

April 29 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to term 2. I hope the school holidays and Easter were eventful for you and you had some rewarding times with your children. The new term is upon us and we have a lot happening with Cross Country on May 17th and swimming for Whanau and Ako starting in week 4.



We welcome Mrs Jenna McNeur and Mrs Alisha Hall to Room 2. Mrs Doody will also be supporting the start of this room as Mrs Hall works out her time at Ashburton Borough. To begin the term Mrs Doody will be working every Monday and Tuesday for 3 weeks and Mrs McNeur Wednesday to Friday. In Week 4 Mrs Hall will start Monday to Wednesday and Mrs McNeur will do Thursday and Friday and it will continue from there. Both teachers are experienced and we look forward to having them on staff.

Mrs Melanie Marr starts in Mahitahi this term working with Mrs Jenkins and the year 7-8 children. Her addition helps Mrs Jenkins with her large group of 36 and gives opportunity for extension, enrichment and acceleration for students. Mrs Marr is an experienced teacher and will work Tuesday to Thursday 9-12.30pm.

Reporting - Linc Ed - We have started to use a new School Management System that has the capability to link information to your smart phones so you can get some real time feedback and information on your child's learning. As we start to pull this reporting system together I would like to get a focus group of parents together to start to look at the process and utilise your wants and needs. If this is something you are interested in doing then please contact Mark at school. We are looking for around six parents who will not mind trialling the system and taking part in some training and meetings at school, probably held throughout the school day.



Paid Union Meetings May 7th - Unfortunately the Teacher Union members have had to refuse the latest Ministry of Education offer in our industrial negotiations. Paid Union meetings are planned for Tuesday May 7th, and we are doing our very best to cover all rooms so the learning is not interrupted. Currently if there is no movement with our offer then there is a planned strike for **Wednesday May 29** but this will be confirmed after voting at meetings and negotiations continuing. Please keep an eye on newsletters and the School App for any further details.

Finance meeting - Tuesday May 7th 6pm - I invite you to attend a meeting to discuss the finances of the school and how we are funded and the expenditure we have. The school is in a position of review due to rising costs and what we offer our students. It is imperative that we have some of the community present so we can make suggestions to go back to our community about school donations and contributions to activities. Potentially we need to look at increasing these, looking at some serious annual fundraising to maintain the level of tuition and opportunities our students get. I will have some true and accurate costings for you and ideally I would like to take recommendations from the meeting back to our wider community for action in the 2020 school year.

Questions we may pose:

- Should we have a tiered donation? Junior school smaller than middle school and senior school larger contribution.
- Should we be asking for full costs for bus use?
- Could school support pay a percentage of costs for students and would this hopefully encourage more people to support them in their annual fundraising?

BOT update :

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope Autumn is treating you well.

This term we are having a good discussion around where the operational costs sit and we manage these. It's important to remind you that the school does not take the 'user pays' mentality strictly and we look to provide a balance of providing the best opportunities without charge and having caregivers / families invest financially in their children's school experience. In short, we are looking at a fee model that is transparent and defines exactly what you get for your investment at Rakaia School.

None of this can be achieved without your input and we will indicate when the BoT have some information to share. You all will be most welcome to attend.

Please keep an eye out for BoT nomination forms. We have three parent representative positions up for rotation this year and these people can be nominated again if you so wish;

- Michelle Jones
- Daniel Watson
- Grant Lorimer

Nominations are also open to absolutely anybody in the community. So if you think of a person that would suit our school, write their name down and we will contact those people who have enough nominations.

The new candidates will join our current BoT parent representatives of:

- Gabi Costello
- Pete Harrison

If you are interested, or would like more information, I'm more than happy to discuss. Contact details on the app and below. Search 'NZSTA' on google – this is the representative body for all school trustees in New Zealand.

Have a great week
regards,

Grant Lorimer
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