

Newsletter February 4 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Important: Waitangi Day - Wednesday February 6 - School is closed

It has been a great start to the 2019 year and we appreciate having the students back with wonderful stories to tell and share with us about their holidays and the fun they have had.

Times for arriving - a reminder that school starts at 8.55am every morning and the students can arrive from 8.30am onwards. We know they were excited to be back but at 8.15am we cannot ensure supervision as staff are getting their days planned. We also require the playground cleared quickly at the end of the day and if children come back to play after school we ask they dress in mufti and not uniform. This helps us look and understand they have been home before returning to school.

Rakaia 101 - I have a planned presentation for new parents as well as current parents. This will take place **February 11 at 9.15am**. I will also look to hold an evening one as well. At this presentation we will cover the workings of the school and have time for questions. Please come along with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Meet the teacher evening - this will be held on February 12 starting at 6pm in the Ako Team (Rooms 1 and 3), 6.30pm Team Whanau (Rooms 7 and 8) and at 7pm Mahi Tahi team will present to you. The purpose of the evening is to introduce the staff and their programmes. They will have time for questions.



We will be having goal setting interviews in week 5 and these will be booked through the interview system and we will advise when this is open for bookings.

Goal Setting Interviews will be Tuesday February 26 from 3.20pm until 7pm. Bookings are done using the School Interviews website <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/> and entering the code **pduu9**.

Swimming Carnival Year 3-8 - Our swimming carnival is Thursday February 7 at the Rakaia Pool by the Fire station. This day is for all students year 3-8 and they have an opportunity to compete in events for house points and qualify for the sports with Dorie and the Christian School. To qualify they will have to take part in length events and be able to confidently complete the event.

The children can wear House Colours for the day to support their teams and the event will begin at 10 am and finish by 12.30pm. Width events will be first and children are encouraged to enter

a minimum of two events. **Please be aware there will be some small stalls from the senior class for camp fundraising so if the children can bring some change it would be appreciated.**

Early Closure COL - Once again this year the Community of Learning will be having one day a term with early closure for all 90 staff of the 9 schools to meet and have some professional development to improve outcomes for our schools and students. School will close at 1pm these three days and the full day in term 4.

The dates are March 12, May 21, August 20 and a full day on Thursday November 14

Website, Facebook and App - please download our school app and keep an eye on the facebook page. We also have the calendar being updated as new events pop up. We endeavour to keep you well up to date with all of the school happenings. The app is free from the app store or apple store. We have over 1000 downloads at this point in time so it is proving popular. If you download then look under events and you will see the up-coming events and details. Just check with us if you are unsure.

Cricket Year 5-6 - We have entered teams in this event for February and more details will follow. It is an enjoyable day for the students who take part.

Allergies at school - A reminder to all that we have several children at school now with allergies resulting in anaphylaxis. In simple terms peanuts and eggs can be life threatening to the children concerned.

Maddi in the Whanau syndicate is allergic to eggs and we ask that you refrain from sharing any lunches and we ask you to think carefully about sending anything like egg sandwiches or quiche to school because it can result in a reaction even if she touches your hand.

Kahu in the senior school is allergic to peanuts and again we need to refrain from sharing lunches. His awareness is good about food but again limiting contact is the best strategy.

We thank you for your understanding.

Please advise the school if you want your children to be part of the 2019 Kapa Haka group that will have lessons with Matua this year. Kapa Haka will only be delivered to a group of 40 children this year while others will have normal class Taha Maori as part of NZ curriculum. The two junior rooms may have time for some weekly tutoring and support from Matua as well but the programme is currently being finalised. The Kapa Haka group will work towards presenting at Hakatere (Ashburton) festival in October.