



South Otago High School

Newsletter 12th February 2021

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

After the long weekend and warmth the weather has suddenly turned quite cold and very wet this week. For students who arrive at school in the morning there is shelter available to stay dry. During interval and lunchtime we do open the assembly hall as a warm dry place for students to go to. Similarly, on a Friday when we have a late start we do open the school library and assembly hall as places for bus students to go to prior to the start of the first class.

Year 9 Greenpark Days

On Wednesday and Thursday our new Year 9 students enjoyed a day out working on team building and confidence activities. Sadly, this year the weather was not the usual sunshine so rather than going to Greenpark for the day the students travelled to Telford and used their gym. Whilst not ideal it was still a good day for students to learn in a different environment. I managed to visit briefly on both days and students were having a great time despite the change of venue.

Thank you to the staff who adapted their plans to make the day a great success and for Telford hosting us at short notice.

Mentor time

Students are now back into the routine of the school day which means that on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday they have a mentor time. This year we expect that students who are not working with their mentor discussing goals or progress towards achievement, will have a book or magazine to read. We are not accepting phones as a source of reading material. Similarly, we expect that students who read magazines are not just flicking through, looking at pictures.

Mentor teachers do have some resources that they can provide and students are able to borrow books from the school library.

Friday School

As parents you will be aware that South Otago High School operates an unusual timetable on a Friday. We have a late start for students and this is to allow quality time for our teaching staff to engage in high quality professional development. This year the focus for this professional development is differentiated learning to support teachers to cater for the needs of all students.

We then have two one and a half hour classes followed by a student lead assembly and a one hour class to finish the day. For Year 9 and 10 students this is an opportunity to have an extended time concentrating on a specific subject. For senior students there are great opportunities.

Approximately one third of the senior school work off site. They may be attending work experience, studying at tertiary institutes such as Otago Polytechnic, Telford or Hokonui. In the past we have also had students completing distance learning papers with Otago and Canterbury Universities.

For the two thirds who are not following these programmes there are opportunities to get additional help and tutorial support in subjects they may be struggling with or where they would like to achieve at Merit or Excellence level. There are also new courses where students can learn for personal interest or to gain additional credits for those that would really like a sixth subject.

Our Friday School is unique and there is a lot of interest in other schools around what we offer. Last year, during the

community consultation, there was a lot of support for the opportunities we offer. If you would like to know more please talk to your child or contact their dean.

Donations

The Board of Trustees, a couple of years ago reviewed the government offer of \$150 per student on condition that we do not ask for donations from parents. Last year we appreciated that, despite the uncertainties of 2020, parents continued to give their donations to South Otago High School. This enabled the school to continue to offer a huge range of curriculum activities which enhance the delivery of the curriculum. Students tell us that these activities are a highlight of their time here and we acknowledge that the experience is invaluable for your child's education.

In order for the school to continue to offer these experiences we do continue to rely upon parent donations for curriculum trips and activities. Where a parent may be in financial hardship we ask that you contact the school to see how we can work together to continue to provide for all students.

For non curriculum trips and sports teams this continues to be user pays. We do expect payment but once again if there is significant hardship please do talk to the teacher in charge so that we can work together to support all students.

Uniform

Following the community consultation in 2020 there is currently a review of the school uniform and expectations. Once the review is completed there will be recommendations forwarded to the Board of Trustees to consider. In the meantime the current expectations remain in place.

Whilst most students do wear their uniform correctly there are a couple of areas that it is worth reminding parents about so that they may support the school in maintaining a high standard of dress. In summary they are as follows:

- Hair, this should be tied back for all Year 9, 10 and 11 students whose hair is long and at collar length or longer.
- Students should not wear jewellery. The exception is students may wear a taonga, items of religious or cultural significance around their neck. Students who need to wear medic alert bracelets or pendants are permitted to wear these.
- Students are able to wear plain black jackets. These can be the puffer style or softshell jackets. There should be no logo's visible. The only jersey that students should wear is the school jersey. Other makes, such as the Back Road design are not acceptable

Help and support from parents to uphold these expectations is greatly appreciated.

