



# ALLENTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 9 - 8 December 2023

110 Harrison Street, Ashburton

Phone (03) 308 6495

Email: [office@allenton.school.nz](mailto:office@allenton.school.nz)

Website: [www.allenton.school.nz](http://www.allenton.school.nz)

School app: search for Skool Loop and select Allenton School

*"Together We Learn and Grow"*

## Principal's Comment Nga Korero o te Tumuaki



*Ka nui te mihi ki a koutou - greetings to you all*

We are very much now into the end of year activities and events at school, all of which adds to the busyness of Allenton at this time of the year. Over the past week our junior and middle areas have hosted **Christmas concerts**, which have been followed by family picnics. It was wonderful to see so many attend these concerts and be part of a lovely celebration to head into the end of the year. Thank you to the staff involved for the organisation they have put into these events, and also for

the ones that lie ahead next week.

Through the year we have had a group of dedicated students who have attended **horse riding lessons** each week. This week was the end of year break up for the group. Together they won the Blakemore Trophy for the school with the best effort. Congratulations to Dixie who won the Harvey Trophy for attitude and effort. Well done to you all for your efforts and for representing Allenton School so well on a consistent basis.



Last Friday a group of keen Year 5 students gave speeches to the House Groups, and then staff and students in the group voted for the **2024 House Leaders**. The speeches I listened to from Kōwhai House were of a very high standard and I have heard that this was the case in the other three groups as well. I'd like to congratulate all those who put their names forward to be a House Leader.

Acknowledgement also needs to be given to the **2023 House Leaders** for the way they have been role models for all other students in the school and for the commitment they have shown. Thank you and well done to: Alana, Harrison R, Tyler, Addie, Charlotte McD, Kimberley, Lachie, Charlotte W, Maya R, Maya B, Frazer, Hazel, Harrison G, Lucas, Jackson and Cammy

The 2024 House Group Leaders are:

**Kakariki**

House Leaders  
Deputy Leaders

Ofa and Harry  
William and Sylvie

**Whero**

House Leaders  
Deputy Leaders

Sophie B and Kyosuke  
Walter and Grace

**Kōwhai**

House Leaders  
Deputy Leaders

Arjunn and Aiden  
Kaydia and Denise

**Kahurangi**

House Leaders  
Deputy Leaders

Jarrold and Georgia G  
Charlie and Aubrey



*2024 Whero Leaders*



*2024 Kōwhai Leaders*



*2024 Kahurangi Leaders*



*2024 Kakariki Leaders*

I would like to thank and farewell the following staff. **Sue Smith** is retiring after a long and distinguished career in teaching and service to Allenton. Sue has taught in a variety of positions over this time and we have all appreciated the dedication she has provided to our school. **Gail Benseman** has been teaching part time in the Middle School this year, after previously retiring some years ago as Associate Principal. It has been great to have Gail's experience back with us this year and for the support she has provided. **Debbie Farquhar** has been doing teacher release in the Middle School this year and I thank her for the input she has provided in this part of the school. **Lydia Wilson** has been part of our team of teacher aides over the past 18 months. During this time she has also been training to be a teacher and while we will miss her at Allenton, we are delighted that in 2024 she will commence her first teaching position at Dunsandel School in a Year 3 and 4 class. I wish all

our departing staff the very best for the future and thank them for their service to Allenton School.

**End of year reports** will be sent home with children in Year 3 - 6 on Wednesday 13 December. The reports will be in an envelope, together with a 2024 stationery list, and apart from current Year 6 students, the class placement details for next year. Children in Years 1 and 2 will have had anniversary reporting throughout the year and for some, reports have been recently sent home. The above details (stationery list and class placement details) will also be provided to children in the junior area.

Our final **Year 6 Leavers' assembly** is on Thursday 14 December, beginning at 11am. Please note this is now at an earlier time to avoid a clash with the Intermediate assembly in the afternoon. The school will attend this assembly and parents and families of Year 6 students are invited to attend.

**School finishes for the year** on Friday 15 December at 12:30pm. Please note that the bus service will operate on the morning of Friday 15 December but not in the afternoon. Parents of children who travel by bus will need to make their own travel arrangements to get their children home on that final day.

We will **start the 2024 school year** on Wednesday 31 January and this day will again be in the form of parent/teacher/student 3 Way Conferences. These serve as an ideal introduction for the children, parents and teachers before the start of the school year. There will be more specific information about these conferences and how to book in the envelope containing the reports and class placements. Students will be together with their 2024 classes on Thursday 1 February. The School office will be open on Monday 29 January and Tuesday 30 January 9am - 3pm, resuming normal hours from Wednesday 31 January, 8.30am - 3.30pm.

