



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Full Day Teacher Strike Action on August 15th

All Primary School and Intermediate teachers and Principals have overwhelmingly voted for a full day of strike action on Wednesday 15th August. We understand that this action will be disruptive for families but we hope that you do support us in our plight to gain better working conditions for teaching and learning and better resourcing for our pupils. Presently, we face a crisis in retaining and recruiting teachers due to the increasing pressure we face by class sizes, lack of support staff and under-resourcing. The Port Chalmers School Board of Trustees have moved to close the school for instruction on Wednesday 15th August.

Koputai Kids after School and Holiday Care

Koputai Kids will be providing an all-day programme from 7.30 am until 6 pm on Wednesday 15th August with no pick-ups (Teacher and Principal's Strike Action Day). Current caregivers and parents who usually use this service will have priority and numbers will be limited to 30 children. Options are for a half day or a full day. Please contact Wendy Russell on 0274727744 or 03 472 7777 to arrange bookings. In the event that an agreement is reached and the strike is cancelled KKASP will provide its usual service.

Yesterday marked a special occasion for our school as the engine room bell from The Port Chalmers Ship, which has been in our possession and on display in our boatshed for many years, was handed over to the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum. We felt that this was an important gesture as the story about the bell and the relationship of this ship to our school was in danger of being lost forever.

Over the next couple of newsletters, I would like to share several instalments regarding the story of the Port Chalmers Ship and its history and the ensuing relationship of this ship to our school. This story has been compiled by Garry Bain who was teacher and Deputy Principal of Port Chalmers School for 39 years and responsible for setting up and leading our school's boating programme. Garry is still the chairman of our Outdoor Education Committee and he is also in charge of the organising and running of the boating programme for our school and the other schools in the West Harbour Community. We hope that by sharing this story, an important part of our school's history will be revived and maintained.

Hei Kona mai

Jared Roddick-Acting Principal

The Background to the Engine Room Bell from the ship PORT CHALMERS.

Compiled by Garry Bain 30/7/2018.
 Shortly after WWII Port Chalmers School, like many other schools in New Zealand and other Commonwealth countries, joined the patriotic British Ship Adoption Scheme whereby schools and ships "adopted" each other and established mutually beneficial relationships. Port Chalmers School was very fortunate in adopting one of the most highly decorated merchant ships to have survived the Second World War. Built in 1933 by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Limited at Newcastle-On-Tyne for the Commonwealth & Dominion Line, the 8535gt PORT CHALMERS was the fourth vessel of the name to serve companies associated with what later became known as the Port Line. When completed she was considered to be the most modern of designs for refrigerated cargo vessels and was in fact the first vessel especially equipped for the carriage of chilled beef on a commercial scale.

She served with distinction during WWII when she became known as a "lucky" ship. In December 1939 she was fortunate to escape when the nearby DORIC STAR was sunk by the German pocket battleship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE in the South Atlantic. PORT CHALMERS relayed the distress messages while making her escape, and this brave action helped the Admiralty plot where the ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE would head, leading to the famous action off South America and the eventual scuttling of the German Warship in the River Plate.

In July of 1941 PORT CHALMERS was assigned to her first "Malta" convoy. This small island nation in the middle of the Mediterranean was of immense strategic importance, and it was vital that the allies retained control. The six merchant ships in the convoy managed to survive but several of the naval escort vessels were sunk & one of the other merchant vessels was torpedoed.



In August 1942 PORT CHALMERS was involved in her second Malta Convoy. This became the most "famous" of the Malta Convoys. Of the fourteen merchant vessels involved, only five survived, while many of the 37 warships providing cover were sunk or damaged. PORT CHALMERS was the only vessel to reach Malta undamaged. She did have a fright though when a torpedo was found hooked up in her paravane wire. The wire was cut and the torpedo exploded when it hit the bottom, giving the ship a mighty shake up. She continued to serve throughout the rest of the war with distinction, and was a regular visitor to New Zealand ports over the post-war years. Whenever the ship visited Port Chalmers the officers would visit the school, and in about 1950 the ship's officers and crew presented the Port Chalmers School

with two trophies for the school's champion athletes. These trophies (known as the Ships Cups) have been contested every year since, and are still competed for to this day. In the 1950s and early 1960s it was traditional for the senior class (in those days "Standard Six" and later "Form II") to be hosted aboard the ship once a year in the passenger saloon. Each of these occasions took the form of a formal dinner, with the school prefects expected to make speeches and propose the toasts to the officers and crew. It was with much trepidation that Mr Bain in 1952 made his first public "speech" at one of these events.
Part 2 Next Week



SCHOOL DISCO



Port Chalmers Disco Friday the 17th August at 6pm.
 Years 1-3 go home at 7.30pm and Years 4-8 at 9.00pm.

The theme this year is "Under the Sea" so dress up and come and have a good time. Every child must be collected by a Parent from the school hall. \$2.00 entry fee. Refreshments and face painting 50 cents each. Spot Prizes.



After School Book Club

After School Book Club will be held on the second Monday of August instead of our usual first-Monday-of-the-month routine. So, come along to After School Book Club on Monday 13th August, from 3.30 - 4.30 (or 3.15 if you'd like to join us for a snack first). Looking forward to seeing you, Elspeth and the Port Chalmers Library team.

NEEDED PLEASE

Can we please have milk bottle tops and anything else that would be suitable for Creative Containers that we will be making. We also need some Plastic and Glass Bottles (variety of sizes) and Ice Cream Pottles Thank you ☺

Miniball

Results

Port Buccaneers

On Monday we played again the Balmac Wizards and we had our second win of the season. The final score was 24-14. Some things that we can work on is our passing. Sometimes we were lobbing in to empty spaces. Things we were good at is defending and getting the ball up the court. Congratulations to Tom our player of the day.

Port Pirates

We played against St Marys where we suffered a heavy defeat. I think we need to work on passing the ball to each other and shooting. Overall, it was fun. By Jasmin.

Draw

Port Pirates vs KVC Nuggets, 3.30pm Court 4
 Buccaneers vs Kavanagh Green, 4.05pm Court 7

Assembly Timetable

3 rd August	Skipping Stations
10 th August	Games/Singing
17 th August	Rms 5 & 7 Assembly 2.15pm
24 th August	Room 4 Assembly 2.15pm
31 st August	Fun Run 1.20 to 2.45pm
7 th September	Book Week
14 th September	Room 8 Assembly 2.15pm
21 st September	Room 2 Assembly
28 th September	Marimbas & Len's Send Off

Calendar of Events

15 th August	Full Day Strike Action
17 th August	School Disco 6pm
28 th August	Farewell for Len Buchanan
30 th August	O'mathalon
30 th August	Kiwi Golf -All Classes
31 st August	Fun Run
3 rd September	Book Week
14 th September	Otago Cross Country
21 st September	Otago Cross Country Cancellation Day
28 th September	Last Day of Term 3
28 th September	Lens's Send Off
15 th October	Term 4 Begins
22 nd October	Labour Day
14 th December	Last Day of Term 4