



Halswell School  
437 Halswell Road  
Christchurch 8025  
Phone (03) 322 7038  
Fax (03) 322 5028  
Email:  
[admin@halswell.school.nz](mailto:admin@halswell.school.nz)  
[www.halswell.school.nz](http://www.halswell.school.nz)

## **N** EWSLETTER No.35 – The Last! DECEMBER 2011

In my opinion, *“The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.”* ~ Burton Hillis

As usual school closes for the Year at 12:30pm this Friday. Please collect children prior to 1:30pm.

# **SEASON'S GREETINGS!**

Click here to view our Christmas video as developed by Dean Holdaway:

<http://elfyourself.jibjab.com/view/kKFLNZaepfvXoAXg4DBr>

Sadly it is that time of the year when we say 'farewell' to our wonderful Year 8 children. This year's group has been outstanding in every way, academically, sportingly, culturally and most importantly interpersonally. Our 53 year 8s are dispersing to 14 different secondary schools, moving onto a new beginnings with new challenges, new choices, and with our best wishes.

As I said at Thursdays Prize giving, 'life is full of change, just like the old saying goes, "The only thing in life that is constant is change." Change forces us to grow as individuals; it is what keeps us developing as people. Our children need to welcome change, see the potential in it and grab hold of it.

'If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most certainly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad.

'We all go through major life transitions several times throughout our lives. It is inevitable. So far the Year 8's have survived starting school, for the first time in their lives and changing classrooms and teachers; now they are graduating from Halswell and settling into a new School, then in no time they'll be off to University or Polytech and part-time work, before becoming a fully-fledged adult and their first full-time job.'

I sincerely believe that our Year 8's have the necessary knowledge, understandings, values and attitudes to cope with what life throws at them and make it through to adult life as well rounded and highly skilled and educated people.

A further 19 children from all levels of the school are off to other parts of Christchurch, New Zealand and beyond. Our sincere best wishes go with each and every one of them.



Luke Fowler (pictured) was a member of the winning team at his age group South Island Football Tournament, held in Blenheim. He has been selected in the APFA South Island football Academy squad. Congratulations Luke!



Ben Cairns was recently select for Christchurch's top Year 8 boys cricket team. He is pictured receiving his cap from Shane Bond. In January Ben will be travelling to Invercargill to take part in the South Island Tournament. Congratulations Ben!

**The following is the list of major prize/award winners from last Thursday's Prize Giving:**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Beaurepaires – Trophy for Most Improved Swimmer | Rose Perkins                          |
| Kelly Sports Scholarships                       | Charlotte Apiti<br>Catherine Marshall |
| Peter Woods Cup for Technical Skills            | Ethan Gall                            |
| Annie Geddis Sewing Cup                         | Madison Wilson                        |
| Beesley Family Arts Cup                         | Brylea Hollinshead<br>Ayden Polaschek |

Performing Arts Cup – Donated by Stephanie Kokay Dean Holdaway

Sports Cup – R. A. Collie Sports Cup Oliver Marfell  
Biggs Family Sports Cup Lucy Collins

Chris Harris Cup for Cricket – Donated by the Purdie Family Ben Cairns

Burke Family Cup for Diligence Hayley Buist  
Tara Purvis

“Most Valuable Player” Certificates in School Team Sports at Yr 7 and 8

Basketball	Shane du Plessis
Boys Cricket	Jack Perkins
Girls Cricket	Jade Jenkins
Football	Kieran Pinkney
Golf	Andy Jo
Hockey	Fletcher Edmond
Kiwi Flag	Jessica Thornley
Netball	Brittany Gilmore
Rugby	Matthew Hay

Marsh Cup – Services to School – Boys Devon Harding

Annie Geddis Cup – Services to School – Girls Rosalie Wilkinson

ICAS Plaque, to be received for the school, by Lewis Edmond, on behalf of all Distinction and High Distinction Winners. Lewis achieved the Highest NZ Score in the Yr 5 ICAS Computer Competition.

Hann Cup for Academic Achievement Dean Holdaway  
Joseph Hutchinson

Brett Cornish Memorial – Consideration Towards Others Rosalie Wilkinson

Nicola Collins Trophy for Determination and Perseverance Christopher Densem-Rogers

Reg Garters Cup for Contribution to, and Participation in, School Activities Lucy Collins

Eunmaru Ju Scholarship for the Most Outstanding Mathematician Joseph Hutchinson

International Student Music Scholarship – Most Promising Orchestral Player Seongah Jun

International Pupil of the Year Nataniel Ghwee

Chairperson's Award – Halswell School's Most "ACTIVE" Learner Joseph Hutchinson

Active Awards – As voted by classmates.

