



South Otago High School

Newsletter 7th May 2021

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

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou

Welcome back to the start of a new term. It has been great to see students return refreshed and full of energy for the new term. Talking to some of the students it has been good to hear about their holidays and what they have been doing. I trust that everyone had a good break.

ANZAC Dawn Service

During the middle weekend students joined the wider community at the dawn ANZAC commemorations. Not only did the Head students, Sam Stratford and Kareena Dunlop speak but there was also a rousing haka performed. I have received a number of very positive comments from people who attended and these are a reflection of the students own work and independent efforts.

Plan for success

This week I have talked to students about the need to plan for success. I am aware that in the second term students have an increased number of priorities both from after school work and also for many participation in winter sports. I encourage families to sit down with their child to work out a schedule to support students to have time to study and maintain their other commitments.

Te Reo and Tikanga Maori

Late last term I was approached by our student cultural representative, Keely Hill, with a request for the school to start our school assemblies with a Karakia. I have asked Keely to prepare a statement for our community which explains the purpose and reason for Karakia which is presented below.

This is a timely change. As an immigrant to New Zealand, I have always been impressed (and envious) of the pride shown in what it means to be a New Zealander and Maori culture is one of the foundations of New Zealand. In our daily lives we hear more of Te Reo Maori being used on TV and Radio and in many aspects of media. The Government has also set expectations for the use of Te Reo and an acknowledgement of Tikanga Maori. For our students, as they leave school they will encounter more use of both language and exposure to the customs and it is important that we all become familiar with these expectations.

It is so good to have this new initiative driven by students for students.

Kia Ora Whānau,

Ko Keely toku ingoa. This year I have the honour of being the student Cultural Leader at SOHS. We are moving to introduce Karakia into our school. The reasoning behind this is developing understanding of Māori tikanga as a school. A karakia is about uniting our school community and focusing on the positives we bring to our school environment.

To start we will have a Karakia in our Tuesday assemblies. A karakia is something that focuses on our goals, is a blessing and a positive way to start our day. It is not just a religious prayer. Certain words used in karakia to make it a prayer would not be included in this tradition as we want to focus on encouraging respect, peace and understanding.

Being able to bring Māori tikanga into our school shows our understanding of Māori culture and the aspects of Aotearoa that make us unique, but also one people.

We could be embracing Te Ao Māori everyday, and as we are growing in Aotearoa our tikanga is becoming more and more inclusive in everyday life. Being able to have this in our school

environment would be a positive move for our school towards growing our understanding of Māori tikanga.

Ngā mihi,
Keely Hill

Teacher only day

As stated in earlier newsletters all secondary teachers in the Otago Region will be undertaking professional development in relation to the changes to NCEA on Tuesday 11 May. The school will not be open for instruction and there will be no supervision for students.

Uniform

With the start of the second term we have started to have cooler mornings. Despite the reminder at the end of last term for students to have appropriate and acceptable warm uniform we are seeing a number of hoodies coming into school. These are not acceptable for school and I would ask parents to support staff here by not allowing students to leave home wearing these non uniform items. Sadly, one or two students are refusing to follow this expectation and this could become a more significant discipline issue which I am keen to avoid.

Staff Changes

At the end of last term and over the holidays we have had a few staff changes. Sadly Mr Glenn Todd has left us to return to work in industry. We are very fortunate to have Mr Andy Hynds joining the staff at the end of the month as the new digital technology teacher. We also said farewell to Ms Katrina Pudney, the school librarian. Once again we are very fortunate to have Ms Louise Dale joining the staff as our new librarian later this month.

Since the start of the year we have had a steady increase in student enrolments and this has enabled the school to advertise and appoint a new teacher to the staff, Ms Ainslie Baxter who will be teaching in the Maths Science areas where there have been some very large classes.

Congratulation to Mr Douglas

Over the holidays I received notification that next week Mr Douglas is going to be acknowledged for his contribution to the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) with a reception in Wellington. Mr Douglas is the only member of the organisation, teacher or employee, who has maintained an involvement in the YES since it started 40 years ago. This is a significant achievement and we applaud his hard work.

