



# South Otago High School Newsletter, 24th July 2015

Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa  
Warm greetings to you all

## ***Tena Koutou Katoa***

I have spent the school holidays grappling with an important personal and professional decision. It is with real sadness that I inform you that I have accepted the role of Principal of Kamo High School in Northland, beginning in Term Four of this year. This is the school that I began my school management pathway in; I was Assistant Principal there in 2010. It is a school and area that my husband and I have great friendships and connection with.

I intend to call a special assembly to inform the students this afternoon of my decision.

I have loved leading South Otago High School. I have said on numerous occasions that it is the best school I have ever been in. Our students are honest, open, respectful and friendly. The staff are supportive, professional and deeply committed to improving student achievement.

I accepted the position here as a change manager - here for a limited tenure to do a specific task. There is never a time when you can say that all the work is done, but I feel that the changes we have made together as a staff here at SOHS are set up in well-managed systems by many middle and senior leaders. The systems are robust and are working.

In the last three years we have improved every aspect of the school - from litter to the number of Merit and Excellences achieved. Last year our results showed that we were the best co-ed school in Otago. Our girls' results were better than all but one girls' school in Dunedin - private and state. Our boys' results were the best of all Otago schools, single-sex or co-ed. As you



*Above:* Mrs Hutt and Mr Douglas meet with a Japanese contingent who are currently travelling around New Zealand looking at schools.

know, SOHS was publicly recognised by the Minister of Education earlier this year for this significant improvement in our academic performance.

We have introduced professional learning groups for our staff, widened our curriculum parameters by introducing vocational pathways, joining in the Secondary, Tertiary Partnerships initiative from the Ministry of Education and introducing a wide selection of standards relating directly to career choices via the 'Ready to Work' programme.

The staff have agreed on standards of acceptable behaviour from our young people which has resulted in a settled and focussed school. Our attendance data has improved year-by-year to our current minimum of 90% attendance in all year levels. Our roll has grown.

I am thoroughly confident that the work the staff and I have done over the last three years will continue to raise achievement and be sustainable so that this is our constant reality.

I have truly appreciated all of the support the community has given me over my time as Principal of South Otago High School. I ask that you continue to have faith in the work that I have done over my time here and trust that the systems that have been set up will continue to deliver a superior standard of education, monitoring and opportunity for your young people.

***Ka Kite Ano***  
***Joanne Hutt Principal***

## **PTA - Help Required**

Help required to prepare and serve food on Friday the 31st of July for the Snob.

If you could spare some time either Friday from 9am or from 6.30pm then please contact Raewyn van Vugt at [whitegold@rivernet.co.nz](mailto:whitegold@rivernet.co.nz) or phone 4159207

We also require helpers for the School Open Night Tuesday 28th July from 5.30 - 8.00pm.



*Above:* Year 12 and 13 students practicing their dance moves for the SNOB

## NZQA FEES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All senior students need to pay the annual NZQA Examination Fee to be awarded both internally and externally assessed credits for the year.

Without financial assistance the fees are **\$ 76.70 per student**. Any student taking scholarship subjects is also charged another \$ 30.00 per scholarship subject.

To be eligible for financial assistance the fee payer (normally the parent or guardian) must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- 1) Be receiving a Work and Income or a Study Link benefit (benefit based application).
- 2) Have a joint family income that entitles the applicant to a Community Services Card (Income based application).
- 3) Have more than one child undertaking these qualifications in the same year, irrespective of income, and **the total fees to pay are higher than \$ 200**. (Multiple candidate application.)

If the family is eligible for either beneficiary or income based assistance the fees are:

One child	\$ 20
Two or more children	\$ 30 per family

If the family is eligible for multiple candidate assistance the fees are \$ 200 per family.

Application forms for financial assistance are available from the school office. All applications must be made to the school office **before Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015**. Applications after this date cannot be accepted or processed by the school.

NCEA fees will also be due to be paid **by 3.30 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015**. Each student will get an invoice for their fees in early August.

If you have any further enquires please do not hesitate to contact the school regarding this matter.

**KATH BROWN**  
Principal's Nominee to NZQA

### Term Two Upcoming Events

- *Tuesday 28th July* ..... Open Night - 6 - 8pm (School closed from 1.25pm)
- *Friday 31st July* ..... SNOB

### Alpha Netball Trip to Christchurch

SOHS Alpha Netball team travelled to Christchurch in the July School holidays to attend the Junior South Island Secondary Schools tournament. Alpha was placed in a tough pool which put them up against the top teams like Christchurch Girls' and Nelson Girls' Colleges. Even though the competition was tough the girls showed great maturity and kept playing the best they could. They made specific goals for themselves and stuck to them. The second day they came up against St Andrews and came away with a win. The last day of the tournament the weather was not on our side and the girls were made to play on frozen courts (this took a bit to get used too). The game was a nail biter against Waitaki Girls as it was goal for goal for pretty much the entire game. However the girls dug deep and managed to finish the tournament with another win.

