

Newsletter March 10 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to week 6 of the term. It has been a very busy term and I am thrilled with the start to this academic year. The staff has high expectations for your children and also of you as their parents. Our partnership is vital and so I am sure the high expectations you have of us match to create the best learning opportunities for your children.

Can I please confirm the protocol for any questions about the operation of each room. Your first point of contact is the teacher themselves. If you do not get satisfaction from that avenue then you deal with Mrs Breen for the Junior rooms and Miss Winter for the senior rooms. Mr Burford, the School Deputy Principal would be next and then myself as Principal. If you still do not get the answers or action you expect then a letter to the BOT would probably be appropriate.

We try to focus on Relationships and Communication at Rakaia School and the larger the school gets the harder this can be but we are committed to keeping you all informed. We have just launched a FREE app for your smart phones so we can push notifications through to you.

On this app you can send in absences, contact staff and receive notifications for the subscriptions you choose to receive. It is a wonderful opportunity for the school and we hope you take the opportunity to download it soon.

Inspiring Minds

Have you heard of kaizen? It is the Japanese term meaning endless striving to grow and improve. Thank fully we have many opportunities to do this with a digital world but also just in our day-to-day interactions. It means developing the ability to measure what is important to you and then look for improvement. It shows your friends, family and work colleagues that you are a life-long learner and that education never stops. We are always leaning but we also need to apply new knowledge and skill to create better outcomes and improved outcomes. How are you practicing Kaizen in your life?

Celebrating Success

Congratulations to our 4 new house captains and responsibility holders. These children were all invited to receive their badges on Friday at assembly and we



Rakaia School
now have a School App!

Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android Device and Search Rakaia School to download the App to your phone or tablet.

School Apps^{NZ}
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look forward to working with them to improve the playground and learning opportunities at school.

Congratulations to Ryan Geeson who swam to third place in the County swimming sports. This means he was third in Mid Canterbury for his event. A great effort Ryan.

Well done to all of the members of the Rippa Rugby teams who had their first games last Tuesday evening. We have now split the Year 7-8 team into two and have entered them as Rakaia Blue and Rakaia Black. They managed a win last week 11-10 while the year 5-6 team lost to Borough 7-5 and the year 3-4 team had a narrow loss as well. They play again tonight at 6pm at the Ashburton Show Grounds.

Welcome to Gabby and Emily Taylor joining us from Amuri Area school, and also to Otis Walker starting his schooling at Rakaia in Mrs Doody's amazing room.



Reminders and notices:

This Friday March 13 is Teacher Only Day and so school is closed for tuition. The staff will be busy in Christchurch and our Teachers aides will be catching up at school. We appreciate that this is another disruption to your week but we firmly believe that the Professional Development offered to our staff make them better at their job and in turn your children benefit from this investment.

Gregans Wood – A note to say that the Gregan family is again generously offering \$5 to the school from every chord of wood sold in March. Please feel free to contact Mrs Gregan on 3027488 to place your orders.

Sponsorship – We may be looking for a sponsor for Room 2 this year. Currently the Ngai tahu office are looking at our agreement and may choose another benefactor. Please contact me if you might know a company interested in being partnered with Room 2.

School Donations and Activity Fees- \$40 Fee and \$40 donation

The activity fee this year will cover the \$1 and \$2 charges that occur during the year . It will also pay a little towards value books, Life Education visits and any other performances. It also helps with the purchase of photocopier paper and toner. This is \$10 per person per term equating to \$40 each. It can be paid termly and we are happy to accept electronic payments.

Please note the school donation of \$40 a pupil is exactly that. It is a donation that is gratefully accepted to support the running of the school.