Finally

Despite it being a short week, it has been very busy. It was so good to see so many Year 9 students working together during the Greenpark days. I was also so impressed by the leadership of the Senior students who worked alongside our new young people. They made sure that everyone was involved and included in the activities. They demonstrated great leadership as well as the values of respect and perseverance.

Such activities do take a lot of time to plan and I appreciate the hard work of all the staff and link students that made the two days so successful.

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

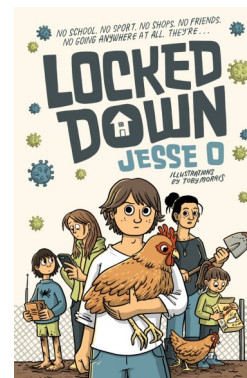
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| • <i>Tuesday 23rd February</i> | School Photos |
| • <i>Wednesday 24th February</i> | Athletics Day |
| • <i>Wednesday 3rd March</i> | Conference Evening |
| • <i>Thursday 4th March</i> | Conference Day |
| • <i>Monday 8th to Friday 12th March</i>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

Library News

This week in the library we have had 12 students sign up to be in our Chess Competition, I am hoping we will get a few more yet so if anyone is interested then please come along to the library and join us, open to all levels with older students helping to teach the younger ones, anyone and everyone is welcome to come and give it a go.

Book of the week this week is a novel that won a Storylines Junior Fiction Award in 2011. Written by Jesse O and published by Penguin Random House New Zealand it is a story about it being in lockdown. This book was written after the H1N1 or Swine Flu Pandemic hit New Zealand killing 20 people and infecting 3150 people. First published in 2010 well before covid, this book ironically touches on issues we have faced since covid was detected in December 2019 in China. Zac is running out of food, the power gets cut off and there is no internet. Zac must learn how to overcome challenges and how to survive. A neat story about learning to look after each other during some very difficult times.

Katrina Pudney
Librarian



Wellbeing and what to do when we have a worry or concern?

In assembly this week I spoke with students about what they can do when they have something that they would like some help with. Sometimes things don't go as we would like them to and we are here to help resolve concerns. The complaints procedure is attached to this newsletter. I have attached my assembly comments with year level Deans and email addresses.

Hi everyone and welcome back to the new school year,

I hope that everyone is well and had a good holiday. As Mr Wright mentioned in last week's assembly, this year we have a focus on wellbeing. That means things like, feeling good, functioning well and flourishing. This means different things to different people. Some days we might feel great and others might be more of a struggle.

You will know some things that help you to stay positive. It might be exercise, getting a good sleep or eating nutritious food such as fruits and vegetables. During the year we are going to learn more about how we can support our wellbeing, if you have any ideas about what you would like to see offered do feel free to come and speak to me or Mrs Jory or Mr Wright. Try starting with some thing small, like Mr Scarth's suggestion from last week of drinking more water and see what sort of a difference it makes to how you feel

There are lots of people who can help at school when you have concerns when things are not going well, we are here, along with your family and friends to help you get back on track. One of the most important things we can all do when we don't get things right or behave as we would like to is to learn and grow from the opportunity. We don't always get things right and there will be lots of struggles for all of us along the way. If you have a concern in a teacher's class try and have a talk with the teacher of the class to help resolve it.

2. Another person that may be able to help is your Mentor teacher,
or your Year level Dean:

- Year 9 this is Mrs Ward dward@sohs.school.nz
- Year 10 Mr Palmer jpalmer@sohs.school.nz
- Year 11 Mr Deverson rdeverson@sohs.school.nz
- Year 12 Mr Douglas jdouglas@sohs.school.nz
- Year 13 Mrs Bloxham cbloxham@sohs.school.nz

3. In my role as Guidance Counsellor I try to be in my office most intervals if students want to make an appointment to see me or have a quick chat about something.

