



South Otago High School

Newsletter 26th March 2021

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

Warm greetings to you all

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

I hope that you all enjoyed the long weekend and managed to get out and enjoy the fine weather. It is not long now until we will have another long weekend over Easter which I suspect may be the last of the warmer weather.

South Island Secondary School Touch Tournament

A team of students travelled at the end of last week to Christchurch for the South Island Secondary School Touch Tournament. The event saw teams from schools throughout the South Island competing at the tournament. South Otago High School were seventh placed at the end of the weekend and I know that the students had had a great time. Thank you to Pam Hannah for organising this trip.

Gore Interchange

On Tuesday students travelled to Gore High School for the annual interchange sports events. A full report appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Once again the students had a great time and it was good to hear the positive report back on the events.

Outdoor Education and PE trips

This week we also have students travelling to Queenstown and Lake Manapouri for their courses. We appreciate the time that teachers put into preparing these experiences for our students. We also acknowledge that this is a sacrifice for staff but also an enormous benefit for students. Whilst planning these trips does take time they are only possible due to the goodwill of staff and the financial contribution from parents. Thank you for the small ways in which you support the growth and education of our young people.

Rippa Rugby tournament

Whilst I do not have a report back on this event I did receive a lovely e-mail from one of the teachers from one of the other schools that participated. This is quoted below and is a great reflection upon the caring and inclusive school culture which we have.

Kia ora, Mike.

I just wanted to pass on how fantastic a group of boys from your school were today at the Quick Rip Rugby tournament. One of our teams had a special needs student who absolutely loves rugby and being part of a team. He does, however, struggle to catch a ball and to stay in the field of play etc. I asked your boys if this young man could begin the game by tapping and running and that they make an attempt to rip him but let him through to score a try. Your boys were absolutely happy to do this and the young man went through and scored a try. He was absolutely stoked with himself and scoring a try made his day. We are all truly appreciative of your boys' actions here.

What a wonderful way to start my Friday morning receiving this. Thank you to those students.

Finally

We are all now looking forward to a couple of short weeks with the disruptions of Easter. Whilst this will be a time for students (and teachers) to gather their energy for the last week we would expect that you do get your child to attend school every day that the school is open for instruction. We know that there can be a temptation by some to say 'It's a short week, I won't miss much!' The reality is that students need to attend every day to get the most from their education.

Have a good weekend

Ka kite ano

Mike Wright
Principal

BOT Cattle Fundraising Scheme

With the reestablishment of the BOT Cattle Fundraising Scheme we would like to take the opportunity to thank the following donors of calves: Paul & Jill Crawford and Peter & Tania Dobbie as well as this year's grazers: Simon & Camille McAtamney, Chris & Laura Hunter and Ken & Bronwyn Campbell. Income from the cattle fundraising scheme will be used for future student driven projects around the school. We will be looking for further donors and grazers this upcoming spring so if you are interested please get in contact with the school office.

Bronwyn Campbell

BOT

CROMWELL PATHWAYS EXPLORATION

On Wednesday 5th May one bus will travel to Cromwell to allow senior students to investigate pathways and tertiary training available at Highlands Motorsport Park and Otago Polytechnic. The bus will depart SOHS at 7.45am and return approx 6pm. A special one off fund from the MoE will cover the cost of the transport, burger lunch and go cart ride at Highlands. Any Y12/ 13 student with an interest in Hospitality, Automotive, Carpentry, Horticulture, Viticulture, Brewing, Snowsports and High Country Farming should email Mrs Cullen pcullen@sohs.school.nz outlining why the trip would be of interest and how it will benefit future plans.



University Scholarships for Year 13 Students

MoneyHub, a consumer finance website, has published a guide to hundreds of scholarships for any student planning to start university in 2022. The comprehensive list includes scholarships offered by every university as well as those specifically available to local students. A list of privately-funded, Maori, Pacific and International university scholarships completes the list.

Applications close throughout the year, with tens of millions of dollars available. MoneyHub has also published a list of tips for scholarship success.

