

Term 1 Week 2
2016

February 9

Dear parents and caregivers

Congratulations to all staff for their work over the holidays. It's tremendous to be back and into routines again. It is also so



wonderful to see smiling faces and hear the stories again from the children. We have all missed them over the holiday break.



The School Fair is moving ahead nicely and it is great to be able to announce we will have Jody Direen singing with us at the fair. She is an internationally recognised artist from NZ and we are very lucky to have her with us. It's time to start

telling all of your friends about this event and sharing the good news. Our Fair is April 3rd so please put it on the calendar and book the weekend for a great time.

If you have anything for the white elephant stall then please note that Friday afternoons after 3pm they can be left at school and we will price things before going into the container.

Swimming Sports - This year the Rakaia and Dorie School Swimming Sports will be held at the EA Networks Centre in Ashburton on Tuesday 16th February and will be run differently to previous years. Due to the size of the lane pool (25m-25m) unfortunately our width events will not run this year. Teachers of our seniors students are currently testing swimmers and entering them into appropriate events for the day. If your child is not selected to compete on this day, there will not be an alternative event for them to compete in.

We understand this is not an ideal situation as we would love to see all of our children participating in such events, however as we look further into 2017 we hope to offer the event to all students again.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns around the event this year or 2017 please email or pop in and see me. We are exploring a House Competition Day at our local pool with a tentative date of February 26th.

emmakelly@rakaia.school.nz

School Interviews - We have interviews with your class teachers on **February 24th and 25th** this month and bookings are now open online for this. Please go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the code **M4DEZ**

If you do not have access to a computer then please call the office to make a booking.

Junior Assembly - This Friday is the first assembly for the year and will be held outside unless the weather is poor. In that case we will attempt to book the hall and keep you all informed. Please be at school by 2.30pm for the assembly to start.

A small reminder that the playground is to be cleared after school as soon as you can so the after school care programme gets into action and we can see children back on the premises after 3.30pm and changed out of their uniform. This indicates to us they have been home to see you and got there safely.

We welcome Nikki (NZ name) to our school as the Mandarin Teaching Assistant. Nikki has travelled from China to work in NZ for 1 year and will be joining our school every Friday to teach the children and staff about her language and culture. She will be working with the year 4-8 pupils but will definitely spend time in the junior rooms as well. We are very grateful to Mrs Paul for organising this new part of the curriculum and for bringing Nikki to school every Friday. The children met Nikki last week and welcomed her with the National Anthem and she was overwhelmed. We are all looking forward to having her as part of the staff and community.



Kapa Haka - we have secured the services of Kapa Haka tutors for 2016 through the Kapahikitia Trust from Christchurch. They will be at school every Thursday morning between 9 and 10am. This week they will give the children a sample of what will be available. We hope to get a class of around 20 children performing but are open to a larger class if interest is there. Please note we may have to give preference to younger children due to manual training on a Thursday.

Shared stationery - Apparently there has been a great deal of discussion around the collection of stationery by the teachers amongst our school community this week.

All classroom teachers had made the decision to pool the basic stationery of pencils, rulers, rubbers etc. for collective use amongst their students. This decision was made in the best interests of the students and learning and to maximise learning time for all students in the school.

It has for some parents turned into a focal point for concern rather than a logistical and procedural day-to-day practicality employed by teachers. We apologise if you feel we could have communicated this decision earlier and hope that we can move on to focus on children's learning. There was no intent to upset anyone but only to focus on the learning opportunities for students.

For those parents that are strongly opposed to teachers collecting in their stationery please directly email the teacher so that they can look to return any that has been handed in. Please do understand though that this will lead to your child being unable to use any shared stationery and has already shown to be a problem in classes with students that have retained stationery being without the necessary tools to learn.

I am hopeful that this solution will put an end to further focus on this issue so that our teachers can continue to work hard in the interests of your wonderful children's learning.

BOT - The BOT wish to inform you they all have e-mails now if you wish to get in touch with them and not use their personal e-mails because of school business. They all have e-mails ending in the school domain name so you can contact them.

Chairperson - andrewslater@rakaia.school.nz
guyatkinson@rakaia.school.nz
adingeeson@rakaia.school.nz
heidibeattie@rakaia.school.nz
terrykilday@rakaia.school.nz
mandybeevor@rakaia.school.nz

If you have concerns or complaints about the school or personnel please go through the correct channels and talk with staff first, then the Principal and then the BOT if you are not happy with the followed procedures. Please do not skip the procedure as it will be sent back to you to follow process to get the best outcomes.

Please name your clothes - The year has started and we have already had children lose clothes and it is very difficult to do anything about it if the items are not named.

Rippa Rugby - Notices are being sent home for all year 3-8 children about the Annual Rippa Rugby tournament held in March every year at the Ashburton Showgrounds. This note and permission will need to be back at school no later than February 19th and new Rugby Union forms will need to be completed as well. These are available in the office once your child registers their interest with the permission slip handed into school.

Futsal - Indoor Soccer - Played at the EA Centre in Ashburton on Sundays. If you are interested in entering your children into this growing sport please contact Anita Freer 0277225772 for information.

Leeston Fete

Once again Leeston is proud to present its ever popular, ever growing, Fete Day for 2016.

The Fete is to be held on the 16th April with free entry to the stalls from 10am. Last year was a huge success with thousands of people attending the event, which show cased over a hundred stalls ranging from unique handcrafts, exquisite adults and children's clothing, jewellery, antiques and collectables, and this year will exceed this.

There is a fun area specifically catering for children's entertainment including a bouncy castle, face painting, clowns and water walkers.

We also have live entertainment in an area where you can sit and relax and think about your next purchase prospects.

The many varieties of food stalls cover most taste buds requirements e.g Japanese, Mexican, Vietnamese, Mediterranean, seafood, ice creams etc. Many local organisations use this day for fund raising. So come to Leeston and make this a great family fun day.

