

NEWSLETTER

08 December, 2017



From small seeds grow forest giants

Upcoming Events

2017
9-10 Dec Tahakopa Christmas Festival
11 Dec BOT meeting at 2.30pm, school
15 Dec Christmas Concert at the hall
19 Dec Shared lunch at school
19 Dec Assembly at 2.10pm, school
20 Dec Last day of school year, 12.30pm

2018
25 Jan PLD for staff in Balclutha
29 Jan TOD (school for staff only)
30 Jan TOD (school for staff only)
31 Jan First day for children for 2018
06 Feb Waitangi day holiday
12-16 Feb Swimming week
21 Feb Small Schools Athletics Day

Christmas Concert

There is still time so put on your thinking caps and get creative and join in the fun on **Friday 15 December** at the Christmas Concert in the hall from 7.00pm.

We would love to have acts from the community, and make this a real community event for all. Please let us know what you wish to share.

All items for the Christmas Hamper raffle can be dropped off at the school.

Our Stars



The following children have achieved 100% in their spelling and basic facts work. Fantastic effort and work by you all, great.

Basic Fact Stars:

Week 7 – Jacquelyn

Week 8 – no one this week

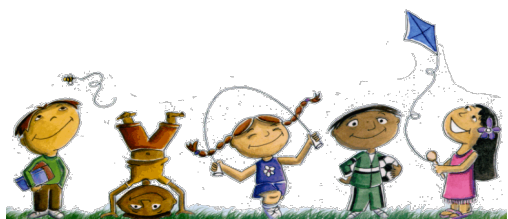
Spelling Stars:

Week 7 – Jacquelyn, Clark, Sarah, Alex

Week 8 – Liam, Alex, Sarah, Jack, Izzy, Casey

From Class:

What an amazing day the children had last Friday learning to surf. Their instructor said they were the best school group he has had to teach and that they picked everything up quickly. The children spent over an hour in the water surfing, yes they all stood on their boards and surfed the waves in. They only came in as we had to return the wetsuits and get ready to leave.

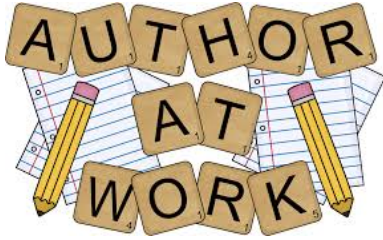


Other items:

- Thank you to those who ordered these **2018 calendars, notepads, cards, mouse mats and diaries** we hope these will be back at school before the end of the term.
- Please make sure to tell the bus driver if your children are not on the bus, thanks.
- **Term dates for 2018:**

Term 1	31 January until 13 April
Term 2	30 April until 6 July
Term 3	23 July until 28 September
Term 4	15 October until 18 December





Children's Writing



I went to Balclutha and I got new shoes. My shoes are called scuffs.

Jacquelyn

Surfing

This week we are going surfing. First someone is coming to teach us how to surf. We will spend the day at the beach. If I am not playing in the sand, I will be surfing.

Liam

Yesterday Dad, Alex and I went ploughing in a paddock. Alex and I went killing thistles because we didn't have anything to do.

Clark

Jack came over on his motorbike. We went on his bike. We went around the paddock on our motorbikes. Then we went to Richard's to tail his lamb.

Alex

On Friday the whole school went to Curio Bay for surfing. When we first got there we went to the petrified forest, while we were waiting for our lesson. The petrified forest was amazing. All those trees from long ago have fallen over and turned to rock.

When it was time for our lesson we had to get the right surf board. I had a yellow one.

After that we went into the water and the instructor took us out to get good waves. Then we got to go surfing. Then we got to see the dolphins and they all came to me. I surfed like a dolphin.

