



24th March 2025

Dear Parents / Caregivers,



Mathematics & Statistics
Refreshed Learning Area
Day 1 Years 0-8 PLD



Teacher Only Day / Maths Professional Learning:

The first term of 2025 is flying by with the education sector awash with change. This is important for us to communicate as we negotiate our way through the implementation of two new curriculum documents, structured literacy and new approaches to teaching and learning. Thank you to the parent community for last week with our first mandated Teacher Only day where we had all schools from the Mackenzie join us to introduce and unpack the new Maths document. This was a very successful day and will be followed up by 3 more days of PLD with our facilitators working alongside teachers to develop best practice around the delivery of the curriculum. As a school we are still waiting on resources to support our programme, but as a staff and Board of Trustees we are working through expectations and beliefs about what we would like this to look like at Lake Tekapo School. As with all change it remains important to hear feedback and understand your community's priorities to ensure that as a school we are reflecting the attitudes and values we are wanting for our tamariki. As we work through this significant change in direction from the Ministry of Education, please be aware that as a small staff, we too are looking for clear guidelines when considering how we measure achievement and report to whānau.

Celebrating Success: Social Competencies - Skills, Dispositions and Attitudes



As a school one of the areas we endeavour to communicate is that of the "whole child". In the past this has been focussed on the life long skills of Participating and Contributing, Managing Self, Thinking, Relating to Others and Language Symbols and Texts. This has been and remains a huge focus with the Staff and Board of Trustees aligning these to the values that we want to see in our tamariki. The staff do put in a lot of thought and energy into the programmes that are running at school and while these can be misinterpreted as "just fun", they are backed and supported by the skills and dispositions we are wanting to promote in our learning. During Term One there have been daily swimming, triathlon and Fitness stations that help break our day, while supporting the learning that is happening in the classrooms.

Please take into account the learning you do see happening and consider that while children may talk in terms of “fun” that there are many skills, knowledge and attitudes underpinning why we do the things we do.

- Spatial Awareness
- Decision Making
- Problem Solving
- Selecting Skills
- Analysis & Evaluation
- Tactical Awareness



- Fundamental Movement Skills
- Fundamental Sport Skills
- Precision
- Control
- Fluency

- Team Work
- Verbal
- Non Verbal
- Giving & receiving instructions
- Conveying meanings & ideas

Swimming Sports - Well done Kids!!



One Width Freestyle - Morning Session

7 Year Old

Shiba Nagaoka (2nd)
Ezekiel Vucago (2nd)
Byron Frewen (3rd)
Isla Norman (2nd)
Bella Baynes (2nd)
Charlie Joyce (3rd)
Florence West (3rd)

8 Year Old

Yenul Honnanthara (3rd)
Indica Nathan (3rd)

9 Year Old

10 Year Old

Carter Marsh (1st)
Nini Xiao (1st)

Two Width Any Stroke

Raphael Story (1st)
Niko McKenzie (1st)
Byron Frewen (2nd)
Ezekiel Vucago (2nd)
Bella Baynes (2nd)
Florence West (3rd)
Tessa Simpson (3rd)

Yenul Honnanthara (1st)

Carter Marsh (1st)
Nini Xiao (1st)

One Width Back

Thomas Larraquel (1st)

One Width Kickboard

Rei Li (3rd)

One Length Freestyle - Non Competitive

Raphael Story (1st)
Niko McKenzie (2nd)
Isla Norman (2nd)

One Length Backstroke - Non Competitive

Niko McKenzie (1st)
Raphael Story (3rd)

One Length Freestyle - Competitive - Afternoon Session

7 Year Old

Raphael Story (2nd)
Isla Norman (2nd)

8 Year Old

Chris Wilton (2nd)
Amelia Berge (3rd)

9 Year Old

Quinn Jeffries (1st)

10 Year Old

Colton Tocker (1st)
Elijah Wilton (2nd)
Mollie Nagaoka (2nd)
Lexi Joyce (3rd)

One Length Back Stroke

Beauden Tocker (3rd)

