



WAIMATE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL

13th October 2016

Hello everyone,

"It is amazing what we can accomplish when we are in it together"
Essie

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome to Centennial School George and Charlie Clavey and hope their families enjoy living in Waimate. George will be in Piwakawaka and Charlie in Tui class. After the first day at school both boys told me they had had a great start to the fourth term and were looking forward to the rest of the year with us.

CONNECTING EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES - Writing workshop evenings. Educators know that when schools and parents are communicating effectively and respectfully the learning children experience is much more authentic and relevant. This year we have worked with Waimate Main and St Patrick's schools to improve the ways we connect with our families. Our aim is to have families find talking to their schools easier and to increase the input families can have into their child's learning. Our facilitator John Botting has visited many families with messages about how well their students are doing through Happy Grams.

We have organised a series of workshops for families to learn how to help their children with reading, maths and now writing. These have been held at the three schools as a way of demonstrating that we are all better off when schools work together. The feedback you have given us about the evening sessions and the happy grams is really encouraging.

Next year we plan to continue to create opportunities to help families understand how they can help with the learning process. We are including Waituna Creek school in the group and this will help spread the message even further. I believe one of the next steps is to encourage you as parents to help us decide what is important for your children to learn. Hopefully you will feel able to do this as we all learn to talk to each other about what is important in education.

On the 18th October the next in the series of workshops showing how you can help your children with their writing will be held at St Patrick's school from 6-7pm. This workshop is for students and their families in years 6-8. At the last writing workshop teachers provided practical examples of what families could do at home to support children's writing. I was impressed with the way the students' led their parents through the activities and everyone was involved. There was an atmosphere of having fun as a family while learning together.

REVIEW OF THE PRODUCTION

Please take a little time to complete the attached form providing us with feedback about the school production. This event is a major part of Centennial's third term each year and we use a lot of curriculum time in preparation. As a reflective forward looking school we need to assure ourselves that this student learning time that is well spent. Your comments will help us to focus on aspects of the production we need to review and making sure learning is appropriate for our students.

BOOK CLUB ORDERS

Just a reminder of the easy option to order your scholastic book orders online at:-
<https://bookclub.scholastic.co.nz/User/ClassParentOrders.aspx>, under Loop Orders.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Weekly Assembly 2.30 Fridays
- Movie night, 14th October
- ERO visiting 17th October
- FAST term four meeting 26th October 5 pm
- School Athletics 15th November pp day 17th November
- District Athletics 22nd November
- South Canterbury Athletics day 6th December
- Swimming begins in the third week of November.
- Term four finishes on Wednesday 14th December
- Term 1 begins 30th January 2017

MURAL

The Health Team are getting to the final stages of the swimming pool mural. Sophie Hargreaves, Ian Repia-King and Elizabeth Cawley were selected to work with Heidi Elson-White and Darren Tuatari, our resident artists. Over the last term the students have been working with Darren and Heidi to merge their ideas together in one piece of art. The result looks fantastic. Paint and brushes are getting organised from a grant that the group organised. As the weather improves the outline will be copied onto the wall and the students will paint their image. Watch out for this over the next few weeks. It will have been quite a task from ideas to the completed mural and a really successful project for the Health Team.

FAST (fundraising & social team)

This term the FAST will be organising a pie fundraiser. We expect that the students will bring home information for families to think about. We know that this is a great deal for families. Other groups have been very successful with this fundraiser because it is so popular. Keep an eye out for the details about this event.

TRANSITION TO WAIMATE HIGH SCHOOL

Today the year 6 students visited the high school as part of planned transition preparation. On these days we prepare our senior students for life at the high school. While visiting they learn about the classes, cafeteria, teachers and how the school operates. We have found these days to be supportive of our students and a confidence builder for those who have not had siblings attend the high school in the past. The next transition day is Thursday the 1st of December.

ERO

Next week we will have a visit from the Education Review Office. Two reviewers will be with us for 3-4 days. After being welcomed by our Kapahaka group at 11:30 on Monday they will be investigating how we do things. Their prime motive for the visit is to see how successful we are at raising the achievement of our students. We expect to have daily feedback from them on their progress and a final meeting with the Board on Wednesday night. They will prepare a report that will itemise the areas we are succeeding in and those we may need to devote more energy toward. If you see Janet Pereira or Rob Falconer about school please help us to make them feel welcome.

HOME AND SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday night this week there will be a movie night here at Centennial. We will be screening "Angry Birds" the movie will begin at 6 o'clock. The FAST are asking for a gold coin donation from each child to cover expenses. There will be a drink and popcorn served during the evening. Bring along a cushion to sit on and join in the fun.

We are being offered free swimming lessons for a couple of children who are unable to pay for them. We would put their names forward and if they meet the criteria they would be taught how to swim in private lessons. Any queries please contact Janet Meyer on 689 6404/021 296 9499.

Vintage car club - Steve Dyson is offering an opportunity for students to recondition an old car. If interested ring steve 689 8711.

Please Return: I have received and read this newsletter () (tick)

Signed _____ Family Name _____

CONNECTING EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES - MATHS TOGETHER

