



Mahana School

www.mahana.school.nz

Strong, Positive, Responsible,
Brilliant, Contributors

9 December 2016

Term 4 Events

9 December Prizegiving - 5:30 pm start
15 December Last Day of 2016
(Due to Athletics Day
being cancelled)

Our School Online Kotuku

www.mahanakotuku.blogspot.com

Kotare

www.kotaremahana.blogspot.co.nz

Kereru

www.mahanakereru.blogspot.com

Piwakawaka

www.mahanapiwaka.blogspot.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/MahanaSchool

Twitter

www.twitter.com/#!/MahanaSchool

2017

7 February 2017 Term 1 Starts

Assembly Today

No 2.30pm assembly today.

End of Year Prize Giving

This is tonight from 5.30pm. Bring a picnic and a blanket or cover, as the ground will be damp. So you can feed hungry children, we aim to begin the actual prize - giving at around 6pm. There will not be sausages this year. The pool will be open after the proceedings are finished.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND A SAFE HOLIDAYS!**

Teaching Staff 2017

Next year Jane Bosecke and Justin Neal will teach Year 6 – 8 in Kōtuku, Ellie White will teach Year 3 – 5 in Kōtare, Carolyn Scorrar will teach Year 2 – 3 in Kerāru, and Kerin Dodunski will teach Year 1 – 2 in Pīwakawaka. Ali Davis will teach in Pīwaka for a hour each day while Kerin is involved in Reading Recovery.

Ellie White

We all looking forward to working with Ellie in 2017. Ellie offers excellent class management, great teaching skills and all round positivity. She is also getting married in February so the start of the year will be a busy time for her!

Classes 2017

Today you will receive a notice with the class your child or children will be in next year. If you have any questions, concerns or thoughts about your child's class next year, please talk to Justin or any of the staff. We are more than happy to listen.

Last Day and First Day

Our last day is Thursday 15th December. The bus will be at school at 12.30pm. Year 8 students will ring the bell to mark their last act as students at Mahana at 12.15pm. School will resume on the 7th February 2017.

Sandra Rolls

Sandra is leaving us and is venturing south with her husband to live in Twizel! We will all miss Sandra's sense of humour, absolute commitment to her students, and her ability to reach out to kids and make a difference with them. It's been wonderful to have Sandra on the Mahana team. We wish her and Shaun all the best as they embark on their new adventure.

BOT SPOT

The final meeting of the year for the board of trustees was held on Monday December 5th. We had a chance to go over the results for student achievement for the end of 2016 and we're pleased to see some noticeable gains in areas we had targeted in our annual plan which was set in the school Charter at the beginning of the year. For our 2017 targets, we see a need for ramping up writing skills and funds have been allocated to assist the teachers to upskill and model some new ideas. Looking at other schools, we are most certainly not alone in noticing this need which appears to figure across the whole country. Generally speaking, reading results are still impressive and students achieve within expectations for maths. In cooperation with some other schools in the region we are also hoping to get some assistance with new skills in science tuition for 2017.

One of the other goals from 2016 was to get a snapshot of social behaviour in the school and to introduce a couple of new ideas to ensure the students are in a happy state of mind when they are at school. When we compared their beginning-of-the-year responses with those at the end of the year, there were some very heart-warming results. Happiness begins in the home so considerable credit needs to go to parents for being strong and positive role models for the children.

Now that 2016 is almost behind us, we can reflect on some good stories. Having the fourth classroom click into place so fluidly to cope with the extended roll was wonderful and while there have been some delays with the Ministry of Education funding programme for capital works, we're confident that we can get stuck in early next year with the Kotuku classroom upgrade. The Chromebooks which were trialled in Kotuku this year were a great success. Initially many of us were concerned that such technology could be open to misuse and may even impede achievement but we're pleased to see that our faith in the teaching staff to make it work was well-founded and the students have made them into worthwhile tools for development.

We were very sad to receive Sandra Rolls' resignation. She is heading to Twizel where her husband has a new job. We wish them both the very best and sincerely thank Sandra for her work at Mahana School this year. She will be sorely missed by staff and students alike. Godspeed, Sandra.

Ellie White will be Sandra's replacement as of 2017. Ellie was previously with Parklands School and comes very highly recommended! Welcome to the school Ellie, we are all looking forward to working with you and having you join the Mahana team.

Congratulations must go to Kerin Dodunski for taking on the mammoth challenge of qualifying as a Reading Recovery teacher. Reading Recovery is a New Zealand-designed programme that gives students aged 6 and over who are struggling with their reading, a one-on-one booster tuition course. It's a system that works very well but requires a lot of dedication by the teacher and we're especially grateful that Kerrin will be our in-house Reading Recovery teacher.

Thank you to all those wonderful people who helped out with the school working bee back in October. The grounds are starting to come alive and give the school a special character. The whole essence of success of our small rural school is based on community contribution, of everybody working together and helping out and it's great to see that even with a roll approaching 90, we're still a team.

You may soon notice an AED device (more commonly called a defibrillator) attached to one of the school buildings. This life-saving device is for use by the whole community. Although there are operating instructions within the cabinet, we will be looking to provide some training at a later date. Thanks go to Tammy Pegg, Will Fisher's mum for working on this project and thanks also to all those people in the area who donated the money.

We hope you all enjoy your summer holidays, have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to being back on deck in February

Community Notices

Table Tennis

Come along and try out something new or for some practice for those that have been before.

School Holiday Program January 2017

Tuesday 17th, Thursday 19th, Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th.

09:30 – 12:00, Saxton Table Tennis Stadium.

Cost is \$10 to cover all four sessions.

Bats and balls provided.

SHOHEI-RYU KARATE CLUB - MOUTERE HILLS COMMUNITY CENTRE

We would like to invite you to train with us again this school Term 1. The class is aimed at children from about 5 years of age and upwards and is held on Wednesdays between 3.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.. Classes will be held from the 1st February 2016. Beginners in Karate are made welcome, please wear loose clothing.

For further details of the Upper Moutere club and other clubs in the area, please contact Paul.

Email: paul.natzyl@shohei-ryukarate.com

Web: shohei-ryukarate.com

Tennis Coaching

Junior tennis coaching will recommence in Term 1 2017. If your child wishes to learn how to play tennis, please email Vanessa.claybrookestate@xtra.co.nz.

Lessons run at the Upper Moutere Tennis Club on Thursdays.

For Sale - Bikes

Girls white Giant 26 inch bike, front suspension. Good condition.

Suit 9 year old and up. \$160.00

Girls metallic purple Giant 20 inch bike, front suspension. Good condition.

Suit 4-7 year old. \$90.00

Please contact Linda (Renee's mum) 027 367 5013.

Photos available from the school office