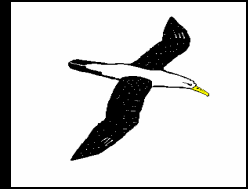


Tahuna News



Welcome

Spring weather is certainly changeable. Not just day to day, but within the hour we are getting big changes. This morning at 6.30 am it was still drizzling down at the Caledonian Track, and with snow on the hills and a real bite in the wind the athletics was postponed till Friday.

The forecast was for clearing weather on Friday, so we have our fingers crossed that we can have this qualifying meeting for our students then. The Otago Championships are scheduled for Tuesday November 18th, postponement date Thursday Nov 20th.

Year 8 students are completing some of the end of year tests that we need results for local Secondary Schools for now. The first classes to have data entered on the network show outstanding levels of attainment and of improvement.

Data at the end of term on reading of those students who have been receiving extra support have shown pleasing improvements. We are proud to be able to offer this extra support, and are seeing significant developments in our readers with this help. Well done everyone.

The Life Education Bus is setup and Year 8 classes have started their lessons. This fits in neatly

with the overall school programme, and although there has been an increase in the cost of the resource, it is an excellent learning opportunity for our students.

The success of our school music programme is very clear when we see and hear the efforts of students practising their performance pieces at lunchtimes. The skill on a range of instruments, including the electric guitars, bass guitars, drums and key boards is being combined with really interesting tuned percussion work. Work on marimbas, and beat and percussion work in their stomp unit has demonstrated real engagement and enjoyment in their programmes.

Your support in ensuring that the Tahuna uniform is worn proudly and correctly right to the end of the school year is appreciated. There are always a few who try to bend the rules, but it is important that standards in every area are maintained through to the last day.

Brent Ward
Principal.

Collecting for the Blind

Traditionally Tahuna has a fine record of supplying large numbers of collectors for this worthy cause. This year we did not let them down but instead created a small problem by

putting forward a record 83 children's names.

Organisers had to pull out all stops to arrange a convoy of vehicles to assemble in our staff car park last Thursday night to transport our collectors to parts of the city. The 21 drivers commented on good manners and a fine work ethic being displayed by the young collectors.

We thank the children very much for giving their time for others.

Sign Language



On Tuesday 4th November Room 12 students had an introductory lesson to New Zealand Sign Language. Nirvana – a lady who is deaf herself – came to teach us about sign language and how to use it.

This lesson was the first of five lessons. When Nirvana first arrived, she wrote her name on the whiteboard and we had to do the same. This taught us how to sign "my name is....". We learnt how to sign our names by spelling out each letter from a piece of paper that had all the letters of the alphabet on it. We also learnt how to say "What is your name?" "Nice to meet you",

“Nice to meet you too” and numbers up to 10.

At stages, after we had learnt to say our name, we were allowed to walk around the class and test our newly found skills.

Towards the end of the session, Nirvana taught us how to say if we were deaf or not. We finished off by learning how to say if we were English or Maori.

Overall, it was lots of fun. We look forward to practising our signing skills in the classroom and playground over the next week in preparation for our second session next Tuesday.

Melissa Powell Room 12

2008 ODT Extra Social studies Quiz - An Outstanding 100%

Approximately 70 children have over the last few weeks attended social studies work shops to prepare for the annual quiz. During these sessions we looked at many issues occurring around the world and at times the discussion and general debate created a noisy but positive environment. Children were eager to be challenged on – World flags, cartoon interpretation, World Map locations, New Zealand Map locations, World Issues, New Zealand Issues, Important Dates in History, Faces in the news, Who am I? and What am I?

On the night ten teams of three competed for the school and for the first time ever Ivan Behrnes Editor of Extra witnessed a 100/100 result from our winning Tahuna team of :-

Jessica Todd

Sandra Pang

Fergus O’Leary.

Close behind on 97/100 were two other Tahuna Teams consisting of:-

Bryce Grellet

Cam Burrows

Greg Underwood

and

Liam Dell

James Richardson

Michael Ryan

Our other teams scored very well too and finished well up in the team rankings on 87,86,81,78,77,76 and 70. It was a great thrill to see all Tahuna children on stage for the prize giving and we congratulate all participants for a superb effort and outstanding results.

2008 Australasian [ICAS] Computer Examination

Recently I received the results from Australia for this exam which is the fifth and final one for 2008, that the children sat.

It was again most satisfying to see that our school averages for the both the Yr 7 and the Yr 8’s were higher than those for New Zealand.