I wish to thank several groups of people in this, the last newsletter of the year. To our **PTA group** for the valuable contributions that they make to Allenton School. I thank them for their tireless efforts and the time they all give to our school. The money they raise directly supports the education of our children so a big thank you to the team of enthusiastic parents for what they have achieved this year.

Our **School Board** is a group of parents who ensure that the school is well-governed so that the students can learn in a safe and secure environment. A lot of their work takes place behind the scenes, but the role they perform is a vital one. I thank them for the contributions they have made, the various skills they bring and the support that has been given to myself and the staff in the ongoing development and direction of our school.

To our **parents and school whānau** - thank you for the partnership and support you have provided to your children and the staff and for your involvement in our wider classroom programmes. Without this level of support and engagement, the experiences that we could offer students would be greatly reduced. The staff, Board and myself appreciate what you have done over the past year to make Allenton School the wonderful place that it is.

To our **staff**, thank you for all your efforts and mahi over the past year. I appreciate how you all combine to make learning happen, in order for our children to achieve and progress and for our school to be well-run and presented. Congratulations for the way you all work together and the support that you provide to each other.

The **children** of Allenton School bring energy and enthusiasm to school each day. I urge them all to continue to strive for their best in 2024. Next year may see children in a new class

group, maybe in a new part of the school and possibly with people they don't know so well. While this may seem daunting right now, change is part of growing up and I know they will form important relationships with classmates as the year progresses. Well done for all your achievements over the past year.

I wish all members of the Allenton School community a safe and enjoyable summer break.

*Meri kirihimete kia koutou me te whānau* - Merry Christmas to you and your family.

*Ka kite ano a te tauhou* - see you in the new year.

Until next time,

Andrew Leverton  
Principal | Tumuaki

## New students

We extend a warm welcome to the following children who have started at Allenton School recently. We look forward to getting to know you and wish you all an awesome time at our school.

Kayden Nathan-Hughes    Room 14

## Canterbury Primary Schools Athletics

Congratulations to the following students who represented Allenton at this event, having qualified through the Mid Canterbury County Athletics:

Lily Hadley-Chinn - discus

Beau Spence - discus (11th / 31)

Parker Roddick - 60m sprint (7th in final)

Aubrey Mitchell-Milmine - 1000m (4th), long jump (1st), 60m sprint (1st)

## Māori phrase for this week

Te Tai o Rehua

Tasman Sea

## Māori phrase for next week

Akaroa or Whakaroa

Akaroa - Long Harbour (meaning)

## Calendar of school events - Term 4

Monday 11 December

Year 6 end of year treat

Wednesday 13 December

End of year reports sent home

Thursday 14 December

2024 class visit

End of year assembly for Year 6 students and their families  
11am (note earlier time)

Friday 15 December

School year ends - 12.30pm

## Surplus classroom furniture

On Monday 11th December we will have surplus classroom furniture displayed on the courts from 12.30 until 3.30. There will be childrens and adults desks, shelving etc. Some of this has been well used but is still too good to throw away. It will all be free to take away. If interested please call into the school on Monday.

### Calendar of school events - Term 1, 2024

Wednesday 31 December	3 Way Conferences
Thursday 1 February	Classes commence - 8:55am
Tuesday 6 February	School closed - Waitangi Day
Tuesday 13 February	PTA meeting - 7:30pm

### Policy review

Our School has an online portal called School Docs that houses all our policies and procedures. Each term certain policies are able to be reviewed online and our school community is able to take part in the review



process. Some review topics will be of more relevance to certain reviewers than others. This term the key review focus is Curriculum and Student Achievement and Health Education. There is also a Distance Learning policy. If you have any queries about these policies, please feel free to see our Principal - Andrew Leverton, or email [principal@allenton.school.nz](mailto:principal@allenton.school.nz).

The instructions for being involved in a review are as follows:

1. Visit the website <https://allenton.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username - allenton and password - 7700.
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the **Start your review** button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
9. Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit review".

### Term Dates - 2024

Term	Dates	School closed
1	Wed 31 Jan to Fri 12 April	Waitangi Day (6 Feb) Easter Friday (29 March) Easter Monday (1 April) Easter Tuesday (2 April)
2	Mon 29 April to Fri 5 July	King's Birthday (3 June) Matariki (28 June)



3 Mon 22 July to Fri 27 Sept

4 Mon 14 Oct to Wed 18 Dec

Labour Day (28 Oct)  
Teacher Only Day (14 Nov)  
Canty Ann Day (15 Nov)

In addition to the above, all schools have been granted two Teacher Only Days by the Ministry of Education for curriculum development in 2024. Dates will be advised once confirmed.

## Community Notices

# Free Coding Holiday Activity



**CODINGNZ**

**Summer 2023/24**

Educational? Yes!  
Fun? Yes!  
Affordable? Yes! (it's free!)

Suitable for beginner to advanced coders.

