

EAST OTAGO HIGH SCHOOL

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EOHS

Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu - *SMALL BUT PRECIOUS*

Principal's Comment

11th November, 2011

Head Students

Over the last 11 months two of our students have represented our school at various functions, taking on responsibilities that have required them to give up a good amount of their free time, as well as running our fortnightly assemblies. Those students are of course Kelyn and Holly, our Head students. The next time they will represent us as a school is most likely to be at our senior prize giving, where they will give a valedictory speech and announce our new Head Students. The role of Head student is an expanding one and this year has been no exception with little duties being added to the job descriptions. Kelyn and Holly have been outstanding in their roles, never once complaining about anything that has been asked of them. On behalf of the staff, students and the community, I would like to thank them both for their contribution to the school this year.



Kelyn and Holly with the Principal

Outstanding Academic results

Each year I like to report about some of the targets that we as a staff set around academic progress. Once again the staff set very ambitious targets around numeracy and literacy at Year 11. This was made more difficult with one form of assessment called Unit Standards being phased out during 2011. This means students are now required to gain their literacy through an Achievement standards pathway which assess at a higher standard. To set a target of 100% is an extremely ambitious target as it is envisaged that this may now take some students two years to achieve.

	EOHS 2009	EOHS 2010	All Decile 5 Schools in NZ	Target for EOHS for 2011	Actual Achievement
Literacy (level 1)	92%	92%	83.5%	100.0%	92%
Numeracy (level 1)	100%	100%	90.0%	100.0%	100%

We are very hopeful that those students who have not yet gained their literacy will have done so by the end of the school year.

Targets were also set around school attendance. The target set for 2010 was to retain an average attendance to 92%, which is deemed to be very close to full attendance. We have once again managed to get to 93%.



Our Values are based on the acrostic - '*RELATIONSHIPS*' where R = Respect towards self & others, E = Empathy for others, L = Loyalty to family, friends and school, A = Acceptance of those around you, T = Tolerance of other opinions, actions & differences, I = Integrity towards all aspects of life, O = Ownership of actions and change, N = Nurturing skills, talents and attributes, S = Sensitivity of any situation, H = Honesty in thought, word & deed, I = Inclusiveness of all, regardless of age, ethnicity or characteristics, P = Patience with and to those around you, S = Support for fellow students, family & teachers

Speech Competitions

Last week I had the opportunity of sitting in and listening to a large number of our students presenting their speeches to a wider audience as part of the speech competitions. For our young people this can be a very daunting proposition. While I listened it was immediately obvious that a great deal of work had gone into preparing and practising those speeches. There was not one speech that I felt was not up to an incredibly high standard and I would like to commend our students for a job well done. Speaking in public is a great skill to have and one that should be treasured. All of our finalists can be proud of themselves.

Our special congratulations go to:

Senior Speech Contest: 1st **Paige Aitcheson** *The dark side of chocolate*, 2nd **Joy Quijano** *The world's deadliest weapon- the tongue*, 3rd **Michael Lister** *How to make someone laugh and Highly Commended Stacey Primmer* *Mr Campbell, my role model!*

Junior Speech Contest: 1st **Paige Church** *Rodeo*, 2nd **Alex Keen** *Chris Wu*, 3rd **Brooke Roberts** *Happiness* and Highly Commended **Olivia McKean** *Shoes*.

Uniform for 2012

As I have previously stated in a newsletter school, shoes have presented us with some issues this year. The Board and management team wish to make it very clear that ALL shoes, from the beginning of 2012 must be entirely black, leather, and in boys' cases, this means lace up. For girls' they may choose lace up or T-bar shoes.



The illustration to the left shows a typical boys' or girls' school shoe.



The illustration to the left shows an alternative acceptable girls' school shoe.



The two illustrations above, or any variation of them, show non acceptable school shoes. Sporting shoes, or slip on canvas shoes, will NOT be accepted. If you are uncertain, please contact the school before purchase.



