



South Otago High School

Newsletter 26th February 2021

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

I have just returned from a walk about the school during the first period of Friday morning. It has been awesome to see students working and talking about what they are learning. Not only seeing students engaged with their learning but the way in which the students call out 'Hi Mr Wright!' and initiate a quick chat with such confidence. Such a contrast to when I went to school and the 'Headmaster' was someone to be feared and not spoken to unless he spoke to you!!

We have such great students here who are a great asset to our community and I look forward to seeing them grow up and become great citizens beyond school.

Athletics sports day

The inter-house sporting calendar got off to a great start with the weather holding for the day on Wednesday. It was good to see so many students getting involved and having a go during the day. A number that I spoke to had gone out and given it their best effort. Some had surprised themselves with their result. I applaud those that got out of their comfort zone, and 'had a go' and for many that demonstrated our value of perseverance.

The end of the day was the highlight with the staff vs student council relay. I have congratulated the students on their effort and the fact that they had a very narrow loss. I have also thanked my team members for providing such a significant lead to enable me to finish the race and for the staff to win! Had the race been a few metres longer the result would have been very different!!

Outdoor education

Also this week we had the first overnight trip for one of our senior Outdoor Education classes. I appreciate

the staff who give up their personal time to provide these opportunities for students. I have heard that the students had a great time and it will be an invaluable learning experience as they continue with their course. I hope to be able to join some of the trips during the year and know the personal growth from being challenged in the outdoor environment.

Conferencing

Next week is the first of our conference events. In the forthcoming meetings, which should last no more than 20 minutes, mentors will be talking with students and their whanau about the goals for the year. We expect all students to attend an interview either for the Wednesday evening or during the day on Thursday. Ideally we would like whanau to be engaged in these meetings and accompany the student. This is important and that is why we devote a whole day and evening to these conferences. In the last few years we have seen a positive shift in student achievement through this work.

Finally

With the preparations for the sports season underway the school is preparing guidelines for our expectations for students to be able to be involved in co curricular activities where they are representing the school. The teachers in charge of the sports codes will be talking to students about these expectations in the coming weeks.

I am looking forward to seeing students representing the school with pride during the forthcoming year.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the weather!

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

This week Year 12-13 English and Drama students enjoyed an entertaining rendition of *Romeo and Juliet*, performed by the Ugly Shakespeare Company (with some audience participation).

Ngā mihi

Amanda Smith



Library News

Last week I read several books about the Holocaust and I must say that the book I featured last week 'When the world was ours' by Liz Kessler was an excellent read. I found it quite heartwrenching. It was a story that I didn't want to put down and one I would highly recommend.

This week I am about to start *Mission Girl* written by NZ author Fleur Beale and published by scholastic. It's about a young girl called Atapō, when her tribe is enslaved she escapes and is taken in by a mission station in Paihia. It is here that she learns how to read and becomes enlightened as to what is going on around her. Set in 1840 it is a glimpse into the past that leads to the Māori and British people coming together to sign the Treaty of Waitangi. So far it sounds like a fascinating read.

Katrina Pudney

Librarian



Attitude Presentations

On Tuesday 2nd March students will have the opportunity to attend presentations by the organisation "Attitude" that are based around Health Education topics which have tailored content is relevant to each year level. A brief outline of the presentations is listed below and you can find further information via their website www.attitude.org.nz

- Year 9 (Period 1): Connected – friendships and technology
- Year 10 (Period 2): Hardwired – drugs and alcohol
- Year 11 (Period 3): Sex with Attitude – sex and relationships
- Year 12 & 13 (Period 4): The Pits – mental health and depression

Any questions please get in contact.

