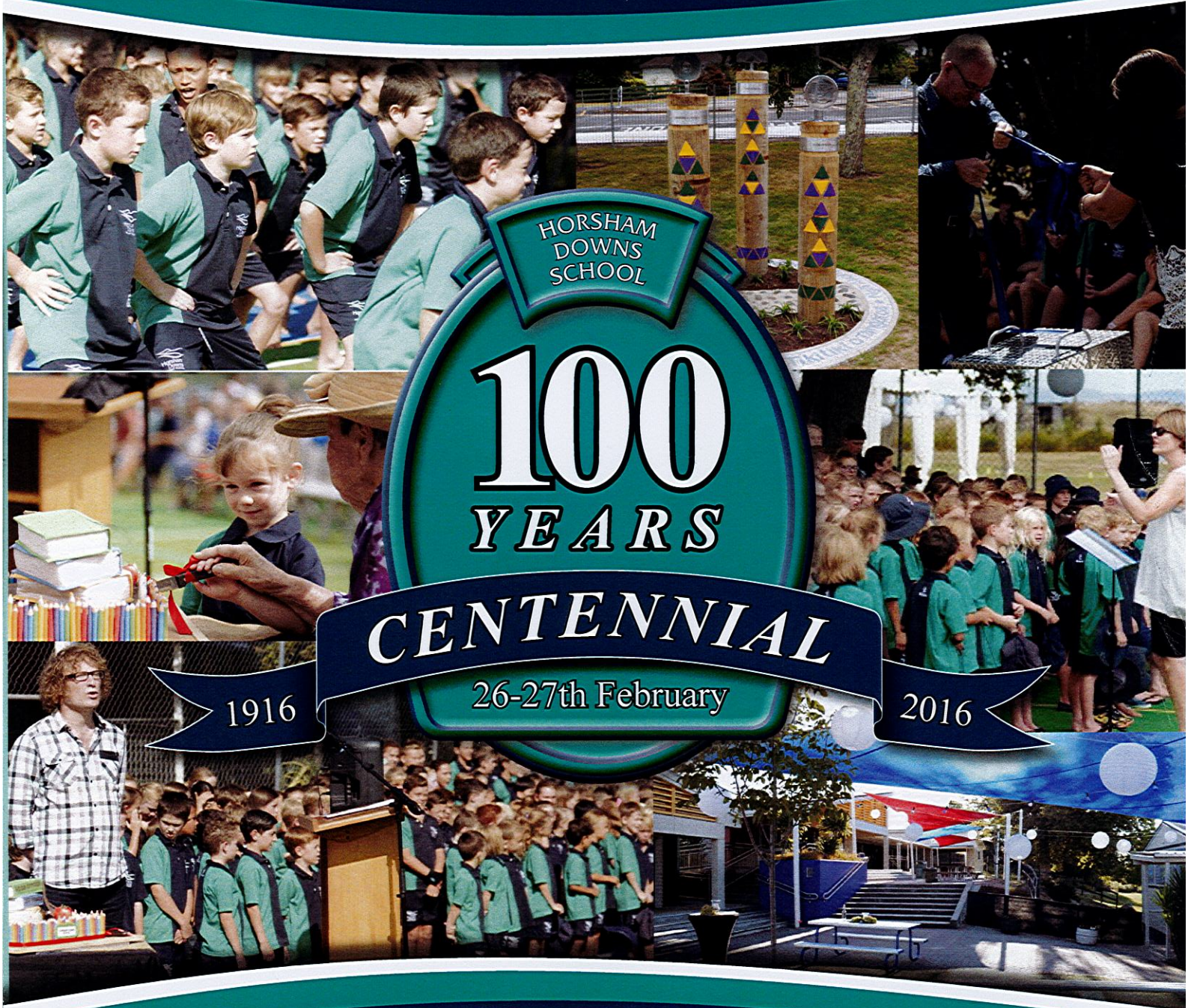




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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dates to Remember

29/11/17

4-8 December Yr 3-8, 2Focus Swimming
7 December Yr 3, Orini Sports Day
8 December Final Assembly—9.00am, Community Hall
15 December Prizegiving—10.30am, Community Hall

15 December Last day of 2017
7 February 2018 Term 1 begins

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

END OF YEAR INFORMATION

Achievement reports and notice of class placement for 2018. We are planning to distribute these on Monday 11th December. Please note that class organisation is always tentative at this stage of the year. If we have a large number of unexpected enrolments over the holiday break the makeup of classes may have to be changed.

We are looking forward to three important events in the school calendar- , Final Whole School Assembly on Friday 8 December: 9am, Senior Dinner/ Dance on 13 December and Prize Giving on 15 December: 10.30am, which is the last day of school.

FINAL WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY – Friday 8 December 9am

The students who have been participating in the William Pike Challenge Award will be hosting our final assembly for 2017. They will be sharing the amazing experiences they have had this year and will be presented with their awards. We will also have an item from the guitar group. HDS service awards will be presented to librarians, enviro team members, jump jam leaders, house captains, It monitors and student councillors. Please join us as we celebrate a successful year.

