



Dear Parents and Caregivers, Welcome to week 4 of the term.

On Friday we said farewell to Mrs Anna Young as she heads away to have her first child. We celebrated that with a staff dinner on Friday night and look forward to hearing the news soon. Mrs Bonnington is happy at home now with her little girl Sadie. I called in to see her last week and all is well.

I had my first appraisal meeting to set my goals for the year with the BOT Chair and the independant consultant we use. The discussion was robust and I have chosen to explore the aspect of our Vision statement that says "Inspiring minds"

I want to know what that means to our community of parents, BOT, teachers and students.

- What are we doing to meet this aspirational goal?
- How do we know that we are inspiring minds?
- What are we doing well with curriculum and what can we improve?
- If we want Inspirational students, teachers and BOT then what do we have to concentrate on to achieve this?

It is essential to me that we are all aiming high to be the best we can be at Rakaia. I will be conducting some research and surveys to see what you think. I will look at other schools and countries that adjust their curriculum and lessons to get the very best from their pupils.

We have spent some time looking carefully at how we can get the best from your children. Our approach to curriculum uses these big ideas and we spend a term on each before meeting it again in another context.

- **Energy:** Identify energy sources and their impacts.
- **Culture and Community:** exploration of cultures and communities within the school, Rakaia and the world.
- **Innovation and Discovery:** the creation and design of a new or existing method, idea or product through inquiry.
- **Change:** the act or process through which something becomes different.
- **Relationships :** developing skills that the students can use when relating to others in a variety of situations.
- **Communication :** developing skills that will enable students to communicate confidently using a range of tools.

So please consider what it is you want for your children at Rakaia. We are beginning to pull together a new Strategic Plan for the school and meetings will be held and we will invite you to

come and share your ideas and your voice so we can say our curriculum is owned by our parents. Please watch this space!

Reminder that School closes at 1pm tomorrow February 20. Buses will run at 1pm and children will return home for the teachers to attend Professional Development with the other 8 schools in our Community of Learning.

Thank you for your understanding.

Community Notices:

The Rural Support Trust in partnership with Safer Ashburton District aim to reduce isolation for newcomers and migrant women in the rural communities by providing assistance to obtain their drivers licence. This free programme takes you from a learner to a licenced driver, matches you with a volunteer driving mentor and supports you along the way.

What we offer:

- Free support and tuition
- Subsidised driving test
- Classroom based study up to learners licence.
- Access to a qualified driving instructor
- Access to a support network

The benefits:

- Safe and confident new drivers
- Increased participation in the community
- Increased self-sufficiency and independence

The programme is open to migrant women living on farms in the Ashburton District.

The first classroom based road code lessons begin in Ashburton on the 13th March from 11am to 1pm. On gaining a learners license we will begin driver training towards a restricted licence. Numbers are limited, so get in quick.

To register for this free course please contact

Wendy Hewitt

Rural Licensing Co-Ordinator

Phone: 03 308 1395 or 027 611 3301

wendy@saferashburton.org.nz

Tuesday, 20 February	
9:00am	House Competition Day
1:00pm	School closes at 1pm due to
Thursday, 22 February	
Year 7/8 Technology	
Friday, 23 February	
2:30pm	Team Ako Assembly
Tuesday, 27 February	
3:30pm	Goal setting conferences - w
Wednesday, 28 February	
3:30pm	Goal setting conferences Ak
Thursday, 1 March	
Year 7/8 Technology	
Friday, 2 March	
2:15pm	Full School Assembly
Tuesday, 6 March	
County Swimming Sports	
3:30pm	Goal setting conference - Te
Thursday, 8 March	
Year 7/8 Technology	

We are also looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping out, give us a call.