Nathan King

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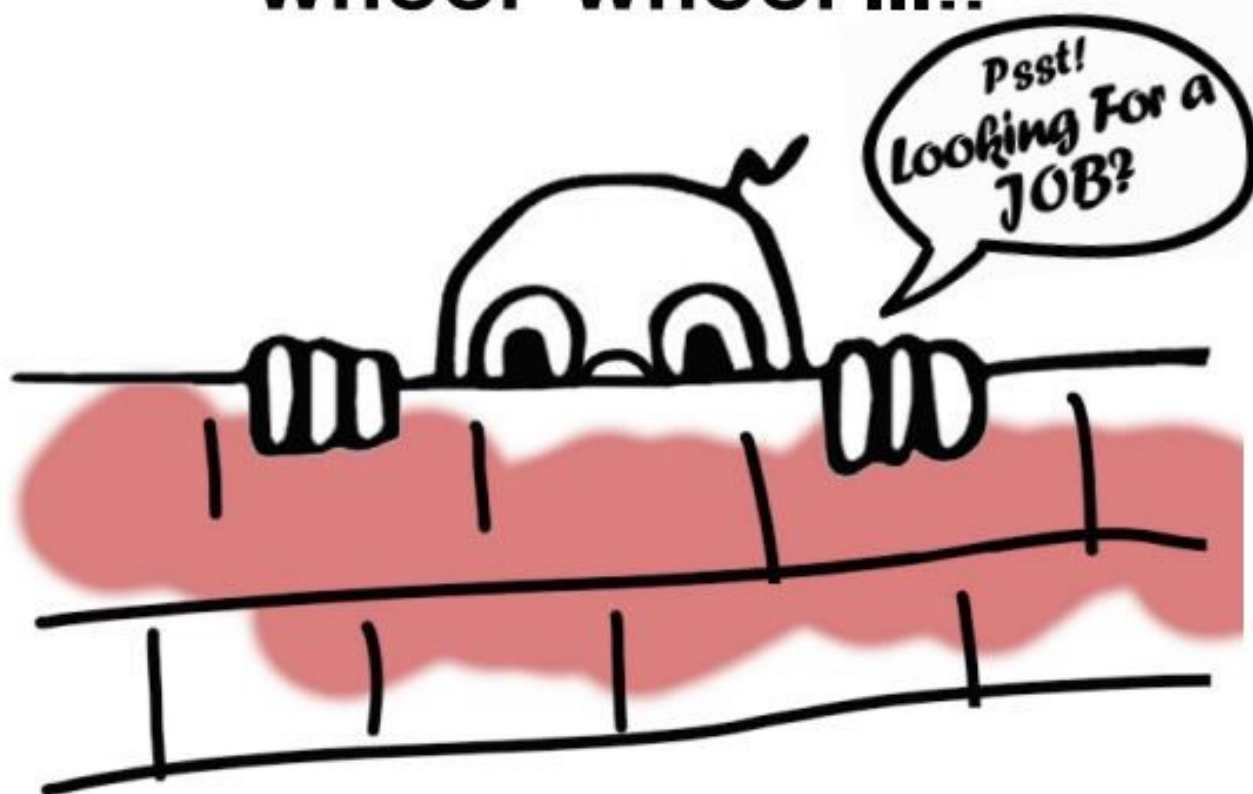
Upcoming Events Term1 2021

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| • Wednesday 3rd March..... | Conference Evening |
| • Thursday 4th March..... | Conference Day |
| • Monday 8th to Friday 12th March..... | Year 10 Tautuku Camp |
| • Thursday 18th March..... | Gore Summer Interchange |
| • Monday 22nd March..... | Otago Anniversary Day - School Closed |
| • Tuesday 30th March..... | Taieri Summer Interchange |
| • Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April..... | Easter - School Closed |
| • Friday 16th April..... | Last Day Term 1 |

Athletics Day 2021



Another
"JOBBORTUNITIES"
EVENT
WHOOOP WHOOOP...!!



Tuesday 9th March 2021

6pm - 8pm

**Tyrone McElrea Room
Cross Recreation Centre, Balclutha**

LOOKING FOR A CHANGE...??

Then come along to our 'Work Ready Wraparound' evening and see the array of stuff available to get you over the line and into a job you want.

There'll be guest speakers, education/training providers, advice and guidance and plenty more.
AND most importantly - FOOD.



MTFJ
MANITOWORKS TASK FORCE FOR JOBS

Further Info:
Email - ruth@jobbortunities.nz
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