



**Learning for Life and Making it Count**  
*Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou*  
*Pursue learning for the sake of your wellbeing.*

## End of term notices...

The end of year is fast approaching...**swimming lessons** finished on Tuesday and have again been a great success. We are grateful to **Mainpower** for their sponsorship of these lessons, and we can see the value of these when we look at the improving numbers of our pupils who can swim to survive. Our own school pool is now up and running, and very warm, so children should bring their togs every day from now on so we can continue their lessons.

Pool keys can be purchased from the office for use over the holidays. Please help us by keeping an eye on who is using the pool...someone used it on Tuesday night before keys had been issued, so they either jumped the fence or had an un-authorized key.

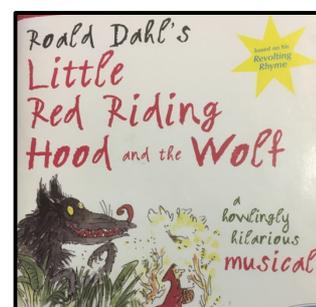


Past-pupil Alex Burling, one of our favourite swim coaches

It has been a momentous year with the decision about future options for our school, but we are now pleased to be moving forward with strength and commitment and a bright future.

## Concert and Prize-giving

Our concert and awards ceremony is less than 2 weeks away, and we hope you can all come. We are getting into the final stages of rehearsals for our end of year production, **Little Red Riding Hood**, and you are in for a treat! Some parents have had a sneak preview of some of the songs at recent assemblies, and we certainly have some wonderfully talented singers, dancers and actors at Ouruhia.



**Little Red Riding Hood** will be performed at our end of year break-up at Kaiapoi High School on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00 p.m.** We need some artistic and enthusiastic helpers for costumes, set & props...these are under way, but some extra help would be appreciated in these areas:

### Costumes:

- Check with main characters for full costume(s)...including shoes. (We sometimes hire extra bits and pieces from Rangiora). Wolf; Granny; LRRH; lead singers; Narrator.
- Check that general chorus/cast members in each class have their animal costumes/masks sorted. (Room 4 "Pig Patrol"; others: "Good" and "Bad" forest animals).

### Set:

- Forest scene (3-4 trees needed)
- Granny's cottage (hinged door, simple furniture, backdrop showing window etc)

### Props:

- Items for cottage
- Fairy-tale book for Narrator

### Photography on the night:

- Photograph characters and scenes from whole show, including close-ups

**Please see Mark (or text 0273039670) if you can help.**

## Crusaders visit

You have probably seen our Facebook photos of the visit by some of the Crusaders to our school last week. What a buzz to welcome them to our school (-thank you Zoe and Ethan for leading that), and I'm sure many of the children will remember for a long time playing touch with them.



## Champion Athletes

Congratulations to our athletes who competed at the Pegasus zone sports last month. Charlotte, Brooklyn, Harry and Oliver were in the sprints, Lily E and Zoe Mc in Shot Put, Solomon and Brooklyn in Long Jump, Brooklyn in High Jump, Solomon in Distance (1000m), and Oscar, Solomon, Charlotte and Zoe Mc in Discus.

Top 10 placings were:

- Oscar: 4<sup>th</sup> in Discus (19.62m)
- Charlotte: 4<sup>th</sup> in Discus (13.21m)
- Zoe Mc: 4<sup>th</sup> in Discus (18.54m)
- Brooklyn: 5<sup>th</sup> in Long Jump (3.52m); 6<sup>th</sup> in High Jump (1.05m)
- Solomon: 7<sup>th</sup> in Long Jump (3.58m); 8<sup>th</sup> in Discus (13.72m)
- Lily E: 8<sup>th</sup> in Shot Put (5.95m)

Well done!

## Teachers and classes for 2018...

Now that the future of Ouruhia School is certain, we are finding strong interest in enrolment, and our staffing is guaranteed at least at its current level for next year. We are pleased to be able to extend Maree Fraser's and Carolyn Watson's appointments for another year at Ouruhia, although Carolyn will only be working part-time over 4 days. We have been pleased to be able to keep class sizes down this year, and classes will again be a similar size next year.

At this stage in 2018, there will be 4 classrooms and 4 teachers operating in Rooms 1, 2, 4 & 5 on Mondays to Thursdays.

On Fridays the classes will be recombined slightly with 3 teachers running a “Loving Language”, Arts, Science/Technology, and MAC Clubs programme...lots of creative, hands-on and fun activities that kids and teachers will love!

**Rms 1&2:** 25 chn Yr 1-3, growing to 35+; *Maree\**, *Colleen & Ruth* teaching 3 days each:  
*Mon & Tues: Colleen & Ruth*  
*Wed: Colleen & Maree*  
*Thurs: Ruth & Maree*  
*Fri: Maree (Older chn to join R4)*

**Rm 4:** 24 chn Yr 3-5,  
*Mon: Carolyn (morning) & Mark/Teri (afternoon)*  
*Tues & Wed: Carolyn*  
*Thurs: Carolyn (morning) & Mark/Teri (afternoon)*  
*Fri: Mark/Teri (Older chn to join R5)*

**Rm 5:** 24 chn Yr 5-8; *Teri/Mark*

Year 3s will be split between Rooms 2 and 4, and Year 5s will be split between Rooms 4 and 5. Families of these year groups will be notified which rooms we have chosen for your child, based on academic, social and sibling combinations, but placements may change between now and February if our numbers change.

## Library Books and School Readers

The school library will be closed for stock-take next Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please return any library books you may have at home; we are having an amnesty, so no fines/ no questions if you find a book that has been overdue for some time. Please help us to keep looking after our great wee library. *Also please hunt for school readers and other school books and return these next week. (A good job for the weekend, kids: tidy your room!!!)*

## End of Year/Start of Year

In our final week, we are treating our Year 8s to a night out at the Court Theatre (on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

**December**). This is a great way to mark reaching an important milestone in our lives...the transition from primary to secondary education. It is something our Year 8s always look forward to, and remember fondly for years to come.

The last day of school this year is **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. Children will be released to go home following an **assembly and farewell to the Year 8's at noon**.

Next year's stationery will be available from the office on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. School begins next year for children on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**.

### Next year: 2018 Term Dates:

#### Term 1: Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> April

Closed/TOD Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Waitangi Day Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February;

*In term:* Good Friday 30 Mar; Easter Monday 2 Apr; Easter Tues 3 Apr

*In holidays:* ANZAC – Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April

#### Term 2: Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Apr – Fri 6<sup>th</sup> July

*Teacher Only Day?: Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Apr or Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June*  
TBC

Queen's Birthday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June

#### Term 3: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### Term 4: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Oct – Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

Labour Day Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Canterbury Show Day Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November

See you at the concert,  
*Ka kite ano,*  
*Mark and the team at Ouruhia*