

Tuesday 26th November



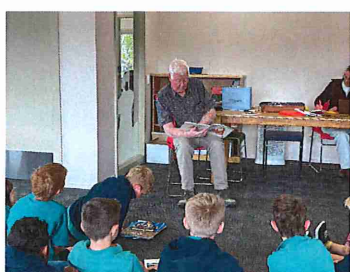
Dear Parents / Caregivers,

We are in interesting times as a small school with so many changes currently taking affect across the sector and the need to reflect on what this will look like for Lake Tekapo School. There has been a lot of work and planning aligned to the notion of our “local curriculum” and making the most of our unique environment. This is the case for many schools, in the belief that a balanced curriculum should indeed reflect the eight learning areas: English, the Arts, Health and Physical Education, Learning Languages, Mathematics and Statistics, Science, Social Sciences, and Technology that help to grow the whole child. As a Board of Trustees and parent community this will be a focus as we move into the 2025 year. It is also a reminder, that this balanced curriculum needs people and resources to help us make these initiatives happen if they are to sit along side the current expectations and workload expected to bring a curriculum alive. There is no denying numeracy and literacy matter, but to rank these against art, music, te reo, outdoor education, social studies and sport as add ons to a children’s learning does seem slightly simplistic. We will try and continue to add value to ALL subjects with the aim of educating children to work towards the life long learning skills required of them in our modern society. This term we have had a real push with some of the initiatives that have been bubbling away and working in fits and starts. These initiatives have fallen to the local curriculum goals and do sit beside the values of Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Tuakiri, Ako and Tangatawhenuatanga. The big idea of “Sense of Self, Sense of Place” are embodied in these initiatives and the pillars of Hauora, Kaitiakitanga and Sustainability are the ideals that are currently driving our curriculum. We have seen real success with this during Term 4 and as you read and reflect on the learning and upcoming events, please reflect on the skills and dispositions that the children are naturally being exposed to. Hopefully this can continue.

## Local Readers and Local Legend Biographies:



**Dale Davey**



**Stewie Inch**



**Bron Williams**



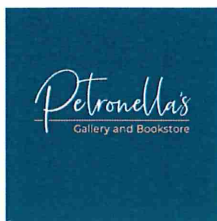
**Alyse Boaz**

As part of making the most of our Library, we have welcomed in local readers to share and discuss their love of literacy and to read with the children. This is such a simple, yet enriching time where the children get to hear and see what reading and words mean to familiar faces. Part of this is our focus on Local Legends where the children are taking the skills learnt from our Oral Historian, Ruth Low, and interviewing local people for publishing on our website. This will be ongoing and thank you to the locals who have been approached to be interviewed thus far.





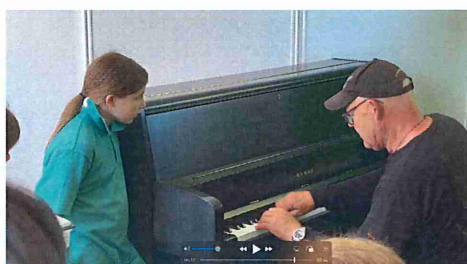
We recently had Russell and Lesley Jeffries have their interview and we will complete the others before the end of the term. We will keep you posted.



Lastly, as part of this Literacy focus, Sharron Binns from Petronella's Bookshop has approached the school and is working with us on establishing a "Sprout Book Club" that will run throughout 2025. This idea ties in well with the children writing their own book reviews for Petronella's while having the opportunity to meet and discuss in a scaffolded session books of interest, along with the sharing of books.

Thankyou Sharron and Wilma for your continued support of the school and for your perseverance and support of all things "Sprout".

### **Lake Tekapo Kindergarten / Community Garden / Ruud Klienpaste - Thank you Sam Simpson**



We have so much talent and expertise on offer, whether that is the "Bugman" giving us a "blues rendition" in between teaching about insects or our local poet and storyteller supporting the school and kindergarten with the community garden. Thank you to Jasmine for taking the initiative and including our school. Thank you also to Sam Simpson who put in the yards to get the garden area ship shape and also tidying up the field at school. The idea of the community garden will act as part of our school transition programme where the kids can meet and help out with the care and upkeep of this area. Please note: We are hoping to have an afternoon picnic with parents from the Kindergarten and school on Tuesday 10th December.

### **Ruud Kleinpaste Visit - Monday 2nd December / Tuesday 3rd December:**

We are looking forward to having Ruud join us again next week and again thank you to the parents that can help with transport to Aoraki Mt Cook. We will be visiting Aoraki Mt Cook School, who will hopefully join in on this opportunity looking forward. This visit from Ruud will help us set up the "Bumblebee" investigation for next year, where the children will be tasked with investigating and tracking the "hairy-footed bumblebee" found here in Tekapo. Part of this will be the planting of seeds on the Tuesday.

