



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

What a busy two weeks it has been! I suppose I could start every newsletter with that phrase and it would always be true!

It was really great to see all the students enjoying themselves at Athletics Day last week and what fantastic weather we had for it too. Lots of records were broken and personal bests set, which is always pleasing. In amongst all the heated competition it is sometimes hard to remember that it is about participation as well as about winning. It is our aim at Waiau Area School to encourage and support all students who want to have a go at a variety of sporting activities and Athletics Day has this in abundance.

Friday 13 March and Monday 16 March will see us have our Swim Sports Day. In order to align ourselves more fully with Southland and indeed National Swimming events we have made a slight alteration to our event eligibility. Students will now swim according to their age on the day rather than in which year group they are in etc. This was done after an open meeting with parents and interested parties connected to the Swimming Club. And while the format for the days is yet to be finalised can I make a plea for parent volunteers to come forward to help. We have a very small staff and it is going to be a challenge supervising students as well as timekeeping; any help would be gratefully received. It would be of even greater help if you could advise us beforehand if you intend coming along to lend a hand.

We have also spent some time over the last two weeks working with students on three issues that have been a focus for PB4L. Students have been encouraged to reflect on how they walk around the school, how they speak to each other and adults and about how they eat at lunchtime. As well as staff monitoring and tracking these three behaviours students also got the opportunity last week to see and discuss some videos made by students in the school modelling correct behaviour. Staff have also taken great pleasure in issuing 'Gotchyas' to students who were behaving positively.

It can be quite difficult sometimes to see whether or not some of the initiatives we are involved in in the school are being successful but with PB4L there are some visible signs that it is. Behaviour at lunchtime and interval has improved significantly – so much so that more than one member of staff has commented on how much better the students are playing together. We have had

impromptu games of football, cricket and touch between students of all ages. We currently have some of the secondary students playing pool as well as being involved in organised games in the gym.

You will see that later in the newsletter there is a section about 'Three Way Conferencing' which is replacing Parent-Teacher interviews. These will take place on Tuesday 31 March. This allows teachers to set their programmes for the year as well as completing the standardised testing to enable us to have up-to-date information to you as parents.

"The strength of the pack is in the wolf and the strength of the wolf is in the pack" – Rudyard Kipling
Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

School News

*** * Date for Diary * ***

Guest Speaker to the Waiau Valley 7.00pm, Friday 8 May

Mother and author, Lesley Elliott, is coming to Waiau Area School to speak about the dangers of a controlling relationship and what she and her murdered daughter, Sophie, failed to see.

This is the first time Mrs Elliott will have spoken in the Western Southland area. Her daughter Sophie was murdered in 2008; stabbed to death by former boyfriend Clayton Robert Weatherston.

The Rural Women's Group have invited Mrs Elliott to speak about "what she and Sophie missed" regarding the dangers of a controlling relationship, at a public meeting on **Friday 8 May at 7.00pm in the School Hall**.

Due to the Rural Women's Group covering many of the costs, the entry fee of a gold coin will go to the Sophie Elliott Foundation.

BOXES OF BOOKS

Please could those students who were given a box of books to read over the summer holidays return them to the School Office so that they can be checked off the list. Many thanks!

NEXT PTA MEETING
*Monday 9 March – 7pm -
 School Library
 All Welcome.*

THREE-WAY CONFERENCE – 31 MARCH

Waiau Area School is committed to providing the best education for your son/daughter and to provide opportunities for you as parents to be engaged in your child's learning.

A growing body of evidence suggests that family engagement is important for student success. Research shows that family engagement improves school readiness, student achievement, and social skills. A 3-way conference will provide a forum for teachers, students, and parents to acknowledge student progress and achievement.

We have decided therefore to trial 3-way conferences at Waiau in 2015. The format for the evening will be quite different and so closer to the time we will send a special newsletter home explaining how it will work. The important thing to note at this time is that your son/ daughter needs to come to the 3-way conference as well as you the parents.

LUNCH ORDERS

Can be placed at the School Office, by 10.30am.

Lunches will be delivered to school by 1.20pm.

Spare copies of the lunchtime menu are available from the School Office.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR – HELEN WARD

Every Wednesday I come to Waiau Area School to provide support through counselling for all members of the Waiau school community e.g. students, teachers, support staff, parents, caregivers and whānau. The service I offer can include one-on-one counselling, family conferences, group therapy and trauma response. This is a highly confidential service. I do not discuss information with any other person unless requested by the person seeking counselling. I also advocate for students both internal and external to the school.

Often I liaise with families and whanau when asked. I am often involved with referrals too, and liaise with specialist agencies, community agencies, health providers and iwi.

As part of my role I am required to complete administration such as case notes and reporting, meetings with colleagues. I must also attend supervision every fortnight with a senior counsellor.