Quinn Jeffries (1st)

Elijah Wilton (2nd)

Two Lengths Freestyle

Colton Tocker (2nd)
Elijah Wilton (3rd)

Two Lengths Backstroke

Colton Tocker (3rd)

Two Lengths Breaststroke

Elijah Wilton (2nd)
Chris Wilton (3rd)
Meara Tayem (2nd)

Relay

LTS A: Quinn Jeffries, Mollie Nagaoka, Colton Tocker, Elijah Wilton (1st)

LTS B: Chris Wilton, Tu Peni Cavalevu, Meara Tayem, Fletcher Berge (2nd)

Bees in Winter

On Wednesday morning we had a visit from local legend Stewie Inch. Stewie had been assigned the difficult task of helping us drill holes in the side of the Tussock Bank at the front of our school. This was an important job as we know Winter is coming, and we are hoping some of our Bumblebee Queens will choose to hibernate in these holes until Spring, when they will come out and organise a new hive for their brood. We also have mini hives from Geoff Brunnsden at NZ Bumblebee Conservation Trust, which we have placed at several places around our school, just in case a weary Queen decides to hide there for the Winter. This follows on from our Wild Flower Gardens, and our original Hive from Zonda.



We carefully placed and hid the mini hives, recording where we have put them, so we can check in Spring. Some of the class went drilling with Stewie and Mr Waymouth, so that many Queens have an opportunity to find a hideyhole for Winter. We recorded where they drilled, so we can check them in the Spring. A big thank you to Stewie and Geoff for your continued help and interest here at Lake Tekapo School.



**JUST A REMINDER,
THERE'S NOT TWO
OF YOU- INTERNET YOU
AND REAL YOU. THERE IS
JUST ONE
REAL YOU. WHICH MEANS
IF YOU'RE NOT KIND ON
THE INTERNET,
YOU'RE NOT KIND.**

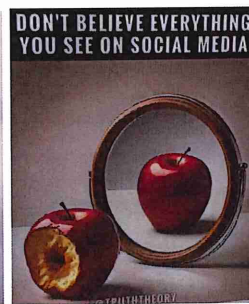
Life Education Bus: Digital Citizenship "Keeping Our Children Safe Online"

With the recent visit from the Life Education bus focused on Digital Citizenship, it seems appropriate that we follow this topic up in Term Two. One of the key takeaways was the importance of age-appropriate social media use with popular platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat showing itself to be a reality for many of our children. It is important to reiterate that these platforms have a minimum age requirement of 13 years. This does mean that

primary-aged children should not have their own accounts, as these platforms are not designed for young users. Listening to the children answering questions in both the Godley and the Macaulay class showed us that our children are not immune to the exposure of the digital world. Social media can be a space for connection and creativity, but it also comes with risks.



Apologising to a screwed up piece of paper doesn't make it smooth again.
Apologising to someone we have cyberbullied doesn't heal the emotional scars that stay inside.



Thinking Skills

In teacher speak, the concept of "thinking about thinking" always seems so random. As mentioned above, with the fast changing landscape of technology and information soundbites we need to be conscious of teaching children "how to think". Teaching thinking skills is essential to help young learners develop problem-solving abilities, creativity, and confidence in their own ideas. Critical thinking allows children to question, analyze, and make informed decisions. Creative thinking encourages curiosity and innovation. Logical reasoning helps them understand cause and effect, while reflective thinking fosters self-awareness and learning from experiences. This term the children have been working through a number of thinking strategies so that they can label and consider what works best for them.



School Triathlon: Wednesday 26th March - Start at 1:00pm

Parents required as Marshalls on the day:



We apologise for the “umming and ahing” with our own School Triathlon, but between School commitments and dates not falling well for parents, we have postponed this a number of times. The children have been doing a great job in preparation for this day. It will be a relaxed affair with hopefully a scorcher afternoon like the recent few days. We will begin our Triathlon at **1:00pm** and with the low numbers run the different races in the combined year groups of Year 1 & 2, Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6. If you are around, please feel very welcome to come and support the afternoon.



