



South Otago High School

Newsletter 16th April 2021

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa

Warm greetings to you all

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

The end of term has arrived and it has been a very long time since the end of the summer holidays. Whilst it is a time to take a break and refresh it is also a time for some students who may have gaps in their learning to put in a bit of time to catching up.

The last week has continued with a few events and activities underway. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all our staff to making this term run so smoothly and providing great opportunities for students. In particular, I would like to single out our five new teachers to the profession who not only started a new job (which we all know brings its own stresses) but have also contributed to the wider life of the school too.

Staff Student Touch

This week the Student Council challenged the staff to a game of touch. Although the staff team demonstrated early promise in the game the students did come out as the winners. Congratulations to the Student Council, a great game and well played. Thank you also to JP who did a great job as referee keeping the staff under control!

Teacher Only Day

Early next term there is a teacher only day on 11 May. This date is set for all high schools in our region as part of the accord for teachers to support the introduction of changes to NCEA. The school will not be open for instruction however, students on work placements or courses out of school should still attend as normal.

Uniform

With the second term comes the cooler and wintery weather. The holiday is a good time for students to make sure that they are prepared for the winter conditions which we will all face. For students they should have black polishable shoes. Ideally these will keep the water out on wet mornings. Students will also need a plain black jacket. Whilst puffer jackets are good for warmth they do not hold out the rain. Students are also able to wear a plain black or navy beanie for added warmth.

SNOB

This week letters have been sent to families where students have an attendance rate of concern. The school's expectation is for them to make changes to their attendance so that they may enjoy the benefit of attending the SNOB. Similarly, letters have also been sent where students have outstanding debts that need to be cleared prior to the purchase of a SNOB ticket.

I would like to make it very clear: no student has, at this stage, been prevented from attending the SNOB. There is still plenty of time for individuals to make changes so that they can attend this event.

As you will be aware, with the Balclutha Memorial Hall being demolished this year we are without a suitable off-site venue which can cater for the large number we expect to be attending and provide the security and safety required of a school event. Therefore, the school hall will be the venue for the 2021 SNOB. We are working hard to ensure that the event will be as memorable as any other and are developing vehicle access loop so that students still get their 'red carpet' experience. I understand that the catering plans are also in hand so I am confident that the students will have a great night.

Finally

During the next two weeks I do expect that both staff and students to take a break from their studies and to take some time to look after their own well being. I really encourage everyone to get out of the house and be active. I also encourage students to grab a book and settle down to read, especially if the weather forecast is correct and we have some wet weather next week! Please do encourage students to cut down their screen time to make the most of the break.

Ka kite ano

Mike Wright

Principal

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 |
| • Monday 7th June..... | Queen's Birthday School Closed |
| • Thursday 10th June..... | Parent/Teacher Interviews |
| • Monday 21st - Friday 25th June..... | GATE Week |
| • Wednesday 23rd June..... | Open Night |
| • Friday 9th July..... | Last Day Term 2 |

ANZAC Assembly 2021

The RSA speaker was Alex McLaughlan, the assistant Barry Gooch and the bugler was Warwick Thomson



Learning Recognition Credits

In response to the Covid-19 lockdown last year, NZQA introduced Learning Recognition Credits. These were just for 2020 and meant that for every 5 credits a student earned, they received one bonus credit (up to a maximum of 10 credits in Level 1 and 8 credits in Levels 2 & 3). These LRCs have been imported into our system so that we have a more accurate reflection of the total credits students have earned.

Because these credits are not attached to particular standards, they have been added to the final total of credits students gained last year. This means that while it looks like Student A, for example, achieved 70 credits at Achieved, Merit or Excellence, their total credits will be 80 including the LRCs.

A number Year 11 students attained credits when they were in Year 10 last year. These students have also had Learning Recognition Credits added to their overall tally.

If you have any questions, please let me know: asmith@sohs.school.nz

Amanda Smith
Principal's Nominee

Science Year 9L
Making Hot Air Balloons
Photos: Riley Field



Mentoring

As you might be aware, this year we have introduced silent reading into our mentoring sessions as a way to promote literacy in the school. From next term, students will read for two 10-minutes slots per week, during the mentoring sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. We encourage students to bring their own reading material, but there will be a supply of books and magazines in mentoring classrooms for the times they forget to bring something.

Amanda Smith
TIC Mentoring

Wellbeing- Student Support- Gratitude

Practicing gratitude is an easy way students can build their mental wellbeing. In Peer Support on Wednesday Year 9 and Year 13 leaders were encouraged to think about what has gone well over the term and things that they were grateful for. Some of their comments are listed below. Students also contributed ideas about ways that would help to support their wellbeing in the future.

Some Student Feedback

"We had friendly and helpful leaders" "the leaders were always nice to me" "I did well in my Math's test" "I enjoyed the athletics and sports" "The leaders always had a smile on their face" "I made new friends" "I settled in to high school really quickly" "they listened to me and supported me no matter what" "they planned fun activities" "leaders remembered my name" "they were always nice" "I got to know others and I enjoyed the games" "we were included and respected"

Actively fostering feelings of gratefulness can lift our moods and help us to experience more positive feelings, by encouraging students to think about what's gone well during the day and term it can help to boost their wellbeing. A simple thank-you to someone who has done something to help us can benefit ourselves as well as the person who receives it. We thank the Year 13 leaders for the support of the year 9 students as they have transitioned to high school. The older students encouraging and helping the younger students is something that we hope students will do all year round as they have built a positive relationship together.

