

Monday 10th April 2017

Kia Ora Koutou

The last week of Term 1 is here and our last day of school is Thursday April 13, with a full school assembly at 9.10 am.

It was great to see everyone at our coffee morning, "Rakaia School 101" on Friday. We discussed some basic aspects of everyday school life. We will look to run similar sessions to this on a termly basis and also an evening session to suit those at work. It was a good opportunity to meet some new faces and share the Rakaia story.

School Docs - Policies and procedures online for us to view and review

Our school has been working with SchoolDocs to create a website for our policies and procedures. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community.

The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at <http://rakaia.schooldocs.co.nz/> (note that there's no "www"!). Our username is **rakaia** and password **dunford** .

Well done to our talented Year 7/8 students for hosting their Healthy Eating Lunch on Friday the 31st of March. We had guests from The Canterbury District Health Board who were impressed with not just the delicious lunch the students had prepared but with their knowledge of nutritional guidelines and the benefits of healthy lunchbox snacks. Parents and other community members were also impressed with the spread of healthy but delicious lunch. If you would like any of the recipes that were made to try at home, please email Anita. anitapaul@rakaia.school.nz



Staffing updates

This week we farewell three staff. Thank you very much to Kristie Leonard who stepped in to take Room 2 while Mrs Doody has been away. Kristie has done a marvellous job and we wish her all the best in her shift to Central Otago.

Mrs Scott has just been with us a term and heads off to Tinwald School. Thank you Ashleigh for the start you made and we wish you all the best in Ashburton.

After 10 years at Rakaia School we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Jo Jackson. Jo and her husband Mike have had a lot to do with the school and their son Ryan went here. Jo has been a teacher aide for all of that time working with a variety of students and completing a sterling job of meeting challenges and sharing her supportive style with us. Jo will be missed and on behalf of the School, BOT, Staff, Students and Community we wish you all the best in your shift to Hampstead School to support Alex and to enjoy less travel and more time at home. We hope our values stay with you and you have fond memories of your time at Rakaia.



We have appointed a new teacher to Mahi Tahi for term 2 and this announcement will be made when they have had clearance from their school. They will be joining us just after Queen's birthday and this means Mrs Stapleton will offer cover in Mahi Tahi for 5-6 weeks. Mrs Stapleton will teach Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Paul will cover Thursday and Mr Ellis on a Friday. Mrs Stapleton has been a flexible member of the staff for well over 12 years and we appreciate her dedication and commitment to the School.

Our next challenge is to find a replacement for Mrs Paul when she leaves to have her baby at the end of term 2. Mrs Young (nee Walsh) will be the acting Deputy Principal and hopefully this will be one of the last changes for the year.

It has been a challenging time with staffing. It is clearly an "age and stage" thing with weddings and babies arriving and I appreciate everyone's understanding as the ground seems to be very fluid at the moment. It is the BOT's aim and mine to get some stability back as soon as we can confirm positions, which takes a little time to ensure we get the right people in the right places.

Rakaia Squash Club Inc.

Junior Squash Muster on Friday 5th May 2017

Rakaia Squash Club, Rakaia Domain Primary/Intermediate at 4.30pm Secondary at 5.30pm

Parents/Caregivers must stay.

Junior Squash will be on Fridays of Term 2. Ages 8 years and over. Clean non marking shoes must be worn on court, or bare feet.

Junior Squash Co-ordinators are Rachel (0275 303 503) and Colleen (021 234 5708)

Important Dates:

1st May - Term 2 begins

5th May- Full School Assembly 2.15pm

Week of 22nd May- Book Week

24th May- Rakaia/ Dorie/Ash Christian School Cross Country

29th May Start of Ako Syndicate swimming in Ashburton

5th June- Queens Birthday

6th June Start of Whanau Syndicate swimming in Ashburton

