect that everyone will be aware of and act appropriately to wash hands after using the toilet, before eating. To cough and sneeze into the elbow and for parents to keep students who are unwell at home.

If students do appear unwell during the day we will isolate them and contact home to ask parents to collect their child from school.

Year 9 Greenpark

Next week the Year 9 students will have their day out at Greenpark. As it is a long weekend I would like to remind parents to ensure that permission slips are returned to school so that all students are able to participate in this great day out.

Finally

I am looking forward to a great year at South Otago High School. I encourage all students to participate in the life of the school and seek out new challenges. Should you have any questions I suggest that you contact your child's mentor teacher first who should be able to assist you in the first instance

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Reading and Writing Initiatives 2021

Online Literary Journal

This year our anthology goes digital with an online arts and literary journal, Ngā Kōrero o Iwi Katea. Our aim is to update this regularly with student work from all year levels. The Writing Competition will also take place, with judging in September.

Members of the community are welcome to submit art and writing for the journal. Email your entries to asmith@sohs.school.nz.

Reading Challenge

This year we are encouraging students to read a range of text types and authors and this year's reading challenge reflects this. Students can select their reading material from a range of options which change each term and those who complete the challenge will be awarded with a badge and certificate.

Amanda Smith
HOD English

Mentoring

Mentoring will continue to happen three times a week this year (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday). This year students are not to be on their phone during mentoring. During this time mentors will be checking the attendance, uniform and pastoral records of students. They will also be tracking the academic progress of students in their group, setting goals and reviewing the progress made towards those goals. Students are being asked to do silent reading during their mentoring periods and are not to be on their phones during these sessions.

Ngā mihi
Amanda Smith

NCEA

NZQA's website has a lot of accessible information about NCEA and how it works. The following link is to a video which breaks it down for parents and students:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/>

In a nutshell, each assessment a student completes is worth a number of credits. To get Level 1 (Year 11) students must achieve 80 credits, including 20 credits which are tagged as literacy and numeracy standards (10 each). Level 2 & 3 students have a target of 60 credits. Students in all years can gain subject (eg English) and course endorsements at Merit and Excellence.

Mentor teachers will be spending time going through the system with their Level 1 students and NZQA supply a pamphlet which we will distribute as soon as it arrives. If you have any questions about NCEA, please do get in touch with your student's mentor or myself.

This year NZQA has made a change to the resubmission rules. This is when students have a chance to fix up an error in a completed assessment. From 2021 a resubmission can only be offered when students are at a borderline Not Achieved. The highest result which can be awarded as a result of a resubmission is Achieved.

Finally, all senior students have been emailed copies of the assessment booklet which contains further information about NCEA and the rules which need to be followed.

Amanda Smith
Principal's Nominee

Upcoming Events Term1 2021

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Monday 8th February..... | Waitangi Day School Closed |
| • Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th February..... | Year 9 Greenpark |
| • Tuesday 23rd February..... | School Photos |
| • Wednesday 24th February..... | Athletics Day |
| • Wednesday 3rd March..... | Conference Evening |
| • Thursday 4th March..... | Conference Day |
| • Monday 8th to Friday 12th March..... | Year 10 Tautuku Camp |
| • Monday 22nd March..... | Otago Anniversary Day - School Closed |
| • Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April..... | Easter - School Closed |
| • Friday 16th April..... | Last Day Term 1 |

Information to keep everything running smoothly for your student at South Otago High School

Paying accounts:

- Payments can be made by Internet Banking - our bank account number is: 02 0918 0160198 00. Please put your students FULL NAME and reference what the payment is for.
- Cash/Cheque payments come to the main office and must be in a named envelope (Students FULL NAME) and reference what it is paying for. There is a grey box for these to be placed in.
- Accounts are sent out usually at the start of a month and are sent via email.

Absences and Appointments

- Use the absence line if your student is going to be absent at any time - 418 0517 and push the appropriate number.
- Appointments - Bring an appointment card or signed note from parent/caregiver to the office at the start of the school day. The appointment line can also be used on the phone.
- Please DO NOT use the email system to leave absences or appointments as other staff cannot access our emails if we are not at school.

Uniform and Personal Items

- Name all items and use FULL NAMES
- Lost Property - boxes are located at the office and PE department. Lost property is disposed of at the end of each term.

