

Newsletter Tuesday October 25 2016

Kia Ora Koutou

Hello everyone and welcome to week 3 of the term. We look forward a great day tomorrow for the Athletics with Dorie school. A copy of the timetable was sent home last week and we invite you to support the children positively with cheering and comments to lift their spirits if the day gets long and hard.

The weather has been a little unpredictable and if the event is postponed we will be under pressure and so events may have to be run over two days to get everything finished. If worst case scenario eventuates then results will be based on what we know of the new children at school and past results in 2015. Please listen to 92.1FM and Hokonui 92.5FM.



Thank you to all who came to the assembly on Friday. We welcomed some new students to Rakaia and celebrated with some certificates and badges. Our “caught being good” recipients are in the photo and they were thrilled to get a free book home supported by our School Support Group and sponsors.

The Year 5-6 pupils are almost ready for their camp and the sausage sizzle and bake sale on Friday was a great success. Thank you to all who supported that as well.



Principal’s Comment :

Recently I have had the unpleasant task of dealing with some bullying in our senior school. It has involved exclusion and whispering, saying things about each other and general behaviour that has upset some of the pupils. I commented at the assembly that NZ has a culture that unfortunately knocks down those of us who are succeeding or those of us that are different in some way to the others. Whatever we think about bullying and these aspects of growing up, the clear message delivered at school includes the fact that we encourage students to use the “Stop, Walk and Talk” method.

It says :

- Tell the bully to stop hassling you
- Walk away
- and talk to an adult.

There is no such thing as telling tales because we are certainly not wanting to accept any behaviour that makes students feel unsafe, feel less than others, ignored or not listened to.

I ask for your support in encouraging students to look carefully at how they want to be treated. Think of what sort of things they can say in situations and I also ask you to encourage your children to stand up for any of their friends who may be getting a hard time. Tell the staff so we can act! We cannot do anything if we are not aware of the behaviours.

I do not want to blow this out of proportion but I want the community to know we are not going to accept poor behaviour that upsets students. Bully's bully out of fear. They need some attention or reinforcement to make them feel better in some way. We would actively support conversations with your children that help them realise their strengths and also strategies to help them deal with comments. Resilience in the NZ workplace, school environment and home life is important but it needs to be modelled and supported so our students grow up with positive self images and positive thoughts to get them through the tough time life throws at us.

I am available to address any concerns you may have. These issues can be very sensitive and emotional so please feel free to make an appointment to see me about any concerns. We will treat it with confidence and promise to follow up concerns. The only way to maintain the positive culture and confidence we have in our values is to talk with honesty and with our children's' "well being" being the very clear focus for us.

We want all of our children to be Inspirational and Successful and to reach their potential with our support and the experiences we offer them.

Enough said. Please remember Partnership, Quality and Respect are our core values for the children to live by at school and into their secondary schooling as well. Please ensure your conversations around your children reflect your core values and ours.

Thank you
Mark Ellis

Community Notices and reminders:

Rakaia Pony Club will be hosting the Springston Trophy next year on October 5 - 8th. They are looking for anybody who can provide accommodation for teams and horses for the duration. If you could let Su Bowden su@16hands.co.nz know if you can help i.e. wool shed with a toilet that could house 6 and yards for 6 horses or truck/float parking only and a 4 acre paddock.

