



# South Otago High School

## Newsletter 12th March 2021

*Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa*

*Warm greetings to you all*

### Dear Parents/Caregivers

#### *Kia Ora Tatou*

It has been an exciting week here with most of our Year 10 students out at camp either at the start or end of the week. I had the opportunity to escape to Tautuku for part of Wednesday and the feedback from the students who were about to depart was really positive. This year we had a lot of our new teachers to the school join the camps and they bring new energy and enthusiasm. Talking to them when they got back they too have really enjoyed working with our students.

It is so good to hear such positive feedback from students and staff. We know that these camps reinforce positive relationships between friends and also between staff and students. I am so grateful to have staff who are prepared to give up their own family time, nights and days to be able to provide these opportunities for students.

#### **NCEA Literacy and Numeracy**

This week we had a film crew on site making a recording for the Ministry of Education to support the professional development for teachers throughout New Zealand. South Otago High School was selected to be part of this initiative because of the work which we do to meet the needs of students. Whilst being interviewed and recorded is a little daunting it is awesome that the school was selected to be part of this initiative and it certainly generated a lot of interest from students as they walked past!

#### **Covid1-19 vaccinations**

The Ministry of Education have asked that schools support the Ministry of Health in making our communities aware of the facts regarding the future Covid-19 vaccinations. I would like to encourage

those of you who are uncertain about the vaccination to ensure that you read the facts. Below is a link to the Ministry's information on the vaccination programme:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-getting-vaccine>

#### **Finally**

With the absence of most of the Year 10's at some time or another the Year 9 students have risen to attention, in a good way! One day I was visiting a classroom as the lesson was about to start. One young man shouted out 'Are you coming to rugby training tonight?' as though I was likely to be playing for the school! Whilst I am flattered that I could be selected I did enjoy the enthusiasm that this young man displayed. It was followed up in a delightful way in the evening when I was watching my own son playing Touch. A group returning from training, looking hot and tired called out 'Hi Mr Wright!' and then told me about their rugby training session.

These interactions are not uncommon. I have made similar comments before in the newsletter. These brief conversations with students are a reflection of the confidence and maturity of so many of our students who are willing and able to engage in respectful chats with adults. For me, it makes the work of a principal so worthwhile, puts a smile on my face and really brightens my day!

Have a good weekend

*Ka kite ano*

**Mike Wright**  
**Principal**

#### **Class Photos**

To access and purchase your student's class photo go to [www.geoffhorrell.co.nz](http://www.geoffhorrell.co.nz) and SOHS Class photos.  
The password sohsc21

#### **Portal Access**

There are currently issues regarding access to the Portal on our website. This is being sorted and will hopefully be back up and running as soon as possible.

#### **Upcoming Events Term1 2021**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Monday 22nd March.....               | Otago Anniversary Day - School Closed |
| • Tuesday 23rd March.....              | Gore Summer Interchange               |
| • Tuesday 30th March.....              | Taieri Summer Interchange             |
| • Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April..... | Easter - School Closed                |
| • Friday 16th April.....               | Last Day Term 1                       |

### **Wellbeing- Student Support**

Year 9 students and Year 13 leaders met in mentoring time on Wednesday to talk through our values and learn more about positive behaviour for learning (PB4L). I praised the year 9s for their respectful behaviour. For example they have been lining up patiently at the canteen and the importance of looking out for one another and asking for help from teachers if needed. Students were encouraged to use a range of supports at school and at home. The school does have security cameras in place, in general students have been doing a great job of looking after and naming their belongings. Sam Stratford and Kareena Dunlop, our head students both spoke about our three values of respect, excellence and perseverance, they used examples from their time at school and quotes to support their messages of support for students encouraging them with positive behaviour around the school and supporting one another. Mrs Ward the Year 9 Dean talked with the group about the values REP cards reminding them to get them signed and in the box, the first of the badges will be awarded next week. To start with students need 12 signatures of any one value to receive a badge. Students were shown the token box that sits at the office. When they hand their cards in they receive a token, there will be three choices which students have input into. For example, two shade sails were erected outside the canteen in the school colours, these look great and the positive behaviour of the students led to the purchase of these. Mr Palmer also spoke with students about respectful behaviour, he did a role play with a student showing them how to walk across the stage to receive for example a certificate or badge- shirt tucked in, eye contact and a firm handshake were encouraged.

