



NEWSLETTER: 3.8.17

Rata and Beech Mid Year Interviews

These are being held next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have not organised a time to catch up with Hannah and Maryann give the office a call to book a time.

School Ski Day

This is on the 14th of August. There is no cancellation day so if it is called off we will hold school as normal. The buses will not be running on the day so if your child is not skiing you will need to keep them at home. We are looking forward to a great day on the mountain.

Bible in Schools

As mentioned in a newsletter last term the Board have decided that if you would like your child to receive religious education at school you would need to indicate this by letting Sean know. This would be held during a lunch time. Please email Sean if you are interested in this.

Production

The school production is on Thursday 21st of September. Classes are beginning to practice their items and children will begin to audition for parts soon.

Speeches

The senior speech competition will be held on the 29th of August here at school. Classes will be working on their speeches during school time which will include writing and practice. The junior competition will be on the 27th of September.

Life Education Van

Classes will be involved in the Life Education classes in the mobile classroom here at school on the 21st to the 23rd of August. Better known as the "Harold Bus", the educator from the Life Education Trust will be working with all the classes.

Paper Plus Young Writer's Competition

We have some very talented writers in our school. Over the holiday break two of our learners from Rata were placed in the Paper Plus Yung Writers Competition. Will Murphy took 1st place in the 11-13 year old short story competition and Samantha Coleman took 3rd prize in the 11-13 year old

poetry competition. Well done to Will and Samantha as well as all the children from Rata who entered.

The Mayor's Ultimate Plan by Will Murphy

Big Ben rang for the twelfth time that night. The church was silent as the mayor's black car pulled up against the church's wet sidewalk, the mayor climbed out of his car. He wore a black coat and a bowler hat of the same colour, his scarf was grey and his hair worn out. There was a suspicious bulge in his pocket. The mayor banged the heavy metal knocker on the church door, there was no answer and he knocked a second time, still no answer. He barged through the unlocked giant wooden door and stormed up the stairs to the choir loft. Behind the elaborate giant organ he noticed the hunched dark figure of the bishop who then leapt into action and threw his heavy bible with great force at the mayor. The mayor felt slight pain in his right arm, he put his good hand in his pocket and pulled out a razor sharp boning knife. As the moon shone through the window, the bishop noticed it's glistening blade. The uninvited guest, filled with rage, leapt onto the bishop and forced the knife into his stomach. The bishop screamed in agony as he felt his life coming to an end, his warm blood leaving a pool on the floor of the choir loft.

The mayor heaved the body down the creaky staircase and loaded it into the boot of his car. He strained and struggled to shove the dead body in the nearby river, then sped back to the church. The mayor felt strangely calm as he lumbered back up the stairs and scrambled through the church's old cabinets. As an afterthought he cast his eyes over the old sheets of music on the organ and found what he was looking for, hidden in plain sight. The mayor grabbed the blueprints, concealed them in his coat pocket and sped off into the darkness.

The sun shone bright the next morning and the world knew nothing of the ugliness that had occurred the night before. Only time would tell if the bishop's body was ever to be discovered. The mayor had slept little that night but was excited as he arrived at the council buildings just after 9am. He submitted the blueprints to a shrivelled up lady behind a plastic screen, and took himself out for breakfast to celebrate. His multimillion dollar casino to be built next door to the church would make him a very wealthy man.

The mayor never noticed the women robed in black enter the police station across the road. The women approached the front desk, her hands shaking. "Sister, are you alright?" asked a young officer. "Not at all," she replied "I witnessed the most horrific thing last night, I'd like to report a murder".

Farming in Winter by Samantha Coleman

Remember that time you were on the bulldozer
snow raking the white powder traffic can pass through
And as you got out of the bulldozer there were hailstones
hitting your jacket like bullets and you started to cry because it started to hurt.

That was farming in Winter.



Remember that time you were feeding out to the cows
and got stuck in the snow and had to walk home in
a metre of snow and then you fell in, and you can hear the cows bellowing.

Now that was farming in Winter.

Remember that time you were shifting the sheep
and they blended into the snow then you fell into the creek and
then you got frostbite, and called for help on your radio and got no reply.

That was farming in the freezing Winter.

Remember that time you were in the house putting on a pot of soup
and then the power went out so you had to put it on the
fire place and then you made some homemade bread to go with your
soup and I came home to the house smelling of soup.

That was definitely farming in Winter.

No Assembly during Winter Options

Winter options began last Friday and it was a great time for all the different groups as they took part in their different activities. A reminder that while we are carrying out Winter Options there will be no regular Friday assemblies. We will be having them again once this is completed.



May

Molly Kearney
Samuel Clark

June

Blake Madden
Liam Harden
Lilly O'Conner
Blake Broomhall
Archie Rooney

July

Jack Gorrie
Abby Lowe
Luca Brown
Ella Stacey
Emily Heaven
Layla Singleton
Leo Acland
Milan Jade-Holland
Gabriella Brown
Madison Holgate
Annabel Heaven
Felix Bruce



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Ron 027 445 2355
Ben 027 445 2356

 **The Aoraki Mackenzie
Starlight Festival
Galileoscope Workshop**
Celebrate New Zealand's International Dark Sky Reserve

  

 Photo: Valley of the Stars by Mark Gee

**The Hermitage, Aoraki/Mt Cook
13-15 October 2017**

Come to the Starlight Festival and join *Science Alive!* instructors in the Galileoscope Workshop 1.30-4.00 pm Saturday 14 October. Then use your Galileoscope for stargazing from 9.30 pm at the new Mt Cook Observatory.

The Galileoscope is a kitset telescope valued at \$70 and yours to keep, but the workshop tickets are only \$20. The Galileoscope Workshop is designed for people of all ages, but especially for school students (years 4 to 13) who have a passion for astronomy.

Buy tickets on-line! VENUE: THE CHAMOIS BAR & GRILL, HILLARY ALPINE CENTRE (Mt Cook),
www.starlightfestival.org.nz

  

Galileoscope kitset telescope Galileoscope Workshop at the 2015 Festival



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My name is Frances Beeston. I live locally at Anama.

Each year I offer kids the chance to have pet calves for local school pet day to take to the ashburton a&p show.

Previously I have offered calves to children from Methven and Mayfield.

I usually offer it to 5-10 children per year

Calves are feed and looked after on farm, with a commitment from parents and the children to come twice week to work with the calves.

Children will be talking, brushing, leading and walking the calves. They make friends with each other and the calves. I will help teach about leading and looking after, how to care for them and I will help take them to pet day and the Ashburton A and P show.

If anyone is interested, please contact me 0276488379