



South Otago High School

Newsletter 19th February 2021

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

It was great news to hear we are moving to Alert Level 1 so quickly after the uncertainty at the start of the week. While new cases in the community are always disappointing to hear of, it is reassuring to see how quickly they have been identified. I am sure we are all grateful for the efforts of our health workers, scientists and technicians in this regard, and the thousands of people who have been tested. I would expect that those who have suffered from this outbreak and are infected are being treated with kindness.

As a community we need to avoid the complacency which New Zealanders tend to quickly move into when we are at lower alert levels. Please do continue to scan QR codes and monitor closely for illness within your whānau.

Our focus as always will be to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of our students as well as the school community and we continue to be here to support you too.

National Touch Tournament

Over last weekend we did have a number of students who were representing Otago in the National Touch Tournament in Auckland. I spoke to parents of these students at the start of the week regarding the students safety and well being. They were supportive and appreciated the reasons why we requested that these students should stay at home for a few days upon return from Auckland. Thank you to the parents who supported our precautions to keep our community safe.

Year 9 student and parent survey

This week all new Year 9 students have been sent an e-mail with a link to a short survey for both students and parents to complete. It would be appreciated if parents could sit with their son/ daughter to complete this survey before Thurs 25 February. All respondents go in the draw for a Warehouse voucher which will be drawn after the survey closes.

Vaping

It is both disappointing and concerning to report that once again we have had a small number of students who have vape devices in school and have been using/sharing these.

The school treats vaping the same as smoking.

All schools are Smokefree environments and covered by the Smokefree legislation. So vaping on school grounds is not permitted and is in fact illegal.

The sale and use of vape devices and products are restricted items and it is illegal for young people under the age of 18 to possess or use these products.

As a school we have no way of knowing what is in the vape fluid. When we have spoken to students they have tended to rely upon what their friend has told them is in the vape pen. This is unsafe.

Considering the start of this newsletter is about how we should all take care of our health and the issue of Covid-19, I can think of no better way to spread germs, viruses or any infection than by transferring a vape device from one person's mouth to the next!

As a school, we will confiscate vape devices and ask parents to collect them from the school office. If parents do not make arrangements to collect these devices and products that have been confiscated they will be disposed of at the end of each month.

Finally

On Thursday we had a group of students travel early in the morning to Wanaka for the Wanaka Challenge youth triathlon. The students had a long day and I am sure will have really enjoyed the experience. Students demonstrated great perseverance in taking on this challenging event. We were very fortunate that the alert level was dropped to Level 1 to enable this event to go ahead. A full report on the students' participation features in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing all our students participating and enjoying the athletics day events next Wednesday. Assuming that we remain at Alert Level 1 I would like to extend an invitation to whanau to come along and support students in this great competition.

I am hoping that the staff will have another win in the staff/ student relay race at the end of the day!!

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

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 with their parents/caregivers 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 Mrs Ward's class
- Miss Stephens is now the mentor for Mrs Gold's class

Amanda Smith

House group/mentor leaders 2021

Congratulations to the following students

SU1TD: Vera Stirling	SO1EN: Kacey Hislop	BL1KT: Meg Albarico	MA1SW: Mack Maaka
SU2AD: . Lachlan Roy	SO2MH: Gemma Johnson	BL2MU: Tate Colley	MA2DY: Sophie Hunter
SU3KW/WK: Ben Witt	SO3SB: George Tabberer	BL3NS: Callum Maze	MA4KI: Alexa Dovey
SU4PE: Holly Hewitt	SO4SM/KG: Blake Dodds	BL4BI: Maia Pryde	MA5GO/ST: Jaxon Evans
SU5WM: Leea Kearon	SO6SP: Beckham Wilson	BL5WA/KE: Stephanie Gray	MA6CA: Isla Hastie
SU6HA: Lachie Crawford	SO7BT: Zain Robinson	BL6BY: Noah Stratford	MA7BB/BG: Kathryn Monaghan

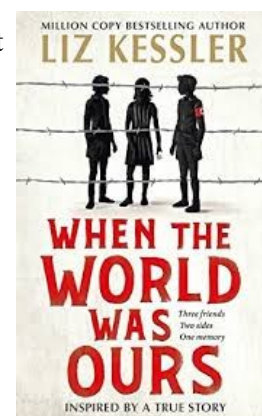
Whanau group: Ashley Hudson

Library News

This week I am reading a book based on a true story, written by *Liz Kessler* who's great Aunt was sent to Auschwitz but her father was fortunate enough to escape from Czechoslovakia at the age of 8.

It is a story about 3 innocent children, best friends, Leo and Elsa who are Jewish, and Max who's father is a member of the Nazi party. The 3 friends are now separated by who they are and will all travel different paths. Rated 12 plus It is a story aimed at more mature readers as it has scenes that are upsetting but depict the reality of the historical experience. The author states "It is also about using my voice to contribute to the conversations about social justice taking place today and hopefully help young readers make informed decisions about the part they want to play in the world of tomorrow."

Katrina Pudney
Librarian



Uniform

Stirling Sports now have the full size range of SOHS uniform boys socks in stock.