### **Athletics and Fitness Stations: Thanks Elijah and Chris Wilton**



It is great when you give kids a responsibility and they grasp it with both hands. Both Elijah and Chris have taken the idea of building on our Fitness and P.E. rotation by working through series of agility, balance and cross over activities to support our Physical Literacy and multisensory bent. This has been brilliant to watch with both boys demonstrating and talking

through each exercise and the benefits and reasons for these exercises. The aim is for all our children to have an opportunity to lead and use these skills as part of their own sport and recreation.



**South Canterbury Athletics:** We have had a huge contingent from Lake Tekapo School going through to the South Canterbury Athletics today. It was so good watching the attitude and perseverance on display at the Mackenzie Cluster sports with all our children just “giving it a crack”. There was not one complaint from the children, and our kids entered into everything that was going.

We had 13 children qualify for the South Canterbury Athletic Sports which is representative of the attitude on display.

| 800m          | Long Jump     | High Jump      | Sprints          | Baseball Throw   | Shot Put        |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Colton Tocker | Colton Tocker | Amelia Berge   | Colton Tocker    | Colton Tocker    | Chris Wilton    |
|               | Amelia Berge  | Chris Wilton   | Amelia Berge     | Chris Wilton     | William Simpson |
|               | Lucy Monk     | Quinn Jeffries | Chris Wilton     | Quinn Jeffries   |                 |
|               | Meara Tayem   | Elijah Wilton  | Quinn Jeffries   | Mila Jeffries    |                 |
|               | Chris Wilton  |                | Tu Peni Cavalevu | Johnny Monk      |                 |
|               |               |                | Indica Nathan    | Tu Peni Cavalevu |                 |
|               |               |                | Carter Marsh     |                  |                 |

### Southern Football / Civil Defence EOTC



The children had the opportunity to have soccer training with Southern football coach, Emma Baird who has offered to come back early next year. The soccer goals have certainly raised the profile of soccer in the town and it has been sensational watching the afternoon and weekend games of informal soccer happening on the field.

The children visited the Community hall to hear from the Mackenzie District Council about the Emergency Services on offer and the preparations and plans that council has in case of an emergency in the Mackenzie region. Thank you to Chris Clarke for making this happen.

### School Pool: Wednesday 27th November - A Massive Thank you to Nigel Frost



We are very close to opening the pool again for summer and swimming instruction here at School. A special thank you to Mr Nigel Frost who fronts each season and cleans and prepares the pool without fuss. The pool is such a huge asset to the school and the hours that Nigel puts into making sure it is in ship shape condition is genuinely appreciated. Swimming instruction will be in the afternoons and we are hoping to get the pool underway this Wednesday once the water balance is right. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the pool documentation around pool usage over the holidays and

how we will run the pool over the summer break. More information will follow shortly.



**End of Year Formalities:** Please complete the attached forms so that we can plan for this accordingly:

**Community Carols:** This is a tremendous way our kids can help support the festivities on the night and say thank you to the community for the goodwill and support shown to us throughout the year.



### Schedule on the Afternoon:

- 4:00pm - The children's treasure hunt.
- 5:15pm: Father Christmas
- 5:30pm: Community Carols - Our Children sing.

### The Church of the Good Shepherd - End of Year Celebration - Monday 9th December: 5:30pm



This is genuinely one of the highlights of the year and another great example of the unique opportunities offered to our children. This year we have focussed our performance on reflecting on the year that has been and the importance of taking time to be still. Every year you question why it takes us as a school just before Christmas

to get ourselves down to this iconic site. The joy and feeling our children get from making visitors and locals happy through song and sentiment is immeasurable.

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### Dates:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 26th November | SC Athletics / BOT Meeting   |
| 2-3 December  | 2nd December - Ruud Visit - Aoraki Mt Cook visit<br>3rd December - Planting -Community Garden 9:30am |
| 4th December  | Tekapo Xmas Business Evening 4pm   |
| 9th December  | Nativity 5:30pm  |
| 10th December | Picnic with Kindergarten after school - A Relaxed Get together.                                      |
| 11th December | End of Term Assembly 1:30pm - Community Hall   |
| 13th December | Parent Working Bee   |
| 17th December | Last Day / Water Afternoon - Term 4 with Kindy in the afternoon - Reports Last Day.                  |



Please return:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**My child(ren) will be attending the Community Carols on Wednesday 4th December .**

Yes

No

**The Church of the Good Shepherd - End of Year Celebration - Monday 9th December: 5:30pm**



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**My child(ren) will be attending the Nativity at the Good Shepherd Church on Monday 9th December .**

Yes

No

**Working Bee - Friday 13th December - Time to be confirmed.**

I am happy to help out at the School Working Bee on Friday 13th December. We will have a list of jobs to be completed prior to the day.

Yes

No