For more details and to find suitable scholarships, visit the MoneyHub Scholarship page—<https://www.moneyhub.co.nz/scholarships-nz.html>

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean

Student Portal

This week parents/caregivers were emailed login details to access the student portal. This is a webpage accessed via the school website which has information on student's attendance, financial information, achievement, and live reports. You can also make changes to contact details. The site address is: <https://portal.sohs.school.nz/>. If you have any queries please contact your child's mentor in the first instance and they will do their best to help you.

Amanda Smith
TIC Mentoring

Upcoming Events Term 1 2021

- *Tuesday 30th March*..... Taieri Summer Interchange
- *Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April*..... Easter - School Closed
- *Friday 16th April*..... Last Day Term 1

Upcoming Events Term 2 2021

- *Monday 3rd May*..... Start of Term 2
- *Tuesday 11th May*..... Teacher Only Day
- *Friday 21st May*..... Pink Shirt Day
- *Friday 28th May*..... SNOB

Wellbeing- Student Support: Cyber Safety/Digital Citizenship and Bullying Prevention

On Wednesday 24th March as part of our Peer Support programme Constable Rochelle Gordon came in to present a session on cyber-safety and digital citizenship. Our Year 13 leaders discussed with the Year 9 students the importance of caring about, supporting and encouraging one another. As leaders they form part of our whole school culture that works to prevent bullying and maintain a supportive culture. Like any school and community we sometimes have instances of people behaving inappropriately and we all have a role to play in supporting a safe environment at school. In the session students learned what defines bullying and some of the reasons why people may bully. Our school policy supports a school wide approach where we work together with parents and whanau members. Our Anti-Bullying Code (shared every year with the Year 9 students and displayed around the school) states that every pupil has the right to enjoy learning, free from intimidation. We encourage pupils to report instances of bullying. Students learn about talking with trusted adults at school and home as well as their Year 13 leaders. We are here to listen and support young people and help them to find the support that they may need at times of possible distress. As part of our wellbeing programme Year 13 leaders were encouraged to share key messages with the rest of their mentor groups.

These are links to two excellent resources for parents

Netsafe- a free call number and website for online safety and advice and reporting concerns <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/>

Bullying Free New Zealand Website and guide for parents/whanau <https://www.bullyingfree.nz/assets/Uploads/Tackling-Bullying-A-guide-for-parents-and-whanau.pdf>

Our Year 9 students will also be covering cybersafety in their Health classes as a unit where they spend more time learning about safety and wellbeing.

Definition of bullying

Bullying is deliberate – harming another person intentionally. Bullying involves a misuse of power in a relationship. Bullying is usually not a one-off – the behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying involves behaviours that can cause harm – it is not a normal part of growing up. Our bullying prevention and response policy is on our school website under the link BOT policies.

What we aim to do at South Otago High School

- Encourage a school wide approach to supporting student and staff well-being.
- Complete regular surveys- (eg. last week all Year 9 completed a survey as part of Health to gain information for a resilience building programme)
- Identify areas for improvement and develop our strategies for preventing bullying
- Regularly promote our expectations for behaviour
- Support professional development requests for staff to support the promotion of positive behaviour in our students and wellbeing
- Promote a respectful environment through a range of student, staff and community activities
- Provide guidance and counselling where appropriate for students and staff.
- Use a range of activities including curriculum based programmes to develop the ability of students and/or staff to relate to each other (Peer Support, Health programmes).
- Promote digital citizenship and safe use of technology.

Please talk with your child's Mentor, Teacher, Head of Department, Dean, myself or any member of the schools' Senior Leadership Team if you have a concern.
We are here to help.

Year level Deans

Mrs Ward Year 9 dward@sohs.school.nz

Mr Palmer Year 10 jpalmer@sohs.school.nz

Mr Deverson Year 11 rdeverson@sohs.school.nz

Mr Douglas Year 12 jdouglas@sohs.school.nz

Mrs Bloxham Year 13 cbloxham@sohs.school.nz

Cath Bloxham

Guidance Counsellor

Basketball

Kia ora Basketball Families,

Meeting Thursday 8 April 6pm T5. Please attend. Fundraising and dates, driver duties and timetable to complete. See you all then. Thank you.

Nisa Hasanbegovic

TIC Basketball

90 Science

Students of 9 O made hot air balloons to test that hot air is less dense than cold air and rises up. We tried flying these on Wednesday the 24th of March with little luck as all of them caught fire. The students are now investigating on how to improve the design to make them actually fly.

