

Newsletter November 7 2016

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome another short week. It is Christchurch Show weekend this weekend and Friday is a public holiday. All children are expected to be at school Thursday unless explained absence is recorded. I apologise to those of you who have great attendance records I am just trying to get the very important message to all families, that attendance at school makes a huge difference to your children's opportunities and their work ethic. It was surprising to see how many children were away from athletics on Friday after gaining selection for the Mid Canterbury event. I am grateful to those children who stepped up for relays so the teams could still compete.

A logo for the Class of 2017. The text "CLASS OF" is in a smaller, bold, black font above the year "2017", which is in a larger, bold, black font. The entire logo is enclosed in a white oval with a thin black border.

This Tuesday November 8th we invite families of Mahi Tahī 2017 to a meeting at 6pm at school. This is an opportunity to meet Mr Shane Dawson and the staff for 2017 and to go through the makeup of the room and what the children will be doing and how the Modern Learning Environment will work for the staff and students. The meeting is for 30 minutes and is a way of giving you the information and answers you require for the 2017 year 5-8

students.

ERO at school - Next week welcome the team from ERO to school. This year the reviewers are very interested in achievement for Maori students as well as achievement for all. They will be looking in classrooms and searching through school paperwork to audit the management and operation of the school. The BOT will be having meetings with the ERO team as well and hopefully by the end of the year we will have our draft report detailing what aspects the school needs to focus on for any improvement.



Last week I had the pleasure of hosting the year 2-3 classes at the Ashburton Fire Station. The students were very responsive and I also had my Station Officer present and he was very impressed with the children's knowledge and confidence. Congratulations to the staff for their work in this important safety aspect of our curriculum. I was very proud of the children. Well done Rakaia!

Congratulations also to the School Support Group for their work at the Fireworks night on Saturday November 5th. I have had a call from Rachel saying that we made \$1500 on the night for the School Support Group and we are very grateful to all that provided support on the night. It is tremendous to have this commitment from the school community. It has been a very good year for fundraising and we thank you all for your work.

My job always presents opportunities that are memorable and last week I attended two of the three days the Year 5-6 students were on camp at Wainui on the Banks Peninsula. The students had a wonderful time and they tried kayaking, coastering, flying fox, orienteering and low ropes. The parents on camp were amazing and Mrs Jenkins with support from Miss Gardyne led a wonderful experience for the children.

Camps are often one of the most memorable times for our students and I know the seniors are looking forward to Wellington in December.



Congratulations to Mikayla Marshall for being the fastest runner in Mid Canterbury at the County events. Mikayla won her short and long sprints last Friday and represented the school very well.

A reminder to parents to check your children for head lice from time to time. We have some currently active in the junior school. It can be a worrying experience but it does happen when children work so closely together. Children and families will require treatment if present and bed linen needs to be changed. Headlice has nothing to do with personal hygiene however it does require active treatment to stop reinfestation.

Community Notices:

"Rakaia School Support Group – Christmas Raffle

We are trying something new for our Christmas Raffle this year. Instead of asking school families to donate an item towards the raffle and then asking families to sell raffle tickets, School Support Group are organising the prizes and only ask families to sell tickets. We are utilising the talents of local bakers to make and decorate Christmas cakes to raffle, plus we'll have Christmas Hams, Wine, Chocolates etc to be won. We are currently finalising the prizes and will send home raffle tickets soon for families to please sell. If you enjoy baking and would like to bake or decorate a Christmas cake, please contact Nicola Habbitts 021 777 120 or Rachel Hart 0275 303 503 this week."