4. Mrs Jory (Assistant Principal), and Mr Scarth (Deputy Principal) can all help as well if you have a concern about something, also your subject Head of Department like Mr Beeby or Ms Smith. If it's really serious then they can ask Mr Wright to help, and if you want to make a formal complaint then all of our senior leaders and our office staff can help (write down details, your name and what you have already tried to do to resolve things). One of our school values is perseverance and I came across this quote recently about resilience, which is getting back to feeling good and functioning well. "Resilience is a bit like a stew. There's lots of different ingredients that different people put together in different ways. You might have some of these ingredients in ample supply, but be a bit low on others and that's OK because you make your stew in your own way (Dr Karen Reivich)".

One of the Mental Health Foundations 5 ways to wellbeing is to Connect, make connections with one another and support one another, we will be doing this lots over the next week or two as we come back together in our classes and meet new people from different schools, let's get to know each other and work together to support one another in our school. We care about you and want to see you thrive here.

Cath Bloxham
Guidance Counsellor

Year 10 Camp

Yesterday during mentor time, permissions slips for Year 10 Tautuku camp were handed out to students. Year 10 camp is a fantastic opportunity for students to push themselves out of their comfort zone and build new relationships. 10L and 10Y will be attending camp from Monday 8th of March - Wednesday 10th March, while 10M and 10O will be attending Wednesday 8th - Friday 10th of March. If your son/daughter did not collect a permission slip, these are available on the slide at the main office. Permission slips are to be returned to the office by Friday the 4th of March. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Me or Mr Scarth.

Jason Palmer - jpalmer@sohs.school.nz

Nigel Scarth - nscarth@sohs.school.nz

Conference Interviews

Our first mentoring conferences are set to take place on Wednesday 3 March (4pm-8pm) and Thursday 4 March (9am-3pm). Bookings are open at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz. The booking code is nr6dc.

The purpose of the interviews is for students to set goals for each of their subjects. All students are expected to attend these sessions and are encouraged to lead the discussion.

This year there have been some mentor changes:

- Miss Graham is now the mentor for Ms Smith's class
- Miss Bonney is now the mentor for Mr Beeby's class
- Mr Willocks is now the mentor for Mrs Wright's class
- Mr Sly is now the mentor for Mrs Murdoch's class
- Mr Kemp is now the mentor for Miss Kinzett's class
- Miss Stephens is now the mentor for Mrs Gold's class

Amanda Smith

YEAR 9 ACTIVITY DAYS

On Wednesday and Thursday this week we took our five Year 9 classes out for their activities days. Greenpark at Waitepeka is traditionally where we head BUT with the cold snap that blew on through we decided that the better option was to use the Telford gym down at Telford Polytechnic which was a fantastic alternative venue. Our students were well entertained and fed by our fabulous teachers Mr Ensor, Mrs Bensley, Ms Hasanbegovic, Mrs Penn, Miss Graham, Mr King, Mr Beeby, Miss Bonney, Miss Stephens it was also great to see Mr Wright, Mrs Jory and Mrs Ward come for a visit.

Our Year 13 student leaders were paired up and had a group of 8-11 students. They competed in a wide range of games and activities within their groups and also as a whole group. Thanks to our Year 13 students Danyon Bennington, Tate Colley, Bree Dent, Blake Dodds, Jaxon Evans, Levi Haitana, Sam Stratford, Keely Hill, Leea Kearon, Mack Maaka, Lachlan Roy, Lachie Shanks, Seth Smith, Gemma Johnson, Emma Stoop, Maddie Deacon, Hamish Mills, Karena Dunlop, Akira Baxter, Ryan Soper, Alex Strachan, Noah Stratford, Sophie Ruffell, Lucy Kell, Isla Hastie, Brooke Tremaine and Ben Witt.

