

Newsletter August 22 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you to all who attended the Junior Assembly on Friday. It was great to see the Room 1 students perform with their musical instruments and also to hear the Room 8 recorders bring back memories for all parents who remember their recorder lessons.

This week we wish our Year 7-8 Hockey team well for their tournament on Thursday. They are playing in Christchurch against other Canterbury winning schools in the annual tournament with the Canterbury Sports Association.

I am spending two lunchtimes this week meeting with past pupils of our school at Mt Hutt College and Ashburton College to check in with these pupils to see how their transition to High school has gone and what we could have done better to support them. It is a great opportunity for the BOT and staff to plan strategically and realign our curriculum practice to prepare our school leavers.

The staff have been recently looking at our Graduate Profile to articulate the skills and values we hope our students leave Rakaia with. These are in draft form and we welcome any feedback at all, positive and or constructive.

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Confident</b>       | <b>Literate</b>           |
| <b>Respectful</b>      | <b>Numerate</b>           |
| <b>Problem Solvers</b> | <b>Trustworthy</b>        |
| <b>Creative</b>        | <b>Leaders</b>            |
| <b>Collaborative</b>   | <b>Digitally literate</b> |
| <b>Open Minded</b>     | <b>Communicators</b>      |



The words are a start for us to measure our leavers to see if we have influenced them on a successful path to secondary and further education.

I recently spoke with an 18 year old student who is in an apprenticeship and they remember the school values, the fun dress-up days we had for book week, the games on the field,

conversations with Mr Ellis (both good and bad) and the general feel for the school. This is the "Spirit of the School" . You don't necessarily see it but you feel it. It is exactly what I want as Principal and I look forward to an interesting journey talking with the students.

We welcome back Mrs Paul after a recent illness and take the opportunity to remind you that Mrs Markham is also the Year 7-8 home room teacher who can answer your questions and talk through student achievement data for you. She is in Mahitahi 4 days a week and knows the children equally as well as all the teachers.

I would also encourage all Year 5-8 families who have not yet met with staff to collect school Mid Year reports that you make an appointment as soon as you can.

**Paid Union Meetings for Teachers - Children to be collected at 12.30 pm this day**

**September 9th** - Paid Union Meetings are underway throughout NZ as teachers are informed of the new Global funding scheme proposed for our schools. It has the potential to drastically change the way we are funded and the staff are required to be up to speed on the information and how it might affect our school.

Our Union members will be attending their meeting on **Friday September 9 at 1.30pm**. The school remains open for tuition but we actively encourage you to pick up your children at 12.30pm. The school buses will run at 12.30pm and at least two staff will remain at school to supervise those who cannot be picked up at 12.30pm.

We will not see the children unsupervised if you are unable to collect them at this time but we ask that you understand the union staff are entitled to attend these meetings and urged to do so.

While I am not happy with the timing of the meeting, I am also unable to stop teachers attending because this would be illegal for me to do.

Please advise the staff if you are unable to pick your children up at 12.30pm on that day so we can prepare for any supervision required.

**Cleaner required** - Lainey, our newest cleaner has shifted away from Rakaia and we are therefore looking for a new cleaner to take her position in a fixed term role until the end of the year.

If this is something you think you would like to do then please give Mark a call at school or on his cell 0273477982.

**Please note : Full School assembly this Friday at 9.10am in Mahitahi. (The time is changed due to swimming for senior school.)**

**School Olympic day - September 2 2016 - Details to follow**