It is particularly important to me that everyone understands that my role is non-judgmental and that my sole purpose is to make life better for anyone who chooses to see me. Often someone will come to me asking where to go for further information. Sometimes parents/caregivers find it difficult to understand that their child might choose to talk with someone other than themselves. I understand that but I would also like to say that at various times we all need to have a sounding board around something that is impacting our lives. Students who wish to talk with me place their name on a slip and put this in the little wooden box in the foyer of the school office. Parents /caregivers can do that too or alternatively ring the school office and leave their name and I will call.

Helen Ward

2015 Timeline

Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr	TERM 1 (8 weeks)
Mon 9 March – 7pm	PTA Meeting – School Library
Fri 13 March	yr9-13 Sexwise Workshop
Fri 13 March	5-11yo Swimming Sports
Mon 16 March	12-18yo Swimming Sports
Mon 16 March	yr11-13 Family Planning Services Centre
Mon 16 March – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Tues 17 March	Western Athletics – Nightcaps
Mon 23 – Tues 24 March	yr4-8 Red Cross People Savers Course
Fri 27 March	Rm1 Art Trip to Southland Museum
Tues 31 March – 3.30-7pm	3-way conference (students/parents/teachers)
Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 July	TERM 2 (11 weeks)
Mon 27 April	ANZAC Day observed
Wed 29 April – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Wed 6 – Fri 8 May	Southern Zone Area Schools Tournament – Twizel
Fri 8 May – 7pm	Lesley Elliott – Guest Speaker – School Hall
Mon 18 May – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 1 June	Queen's Birthday
Mon 15 June – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 20 July to Fri 25 Sept	TERM 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 27 July – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 17 August – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 21 Sept – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 12 Oct to Tues 15 Dec	TERM 4 (9½ weeks) (Tentative end date)
Mon 19 Oct – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 26 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 16 Nov – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom
Mon 7 Dec – 7pm	BOT Meeting – School Staffroom

From Our Teachers

SEXWISE WORKSHOP

On the morning of Friday 13 March, students in yr9-13 will be participating in an interactive "Sexwise" workshop with the Theatre in Health Education Trust (THETA). This comprises of a theatrical presentation followed by an age-appropriate workshop.

Goal:

To challenge and motivate rangatahi/youth to discuss, explore and reflect on behaviours that affect their health and that of others, with reference to current accurate information.

Educational Objectives:

To provide theatre in education that:

- 1) promotes healthy relationships.
- 2) identifies and discusses the risks, influences and pressures relating to sexual health including informed consent and unintended pregnancy.
- 3) examines and challenges attitudes that reinforce stereotypes, homophobia, and all types of discrimination.
- 4) acknowledges and affirms sexual and gender diversity.
- 5) affirms the delay of sexual activity and abstinence.
- 6) encourages the practice of safer sex including practical information about sexual health services.
- 7) provides accurate information on STIs (sexually transmitted infections), their transmission, symptoms and prevention.

The educational objectives of the programme are linked to the Achievement Objectives (levels 4-8) stated in the Health and Physical Education part of The New Zealand Curriculum document. More information is available on their website www.theta.org.nz

Follow-On Visit:

To complement this presentation, students in yr11-13 will also be participating in a visit to the Family Planning Services Centre in Invercargill on Monday 16 March. Senior students have been issued with information letters about this trip.

Mr Richard Bennett, HOD Health/PE

VISUAL ART – ROOM 1

Room 1 have had a great time over the past few weeks learning how to draw self-portraits. This week we learnt about an artist called Pablo Picasso and turned our self-portraits into pictures like he painted!



(Guy & Sophie proudly showing their Picasso artworks)

ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS 2015

5 Year Old Girls	ABBEY ERSKINE
5 Year Old Boys	MAX HARVEY
6 Year Old Girls	JAYLAH HARVEY-DECLIFFORD
6 Year Old Boys	JAYJAY TAMOU
7 Year Old Girls	NAOMI MITCHELMORE
7 Year Old Boys	HARRISON ERSKINE
8 Year Old Girls	JAY EGERTON
8 Year Old Boys	PETER DEVERY
9 Year Old Girls	HANA MOIR
9 Year Old Boys	ETHAN PARSONS
10 Year Old Girls	JORJA UNAHI
10 Year Old Boys	TANEI TAMOU
Under 12 Girls	HOLLY HAMMOND
Under 12 Boys	FLYNN MCCALLUM
Under 13 Girls	ANGELA PIERCE
Under 13 Boys	OLIVER HUTCHBY
Junior Girls	CHEYENNE WAIHAPE
Junior Boys	FELIX EGERTON
Intermediate Girls	AMANDA BALDWIN
Intermediate Boys	JACK SOBELS
Senior Girls	HAYLEY ADAMS
Senior Boys	ELKANAH TUPIUA