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator



NETBALL

Senior Netball Trials

These trials for Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be held on Friday 19th, Monday 22nd and if needed Tuesday 23rd February in our new gym at 3.30pm. Please come prepared with the right gear and a drink bottle. Sign up sheets are on the student notice board outside the library. If you cannot make a day you must put an apology into Mrs Hannah. Junior netball trials will be in a couple of weeks.

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator



Greenpark 2021 (At Telford)



Below: The Itinerant Music Teachers put on a performance for all our Year 9 students and some of the Primary School students this week.



Below: This Seagull decided our School Hall was good place to be during Lunchtime this week.



Below: Mr Palmer and Mrs Jory at the Year 9 Meet the Parents BBQ



WiE Can 2021

In January, I had the opportunity to attend the Women in Engineering Residential programme at the University of Canterbury. After arriving at Christchurch Airport, we were met by the residential assistants and transported to campus. We were shown our rooms and had some time to relax. Then we went over to the engineering core, where we had a welcome, then split into groups and got to know each other a bit. After dinner we had a quiz night.

On Monday, we had three workshops - chemical and process engineering, software engineering, and civil engineering. In chemical and process engineering, we converted starch to sugar by a process called hydrolysis. We put starch in a reactor with enzymes, and took a sample every 10 minutes, then added iodide and observed the colour change over time. In software engineering, we programmed micro:bits to turn on fans in response to the surrounding environment. In civil engineering, we designed and tested earthquake resilient structures. We built a tower out of skewers as tall as we could, then tested them on a shake table. Once the workshops were over, we were given clues and had a race around campus. To finish off the day, we had pizza and a movie night.

On Tuesday, we had another three workshops - computer and electronics engineering, natural resources engineering, and aerospace engineering. In computer and electronics engineering, we programmed solar powered cars to move, and then had a race. In natural resources engineering, we learnt about transporting water to remote places, and had a go using a water pump. We also had a challenge to fill three water containers at the same rate from one source. In aerospace engineering, we learnt about and had a go at flight control of a rocket, then we also got to see a rocket in a flight simulator. After the workshops, we had an entrepreneurship challenge. We chose a problem, then came up with a solution. We used the micro:bits from the software engineering workshop to create a prototype of the product. In the evening, we headed off for a city tour and dinner.

On Wednesday, we had our final three workshops - mechanical engineering, mechatronics engineering and forest engineering. In mechanical engineering, we designed an exoskeleton for our finger, then made the pieces using a laser cutter and assembled the exoskeleton. In mechatronics engineering, we programmed the exoskeleton to tap the finger of the person wearing it. In forest engineering, we learned how to use a model yarder and used trigonometry to figure out how much weight it could hold. We then had the prosthetics challenge, where we programmed a set of prosthetic fingers to play a tune on a keyboard. There was then a concert with all of the groups' prosthetics. To end the day, we had a celebration dinner with lots of food, music and dancing.

On the final day, we listened to various female engineers speaking about their experiences at university and in the industry. We also heard from university staff about life at the university, available scholarships and other information. We then had a farewell and were transported back to the airport. It was an amazing experience, and I would highly recommend it.

Annie Schofield

Year 12 (2020)

Money Talks

Kia ora

We would love your community to learn about MoneyTalks – our free budgeting and financial support helpline.

[We connect people and whānau with their local foodbanks, help them find their way through Work and Income processes and entitlements and support people to manage their money.](#)

Anybody can get in touch with our MoneyTalks team if they need help with day-to-day money matters like budgeting and debt management.

People can reach us by phone, txt, chat and email in English, Te Reo Māori or Mandarin. We want to see people, whānau and communities living free of hardship, and your support will help us on this journey. We would appreciate it if you can help your community learn more about MoneyTalks by sharing our advertisement in your newsletter.

You can find out more about us online at the [MoneyTalks](#) website. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi

Clare Wilson |Quality Assurance Adviser |MoneyTalks Team Coordinator