Shobhana Bir

Science and Chemistry



Below: Pictures showing year 9s learning about physical and chemical changes.

Year 12 chemists have just finished learning an external standard and did some revision in a fun way in the class. Here is a picture of the winning team who not only completed one tower but had enough points (cups) to start another.

Shobhana Bir

Science and Chemistry



Taieri Summer Interchange - Tuesday 30th March

Below is the list of students who are attending the Taieri Interchange. All students are to travel in full tidy school uniform to and from Mosgiel. A permission slip is available from Mrs Hannah's office the \$15.00 must be paid before we leave on Tuesday morning.

TOUCH

Senior

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

Junior

Blake Evans, William Maze, Regan Macdonald, Brendan Soper, Henry Craig, Clay Marshall, Kingston Davis, Morgan Stephens, Leah Stephens, Ashlee Anderson, Zoe Hyslop, Emily Smith, Zara Upston, Taelah Dawson, Claudia Mardon, Kayley Strachan, Annaliese Bisset

GOLF

Aiden Upston, Nathan Peoples, Oliver Hunter and Danyon Bennington

CRICKET- BOYS

Johnston Phillips, Kane Benington, Balin Wood, Finn Gilder, Geordie Bennett, Will Clark, Luis Smales, Alec Mills, Archie Smith, Nic Roy and Madox Solomon.

CRICKET-GIRLS

Caitlin Scherp, Jess Sheppard, Ruby Budge, Anna Clarke, Jade Field, Keeley Puna, Jade Kyle, Leah McLaren, Jess Coetser, Tayler McLaughlan, Lily Pringle

VOLLEYBALL

Senior

Olivia Davidson, Kacey Hislop, Akira Baxter, Emma Stoop, Mack Maaka, Leea Kearon, Brooke Tremaine

Junior (Year 9)

Annaliese Bisset, Bella Findlay, Graycen Kell, Jayda Rakete, Shannon Coetser, Izarra Burne, Porshia Frisby, Olivia Moffat

Junior (Year 10)

Zara Milne, Leticia Cochrane, Jasmine Van Asperen, Emily Jenkinson, Julia Fernandez, Shelley Lambert, Jessica Edwards, Ashlyn Cloete

THEATRE SPORTS

Taylor Atkin-Coutts, Mari Chacapna, Kareena Dunlop, Fraser McAtamney, Holly Hewitt, Vera Stirling, Tayla Hayde-Bain, Mhyana Bacud, Althea Pagarigan, Tiare Rubay Brown

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

Library

This term has been a good one in the library and we have just completed our annual Chess competition after many weeks of games being played. This year we have had a lot of interest in chess with 10 juniors and 6 seniors, 9 of these students were from year 9.

I was especially pleased to see the Senior students helping and encouraging the younger students to give it a go. It is pretty daunting as a year 9 student so it was good to see them wanting to try and the older ones wanting to teach.

Our overall winner for the year is Hamish Mills with Nathan Bock coming a close second. I think Nathan will be the one to watch next year as he is only in year 9. Congratulations boys and Connie, you played well and all of you displayed great sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Katrina Pudney

Librarian



Rippa Rugby



Rugby

This week has been a busy week meeting with coaching staff to come up with a plan for the season. On Tuesday evening I met with The U15 coaching staff (Adam Wyber and Tony Mallon) along with Marty Hurring from the ORFU to discuss the results of the survey that was sent out to you regarding the structure of an U15 team. To summarise, 47.2% of you voted for Option A which was to have an U15 A team and an U15B team rather than two even teams. Both coaches agreed that this was the best option. The decision was made to run a trial for the U15 A team which will be held in the next couple of weeks. I have sent out an email asking for player interest. If you could please reply to this by Monday the 29th.

I have asked coaches that the following is to happen when players are trialling.

1. The U15 A team is selected by a number of coaches (Adam & Tony), external advisors (Marty Hurring) and myself. We not only want to look at player skill but whether the player meets our school values, the fitness of the player and how hard the player is willing to work to get better.
2. I want to ensure that we don't only select the best players, but players that want to be the best.
3. A trial which will be conducted which is transparent to all parents and players
4. Players who don't make the team, be given the chance to question coaches as to why they did not make the team.