Sarah

The Ghoul Next Door

Some have told me of a local legend. About an executioner that lived in the house that sits quietly next to mine. I have so longed to explore the mysterious house across the fence. They say that he worked for an ancient king. He had worn a balaclava made of rags over his head and wore a black sheet for his clothes. Every criminal in the old-fashioned village would be sentenced to a bloody death by the king. Some even say the king is still alive. The harbour has a coral reef at the bottom of it. If you have an oxygen tank and diving gear you can see the coral and all the fish. There is also a few skeleton bones at the bottom. I will tell you the story about a day in 1983 when I thought I was going to die.

I walked past the house while coming back from school, I heard a deep, hoarse voice calling me from inside. It sounded like someone calling 'help me'. I was pulled by an invisible force over the dead grass and tall weeds. The dark and dusty windows were impossible to see through. As I was getting dragged along, my sneaker came off. As I got closer I could smell a ghoulish, rotten smell. The smell got worse as I grew closer to the building. Somehow the knocker lifted and banged on the door. I saw someone move swiftly inside the house and then the door slowly creaked open.

There standing in front of me was a dead, rotten, smelly ghoul. The ghoul slowly moved towards me. I tried to step back but the invisible force held me strongly in place. The ghoul's horrible breath gave me shivers down the back of my spine. I coughed. I had to get out of here, I concentrated and slowly I felt myself moving my legs. I ran as quickly as I could over the yard and through my front door. I ran upstairs to my room, sat down on my bed and worried about what just happened to me.

The next day I saw nothing as I walked slowly past the house. The ghoul seemed to have disappeared. The only person who claimed he had seen it was Tommy Baxter. He lived in this house before me, so he could have seen it. The retirement home that he lived in was on Livingston Avenue, just a few blocks from my house. He was my only hope. As I got to the front door of the retirement building, I quickly grabbed a bunch of freshly grown roses and ran through the door.

The retirement home was basically all red with blue spots here and there. The receptionist counter-top was just empty with a brochure stand. I asked for Tommy Baxter, the lady directed me to the room, one seven nine. As I was walking across the hall, I tripped over my foot. At first I thought it was the invisible force again, but I figured out it wouldn't be here. The door of one seven nine was silver.

As I walked through the door, I was attacked by a terrible dead skin smell. The room was a faded creamy yellow colour. The bed was in the middle of the room. For some weird reason the curtains were pulled and the only light was a dim but powerful glow from the lamp sitting on the nightstand. The carpet was just plain white with a few black splotches. Tommy was asleep in a rocking chair in the far corner. I had to get some answers.

Casey

The Normandy Landings (D-Day)

The 6th of June is an important day in the history of the Second World War. This was the day the Germans were finally put on their back foot.

After the retreat of the British forces at Dunkirk in 1940. Since 1942 Mr Stalin was pressing for a second front to be created in western Europe to relieve some of the pressure on the Eastern Front. But the American army was still building up and there was not enough landing craft to transport the forces all the way to France. So an invasion had to wait a bit longer.

First from the Allies came Operation Bodyguard. The Allies captured all German spies and tricked Hitler into thinking that the Allies would invade the Balkans, South France or Norway. The Germans fell for this trick and spread thin their defences all over the French Coast. The Allied forces left Portsmouth for Normandy.

German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel and a few others oversaw the fortification of the beaches of Normandy, France. The most highly defended was Omaha Beach, with cliffs on each side of the beaches.

Dragon's teeth were laid down and so was barbed wire. On the beach wall men constructed concrete bunkers. In these bunkers were the German MG-42 machine guns.

The attack force went on landing craft to the beaches of Gold, Juno, Sword, Utah and Omaha. As the doors of the landing craft opened, men were slaughtered almost instantly by machine gun fire.

Omaha was the bloodiest of all the beaches. Over 2000 men were killed or wounded.

The Canadians landed at Juno Beach, right in front of a beachside town. This picture to the bottom left shows Canadian soldiers scrambling onto the beach.

The main objectives of the Canadians were link up the beaches of Gold and Sword which the British would land on. The Canadian soldiers achieved this but all of the beaches were not connected until the 12th of June.

