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School Newsletter

TERM 1 – 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Upcoming dates

[Click here for the entire Term 1 calendar](#)

From the Principal's Desk

- Week 2: Monday 8th February – Waitangi Day
Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th February – Year 4/5/6 Camp (Mt Hutt)
Thursday 11th – Friday 12th February – Year 1/2/3 Camp (Woodbury)
- Week 3: Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th February – After School Swimming Starts
Wednesday 17th February – Bike to School Day
- Week 4: Friday 26th February – Triathlon
- Week 5: Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd March – Parent-Teacher Interviews

Kia ora koutou e te whanau, welcome back to another school year. It has been great having children back at school, catching up with friends and getting used to new classrooms. We are certainly looking forward to a busy and exciting first term!

We have spent the first few days of school figuring out the logistics of children and staff working in the new classroom spaces. This will be ongoing and there could be a few changes to basic daily routines, such as where shoes and bags are kept. We are extremely happy with the work that K & D Building have carried out in creating our deck space, and even more thankful to them for the hours they put in over the school holidays to ensure there was minimal disruption to classes. There are a few bits and pieces to finish, plus new carpet to go into the Year 4-6 classrooms. If the Ministry of Education allow, the plan in the future is for the deck to continue out and around Pekapeka (Mrs Bromwich's class) and meet the steps next to the library. We have funding for building work due to come in the middle of this year, and are excited by the developments we may be able to put in place to further enhance our learning spaces.



We welcome 8 new children to Woodbury School to start the year. Welcome to Ava, Olive, Alice, Charlotte, Ted, Adam, Harry, & Mia (absent)



This year we have an unusually large number of new entrant birthdays occurring later in the year, with no more students arriving until July. This means we will finish the year at a roll of around 118, which is the largest roll the school has seen.

As usual we start the year with camps, our Year 4-6 students going to Mt Hutt and Year 1-3 students doing some local activities and having a sleepover at school. The purpose of these camps (particularly the Year 4-6 camp) is to allow children to challenge themselves in a safe and supportive environment, and to further develop relationships with classmates and staff. This is both an exciting and anxious time for students, as they look forward to fun activities with their friends but may also be nervous about being away from family overnight. It is very satisfying to see students face a variety of challenges on camp, and great to see how proud they are on returning home to parents after spending 2 nights away by themselves. We thank those parents in advance who have volunteered their time to come along on camp to help out, who not only help organise and feed the children but also offer comfort and emotional support when needed.

Mike de Joux
Tumuaki / Principal

2021 Term Dates

Term 1	Start	Wednesday 03 February
	End	Friday 16 April
		<i>*Note Friday 02 & Monday 05 April is Easter Weekend*</i>
Term 2	Start	Monday 03 May
	End	Friday 09 July
		<i>*Note Monday 07 June is Queens Birthday*</i>
Term 3	Start	Monday 26 July
	End	Friday 01 October
		<i>*Note Monday 27 Sept is South Canterbury Anniversary*</i>
Term 4	Start	Monday 18 October
	End	Thursday 16 December
		<i>*Note Monday 25 Oct is Labour Day*</i>

Payments

Invoices will be coming out in the next couple of weeks for Year 4-6 camp, the Ritchies Town Bus and stationery. The BOT will also continue their policy of not requesting parent donations. Please bear with us while Penny adjusts to a new system, and let us know if you have any questions about accounts. For the larger amounts such as camp and bus, we are happy for parents to set up fortnightly part payments if they prefer.

For those parents using the Ritchies Town Bus, this is the last year of a gradual cost increase the BOT implemented at the start of 2019 following community consultation around the bus. This year the cost is \$4 per week for the first child (\$160 per year), \$3 per week for the second child (\$120 per year) and \$2 per week for the third child (\$80 per year). These payments help us to recoup around \$5,000 of the \$19,000 it costs us to hire this service each year. Again, we are happy for smaller regular payments if this is easier for parents.

Buses

NO buses running this Thursday afternoon and Friday morning/afternoon due to school camps.

Lunches

The Friday sausage sizzle proved popular last year, and this will continue from Week 3 this term. It has been great to be able to put the money raised through this other activities for the children such as trips and the junior camp, which means we do not have to ask parents for money towards these things.

