

Newsletter February 9 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to week 2 of the term. A reminder that Friday February 13 is a Teacher Only Day and school will not be open for tuition. The staff will be working with David Koutsoukis from Australia and the children and parents will get see him on Thursday. David was instrumental in some of the positive changes in the school and its values system and development over the past 6 years.

An assembly will be held 2pm in the Memorial Hall on Thursday February 12 so David can address the school community and share some of his work with you all. Please mark this in your diary and come along.

This week we also start a new feature in the newsletter with some work from Room 1. We will see regular work from the children in our newsletters so you are more aware of some of the work under way in our classrooms and learning areas. These will probably be an insert in the newsletter and we hope you enjoy them.

**Congratulations** to the Betaquip Battlers softball team who won their game on Saturday against the second placed team 17-15. It was a brilliant game to watch.

**Modern Learning Environments and Practice** – as part of the new developments in the school I took some of the BOT to see some new schools in Christchurch. We visited Woolston/Philipstown merged school and Burwood/Windsor merged school. We were introduced to the new Modern Learning Practice that many schools are now embracing. This means that children have homeroom teachers but may also have other teachers supporting them. Most classes (Learning areas) can have up to 80 or so children with 3 teachers or even 100+ children with 4 teachers. This means teachers plan, collaborate and assess children and that the children have options with different staff and groupings. It is exciting to see schooling changing and, infact, it maybe the biggest change to education since Tomorrows Schools 25 years ago.

Our new build for years 5-8 will see a purpose built area with breakout spaces and furniture to provide different learning stations and models to accommodate the way children learn. It will also see staff working in different areas of the curriculum, embracing strengths and meeting the needs of their students with the support of other teachers in the room. It is a transparent model of learning very different to what we had when we were at school in the seventies and eighties.

I do invite you to do some reading and maybe watch this small video to get a sense of the developments in education. It is an exciting time in education and we need to stay informed and aware of what makes a difference for our learners.

I have also included some reading about Woolston School and we will offer opportunities for information to be shared about our possible move into this practice for Rakaia School. The key for me as Principal is the ability to create

fluid learning for our students so they get the best opportunities while at school with us.

<http://edtalks.org/video/modern-learning-practice>

**Overdue Library books** - Last week we handed out overdue library notices. It would be great if you could search at home to see if you can locate these resources. Books are not cheap these days and we would like them back for others to enjoy. Thank you.

**Room 1 Request** – Room 1 would be very interested to know if there is anyone out there who may have spare Monarch caterpillars that we could have for our room. . Wee have a swan plant.  
Also if anyone knows where we could access tadpoles we would appreciate that as well.

**Softball this week:**

T Ball 9:00- T5 Wakanui Wackers v BNZ Rakaia Rangers.

T Ball 10:15- T6 Netherby Nomads v JFM Rakaia Royals.

Little League U11 9:00- D2 ADSC Cubs v Rakaia Red Sox, Rustys to umpire;

Little League U13 10:15-D3 Rookie Panthers v Rakaia Bridgestone Battlers,  
Renegades to umpire; D4 ADSC Cardinals v Resolve Tax Rakaia Ravens,