

Newsletter December 12

Merry Christmas everyone

This is the last newsletter of the 2016 year and the staff and BOT wish all students and parents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The year has just whizzed by and we are looking ahead to a fabulous New Year with new enrolments and staff to get 2017 off to a wonderful start. The new all-weather turf between Mahitahi and the office is almost complete and the BOT will have their last meeting tonight at 6.30pm. The students are gathering their art work from the walls and school reports for Year 4 - 8 will be home this week.

Please note with school reports we are asked to report National standards to you and this means the results you see are a gathering of many samples the staff have seen, tests the children have completed and also a culmination of conversations the staff have had with your children. The most important focus for you is the question around progress. If your child was AT the National Standard last year and is again, then they have progressed at an expected level. If the National Standard is different then they have either accelerated progress or not moved at a normal progress expectation. Please look carefully and have a conversation with the teacher this year or with their new teacher next year.

Part of my job as Principal is to look at the data provided by the staff after they have moderated the results. I use this information to question, challenge and set goals for the upcoming year. I will be analysing this data very carefully with the staff to ensure we have processes in place to improve progress levels for the children. The other key components to this success is the relationship with you, the parents, and also the children and their efforts to learn.

Junior students in years 0-2 next year will have received a copy of what classroom their child is going into. The junior School syndicate of Teachers will be known as Ako. Ako is the Maori word for the learner relationship.

Year 3 and 4 students will all be in Rooms 7-8 with Mrs Jenkins and Miss Gardyne and their syndicate will be known as Whanuangatanga or Whanau (for short) and that word focusses on family, sense of kinship and partnership.

The Year 5-8 students will be in Mahitahi, a word that celebrates "working as one" These students will be working with Mr Dawson, Mrs Crowe and a new teacher to be appointed.

Students in Whanau and Mahitahi will have a Whanau lead teacher for attendance and contact but students will work with all staff in their syndicate giving them options and building relationships with different staff.

Stationery for the students in Whanau and Mahitahi will be managed at school and your \$30 charge provides all they will need for the year. Any extra stationery will be at the school's cost. The books and writing instruments will be delivered to school and you will not have to cover or manage them at home. If you insist on buying it yourself then a list can be provided in the school office. Junior Syndicate - Ako - the packs are ready for collection at school for \$30 as well so you can name this over the holidays.



Mrs Karen Boag is having a shift within the school and Karen will be in the office for Term 1 as we work to appoint a permanent secretary after Brooke Cleaver leaves this week. This will be advertised in term 1 so we have time to complete Police vetting and other requirements under the Vulnerable children's act.

Important times for this week:

Tuesday December 13 - School Picnic

- starts at 11.30am when parents are invited to join us for the first rotation of the day. We are planning to have games and activities for the children and invite you to take part. The Pool will be open as a rotation as well so all children will need to have their togs and towels with them. Lunch will be 12.30-1.30pm with another rotation after lunch and finishing at 2.30pm for pack up and home normal time. Sausage sizzle available at \$2 each.



Wednesday December 14 - Prizegiving - This starts at 1pm at school under the shade cloth. If the weather is poor then we will be at the Rakaia Memorial Hall to end the year with certificates and awards. After prizegiving finishes you will be able to take your children home or wait for the normal bus times.

Thursday December 15 - last day of school with no formal tuition the children who are at school will support staff to shift items into their new rooms. The buses and all students will leave school at 12 noon and the year will be over for 2016.

The **2017** academic year starts January 30 and the school will be open from January 23.

