



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Kia Ora folks,
 This week has been all about reading and celebrating books as our Annual 'Book Week' has been taking place. This is always a highlight on our school calendar as it combines reading with creative writing, competitions, quizzes, workshops, book talks, library visits and of course the Book Character 'Dress Up' day. It is so important not to underestimate the value of books and reading in the modern era. As technology has become cheaper and more readily available, books are taking 'second place' in terms of our sourcing of information, our entertainment and in the use of our leisure time.
 During the last three decades, internet use has exploded and device ownership has grown to the point where almost every Kiwi can access the internet at any time on home computers, smart TV's, tablets and smartphones. In itself, this is not a bad thing as we have access to knowledge, entertainment and instant communication at our fingertips.
 The downside of this exponential growth of internet and device usage is manifesting itself in all areas of our society and we are experiencing wide ranging physical, social and psychological problems associated with over-use. Recently our whole staff attended two workshops with other schools in the North Dunedin Cluster and the discussions and presentations centred around the 'downsides' of internet usage, particularly in our young people. Dr Mike Parkes (a Dunedin Clinical Psychologist) led a discussion that included a strong message about the fact that our virtual 'social world' is growing although our real life 'social skills' are diminishing. A fact that he shared that really resonated with me was that you see a parent pushing their baby in a pram staring at their cell phone and their baby is staring back at the parent who is staring at their cell phone rather than them engaging with their baby through eye-contact where parent / child bonding should be taking place. You can guess the possible outcomes and future problems that could occur due to this disassociation.
 Now, back to Book Week and books! There will always be a huge place for the sharing of books and stories in a child's development. When we read to our young we open their eyes to the world of print and the resulting knowledge that is gained about letters, the alphabet, spelling, words and story structure. In addition the very act of sharing books is a social activity that reinforces bonds and relationships with parents, carers and family members and aids in the development of effective communication skills. Giving a child an iPad and leaving them to it while you browse Facebook doesn't have the same effect, unsurprisingly!
 So, turn off the modem, dig out the books and share some of your favourite stories with your kids. Enrol them at the library, buy books instead of V-Bucks and let them see you reading! The importance of books and reading, while

your kids are still kids, will have a long lasting and far reaching impact on them in their future years.
 Hei Kona Mai

Jared

Reporting Illness/Absences to School

Thank you to students and parents for coming past the office to let Katy know they are late arriving at school. If your child/children are going to be absent from school please inform the office and/or your child's teacher **with an explanation** of their absence each day. Please note that we are legally required by the Ministry of Education to code and provide a reason for student absences. You can inform us of your child/children's absence e.g. late, sick, dental appointment, dance exam etc. by either phoning the office on 472 8685, emailing the office, office@portchalmers.school.nz or leaving a text message on 027 6973596. (Please note text messages will not get a reply). Your child's teacher also requires written notification, either by note or email, if your child is to be excused from sports, swimming etc.

Health Snippet

Respiratory Hygiene

Term Three is usually when we get winter illnesses so here is another reminder about the importance of respirator hygiene.
 As one way of preventing the spread of viruses we are teaching children to cough and sneeze into their elbows or alternatively to cough and sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away. Also always remember to wash your hands after every time you sneeze or cough.

Heidi Genever
 Public Health Nurse
 Tel Direct dial 03 476 9851

**Can Families please supply the correct money for Tuesdays and Friday Lunches, this makes the ordering process a lot easier for the people who have sort them.
 Thank you. 😊**

Lateness



Respect for children's learning is important. Children who consistently arrive late to school are missing out on a very important part of the day and may start the day at a disadvantage, as lateness is known to contribute to anxiety.

The first 15 minutes of the school day consists of: notices, classroom information, programme changes etc. are explained for the day - this gives a child a feeling of belonging and empowerment equipment and books are made ready for the days learning. Unfortunately we have a number of children arriving as the bell rings or even after the bell. Children should be unpacked and in their classrooms ready for learning by the 8.50am bell. If your child is entering the classroom later than this it not only makes it difficult for them but it also disrupts the learning for others.

Images from our Fun Run



Good Workers Week 7
Writing
 Sonny Rm 7 Eulalia Rm 7
 Alesia Rm 7 Isabella Rm 7
 Israel Rm 5 Ness Rm 5
 Macie Rm 5 Laksmi Rm 5
All of Room 4 for their Reports
 😊

Can we please have old T Shirts or shirts- for making reusable bags during Enviro Week? 😊 We also need Glass Bottles and **Fabric**. Thank you. 😊

VOLUNTEER NEEDED Thursday Morning for just 20 mins

Next term we will be down a volunteer for the Breakfast club. If you can be that special someone, then please get in touch. This is a fantastic initiative that give our kids the best start to the day. 😊

Port Chalmers Swim Club

Port Chalmers Swim Club Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2018, 1.30pm PCSC Club Rooms (above the Port Chalmers Pool) All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
 Email apologies to floyd007@xtra.co.nz

Otago Champs Cross Country

Many thanks to the PTA and the parent volunteers who helped make our Fun Run so successful last Friday. Congratulations to Angelique, Tayla-Rose, Cora, Ally-May, Jasmin, Jenna, Matthew H and Jaime who will now go through to the Otago Champs meet.

| Assembly Timetable | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 th September | Book Week Assembly |
| 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 | |
| 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 |