

COMING UP

- Fri 24 May, Swimming Y3-6
- Fri 24 May, 1:30pm, whole school Assembly with H3 in the College Auditorium
- **Wed 29 May, Teachers Strike - SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Fri 31 May - Swimming Y3-6
- Fri 31 May - National Young Leaders Day, Dunedin

SCHOOL CLOSURE: Strike Action Wednesday 28 May 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The Board of Trustees cannot provide teaching for students during the upcoming strike.

The NZEI has advised the Cromwell Primary School Board of Trustees that the Principal, Wendy Brooks and teachers at our school will be taking strike action on Wednesday 28 May from 7am to 7pm, as part of rolling strikes taking place across the country.

The Board has carefully considered the availability of teaching staff, and unfortunately decided that we cannot provide the normal teaching services during the strike. It is important that you can make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike. Please note that after school care will not be available on this day.

All teachers and the principal are on strike, so no supervision can be provided. The school will need to close during this strike. I know that this is inconvenient for parents and students alike, but please be assured that student safety is our main concern.

Thanks you for your understanding. Please contact me if you have any queries relating to this decision.

Yours sincerely

Shane Livingstone, Chairperson, Cromwell Primary School Board of Trustees

WHAT WE ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR?

* More teachers – so your kids can get more attention

* More resources/staff to support children with additional learning needs

* A pay jolt to salaries for teachers to address the teacher shortage – so that your children will have a teacher in the future.

We greatly appreciate the community support that we have already received following the decision by teachers and principals to strike on Wednesday 29 May.

The decision to take further strike action was not taken lightly by any of us. For the first time, both primary and secondary teachers are striking together because the crisis in education hits us all very hard and we need the Government to understand how serious it is.

Schools are grappling with the fallout of a 40% nosedive in the number of people training to be teachers between 2010 and 2016, even while the population grew by 400,000. While the situation improved a little last year and the Government has announced an urgent \$95m package to recruit teachers, this is not sufficient to address the crisis. Schools struggle daily to find enough teachers to meet their relief teacher needs and this will worsen as winter approaches. There is also a desperate need for more support for children with additional learning needs.

The fact is that teaching is no longer considered an attractive profession due to long-term under-funding of the education sector. A significant pay jolt is part of the solution, alongside significant improvements to our heavy workloads. Otherwise our schools will end up with larger class sizes and more teachers leaving.

On Wednesday 29 May we hope you will join us at our local public event. We will advise you of the location and time once this has been confirmed. We would love to see you and your children standing with us – together we are a community and we can make a difference.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE (BOT) ELECTIONS - Nominations Close 12pm Friday 24 November

Cromwell Primary School Board of Trustees' election. Nominations are invited for the election of 5 parent representatives to the board of trustees. You can nominate another person to stand as a candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed, Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office. Nominations close at noon on 24 May 2019 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and photograph. There is a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school. Voting closes at noon on 7 June 2019. Tegan Wilson, Returning Officer

WEB STEPS - Available to your child.

Steps is an internationally recognised programme which is used in over 700 schools throughout New Zealand. Steps is a research based literacy programme. It is non age specific, which means anyone regardless of age and ability can be catered for.

Aims of the programme are to strengthen:

- letter/sound correspondence
- Processing skills with sounds and sound patterns
- Rapid whole word recognition
- Spelling accuracy

You can purchase Web Steps yourself online for your child at \$80. However, Learning Staircase who manage the Steps programme provide a less expensive option through your child's school. We can register your child for Web Steps at a cost of \$15.00 per student.

Websteps allows students to access the programme on any device.

If you are keen for us to register your child through the school for Web Steps please email me - karenh@cromprimary.school.nz

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) YEARS 3-6

At Cromwell Primary School we facilitate the ICAS competitions every year (starting 3 September). The assessments are external assessments and are not marked by teachers at Cromwell Primary School. They are designed to challenge students who would like to enter a competition in a particular subject. Over one million children throughout Australia and New Zealand enter these every year. If you would like to know more about these competitions go to. <https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about>

This year most of the exams have changed from pen and paper to online exams and are being held later in the year than in previous years. Entry is entirely optional and is a decision for the student and family to make. If you would like your child to participate in this individual form of assessment, email Jayne Fitzgerald jaynef@cromprimary.school.nz to advise which ICAS subject competition/s your child wishes to compete in. Also you will need to make payment to the school bank account with your child's name and 'ICAS' as reference. The competitions are for Years 3-6 children, (please see table below as not all competitions are for Year 3 children). Entries for these competitions are due in by Friday 14th June and cost \$15 per subject. Please contact Jayne Fitzgerald or see your classroom teacher if you have any questions.

The children will have a chance to practice and prepare for these at school. If you would like to help your child prepare at home the website has resources for you to help them practice.

Jayne Fitzgerald - ICAS Coordinator jaynef@cromprimary.school.nz

CAR WASH

Sunday 26 May, 11am-3pm, Cromwell College Car Park, \$10 per car. Fundraiser for Cromwell College Intermediate A Netball Team for South Island Secondary Schools Tournament in Christchurch