Mackenzie Maaka

This week I received a letter acknowledging the study undertaken by Mackenzie during the recent school holiday when she undertook her volunteer fire service training. Talking to Mackenzie the experience will be invaluable and we appreciate her efforts and contribution towards the Volunteer Fire Service.

Finally

Preparation for the senior ball are well underway. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students that we do have high expectations for students to attend. This does include good attendance and no outstanding debts. Thank you to those families who have supported us with these endeavours. We are looking forward to a great night in three weeks time.

Ka kite ano
Mike Wright
Principal

Reading at Mentoring

From this 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.

The Term 2 reading challenge has also started. The genres for this term are:

- A book or article about a sports person
- A biography, memoir or autobiography
- An article about life in New Zealand
- A general non-fiction book
- A 'how to' manual
- A scientific book

Students can retrospectively add their entries for Term 1 (ie whenever they read a relevant title). They can fill this in on the challenge bookmark issued at mentoring, or by emailing asmith@sohs.school.nz. Students who successfully complete the challenge get a badge and certificate and go into a prize draw in Term 3.

Ngā Mihi

Amanda Smith

Kia ora

You may have seen some ads last month for the Youth Council Youth Development Fund available to young people aged between 12 and 24.

I've included the link to the application and information on our website.

<https://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/community/grants-and-funding/youth-development-fund>

Nga mihi

Karen Piercy

Corporate Services Administrator

Clutha District Council

SNOB

The senior formal will be held at school this year on Friday 28th May. If you are willing to assist with the preparation and/or serving of the supper could you contact Camille McAtamney 4183972 or 0274183414. Any support would be appreciated.

Thanks,

John Douglas

Upcoming Events Term 2 2021

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • 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 |

Tertiary Open Day Sunday 23rd May Monday 24th May

We are taking a group of Year 13 students to Dunedin to visit tertiary institutions on Monday 24th May. This week parents and students have received notices and consent forms (if parents did not receive this please update your email address with our office). Information about the day can be found by going to the Otago University web-site. <https://www.otago.ac.nz/open-days/index.html>

A full programme is available and students are advised to plan their day to make the most of the opportunity (there is an app available too). Senior students in other year groups may also be interested in attending on the Sunday with family members. We need to plan numbers for the bus so it is important please that money is paid to the office and slips are returned by Friday 15th May.

Cath Bloxham Year 13 Dean

Pam Cullen Careers Administrator



NZST New Zealand School of Tourism
DUNEDIN TERTIARY
OPEN DAY
MONDAY 24 MAY 2021
9am to 4pm

A great opportunity to have a campus tour, presentation about our courses or enrol

Visit our stand outside the Otago Museum across from Otago University for information on our courses or to get a ride to our campus. Rides 45 minutes past each hour.

CAMPUS Level 3, 9 Moray Place Dunedin
To register for pickup call **03 474 6825** or email **hollybatchelor@nzschoolorftourism.co.nz**

Cromwell Pathways

On Wednesday Mr Douglas and Mrs Bloxham took 34 students to Cromwell to learn about some career and training pathways at Otago Polytechnic. They visited the Cromwell Campus and Highlands Motorsports Park. Thanks go to Mrs Cullen for her superb organisation of this day.

Cath Bloxham
Year 13 Dean



Rugby

This weekend is a big one with all our teams playing at SOHS. It would be great to have as many of you as possible on the fields supporting the boys and girls.

Game times, field and changing rooms are as follows:

- 10.00am – SOHS U14 vs Taieri U14 (SOHS #2) – OLD GYM
- 10.00am – SOHS Girls vs Taieri Girls (SOHS #1) – NEW GYM
- 11.30am – SOHS U15 Blue vs OBHS – (SOHS #2) – OLD GYM
- 11.30am – SOHS Second XV vs Taieri Colts (SOHS #1) – NEW GYM
- 1.00pm – SOHS U15 Red vs Taieri U15 (SOHS #2) – OLD GYM
- 1.00pm – SOHS First XV vs Taieri First XV (SOHS #1) – NEW GYM

We have a new cup on the line this year, the 'River Challenge' cup. This is for the battle of the rivers (Taieri vs Clutha). May the best river win!!! Three points for a win, two points for a draw and one for a loss. We will also be selecting a team of the tournament which will be picked equitably across all teams. The gyms are going to be well used so it is important that ALL gear is removed from the changing rooms and brought to the side-line once you have changed. At the conclusion of the game, players MUST sweep the gyms out for the next team going in.