Year 3 and 4

Rm 15

Rm 16

Rm 17

Rm 18

Rm 19

Rm 20

Samantha Aitchison, Callum Daly

Zara Flint, Hugo Rycroft

Meg Inwood, Benjamin Stewart

Oliver Knoyle, Amy McNicholl,

Mackenzie Whittington

Adam Gualter, Rose Perkins

Julie Baek, Harriet Fletcher

Year 5 and 6

Rm 21

Rm 22

Rm 23

Rm 24

Rm 25

Rm 26

Benjamin Fowler

Reece Buist

Millie Edwards

Oskar Victor

Abbey Meiritz-Reid

Georgia Doyle

Year 7 and 8.

Rm 11

Rm 12

Rm 13

Rm 14

Rosalie Wilkinson

Brianna McCallum

Hayley Buist

Joseph Hutchinson

Photos online from the Prize giving:

<http://photoshots.co.nz/event.php>

Login: hsp2011

Password: pacB3J

Added to all these awards is Lewis Edmond who achieved the highest score, nationally for Year 5, in the ICAS computing, and received a medal at a special ceremony in Auckland. This is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations Lewis – I now know who I can turn to when I can't get my computer to do what I want!

This year has literally thrown the most enormous challenges at us all. The quakes have created uncertainty and for many, anxieties, amazingly the children have kept their head down refocused and got on with being the very best learners they can. I am enormously proud of how everyone has conducted themselves through this time of adversity.



Our teaching team and ancillary staff have judiciously encouraged each and every student, given constructive feedback, assessed what skills and knowledge each child has and made decisions with them about what the next learning steps are. My sincere thanks go to each and every team member for being what real teachers are really passionate about; helping children enjoy learning. Thanks to each and every parent for the wonderful support you have given the school. Many hours of voluntary work go into keeping the school humming along. I am extremely grateful. Some parents go to amazing lengths to show they care, none more so than Heather Kaye who nominated her son's teacher, Lisa Dovey, for the Warehouse Stationery and Woman's Day Most Inspiring Teacher Award. 1100 nominations were received and Lisa was placed in the top 30. It is a credit to Lisa and her Year 7 and 8 team, for the innovation and commitment for delivering the very best education for our Year 7 and 8's, as evident by the number of scholarships received this year. Congratulations Lisa!

As I read through your children's reports I was delighted to read of the improvements they have made and read what they have achieved, despite the adversity. Across the school children have made excellent progress and should be congratulated. In my opinion the introduction of National Standards is an unnecessary distraction. Children learn at differing rates and an individual's rate of progress often differs throughout their school life, depending on a whole range of factors, many outside the school's influence. The standards are a political ideal and are not supported by educational research or academics. Children who are not currently achieving a particular standard should not feel disillusioned, as they are most often they good making good progress. Your children didn't all walk and talk at the same time.

I look forward to an interesting year in 2012. The challenge that is upper most in my and the Board's minds is the redevelopment of our school site. We have a new Southern Regional Ministry Manager and a new Minister of Education, so we will be endeavouring to brief them early in the New Year and get the process moving. Added to this our Selwyn MP, Amy Adams has been promoted to a minister inside Cabinet, and received an associate role for the Canterbury earthquake recovery. This should also help.

*Again many thanks for your wonderful support and trust. I hope you have a fabulous Christmas, great New Year and a brilliant holiday with your children.*

**2012 term - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January.**

 **Term One : Tuesday 31st January - 5th April**

 **Term Two : 23rd April - 29th June**

 **Term Three : 16th July - 28th September**

 **Term Four : 15th October - Wednesday 19th December**

**Ka Kite Ano,**

**Bruce Topham.**

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**PLAYBALL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME** - Calling all 4 - 8 year olds! Come along and join our coaches in the holidays, having fun while improving your skills. Our Holiday Programme is open to everyone - whether you're a current Playballer or not.

Dates:

Holiday Programme number 1:

19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Christmas)

Holiday Programme number 2:

16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Time: 9.30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Howzat Indoor Sports, 4 Matipo Street, Riccarton

Format:

Over the course of the two and a half hours, the children will take part in three 35 minute Playball sessions with our coaches, interspersed with breaks for a bite to eat and supervised free play.

How much is it?

1 day	\$30	4 days	\$109
2 days	\$59	5 days	\$134
3 days	\$84	6 days	\$159

10% discount on total cost for families enrolling more than one Playballer

What will the kids need?

A drink bottle and a packed lunch each day.

How do I sign up?

Just email [coachali@playball.co.nz](mailto:coachali@playball.co.nz) with your child's name, age and the days you would like to attend, before **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Numbers are restricted to 36 children per day. [www.playball.co.nz](http://www.playball.co.nz)

## HOUSE TO RENT

Fully furnished modern house in Halswell to rent. Need somewhere to go while you get your house repairs done? Short term stays available. Family home, 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, reserve outlook. For more details call Toni on 322 1997 or 027 3242449.