Student Health

- Students should be washing hands regularly and using hand sanitiser.
- Students should have a water bottle and drink plenty throughout the day.
- Students should wear sunscreen. Caps are available to purchase \$10.00.
- Students that feel unwell **MUST** report to sickbay/office. If needed, the school will call a parent/caregiver to collect from sickbay - students are NOT permitted to just leave school grounds and this includes senior students)

Blazer Hire

Blazer hire for Year 12/13 students will commence when all Blazers have been returned from the previous year. Cost of hiring a blazer is \$65.00. All repairs and drycleaning are the responsibility of the hirer. Failure to return a blazer on time will incur a late fee of \$10.00 per week.

Bus Conveyance Allowance

If South Otago High School is your nearest school and you live more than 2.4kms from the nearest bus pick up, you can apply for financial assistance.

Application forms are online:

School Transport Conveyance Allowance Application form

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Primary-Secondary/School-transport/Conveyance-Allowance-application-May2019.docx>

Library News

A big welcome to all our new students this year and great to see everyone else too. This year we have a new Library Website where students can go to their own personalised page. They just need to sign in using their borrower numbers. They can now look up topics, authors, books they might like to read before they come to the library, they can now renew their books from their library page, write a review of a book they have read, make lists, and even reserve a book to pick up. All students should have received an email with a link to this webpage. Students and Teachers can now access the library anytime from anywhere on any device. Please encourage your children to get familiar with their library page, we hope to see lots of people using it this year.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian

Year 13 Leadership and Peer Support Training

Year 13 students spent time at the end of last year and on the 29th of January learning about how they can support our Year 9 students as they transition to South Otago High School.

Achieving success at school and making or maintaining friendships are important concerns for students. Our Year 13 leaders help students; feel valued in our school community, develop relationship skills, self esteem and a sense of belonging. Peer support sessions occur during Wednesday mentoring times each week during term one and at other special times during the year.

Sessions cover getting to know one another, finding out people and places students can go for support, learning about our school values, understanding diversity, cooperation and communication skills as well as a cybersafety session with Police.

My thanks go to Mrs Hannah, Mr Ensor, Mr King, and Margaret Cardno from the Malcam Trust for their help with this valuable programme.

Cath Bloxham

TIC Peer Support



**List of Students who gained an
Endorsement from NCEA 2020
Amanda Smith
Principal's Nominee**

Level 1 2020

Level 1 Merit Endorsement

Alyssa Batt
Chris Bennett
Lillie Buckingham
Brayden Campbell
Mari Chacapna,
Hugh Copland
Keira Edwards
Jess Hollows
Anton Hutton
Emily Johns
Lachlan Judson
Caleb Luke
Leah McLaren,
Shania Morado
Logan Mosley
Keely Puna
Ty Robertson
Kaydis Roy
Caitlin Scherp
Bonnie Shaw
Jessica Sheppard
Jericho Sonio

Level 1 Excellence

Ruby Budge
Lucy Clark
Josiah Goodwin
Chloe Henderson
Fraser McAtamney
Chirag Thakkar

Level 2

Merit Endorsement

Glen Garcia
Keely Hill
Kathryn Monaghan
Sophie Ruffell
Vera Stirling
Brooke Tremaine

Excellence Endorsement

Adam Craig
Meg Albarico
Max Burrow
Maddie Deacon
Kareena Dunlop
Stephanie Gray
Holly Hewitt
Gemma Johnson
Hamish Mills
Alliyah Minoza
Beckham Wilson

Level 3

Merit

Faith Batt
Ryan Cross
Holly Landreth,
Aroha Stapleforth
Evelyn Thorn

Excellence

Ruby Bennett
James Briones
Daniel Clinton
Hania Coll
Grace Jessop
Hannah Laugeson
Charlotte Murray
Luka Wilson

**Congratulations to all our students that
worked so hard in 2020. We are delight-
ed with your achievement and look for-
ward to seeing that continue this year.
Mr Scarth - Deputy Principal.**