We are fairly light on warm up areas. The 10.00am teams will be able to use the grounds to warm up on, however, the teams at 11.30am and 1.00pm will need to find space where they can. IT IS VITAL THAT YOU DO NOT WARM UP ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD!

We will be putting on an after function in the school hall at 3.00pm. Every player MUST bring a plate of food with them. This is to be dropped into the hall kitchen before the game starts. I also need 5 – 10 parents to meet me in the hall at 2.15pm to set up.

Players (excluding the First XV) should now have purchased their shorts and socks from Stirling Sports. An email was sent out on the 1st of April with a photo of what each team is required to wear. We supply jerseys and these need to be returned to the bag at the conclusion of each game. Can I please ask that parents DO NOT park in the bus stops on Francis Street, our teams traveling down need a place to park their bus. Please feel free to use the staff carpark or the Year 12 & 13 carpark.

The draw for the upcoming season has now been released. Please head to the following link to access the draw.

<http://www.orfu.co.nz/COMMUNITY-RUGBY/Secondary-Schools-Rugby/Secondary-School-Boys-1>

Next weekend the draw looks as follows:

- First XV vs Taieri (Taieri HS) – 1.00pm
- Second XV vs Taieri (Taieri HS) – 11.15am
- U15 Blue vs Wakatipu HS (SOHS #1) – 11.15am
- U14 vs Wakatipu HS (SOHS #2) – 11.15am

Jason Palmer
TIC Rugby



NETBALL

Netball has been in full swing for a couple of weeks now with the newly Friday night competition kicking off in the first week of the holidays followed by the Saturday competition in the second week.

All of our girls are looking tidy and smart in our new dresses. Please make sure these are well looked after and washed in a cold wash to prevent colour fade. Thanks to Bree Dent who has been organising sweatshirts for those that would like to purchase one of these, this order has now been sent away.

RESULTS

Friday 30th April

- SOHS A (28) - Redwyns (29)
- SOHS B (16) - Mac Freight (19)
- SOHS Alpha (12) - Black Gold Storm (53)

Player of the Day:

- SOHS A - Jade Kyle
- SOHS B - Olivia Davidson
- SOHS Alpha - Leticia Cochrane
- SOHS A (32) - OGHS A (65) Dunedin Competition

Saturday 1st May

- SOHS C (27) - Clutha Valley (3)
- SOHS Bullets (41) - SOHS Beta (6)
- SOHS Blue (21) - Hillend Shotz (16)
- SOHS Green (26) - SOHS Red (10)

Player of the Day:

- SOHS C - Jess Sheppard
- SOHS Bullets - Abbey Stewart
- SOHS Beta - Jasmine Van Asperen
- SOHS Blue - Tyler Dodds
- SOHS Green - Alisha Davey
- SOHS Red - Daliah Anderson

DRAW

Friday 7th May

- SOHS A vs Southern Plumbing @ 6.30pm crt 2
- SOHS B vs SOHS Alpha @ 6.30pm crt 3

Saturday 8th May

- SOHS C vs SOHS Blue @ 1.00pm crt 3
- SOHS Bullets vs TCAS Senior A @ 1.00pm crt 4
- SOHS Beta vs Lawrence B @ 1.00pm crt 1
- SOHS Green vs SONC Invitational Team @ 12.00pm crt 2
- SOHS Red vs Lawrence C @ 1.00pm crt 5

Good luck to everyone tonight and tomorrow. As you can all see in the draw we have quite a few SOHS teams playing each other.

Otago Secondary Schools

This exciting tournament is coming up on June 13/14th and more information will be sent out closer to the time.

SWIMMING SPORTS

This annual event is coming up on Monday 31st May at the Balclutha Centennial Pool. This year it is compulsory for Year 9 and 10 students to participate in our swimming sports with each student entering one event more if they would like.