Coming Events 2011

November 11: Mufti Day
November 14-18: Yr 10 Camp at Glenorchy

November 28: Teacher Only Day (NCEA) Year 7/8 interviews for National Standards

November 30: Orientation for Year 6 students

December 5: Leavers Dinner
December 7: Prize Giving



EOHS

Term Dates 2012

The term dates for 2012 are set by the Ministry of Education and schools have no scope to reposition holiday breaks.

2012

Term 1: Monday 30 January - Thursday 5 April
Term 2: Monday 23 April - Friday 29 June
Term 3: Monday 16 July - Friday 28 Sept
Term 4: Monday 15 Oct - Tuesday 11 Dec

Public & School Holidays 2012

Waitangi Day - Monday 6 February
Otago Anniversary Day - Monday 26th March
Good Friday - 6 April
Easter Monday - 9 April
ANZAC Day - Wednesday 25 April
Queen's Birthday - Monday 4 June
Mid term Break - Monday 20 August
Labour Day Holiday - Monday 22 October

International Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, BBQ & Games

Saturday 26th November

3pm games, 5.30pm international potluck meal incl BBQ for children, 7.30pm finish. Please bring food from your country of origin, or favourite travel destination or kiwi favourites

Join the fun and dress for the occasion, international dress or Kiwi bloke Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Pinata, Games

Organised by St James, the Kids Friendly Church on Tiverton St, Palmerston

Arrangements for the last day of school

Wednesday 7th December

All students, including Years 11 – 13, are expected to attend school on Wednesday the 7th December. This is a very important school day and will begin with a full school assembly where we will farewell staff, present certificates and awards, and read out prize lists.

The day will begin with a form time at the normal time of 8.40am. At this form time, students will be told about the organization of the day. A school assembly will follow at 9.00am and parents/caregivers are most welcome to attend. At this assembly we will also read out the recipients of prizes for the evening's Prize-Giving.

Tidy mufti may be worn to school that day to ensure uniforms are kept tidy for the evening's Prize-Giving. Students will be involved in rehearsal and practices for the evening's programme, and these will continue throughout the morning. Those Year 7 – 10 students not involved will be in normal time-tabled classes for the morning. Year 11 – 13 students not involved in rehearsals or practices will be free to go. School magazines will also be distributed at some stage during the day. An alternative programme is organised for the Year 7 – 10 students for the afternoon.

ALL students are expected to attend the school's Prize-Giving. This is perhaps the most important event on the school's calendar and is compulsory for all students. If for some very important reason, a student cannot attend, a formal letter is to be written to the Principal, signed by parents, seeking permission to be absent. This letter must be received no later than Monday 5th December.

Prize Giving arrangements

This year's Prize-Giving is to be held in the DG Murray hall at 7.00pm. ALL students are to attend and are asked to report to their form classes by 6.45pm, in full tidy school uniform. Year 13 students are to wear formal attire. We would ask that students, parents/caregivers pay particular attention to uniform, ensuring that it has been washed (and repaired if necessary) and shoes have been polished. Students in non-regulation uniform may well be prevented from going up to receive prizes. This is a formal occasion and we wish students to represent the school well.

Boys – Black shorts, regulation grey polo shirt, grey socks, black leather lace up shoes

Girls - regulation green/white checked cotton skirt, white polo shirt, white ankle socks, black leather shoes.

Note: other school tops may be worn to and from the Prize-giving but will not be worn during the ceremony.

Winners of special prizes and school honours awards will be announced at the evening's ceremony.

Deputy Principal – Mr Lennox Sharp

Year 11 Maatangi Whenua Geography Competition

In June, the East Otago High School team of Tom Lindsay, Michael Lister and Isaac Williamson competed against sixteen other teams from Timaru south in the Otago-Southland Year 11 Maatangi Whenua Geography competition.

Only the winners of the competition were originally announced. The winning school was Riccarton High School of Christchurch. We knew, however, that our team had performed exceptionally well and were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school. In fact, the school received a very complimentary email about our boy's attitude, effort, friendliness and behaviour from one of the teachers looking after a competing school. We have subsequently learned that our team was placed 2nd in the competition with Fielding High School placed 3rd. Our placing was an incredible achievement for a school of our size. The boys were at all times highly competitive, very friendly and outgoing.