PRIZEGIVING – Friday 15 December 10.30am -12.30pm

Mark this date in your diary and join us as we celebrate a successful year and farewell our Year 8 students who are leaving to attend High School in 2018. Class award certificates in our Horsham Downs Learner categories (Thinking Learner, Self Manager and Good Citizen) are presented . The senior (Year 8) cups are presented and a presentation is made to the Year 8 leavers. Parents/caregivers of students receiving awards will be notified in Week 8.

You are reminded that all students are expected to wear their sports/cultural uniform shirts to prizegiving. If you are attending prizegiving, you may take your child home afterwards; please let the relevant teachers know.

CAMP PARENTS SELECTION

The respective teaching teams are in the process of organising the camp parent groups, and information about that will be sent by the end of term. Please note that the number of camp parents has to be restricted because we work to very tight camp budgets and there are a finite number of spaces available for accommodation. We need to choose a balance of gender, parents willing to undertake particular duties and a balance of parents associated with each class. We appreciate the high number of people who volunteer for the camps but unfortunately the number offering is far in excess of the number required. We always value the enthusiasm and support displayed towards our camp programme and regret that significant numbers will miss out. Finally, I must remind everyone to remember that camps are for the students and that the organisation for camp is complex, putting an additional burden of time and responsibility on the teaching staff.

Even at this busy time of year, some of our children can't stop working! Today it was my pleasure to take 3 of our Year 8 boys, Yanni, Braden and Daniel, to Chow Hill Architects in Hamilton. The boys came up with a computer aided design, using Google Sketch-Up, of an outdoor learning space between Rooms 12 and 13 which our Board of Trustees is supporting. This is currently being considered for a building project for 2018 to further enhance our school infrastructure. All good things take time and we hope to have the space ready by the end of Term 1. The pictures below show the boys undergoing a design challenge at Chow Hill and their design for the new space; budding architects each and every one of them.



YEAR 4-8 AND SOME YEAR 1-3 REPORTS

We are planning to send out End of year reports for students in Year 4-8 and some Year 1-3, on Monday 11 December. If, due to your family structure, you would like 2 copies of the report, please let the office know by **Wed 6 Dec.**

BOOK AMNESTY

Its that time of year again when we start tidying up our Library and Book Rooms. Please have a hunt around at home and return any Library Books and readers to the labelled box in the school office.

No questions asked.
Thank you



SUMMER READING 2017

Once again, we will be offering reading packs for those that would like them over the summer. It is important for many children to keep up their reading mileage, so that when they return to school, they still have the same level of reading as when they left.

For those new to the school, we provide about 20 junior books, (or 10 senior journals, depending upon the age of your child), a reading log, and information about the Hamilton Libraries summer reading programs.

All packs are levelled to suit your child's current reading ability.

This year, parents are required to **OPT IN** to the program. If you wish to receive a pack for your child/children, you will need to complete the form below.

The pack is FREE. However, as we have had some difficulty with this in the past, **students not returning their packs by the end of Week 4 Term 1 2018 will have \$10 charged** to their account.

[Summer Reading Program 2017](#)

Please enter your information in no later than Wednesday 6th December

*Cheers
Christine*

Candy Canes and Chocolates.

At this time of year many children are starting to get excited about the upcoming Christmas Holidays. So are the school staff! In recent years there has been a tendency for children to give Christmas cards to friends which often include sweets, particularly candy canes. Whilst we don't want to appear as the "Grinch", Horsham Downs School doesn't want to encourage gifting sweets around the school. You can imagine the number of candy canes being consumed or traded! As a school working towards 'para kora' (zero waste) we are also increasingly aware of the litter the innumerable sweets leave around our environment. We wish all children and families to enjoy the festivities of the season - but please don't encourage your children to share sugary treats around the school - there will be plenty of time for all that after 15 December.

Thanks for your support with this.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION IN COMING NEWSLETTERS

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Summer Swimming has begun.

The distribution of keys will commence on Thursday 30 November. You may purchase a key for \$120 for the season after signing the memo of understanding for the use of the pool. These will be available from the school office.

Thank you



Warts

We have noticed an increase of children with warts on the bottom of their feet. Warts are a common infection caused by a virus. The HPV, or wart virus, is spread by direct contact

Please check your child/ren's feet for warts. If they have warts, please keep the warts covered with a plaster, or have your child wear socks inside the classroom to prevent the spread of the warts virus while you are treating the warts.

More info can be found here <http://kidspot.co.nz/health/kids-health-how-to-avoid-warts/> and <http://kidspot.co.nz/health/home-remedies-for-warts/>

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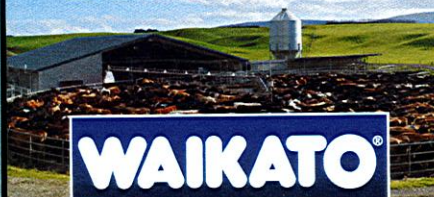
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