TNIS Yr 7 = 25.3 NZ = 24.6

TNIS Yr 8 = 27.6 NZ = 26.2

Looking at areas of strengths I noticed that they were as follows for the Year 7’s:-

1. Word Processing
2. Graphics / Multimedia
3. Databases / Spreadsheets.

A different list of strengths can be seen for our Year 8 children:-

- 1= Internet / Email.
- 1= Databases / Spreadsheets.
3. General skills.

Well done to all who sat and congratulations to those listed below.:

Year 7 Distinction

Laura Anderson

Henry Arnold

Brennan Carne

Georgia Lepine

Year 7 Credit

Hannah Auckram

Breeana Richardson

Shanna Verhoef

Year 8 Distinction

Indy Griffiths

Christopher Harbrow

Fergus O’Leary

Robert Polak

Year 8 Credit

Mason Osborne

Laura Spencer

Y.I.P. Awards

The following children have been awarded their gold and silver cards at recent assemblies for good attitude and good effort.

Gold

Bethany Vickers, Rachel Guthrie

Silver

Shayna Dodds, Greg Underwood

OGHS Uniform Sale

Would suit a child size 10 / 12. 3 summer skirts, 4 summer blouses, 1 vest, 2 kilts, 1 tie, new blaser and regulation backpack.

All inquiries please contact Angela ph 473 1171 or 0210431888.

Congratulations

Basketball

On November 21st, Miah Small and Blair McKenzie are travelling to Australia for basketball.

Ballet

It was also pleasing to hear that Grace Dillon was in the Russian ‘Nutcracker’ Ballet as an extra.

She was one of four rats who ran into the audience and had some fun! As you could imagine Grace worked very hard at all the extra practices

Rugby

The South Island weight grade (Under 65kg and Under 48kg) teams had their tournament in Kaipoi back in September.

There were about eight Otago players from Tahuna in the two weight grades. It was great to see that Jamie Mowat was the only Otago U48kg player to be named in the 22 man South Island squad. Well done Jamie

Water Polo

Tahuna has a team entered in the South Island Year 7/8 tournament which is to be held in Dunedin from 14th -16th November. Team members have been selected from our two teams who play in the local Intermediate competition on a Thursday.

The team is:

Holly Smaill
Jared Murray
Cameron Burrows
Fergus O'Leary
Gabrielle Scott
Chris Dickie
Warren van Staden
Sian English
Jamie Mowat
Felix Page
Emma Rogers-Bromley
Ryan Thom
Robbie Gwynn-Jones

Their first game is at 3pm on the Friday 14th November and we wish them the very best in this tournament.

Letting us Know

Children are asked to see Mr Hutton if they have had

successes / good news which should be celebrated through the newsletter. Parents can also let me know of news worthy items.
keithhutton@tahuna.school.nz

Billy Goat Brothers: The Troll's Story



“Hello, Hola, Talofa lava, Kia Ora, Shalom, whatever.”

Anyway, I, the troll, am not guilty of trying to eat the goat brothers. I'm innocent, I swear it! That bridge is my property just ask the real estate agency. I bought that bridge for \$10,000 and I had to sell my house to do it, which is why I live under the bridge. It didn't look stable so I put up signs telling people not to cross. I had to scare the goats away and they knew I was a vegetarian but still knocked me into the river.

I ended up here in hospital with severe wounds.

They just need to say they're sorry!

P.S No trolls or goats were actually harmed in the making of this story, and the troll did not spend ten grand.

By Tyler Campbell Rm 17

Weekly Highlights for Term 4

Wk1- School Athletic Sports + Visit from the Indian Cultural Group.

Wk2- Class Kayaking + Social Studies Challenge.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 4th November, 9.00 - 10.00am Norm Hewitt to talk on – “One of the Family “ – Organised by SPCA.

Wednesday 5th November – Sth Zone Athletics Sports or Friday 7th if postponed.

Thursday 6th November - Problem Challenge for 20 children.

Friday 7th November – Rm 23 Assembly

Monday 10th November – Life Education sessions continue.

Friday 14th – Room 1 Kayaking a.m.

Monday 17th November – Life Education sessions continue for Yr 8 classes

Monday 17th November - 21st November Marae Week for Year 7 children.

Tuesday 18th November – Otago Athletic Championships with postponement day on Thursday 20th.

Tuesday 25th – Rms 5+6 on Recycling Trip

Wednesday 26th 9.00 – 12.30 Rm 6 Kayaking.

Thursday 27th – students attending BHS or Kings in 2009 to attend their school for the day.

Monday 1st December- Melbourne school Orchestra and Big Band to perform for us.

Wednesday 10th December 7.00 – 9.00pm – School Performance at the University of Otago College of Education Auditorium.

Friday 19th December – School Finishes for the year.