Pam Hannah

Sports Coordinator

Dear South Otago High School,

Free Student Exchange LIVE Online Information Session

For South Otago High School Students
Early Bird Discount Deadline Extended
for Late 2021 - Early 2022 Programs



We hope that you and your school community enjoyed the recent school holidays and are settling back into normal routine for term 2.

We are excited that international travel has recommenced with the launch of the Australia and New Zealand travel bubble. This is a great first step forward to opening up our international borders, allowing us to travel to more destinations in the near future.

We are currently accepting applications to Australia for short, semester & year programs departing in July 2021. If your students wish to apply, please inform them that they need to submit their completed application form to us by 31st May 2021.

Applications are also open for our late 2021 and early 2022 departures and we are busy informing high school students of their student exchange program options.

We have recently extended our early bird discount deadline for programs departing between October 2021 and March 2022 closing on Monday 31st May 2021, we would like to invite your students and families to a FREE LIVE Online information sessions being held over the next couple of months:

Tuesday, 11 May at 7.30pm NZST

Wednesday, 9 June at 9.30pm NZST

Thursday, 24 June at 7.30pm NZST

The LIVE Online session gives students and families the opportunity to learn more about becoming an exchange student and the options that are available for programs departing in the future.

Students can save up to \$1,000 off their exchange program fee with one of our early bird discounts. Your year coordinators, career advisor and/or language teachers may be interested to promote our exchange program opportunities.

"I have always thought that one of the most important things in life is taking risks. I decided to go on an adventure, do an exchange year in Australia. I didn't have any idea of what to expect but it didn't take me a long time to fall in love with this amazing country and its lifestyle. Now that my experience is nearly finished, I can say that was the best decision I have ever made and I'm really lucky to have had this opportunity and I'm glad I got to know all the amazing people here. I visited wonderful landscapes, made new friends for life and I now have a second family and home. Now I know that the world is much bigger than it seems, this experience has taught me a lot, the way that I look at the world and how I think is different, I learned a lot about myself and how to be happy and positive in spite of everything. I lived every single moment and I could not be happier to have taken this risk."

Martina, Australia Year Exchange

We would appreciate it if you could please share this information with your students, mention it in your newsletter or place the notice on a study room noticeboard.

Year 9 & 10 Aquatics Unit

All Year 9 and 10 students will be beginning an aquatics unit in week 3 this term which will involve visiting the swimming pool during their timetabled Health and Physical Education lessons. Your child will participate in approximately 8-10 lessons based around water safety skills and investigating how water based environments can be used for recreation, fitness and wellbeing. This unit is part of an ongoing assessment and each lesson your child will work towards a grade which will go onto their online portal report and towards their overall SOAP score for the year.

Your child will be required to bring their swimming togs, towel and any other equipment they require twice per week for the classes outlined below. Students will be transported in the school van by a teacher or support staff. Students will be required to follow the instructions and rules of all school and pool staff to, from and at the pool. It is an expectation that students positively demonstrate all school values during this time. We would appreciate it if you could support us to encourage and foster safe water practices with your child. You can do this by supporting them to remember to pack and bring their equipment during the times their class is going to the pool.

Your child will also be given a letter by their Physical Education Teacher to bring home with specific dates and times for their class.

Periods	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1) 8.40am - 9.40am		9M Ki	9Y Ki	9L En	1)
Mentoring					
2) 10.05am - 11.05am	9O St	9N En	10O Ki 10L St		
Interval					
3) 11.25am - 12.25pm	9Y Ki	9L En	10M St	10Y Ws	2)
4) 12.25pm - 1.25pm	10O Ki			9M Ki	
10 O (16) LUNCH					
5) 2.10pm - 3.10pm	10M St	10Y Ws	9O St	9N En	3) 10L St

Should your child not be able to partake in a lesson please ensure you provide a written note with the date, your phone number and your signature which can be presented to your child's teacher. If your child is unable to participate they will be required to stay at school and will have set work to complete in the back of a senior class supervised by another teacher.

If you have any questions please feel free to make contact with your child's Physical Education Teacher.

Regards,
Nathan King
Acting HOD of Health and Physical Education