



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Week 3 will be a quiet week at WAS as 28 of our students head up to Twizel for the annual Area Schools Tournament. A long journey is followed by three days of constant competition, fun and games. Not only is it the sporting highlight of the year for many of our students, it is also the time where they get to socialise with students from similar schools who have similar experiences to them. I look forward to seeing our students compete against the best that Area Schools in the 'South of the South' have to offer.

I will be attending the tournament along with four other staff members. I will be meeting the principals of the other schools to finalise our targets for the Community of Schools initiative. This should mean that we see some interesting initiatives come through the school soon, that are aimed at enhancing the learning of our students and which look to raise the achievement of those students.

Last week saw staff participate in a second session of professional learning based around raising student achievement. The session included looking at target groups of students who need extra support in order to reach their goals and including them in a professional inquiry as to what tools and techniques might work in helping students to achieve those goals.

Those of you who came to the student-led conferences at the end of last term will know that your son/daughter has a number of goals to focus on in their learning and hopefully the discussion with the teacher will have also given you some ideas on how you can help them to achieve their goals. If you are unsure or would like more guidance on what you can do to help, feel free to contact the classroom teacher or myself on the matter.

Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

From Our Deputy Principal

Kia ora Parents and Caregivers

It has been a really special start to Term Two with the majority of the school involved in a theme study about ANZAC.

I have listened to discussions, looked at art, and read writing by our students and have been very touched by the understanding and compassion shown. I also accompanied students on their ANZAC walk to the War Memorials and to the fantastic window display at the RSA Hall. You must be commended as parents as the

respect and awareness of importance shown by the students is a reflection of what you have taught them and what you value as a family.

Take the opportunity to talk to your kids about what they have been learning in class because there is an amazing understanding of a really big concept from our learners. Many thanks to our Junior teachers for the thoughtful preparation of their lessons.

It's not long now until the cows are on the winter crop on our farm. I know this also indicates a very busy time of year is coming for many of us. I'm sure the PTA will soon have a fundraiser to fill our freezers as we prepare for Winter!

Noho ra, Mrs Deborah McClure

School News



Full Assemblies are now being held on Mondays, even weeks, at 2pm. First full assembly for the term will be on 11 May.

From Friday's Mufti Day, our students raised nearly \$100 for the Chopper Appeal. Well done kids — thank you to all those who donated!



AREA SCHOOLS FUNDRAISING
The Bake Sale held on 24 April raised \$260, and last week's Quiz Nite raised \$432. Thank you to all families who provided the amazing baking and attended the Quiz!

** DATE FOR DIARY **

TEACHER ONLY DAY - FRIDAY 29 MAY
(Followed by Queen's Birthday on the Monday)



It was wonderful to see so many of our students at the ANZAC Day commemorations at the RSA Hall. To all students who attended, well done; you represented your school with pride!

PTA News

Half Mile Challenge

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Half Mile Challenge! We have had our final run and lots of pleasing results; an amazing effort, you should all be proud! A big thank you to Mrs B, Dale and Sandy for their great time keeping skills; we couldn't have done it without you! The PTA will be putting this money into getting technological devices into the classrooms. THANK YOU!

2015 Timeline

Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr	TERM 1 (8 weeks)
Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 July	TERM 2 (11 weeks)
Mon 11 May – 7pm	PTA Meeting
Sun 17 May – 7.30pm	“A Boy Wonder” – School Hall (students free)
Mon 18 – Tues 19 May	Year 4-8 Red Cross People Savers Course
Wed 27 May – afternoon	Year 7-13 NZ Defence Force visiting
Thurs 28 May – 12.30pm	Whole School Cross Country
Fri 29 May	TEACHER ONLY DAY
Mon 1 June	Queen’s Birthday
Mon 8 June – 7pm	PTA Meeting
Mon 15 June – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 20 July to Fri 25 Sept	TERM 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 20 July – 7pm	PTA Meeting
Mon 27 July – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 10 August – 7pm	PTA Meeting
Mon 17 August	School Photos
Mon 17 August – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 14 September – 7pm	PTA Meeting
Mon 21 Sept – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 12 Oct to Tues 15 Dec	TERM 4 (9½ weeks) (Tentative end date)
Mon 19 Oct – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 26 Oct	Labour Day
Mon 16 Nov – 7pm	BOT Meeting
Mon 7 Dec – 7pm	BOT Meeting

Community Notices

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

Hockey Notice

We had an amazing start to our hockey on Monday night with 24 kids turning up and more to come. The kids are really awesome and we were both blown away by the amount of natural talent they all have. Very very cool!! The sessions will run from 3.30pm (sharp!) and finish at 5.00pm each week with a skills session followed by games. At this stage we have four teams in the Year 4-6 group and two teams in the Year 1-3 group. Could all players please have mouth guards and shin pads for practice and games. We will let them play if they don't but this is at the parent's discretion and we strongly urge you all to provide this protection for your children. They do like to have sticks to practice at home but, because we have the use of the school sticks, purchasing one at this stage is not compulsory. A drink bottle is also a great idea. If it is wet we will be in the gym each week (probably doing drills only) so it will be on no matter the weather. We are hoping to have a tournament at the Hockey Turf in Invercargill on **Monday 22 June from 1.00-3.00pm**. We will organise a car pool closer to the time and when the turf booking has been confirmed. There will be a \$2 cost to cover the turf fees. Thanks again to the parents for bringing the kids. It's great to have so many. If you still want to join you can – just let us know as we will be organising the kids into teams.

Rosanne (2255842) and Sue (2254885)