Upcoming Events Term1 2021

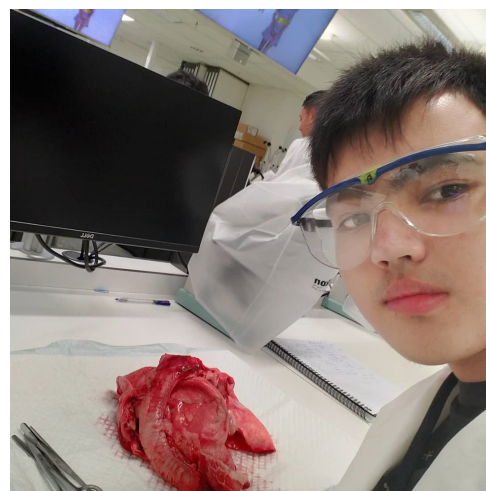
- *Tuesday 23rd February*..... School Photos
- *Wednesday 24th February*..... Athletics Day
- *Wednesday 3rd March*..... Conference Evening
- *Thursday 4th March*..... Conference Day
- *Monday 8th to Friday 12th March*..... Year 10 Tautuku Camp
- *Monday 22nd March*..... Otago Anniversary Day - School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

Rotary Science Conference Workshop

The Rotary National Science and Technology Forum was a two-week academic program for well-rounded science, technology, and math students intending to give a better understanding of the tertiary courses available at the University. For the two weeks, you attend a wide variety of hands-on sessions ranging from school taught subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, and Physics into more diverse subjects such as Biomedical Engineering, Psychology, and Ethics. We attended Auckland University of Technology, The University of Auckland, and Massey University and stayed at the residential hall from University of Auckland.

Beckham Wilson

Year 13



Below: Congratulations to Nathan Peoples taking out 3rd place at Cromwell BMX champs in the men's 16-35 age group last weekend.



Basketball Notice

Kia ora Basketballers and Whānau,

Basketball Season is upon us and training has started. We have a lot of interest and depending on commitment and whānau support will have to run trials. We have a team maximum. Students wishing to play Basketball this year are encouraged to attend the training sessions. Coach Dan is keen to support and help students cover skills before the selections begin so everyone has a good shot at getting a place in the teams.

Senior Boys Year 11 to 13 Pre-trial training for school team is every Wednesday New Gym 3.30pm to 5.30pm with Coach Dan.

Junior Boys Year 9 and 10 pre-season trial for school team is Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime New Gym.

Girls training Tuesday lunchtime and Thursday 3.30pm to 5pm New Gym (turnabout Old Gym Term 2).

As usual, we can't make games without the support of our families and whānau and we thank you in advance.

Whānau Meeting T5 Thursday 25 February 3.30pm-4.30pm.

Otago Representative Trials are being held at the Edgar Centre Sunday 21st and Sunday 28th February. Students interested in participating must email me for the registration link. Times are:

- U15 Girls 10am U15 Boys 12pm
- U17 Girls 2pm U17 Boys 4pm
- U19 Girls TBC U19 Boys 2pm.

\$2.50 entry fee. No spectators due to Level 2 precautions.

We have had a great start to the year with a lot of interest from students which is really promising. Please note, the Otago Rep Trials are not the school trials, they are for the Otago Rep Teams and students need to be registered both with Otago Basketball and our school basketball teams.

nhasanbegovic@sohs.school.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Nisa Hasanbegovic

Wanaka Challenge

Yesterday, 31 South Otago Triathletes attended the Otago/Southland Secondary Schools Triathlon at Glendu Bay/Wanaka. The weather gods put on a fine display for us with beautiful calm water and some good sunshine. South Otago had some good results, however, there are too many to mention in this newsletter article. Perhaps the most enjoyable thing about the trip was the dip in the "warm" lake at the conclusion of the day. It was also great to hear so many of the students say they would like to compete as individuals next year. Thank you very much to Pam Hannah who did a splendid job as team manager and driver. Another thank you to Natalie Clark who came along as parent help and drove the third van. The next Triathlon event is on Tuesday evening in Dunedin. If anyone is interested in this event please email Mr Palmer.

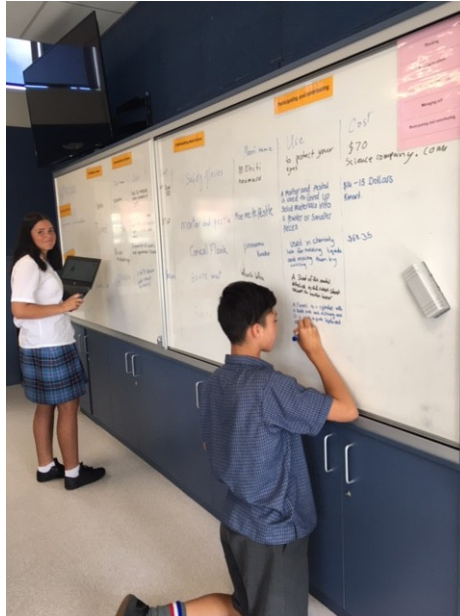
Jason Palmer

Wanaka Challenge Triathlon

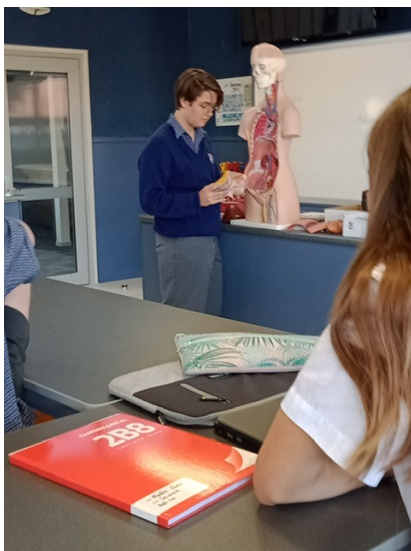


Science

Below: Two year 9 students teaching the rest of their class about scientific equipment.



Year 10 students learning about the digestive system and conducting food test experiments to determine sugars present in biscuits.



Year 11 student doing an experiment on weathering of limestone.