Ages 9 & 10, 11 & 12, 13 & 14, 15 to adult.

**SIGN UP NOW:**  
[codingnz.com/freeactivity](https://codingnz.com/freeactivity)

Limited spots available

ROLLER SKATING

# Christmas Party

COME AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE CANTERBURY SKATING ACADEMY WHANAU RIGHT HERE IN ASHBURTON!  
MUSIC | GAMES | PRIZES

FRIDAY DEC 22ND 2023  
CENTENNIAL SPORTS HALL

4PM YEARS 1 - 8  
6PM YEARS 9 - 13  
8PM ADULTS 18+

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE  
[CHRISTCHURCHSKATING.COM](https://CHRISTCHURCHSKATING.COM)

SKATE HIRE AVAILABLE SIZES 3 -14US

\*LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE  
\*\* LIMITED SKATES FOR HIRE



# ON THE MOVE



**Ashburton Library will soon be moving into our new building, Te Whare Whakatare. Here's a few things you need to know!**

**> OLD LIBRARY CLOSES 4pm, Sunday 31 December**

**> NEW LIBRARY OPENS 8.30am, Monday 22 January**

## **Why are you closing?**

The three-week closure will allow us to move over 60,000 books (and other items) to the new building. Make sure you come and stock up on books before we close the doors on 31 December!

## **How can I access the internet or printing services?**

Wi-Fi will still be available during the closure at the old library building. You will need to be parked or seated nearby to connect. Printing and scanning can be done at Warehouse Stationery or PaperPlus.

## **Where can I return my books?**

Books issued before the closure will not be due back until we open in the new building. You'll still be able to return books to us at any time via the return slot at the entrance of the old library building.

## **What if I run out of books?**

Through your library membership you have free access to a vast selection of e-books, audiobooks, music, and videos suitable for all ages. Explore what's available on our website.

**We look forward to welcoming you to our new space!**

*Find out more* **[ashburtonlibrary.co.nz](http://ashburtonlibrary.co.nz)**

 **Ashburton**  
Public Library

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT WEEK

Create Christmas crafts at our craft table,  
try our Christmas themed I-Spy competition  
or take time out to play a board game.  
available any time!

Tuesday 19th - 10:30am  
Wriggle & Read Christmas special.  
(ages 0-4)

Wednesday 20th - 7:15pm  
Ashburton Silver Band join us for our  
Family Christmas Story Time

Thursday 21st - 10:30am  
Preschool Christmas Story Time

Thursday 21st - 6:00pm  
St Joseph's School Choir  
6:30pm  
Family Christmas Movie Night

Friday 22nd - 10:30am  
Create Explore Discover  
(ages 0-4)



**DEC 18-22**  
**2023**

AGES 0-12

180 Havelock Street  
Ashburton

For more information call  
us on 03 308 7192



[https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/  
community-facilities/events](https://www.ashburtondc.govt.nz/community-facilities/events)







## Harold needs your help!

Harold loved visiting all your amazing children, he hopes they had a great time in the Life Education classroom. The 2 sessions Harold and your child shared at Life Education cost \$22.00 per child to deliver. We are lucky to have the school pay \$6.00 towards this cost. Life Education Mid and South Canterbury fund the remainder of the cost through grants, local support and fundraising.

### How can you help?

If you are able to cover the \$16.00 cost for one local child to attend Life Education this would be a big help, if you can sponsor more that would be amazing!

Get in touch by emailing Amy, [admin@lifeedmsc.org.nz](mailto:admin@lifeedmsc.org.nz)

Harold can't wait to see you all next year!

# COMMUNITY dental service



## Tips for Healthy Teeth

- Brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste
- Choose healthy snacks,
- Choose water or milk first,
- Have regular dental check-ups

**Te Whatu Ora**  
**Health New Zealand**  
Waitaha Canterbury

Community Dental Service will be closed for the holiday period:

**Closed from:** Monday 25 December 2023

**Reopen:** Monday 08 January 2024

Four of our community dental clinics will be open during January 2024 (from Monday 8 January 2024 – Friday 26 January 2024):

**Northcote** (24 Tuckers Road)

**Aranui** (240 Breezes Road)

**Hillmorton** (80-82 Sylvan Street)

**Timaru** (18 Woolcombe Street)

If your child is experiencing any dental pain/discomfort, you can call us on **0800 846 983** and/or email: [commdental@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:commdental@cdhb.health.nz) and one of our clinicians will contact you back

## SUMMER SURF CAMP



Merry Christmas!



**START THE DAY OFF SURFING WITH STOKED**

**DAILY LESSONS**

**HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

**FAMILY LESSONS**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS**

**BOOK ONLINE OR EMAIL US**

**HELLO@STOKEDSURFSCHOOL.CO.NZ**