Alpha was placed 21st out of 32 teams. The competition was tough but the girls came away with valuable experience. Special thanks to Olivia Brown (Captain) and Calisa McLeary (Vice Captain) for showing great leadership skills at the tournament, Abbey Mills and Kelsey Miller for stepping up to play in the Alpha team at short notice and all the parents that helped with fund raising to get us to the tournament. Thanks also to Cassandra Pyne for being the teams umpire and also being a fantastic help at tournament.

**Coach: Davina Booth**  
**Manager: Tirina Anderson**



## Rugby

Competition rugby resumes again this Saturday for a majority of our teams. Most will play through until either the 15th or 22nd of August, after which the rep rugby programmes kick into gear.

Matches and venues for this weekend are as follows:

- 1st XV v Dunstan 1st XV, Clyde, 12.30pm
- 2nd XV v Eastern U18, SOHS #1, 12.30pm
- U15 v OBHS Colts, SOHS #1, 11.15am
- Junior Colts v Kings Tigers, PJ Park, 11.15am
- U14 v Taieri College, PJ Park, 11.15am

The bus for the 1st XV will leave SOHS at 8.30. The vans for the U14s and Junior Colts will leave SOHS at 9.15. Cost for all transport is \$10 per player.

Both home matches will be played on the #1 ground. The U15s will change in the Old Gym, the 2nds in the New Gym.

The Girls 1st XV had a successful tournament in Oamaru over the holidays. They finished fourth overall, then backed this up with a big win over OGHS in Dunedin during the week. This qualifies us for the regional playoff against SGHS, to be played in Gore at a later date. In the meantime, the Otago Schoolgirls 7s competition starts next Wednesday, and we have once again entered a Junior and a Senior team.

I have spoken to most players with outstanding subs. These need to be tidied up by the end of this month. The cost is \$60 for boys and \$40 for girls. They know the drill – get them paid and stay in their squads.

Finally, the Under 15 Tournament team will be named on Monday morning. This team, comprising our best junior players, will represent SOHS at the SI Junior Rugby Tournament in Nelson in September. There will be a meeting for all players and a parent in the SOHS Library at 6pm on Tuesday night.

**Greg Heller**  
**TIC Rugby**

## ATTENTION

**If you have changed address, phone number, cell phone number or email address please contact the school office phone: 4180517 or email [jfrisby@sohs.school.nz](mailto:jfrisby@sohs.school.nz). It is very important that we have these details completely up-to-date. We also require every student to have an emergency contact number.**

## Absences - Reminder

**ALL** student absences must be left on the absence line - 4180517 and then push 1.  
The text messages sent out are computer generated and outgoing only. Please respond to a text message by phoning the school.  
The Office cannot access Facebook or any other social media to check messages left by parents/caregivers.

## Open Night

### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Due to an earlier than usual start to our Open Night this year, some buses will run earlier than normal.

The following buses will depart from the School at 1.30pm:

- Clinton/Taumata
- Clydevale
- Wangaloa
- Tuapeka Mouth

The following buses will depart at 3.20pm as normal:

- Hillend
- Waiwera South
- Waitepeka
- Lakeside
- Kaka Point
- Inch Clutha/Benhar

Normal classes will finish at 1.25pm and the school will provide supervised instruction for students wishing to remain at school in the afternoon.

**Greg Heller**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Library News

Welcome back to Term 3.

This week we have new to the library an inspiring book called *Wildboy*. Brando Yelavich, a 19 year old from Auckland, had struggled at school because he found it hard to focus and had been diagnosed with ADHD. He felt he learnt in a different way to most people and when things had become unbearable at school an alternative solution was found. Brando was offered a place in an outdoor pursuits programme in Cromwell. After completing the course and becoming a bit lost Brando decides he is going to walk around New Zealand from Cape Reinga and back. He embarks on a journey that takes him through 8000 Kilometres over 600 days which ends up being a life changing experience. An inspiring, soul searching tale about following your dreams. Sounds like a good read to me.

**Katrina Pudney**  
**Librarian**

## Boys' Football

Both boys' teams played two games during the holiday period. The Youth team defeated Northern 4-1 and Grants Braes 5-1, and needs to win one of its four remaining games to clinch the league title. The 14th Grade team lost its matches 5-1 to Grants Braes and 2-1 to Mosgiel and sits in 2nd place on the table.

This Saturday, the Youth team will play Dunedin Technical at Culling Park, South Dunedin and players will need to be at school by 8:45. The 14th Grade team takes on Maori Hill at the Balclutha Showgrounds. Boys will need to be at school by 9:45. Both games kick off at 10:30.

**Elliott Carroll**  
**TIC Boys Football**