**Nga mihi nui**

**Cath Bloxham**

**TIC Peer Support**

### **TAIERI AND GORE SUMMER SPORTS INTERCHANGES**

I am really happy to report that after no interchanges in 2020 due to COVID that we are having our two long standing Interchanges with Gore and Taieri. We are travelling for both exchanges.

**Gore - Tuesday 23rd March**

**Taieri - Tuesday 30th March.**

### **SPORTS**

- Cricket - Boys and Girls
- Touch - Senior and Junior Mixed
- Golf
- Volleyball - Senior and Junior Girls

The cost is \$15.00 per student. This covers the cost of the busses, this is to be paid to the office along with the permission slip that you can obtain from Mrs Hannah's office or the main office.

**Pam Hannah**

**Sports Coordinator**

### **Library News**

A quick reminder for students this week about our new Library App. Students can now use their borrower numbers which are found on their timetables to sign in to our cool new library App. From here they can search the school library catalogue, renew their books, request books, and even write reviews. Please encourage your student to become familiar with their page as it will benefit them greatly. If students are unsure how to use it, they are welcome to come to the library and I can show them.

This week I am reading a neat story about a guardian angel. *Emergency Rescue Angel* was written by *Cate Whittle* and published by Omnibus Books. This story is about a boy's life and how he copes with it after his father drowns when trying to rescue another child in their town. One day Mitch has a girl sit beside him in his classroom, she is different and dresses like a goth, red hair, big boots, too many earrings, and Mitch isn't sure what to make of her. One night Mitch comes across the new girl Max and sees she has wings, Mitch thinks he is seeing things but it turns out to be true and Max discovers she is there to help him through the tough times. This is a story of hope and perseverance and a really nice read.

**Katrina Pudney**

**Librarian**



### **NZ Defence Force Careers**

Members of the NZ Defence Force are visiting SOHS at lunchtime (1.30pm) on Monday 15th March to talk about the pathways taken by a Navy recruiter, PO Kat Mohi, Hydrographer; an Army recruiter, SGT Blair Ross, Chef; and an Air Force recruiter, SGT Josey Orum, Aircraft Technician; Students are invited to bring lunch and hear their career stories. There will be time for group and one to one questions. Venue will be confirmed on Monday when approximate number of attendees are known.

## Short listing



### New Civil Defence tool helps Otago Get Ready

In an emergency, knowledge is key and working together is crucial.

That's why Emergency Management Otago has launched 'Otago Gets Ready', a proven two-way communication tool that can send Otago residents real-time localised email/text alerts during emergencies and help people prepare to be part of a co-ordinated community response.

Do you have skills, resources or aid you can offer others in an emergency like first aid training, a 4WD, generator or language skills?

Do you have whānau who may need extra assistance in an emergency?

Help yourself and others by signing up to Gets Ready now – either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or visit [www.getsready.net](http://www.getsready.net) to register your contact details.

To register for Gets Ready, follow the quick and easy three-step process:

Either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or go to [www.getsready.net](http://www.getsready.net) to log your contact details.

Fill out the Resources, Skills and Needs section – you can choose to share as much or as little information as you wish.

Once you receive the activation email (check your Junk Mail if it doesn't come through within a few minutes) and click on the link to activate your profile. All information is held privately and securely and is only accessible to authorised Civil Defence staff.



### SISS Triathlon

Congratulations to the team of Luka May (Swim), Callum Leeds (Bike) and Bree Campbell (Run) who placed 1st in their category at the South Island Secondary Schools Triathlon in Oamaru last Sunday. They were also third junior team overall.

**Jason Palmer (TIC Multisport)**





## Art Trip

Last Friday we went on a trip around some of the Catlins, students captured lots of photographs and learnt about some of the Māori history relating to the area. One of our focuses for Year 11 Art is on our local area and learning about the Māori history of the area.

Thank you to Mr Whitaker for sharing his knowledge of local areas with us all. Thanks to Mrs Penn and Mrs Crutchley too.

**Helen Williams**  
**HOD Arts**