The U15 A team will compete in the U15 Cup competition, NOT the Colts competition as previously suggested and they will be coached by Adam Wyber. The U15 B team will play in the Carnival Year 9-11 grade which is the next grade down and will be coached by Tony Mallon. Players who do not wish to be in the A team, or trial but miss out will play in the U15B team. We would be taking 22 players into the U15 A team, however, we would only be utilising 20 on a Saturday. The other two players would play for the U15 B team.

Due to our numbers in the U14 grade, we have also decided to have a trial for an U14A team. This team would play in the U14 Cup competition. Players who do not make this team or who do not want to play for this team will play in the U15B team in the Year 9-11 mixed carnival grade.

First XV selection will run similar. We are going to use several games/trials to ensure we select the correct team. All players in the current wider training squad will play for the First XV in the upcoming games against Dunstan on the 17th of April and Taieri on the 8th of May. A squad of 22 will then be selected to play for the First XV throughout the season. This year, the First XV and Colts will be working closely together. Clark, Craig and Nathan will be chatting weekly to see player availability and both teams will train together several times throughout the season. I am hoping that players who do not make the First XV demonstrate resilience and perseverance and do not drop out of the sport. I can assure you that they will be called upon during the season as there will always be injuries in the First XV. When players do get called up to the First XV, they WILL get game time and not be there to just warm the bench.

There are still a number of you who have not registered for the season. It is important that this is done as soon as possible. A reminder that you are not able to play until this has been done. Please head to the following link to register:
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/143294>

Subs have also been loaded onto accounts. These are \$120 for the season which covers all gear maintenance, field costs, association fees and travel (excluding pre season games). If you are a non SOHS player, account details have been sent out via email.

We have also had an awesome opportunity available for students to purchase fitted mouthguards. A local dentist will be coming into school during rugby trainings to fit one team at a time. The cost of these mouthguards will be \$50 each and this is payable to the school office by Friday the 2nd of April. Please email me once you have transferred the correct amount. If you are in a tight financial position, please let me know and some assistance may be available. We do not want anyone missing out on this opportunity due to financial reasons.

Finally, on Wednesday, Mrs Hannah and myself took 33 SOHS students to Dunedin to play in a Rippa Rugby Tournament. This was supposed to be held at Bayfield Park but was moved indoors to the Edgar Centre due to the weather. While this event was about participation and having fun, we were secretly keeping scores. The girls won 5 of their 6 games, boys #2 team won all 6 and we think that boys #1 won 4 of their 6 games.

Jason Palmer (TIC Rugby)

SOUTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOUCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last weekend 16 students, myself, two coaches and a lot of supporters travelled to Christchurch to compete and watch our SOHS touch team participate in the above event.

DAY ONE RESULTS:

- SOHS (9) vs Waimate (1)
- SOHS (10) vs St Kevins (5)
- SOHS (5) vs Lincoln (7)
- SOHS (6) vs Rolleston (9)



With two close losses to Rolleston (who went on to win the mixed section) this put us out of top four contention.

DAY TWO RESULTS:

- SOHS (5) vs Taieri (7)
- SOHS (6) vs Motueka (5)

Taieri came to play in the playoff for 5th/.6th and were 4-1 up at halftime, we clawed this back with 4 tries in the second half but the gap was too big and Taieri came away with a well deserved win. We then moved onto the playoff for 7th/8th against Motueka and came away with the close win.

Thanks to Samara Soper and Luc Thomson for your coaching and expertise over the two day tournament. Thanks to our supporters who made the trip to Christchurch it is awesome to have you all with us.

JP Human refereed at this tournament. On Saturday he refereed 6 games. Thanks JP for your efforts we all know we can't have a game without refs.



GORE INTERCHANGE

On Tuesday Mr King and myself traveled to Gore High School along with forty eight students to compete in our annual Interchange.

RESULTS;

Touch

Senior: 12-1 win, 11-1 win

Junior: 1-3 loss, 3-3 draw

Cricket

Loss

Golf

Win

Overall results 4-4 draw

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