Year 9 Excellence

Ryan Williams
Jessie O'Hara
Ashlyn Cloete

Y9 Merit

Zara Upston
Leticia Cochrane
Emily Jenkinson
Greta Luke
Archie Smith
Alanah Anderson
Zara Milne
Zoe Hyslop
Brayden Chaplin
Eli McRae
Jack Newport
Harry McHaffie
Ashlee Anderson
Hadley Lowry
Kayley Strachan
Sydney Marshall
Will Clark
Bella-Rose Brown
Jasmine Van Asperen
Brendan Soper
Liam O'Lawlor
Holly Davidson
Cameron Stirling
Pagan Buchanan
Paige King
Daikoyta Weir
Jacklyn Wakeham
Taelah Dawson

Year 10 Excellence

Jethro Ware
Sarah Bloxham
Aimee Johnson
Breanna Uren
Anna Lloyd
Alec Mills
Emma Bennett
Evie Copland
Georgia Milne
Charlotte Bennington
Jahnae Palmer
Devin Thomson
Eliza Non
Xavier Kee
Israel McRae
Brayden Ferguson
Ingrid Scoon
Lilly Campbell

Year 10 Merit

Nataleah Marshall
Luis Smales
Pinky Promsuwan
Katy Gilder
Pagan Cross
Tiffany Hewson
T-Jae Valli
James Dobbie
Bridee Lumb
Abby Stewart
Byron Odell
Crystal Bellaney
Sandy Johnson
Ashton Navarosa
Aleigha Marks
Memphis Cook
Koen Robson
Shaun Bennett
Zara-Lee Tuhura
Laila Asman
Annie Lawrence
Michael Monaghan
Emma McKinney

News from the Sports Coordinator

Welcome back to our Year10-13 students and our new year 9 students. It is awesome to see a lot of you at intervals and lunchtimes coming to grab a ball or have a chat, as always my door is always open.

As you can see below is our BUSY term 1 calendar. Please do come and ask questions about any of the Otago Secondary Schools events that are listed, you do not have to be an expert to enter the likes of the mountain biking or water ski championships . More info regarding our Athletics sports will be available soon.

TERM 1 SPORTING CALENDAR

- Otago Secondary Schools Challenge Wanaka Triathlon - Thursday 19th February
- OSS Otago Touch Championships - Saturday 20th February
- OSS Water-ski Championships - Sunday 21st February
- OSS Mountain Bike Championships - Saturday 20th/ Sunday 21st February
- SOHS Athletics Day - Wednesday 24th February
- OSS Sports Prefects Workshops - Wednesday 3rd March
- OSS Athletics - Friday 12th - Sunday 14th March
- OSS Student Coaches Workshops - Thursday 11th March
- Gore Interchange - Thursday 18th March
- South Island Secondary School Touch Championships - Friday 19th - Sunday 21st March
- Taieri Interchange - Tuesday 30th March

YEAR 9 GREENPARK

This exciting annual event is next week on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th February
Wednesday 10th February 9M,9N and 9L are attending, on Thursday 11th February 9O and 9Y have their turn. All students have been given a permission slip these need to be back into school Tuesday 9th February please. The cost of the trip is \$15.00 this covers the bus and bbq lunch. Students need to come prepared in suitable clothing for a range of games that will be held during the day.

Any queries contact Pam Hannah on phannah@sohs.school.nz

SOHS 2021 Touch Team

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected into our SOHS touch team for 2021.

Ben Smart
Harlin Puna
Jaxon Evans
Jonty Sopp
Kaius Booth
Wyatt Shanks
Sam Stratford
Ryan Soper
Callum Maze
Falconer Smith
Maddie Deacon
Keely Hill
Sydney Marshall
Aimee Johnson
Gemma Johnson
Emily Unahi

Coaches/Management

Daniel Marshall, Luc Thomson and Samara Soper

The teams first assignment is Otago Secondary Schools touch Championships in Dunedin on 20th February then onto South Island Touch Championships in Christchurch on 19th-21st March

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator



NZST

INFORMATION EVENING

*Bring your
Family*

We'd love to invite you and your extended family to join us for an information evening to learn more about studying at NZST.

- Tour the campus
- Meet the trainers
- Meet current students
- Learn more about the future of tourism and job prospects
- Enjoy a cultural group performance, interactive activities, and pizza!

Wednesday
24 February 2021
5.30pm-7.30pm

Level 3
9 Moray Place
DUNEDIN

Register here



Register here: <https://info.nzschoooloftourism.co.nz/NZST-open-days-2021>