Well done to all students who competed in our Athletics sports day; particular congratulations to the above champs. And the winning House was **Dean!**

Mr Richard Bennett, HOD Health & PE

ATHLETICS – RECORDS BROKEN

At next week's full Assembly, badges will be presented to the following students who broke records:

- Peter Devery 8 year old boys 100m – 16.66s
- Peter Devery 8 year old boys 200m – 34.94s
- Jay Egerton 8 year old girls High Jump – 0.92m
- Angeline Crowe 9 year old girls 200m – 35.68s
- Hana Moir 9 year old girls Discus – 12.02m
- Tanei Tamou 10 year old boys 100m – 14.5s
- Tanei Tamou 10 year old boys 200m – 32.03s
- Tanei Tamou 10 year old boys Shot Put – 7.90m
- Flynn McCallum Under 12 boys High Jump [Equal Record] – 1.33m

Awesome achievements! You should all be very proud of yourselves!

Mr Richard Bennett, HOD Health & PE

HAYLEY ADAMS WINS SPORTS VOLUNTEER AWARD!

Four Southland volunteers have been acknowledged for their extraordinary efforts through the Sport NZ/Lotto Volunteer programme

(<http://thanks.lottovolunteers.co.nz/>): including **Hayley Adams of Waiau Area School.**

Hayley (Y13) has spent several years coaching/ managing the Junior Tuatapere Netball Team and is also assisting the Waiau Swimming Club with their training sessions.

Sport Southland said, "We had a record of 40 nominations, all of them extremely interesting, with great stories behind. Thank you very much for taking the time to nominate a very special person that volunteers their time to make your sport/s happen. We will be sending all the nominees a personalised letter with your nomination and a Certificate of Appreciation".

In addition, Hayley will receive a \$500 voucher to spend on sports gear and equipment. Well done, Hayley; you are an asset to the school and the community. Keep up the great work!

Mr Richard Bennett, HOD Health & PE



Bracken enjoying a scratch while listening to Tanae read.

Reading to Dogs



Baxter reading to Yissa.

Community Notices

If you have a Community Notice to advertise, please email it through to the school at newsletters@was.school.nz.

Girl Guide Biscuits for Sale

Plain, chocolate, and minis. \$3.50 per packet. Contact Dale on 2266865 or 027 3106199.

Keas, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers

Has started for the year. Contact Rob Hall, Group Leader, if interested in attending. Ph: 2266485.

Tui and Orawia Netball Trials!!

All Trials to be held at

Waiau Area School Courts!!

- Friday 6 March at 6.00pm for year 7/8s.
- Saturday 7 March at 10.00am for year 9-13s and out of school Senior players.
- Tuesday 10 March at 3.30pm for year 4-6s.

We will be organising skill sessions for year 3 and below at a later date.

Any enquiries to Wendy Adams on 03 2266383 or 021 02749936, or Trudy Slee on 03 2258899.

Heritage Harvest Festival

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 March 2015

Held at Aparima College, Leader St, Riverton

10am-4pm daily - ENTRY: Gold Coin Donation

Celebrating Southland's Home Harvest

Speakers ~ Jo McCarrol; Editor of NZ Gardener, Stephen Barstow; author of "Around the World in 80 Plants" Mark Christensen; of Heritage Food Crops Research Trust. ~ Interactive displays ~ Workshops ~ Stalls ~ Activities & Competitions ~ Harvest Café ~ Harvest Feast on the Saturday night. South Coast Environment Society. Phone (03) 2348 717 ~

Email: office@sces.org.nz ~ www.sces.org.nz

Tuatapere Pool Update

Last month of swimming for 2014/15:

There's been a lot happening at the pool with the Swim for Life programme, the swim training and recreational swimming. We are now coming into the last month of the season. As scheduled, the pool will close after Easter - Easter Monday, 6 April 2015 will be the last day the pool is open. The days are getting shorter and it may be getting cooler outside but the pool is still nice and warm – come and enjoy!

IMPORTANT - changes to pool schedule:

- Due to lack of parents/volunteers to supervise the public sessions after school, the 3.15-4.30pm sessions will not continue for safety reasons from 4 March 2015. Pool doors will be locked.
- Supervised public sessions at the weekends 2-4pm will continue unchanged.
- Supervised public sessions will be available during Easter.
- **Sunday 22 March – Waiau Swim Club Champs** will be held from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. The pool will be unavailable to keyholders during this time and there will be no public session. But do come and cheer on the swimmers!!

Pool contacts: Rachael Poole - 03 226 6364 or 027 603 3369 & Diana Zdravec - 021 516 484.

Waiau Swim Club contact: Dale Egerton on 03 226 6865 or 027 310 6199 or daleegerton@xtra.co.nz