Cath Bloxham

Guidance Counsellor

Library

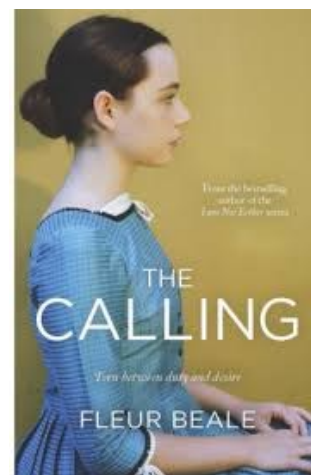
Fleur Beale first started writing for teenagers back in the early '90s. A teacher from the North Island she has successfully published over 40 books. In 1999 she won a writing fellowship at the Dunedin College Of Education and she gave up teaching to follow this new path. Her latest book *The Calling* has just landed on my desk.

A story about Molly, Molly's mum's last wish was for Molly to become a nun but her father would rather she marry. A story about finding yourself and who you are meant to be, not always an easy journey and one that is different for all of us. Read the book and discover what is in store for young Molly.

As we come into the holidays I am saying goodbye to South Otago High School and the library. It has been a pleasure to work here and I will miss everyone when I go. I am moving on to the Balclutha Library so hope to still see lots of my students down there.

Katrina Pudney

Librarian



9L investigation fluid density

Ken Nicolson
Science



Garry Milne Panelbeating 2006

A full time job has become available for a person with an interest in the Motor Industry. Minimum of restricted driver licence required. A 90 day trial period will be offered to the most suitable applicant with the possibility of an apprenticeship to follow. Apply in person to Neil McKenzie with CV.

Cultural Interchange

On Tuesday, our Kapa Haka students joined with Lawrence Area and Roxburgh Area Schools in the first Cultural Interchange between these schools. It is hoped this will become an annual event.



Girls Rugby 1st XV

The Girls 1st XV had their first hit out on Wednesday against Mount Aspiring College in Roxburgh. They had an amazing game and came out firing to take the win!! The girls all came together and bonded so well as a team - on and off the field. So proud of all the girls and how they played. It was great to see the girls' confidence grow as the game went on. Looking forward to the season starting and excited to see what they'll achieve this year. Can't wait to see the team buzzing for the first competition game next term.

Lily Pringle



SOPPSSA Football Tournament

Yesterday we had fifteen students refereeing at the Year 3-Year 6 SOPSSA Football Tournament at the Balclutha Showgrounds. Craig Gordon has told me they did a wonderful job and these tournaments couldn't happen with the help of our refs on the day, so well done!



Shakespeare Festival

Yesterday a group of students went to Dunedin to compete in the Otago regional Shakespeare festival. We entered three scenes, *Richard the Third* with Fraser as the devious Richard, Kareena as the heart broken strong willed Ann and the chorus played by Kira, Akira, Taylor, Vera and Althea. The scene was well received with the audience loving the movement and the compelling performances from the main characters.

Our second scene was *The Taming of the Shrew* with Akira and Althea playing sisters Katherine and Bianca. There were lots of laughs as the audience enjoyed the arguments of two sisters over who might love them. Both actors did a tremendous job have just learned their lines in a week.



Our last scene was from *Macbeth*. In this scene Macbeth struggles with the murders he had committed and Lady Macbeth having to clean up his mess. Macbeth was played by Vera and Lady Macbeth by played by Taylor. This was a powerful scene which captivated the audience. Strong performances from both actors brought out the opposing views of each character.

Damian Bertanees
TIC Drama

NETBALL

Our Senior A team start their competition tomorrow in Dunedin at the Edgar Centre They play Physed Gold @ 12.30pm on Crt 8. Good luck girls.

The South Otago Netball Centre competition starts with the Friday night league on Friday 23rd April (the first Friday of the holidays). The Saturday league starts on Saturday 1st May (last Saturday of the holidays). As of yet I do not have a draw but will post this on our Facebook group when I receive this. If you have not joined this group it is SOHS Netball 2021 send me a request to join.

FEES

As stated earlier in information, I expect netball fees to be paid before the girls take the court either in Dunedin or in the South Otago competitions. These are \$100 and have been added to accounts.

Our school bank account is:

020 0939 0081739 00 reference Netball

SPORTY

We are doing really well getting all our club teams registered to play in 2021 on SPORTY but would like to give it a push to please get this done. This needs to be done before taking the court to play in in 2021.

QUIZ NIGHT

I am in the early stages of organising a quiz night. Thank you to those that have offered to help with this. I will be in touch after the holidays. We are running the Quiz Night to help pay for the new uniforms that the girls are wearing in 2021. So keep an eye out for more info early in Term Two.

Pam Hannah
Sports Coordinator