

October 15 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The holidays have been very busy for staff but also we were saddened by the news that one of our school families has suffered the tragedy and loss of their very dear son at only two years old. The whole school community passes on their sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Jordan family after the sudden passing of their young son, Jayden (JJ). Our thoughts are with Clint and Maria, and their children Coby, Caitlin and Cameron.

*May the memories of Jayden and the love of family and friends bring you comfort and strength in this difficult time.*



INSPIRING MINDS  CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Jayden's funeral is tomorrow at 1.30pm and the School Support Group is catering for this event and welcomes food for the event to be delivered to the school on Tuesday morning.

**Welcome** back to term 4, a short nine weeks finishing on December 14.

During the holidays we welcomed Jill Cogger, our new Deputy Principal. She will be teaching in Room 2 with Mrs Adams. Jill will teach Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Monday and Friday as her office days. I am sure Jill will enjoy her time with us at Rakaia.

We also appointed Miss Alissa Anderson permanently to the staff after interviews were held. Alissa replaces Mrs Young. Our staffing for 2019 has been sent to us from the Ministry of Education and it does indicate a drop in staffing due to a lower roll presently. Currently we have 8 teaching staff full time and next year it drops to 7 full time. Looking ahead we can see that our junior rooms will be years 1-3, Whanau will be years 4 - 5 and the Year 6-8 students will be in Mahitahi. Miss Kara Wilhelmus will be leaving us to continue her teaching elsewhere as her fixed term contract comes to an end. I will keep you all up to speed with teachers and classes as soon as this is finalised and our part time positions are clear.

### **New Playground opening - Friday, October 26 at 6pm**

We are thrilled to announce the opening of new playground for the Mahitahi children years 5-8. The BOT have worked really hard with the support of the School Support Group and local sponsors to get this ready for the term. In particular we need to extend special thanks to Grant Lorimer and Daniel Watson who have worked on this project personally over weekends and many hours of hard work to see the project through to completion.

We plan to have a formal opening with sausage sizzle and invite you to enjoy the school setting on Friday night , October 26th and come down to celebrate the start of the term and enjoy the facilities.

### Important dates to note:

Week one is swim week for the Whanau syndicate and then next week is the Athletic Sports held here at Rakaia School on Wednesday 24th October.

Next Monday October 22nd is Labour day and so school will be closed as well as Friday November 16th as Canterbury Show day.

Thursday November 15th is a Teacher Only day as all staff from the Community of Learning head to Arowhenua Marae for some professional development.

Pet Day is Friday, November 2nd.

We will keep you all up to date with changes and information in the newsletter and the school app.

### **SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE**

The next uniform sale is to be held this Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Come along and see what we have for your summer uniform requirements, outside the shed at school from 2.45 until 3.15.

We have available a limited number of new cargo shorts (\$22) and cotton drill shorts (\$20) These are at a reduced price so if your boys need new shorts be in quick. Any donations or swaps of uniforms are most welcome.  
Clare Stewart  
0274 190020

**Mid Canterbury Tennis** are holding our Annual Primary/Intermediate Schools Singles Tournament of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre.

**Players do NOT have to be affiliated to a Tennis Club to play in this tournament. Entry is open to all Mid Canterbury Primary & Intermediate School children.**

<b>Monday, 15 October</b>
Whanau Swimming week
<b>Tuesday, 16 October</b>
Whanau Swimming week
<b>Wednesday, 17 October</b>
Whanau Swimming week
<b>Thursday, 18 October</b>
Whanau Swimming week
<b>Friday, 19 October</b>
Whanau Swimming week
<b>Wednesday, 24 October</b>
Athletics - ACS and Dorie at Rakaia Sch
<b>Friday, 26 October</b>
Full School Assembly 2.15pm
6:00pm Opening of the new playgrou
<b>Friday, 2 November</b>
9am Team Whanau Assembly
Pet Day
<b>Monday, 5 November</b>
Ako Swim week