We have also been in early talks with the Woodbury Store Café, who are keen to support the school. Soon we will be sending out some initial ideas they have around providing school lunches, which will seek feedback from parents. The Café is also happy to work in with school events that we have, and adjust their hours accordingly.

Reporting to parents

This term we will be having optional parent-teacher interviews in Week 5, on the 2nd and 3rd of March. This is quite early in the year to report on progress to parents, but is a chance for parents to ask questions about how the class is operating, expectations of their child or how they can support their child's learning. We have tried different formats in previous years such as group "Meet the Teacher" afternoons, but are going with the 1-1 option this year for those parents who wish to come in. At the end of Term 2 students will receive their mid-year progress report, which will be followed up with parent-teacher interviews in early Term 3. We have our end of year reports in Term 4. Alongside this, ClassDojo posts will regularly share student work and act as an online portfolio of student work.

Swimming

From the 8th to the 18th March the whole school will be involved in daily "Swim for Life" instruction at the Geraldine Pool. Normally this is restricted to Year 4-6 only (due to cost), but this year we have had an incredibly generous donation from a local Geraldine business / charity, which has allowed us to include

children at all levels. Water confidence is hugely important, and we look forward to seeing the junior children included this year.

Please fill in the form below as soon as you get a chance. This gives the CBAY swimming instructors who organise this time to group children and ensure consent is given. A form needs to be completed for each child, and will take around 2-3 minutes.

<https://www.cbaytimaru.co.nz/learn-2-swim/School-Swimming-Consent>



Clare Connolly is again offering After School Swimming lessons, beginning Tuesday 16th February. If you are keen for your child to be part of this but haven't already contacted Clare, you have until tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday 10th February) to make contact via clare.connolly@xtra.co.nz These lessons are suitable for younger children, and Clare also takes younger siblings.

For those of you who have a school pool key this year, please can you ensure that all equipment is put away after you have finished.

Wheels Days

Wheels days continue every Thursday and Friday. Children are able to use their wheels on the courts or the bike track at lunchtimes, and also during Discovery time on Fridays. Children are able to store their wheels in the shed or the pool area overnight Thursdays if required.

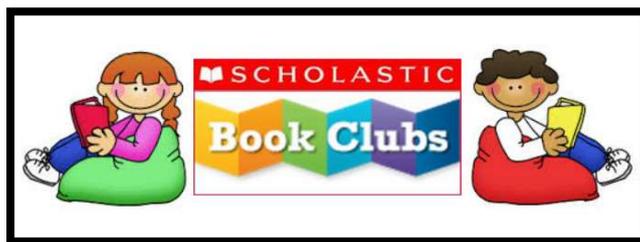
Bike to School Day – Wednesday 17th Feb

Next Wednesday 17th February is "Bike to School Day", which doubles as a fun way to build up fitness and also a chance to get children's bikes along to school, to keep here until the Triathlon the following Friday for practices (bikes can be taken home if parents want to, those that remain are stored securely in the shed and pool areas). Students will be able to bike out from Geraldine, and possibly some other spots if we have parents to help supervise. *Keep an eye on ClassDojo for more information.*



Scholastic Book Club

Issue 1 Catalogue will have been sent home with children late last week, or early this week. First order closes on Friday, 19th February 2021.



A reminder that hats and drink bottles are essential during the warmer months of Term 1!!!

Community Notices

(Disclaimer: We in no way endorse or otherwise any notice placed in this section. It is purely an information section for public notices.)



Wai-iti Tennis Club is running a 6-week Hot Shots Community play programme starting on February 13th 2021, 9:00am to 9:45am. The cost is \$20 for the lot or \$5 a session. Beginners rackets are available. This is a fun starter programme and parents/caregivers are welcome to join in. To find out more visit: <https://www.tennishotshots.kiwi> or phone Matt Cameron on 027 6844071.

South Canterbury Pacers Triathlon club

KIDS CAN DO TRYATHLON

Sunday 14th February
Ages 7-13 years
CBay Aquatic center/Caroline Bay
Registration from 9am. Start 10am

Entries & more info at
www.scpacers.co.nz

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