2025 Triathlon

Year One and Two

Run:

- Start at the Tyres down the field.
- Run down the field to cones set up
- Move around cones and then around climbing wall
- Run once around the perimeter of the field
- Move to Bike Transition outside the playground.

Bike:

- Once around the outside of the field
- Drop bikes back at transition zone.
- Run across court to pool

Swim

- 2 widths

Run to Finish at the end of the courts

Year Three and Four

Run:

- Start at the Tyres down the field
- Run down the field to cones set up
- Move around cones and then around climbing wall
- Run around the perimeter of the field, across the tennis court to carpark
- Cut across the grass area and go around the Maukatua Sign
- Go around sign and loop back.
- Run around the footpath on the way back.
- Move to Bike Transition at staff carpark

Bike:

- Repeat run course on your bike. (across the grass area)
- Bike around to Maukatua Sign and loop around.
- Head back following the path this time.
- Come back to Staff carpark for bike drop.
- Across Green Room steps to pool

Swim

- One Length - From Deep end.

Run to Finish at the end of the courts

Year Five and Six

Run:

- Start at the Tyres down the field
- Run down the field to cones set up
- Move around cones and then around climbing wall
- Run around the perimeter of the field, across the tennis court to carpark
- Cut across the grass area and go around the Maukatua Reserve.
- Run around the footpath on the way back.
- Move to Bike Transition at staff carpark

Bike:

- Repeat run course on your bike. (across the grass area)
- Bike around to Maukatua Reserve.
- Head back following the path this time.
- Come back to Staff carpark for bike drop.
- Across Green Room steps to pool

Swim

- Into shallow end - 2 lengths and out to field for finish

Run to Finish at the end of the courts

South Canterbury Triathlon: We had a large contingent of children enter the South

Canterbury Triathlon on Thursday 6th March in Timaru. Colton Tocker, Chris Wilton, Fletcher Berge, Tupeni Cavalevu, Mollie Nagaoka, Quinn Jeffries, Amelia Berge and Heleen Speck all competed well and achieved their goal of making this event. There was some learning along the way with the children's strength of character coming through. Well done kids.

Aorangi Crescent - A Very Busy Road.



The staff has been noticing recently more and more children biking and walking to school. This is a great part of small community living, but as we are a busy tourist town it seems only right to remind parents that safety is our number one priority.

Aorangi Crescent is like pre-covid days with the number of people using the road, both pedestrians and cars on the increase. Can we please encourage you to talk with your child(ren) about crossing at the pedestrian crossing, walking your bike across and crossing the main road. When driving past a school,

vehicles are required to go at 30kph, when school is in session.

The School's Policy is:

Getting to and from School Safely

Road safety is a shared responsibility and Lake Tekapo School is committed to providing a safe environment so far as is reasonably practicable. We work with relevant authorities and organisations (e.g. our local council, Waka Kotahi, and the police) to provide a road safe environment at and around the school. We also promote road safe practices for members of the school community travelling to and from school.

Road safety at and around school

The board is responsible for traffic management at Lake Tekapo School, taking into consideration school and community needs, accessibility, hazard identification, and risk management. Lake Tekapo School appreciates cooperation from our school community in ensuring a road safe environment at and around the school. Staff and visitors to the school travelling by vehicle, including parents/caregivers and whānau, are expected to follow road rules and school guidelines about driving and parking at or near the school. We communicate our expectations about road safety (including pick-up/drop-off and parking) to the school community at the start of each school year and throughout the year as required.

Travelling to and from school

Lake Tekapo School encourages students to be responsible and road safe when travelling to and from school. We consult with parents/caregivers and whānau and share any school expectations about safe travel to and from school at the beginning of the year and throughout the year as appropriate.

Dates and Planning for Term One:

- Tuesday 25th March - BOT Meeting
- Wednesday 26 March - LTS Triathlon
- Thursday 3rd April - Dark Sky Visit at School
- Thursday 10th - End of Term Assembly
- Monday 28th April - Term 2 Start