Not all of the objectives set were completed, but the Allies had gained a foothold over the Germans in Continental Europe. The Allies advanced forward towards the French capital. Entschuldigung, Herr Hitler.

Joey

Report on Kumbali and Kago the odd companionship

When Kumbali the Cheetah was a cub he was the runt of his family and was losing weight. The staff got very concerned and raised him themselves, Kumbali was growing but was in need of a companion for usually in a litter the cheetah would have one of its siblings as a friend and they would stay together forever. The zoo's staff found out about a puppy whose original owners abandoned and was sent to a high kill shelter. The puppy whose name is Kago was the same age as Kumbali so the staff adopted Kago. When Kumbali and Kago first met a few minutes later they were playing together.

Izzy

Taupo's volcano

On the second of December 2016 it was Clarks Birthday, the whole school was there. Clark saw smoke coming from where Taupo's volcano was and Clark screamed "VOLCANO". 5 minutes later we all fell over I screamed "EARTHQUAKE" and after that Alex saw a giant wave coming towards us, Alex figured out it was a tsunami.

Alex grabbed Clark, Izzy and me and ran up the hill. Everybody became zombies but us, so we had to get to the closest airport that has not been infected, We needed something to kill the zombies with. Sadly Clark got dragged away, but Alex, Izzy and I ran from the zombies. Izzy said "I'm hungry" so we had to find some food, we found a supermarket and we went in.

We started to look around when a person jumps out at us and we got a fright. The person told us we needed to get out of here, but Izzy moaned she was hungry so the man gave her a packet of donuts, that fixed our hunger. We got out of there as fast as we can, we tried Dunedin airport but there were zombies there. We found a car that was open with the key inside and half gas inside. Izzy was driving to Timaru and she noticed the car was running out of fuel so we had to stop at the Z station on the way to Timaru. We couldn't pay so we had to find some money.

Braydee

The battle for the pacific pearl harbour

The surprise attack by the Japanese came as a shock to the Americans people and led directly to the Americans entry into the war in both the Pacific and Europe. The following day, December 8, the United States declared war on Japan, and several days later, on December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. The U.S. responded with a declaration of war against Italy. There were numerous war prime ministers the attack on Pearl Harbour destroyed 8-12 ships

The Japanese had at least three aircraft carriers they attacked in two waves one from the west and one from the south, the one from the south had 200 dive bombers 300 torpedo bombers and 100 fighters. The one from the west was a lot bigger with 200 dive bombers 300 torpedo bombers and 300 fighters so the Japanese was a very strong country. But did not have enough supplies to fuel their operations which forced them to team up with their allies Germany and their leader Mr Adolf Hitler.

The Aircraft carriers of the Americans aircraft carriers were not in port at the time of the attack but the two biggest ships that America had where the Arizona, Oklahoma and they were both destroyed and sunk by Japanese bombers, the Japanese flew low to avoid the Americans radar system but had to pull up around the hills they had also surprised the Americans simply because they were in their beds relaxing.

The Japanese torpedoes were fitted with blocks of wood to keep them from crashing into the bottom of the harbour and when the torpedo strikes its target it sends a big spray of explosives and water in the air and by the time the Americans realize they were being attacked it was too late and most men were still waking up from their relaxing sleep.

Guadalcanal was a very brutal battle between the Imperial Japanese and the Americans

Tahakopa Christmas Festival



December 9th - 10th
9.30am – 4.30pm at Tahakopa Hall

Morning and afternoon tea, Christmas treats, lots to see

Live Christmas Programme on

Saturday - 10.30a
- 2.30pm
Sunday - 10.30am church service and shared lunch
- 2.30pm

Everyone come and enjoy



Our Hut



Church Service this Sunday 10 December is in the hall
at 10.30am, shared lunch to follow.

then on Sunday 24 December at 9.00pm at Our Hut,
everyone welcome.