

Dear Parents and Caregivers, Kia Ora Koutou

Wow, it's hard to believe it is almost September. I would ask that if you have not yet made an appointment to meet your child's teacher in the Mahi tahi room then please do so, so you can collect their mid-year reports. Interviews were held 5 weeks ago and we still have parents we have not heard from.

We also look forward to the Soup Days to be held this Tuesday and Wednesday and thank the School Support Group in advance for their connections at school. We are very grateful to the committee for their hard work in gaining a grant from the Aoraki Trust and the support from the patrons at the South Rakaia Hotel. We have been given \$10000 for the shade sails outside Mahi tahi and also replacement sails outside the junior rooms. This is an incredible help to the school and means money can be put into other areas. The School Support Group continue to work hard on behalf of all the students and we encourage you to attend their meetings to see where you may be able to support the children and school.

Olympic day September 2nd - This week we will also hold our School Wide Olympic day for the children and invite you to attend. It will start at 9.30am on Friday September 2 with 20 minutes games played. The children will represent a country and rotate around set activities with the staff. They will earn points for the way they play and interact in their groups and the School values or Partnership, Quality and Respect will be used to measure their success.

Lunch will be 12.20pm until 1.20pm and during lunch a netball match will be played between the staff and senior pupils. This should be great to watch.

On Friday at the Olympics it is a day to raise funds for the Kids Can Charity and so we do ask for a gold coin donation please. Kids Can supports our school with food, hats and also footwear for children who need it from time to time.



This Sunday is Father's day and we do invite the children to write about their Dad or Granddad. We will be selecting the best writing so a gift can be awarded to their Dad/Granddad from the Duffy foundation.



PALS Notice,

The PALS (Physical Activity Leaders) are asking for anyone

who has empty plastic bottles that they can donate them to the school before the end of september. If you would like to donate some, please take these to Room 3. These are used to help the PALS enter a competition from Fair Go to win money for the school. Anyone who has plastic bottles including milk bottles will be extremely kind to donate and it will help the school incredibly if we win.

*Kind regards,
Chris, Steph and the PALS*

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.

Update on Principals visit to the secondary schools - I had a wonderful two days visiting the students from Mt Hutt College and Ashburton College last week. They were very happy to see us and have lunch put on for them. I gathered some valuable information about how we could have helped them academically and with transition. They all responded positively and I valued the time with them all. The thread seems to say we need to look at Science, transition visits for them to the sites, opportunities for them to meet other year 8 pupils before heading to High School and to give them opportunities to change teachers while here so they get used to this type of teaching model before High School classes. It was a great chance to catch up with them all and I have invited them back to Rakaia when they can manage it.