

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to week 5. The term is absolutely flying by with business and productivity. I hope that many of you were able to login to the Linc-ed reporting system and get feedback from last term and this term. This is the way we will report from now on and urge you to get online and login.

How do I access my child's LINC-ED page?

Step 1

Visit <https://rakaia.linc-ed.com/wp-login.php?action=lostpassword>

LINC-ED is supported on all modern browsers, for example Google Chrome or Safari.

Step 2

Click the Lost your Password button.

Step 3

Enter the email address you have given the school to send you communication. Click Get New Password.

Step 4

An email will be sent to you containing a link for you to click on. The link will take you to a page where you will see your new password.

If you choose to, you can delete the automatically generated password and enter your own strong, secure password then click Reset Password.

Step 5

Enjoy reading, viewing and listening to your child's learning. Become part of the conversation by writing a comment or adding a 'Like' to the post.

If you have any problems with access please contact: add the details of your school's LINC-ED administrator.markellis@rakaia.school.nz



Reminders: that this week we have Ako assembly on Friday. A great chance to come and see the children and celebrate their learning.

School closes at 1pm Tuesday for Teacher Professional Development.

Principal's Pondering

It's Sunday lunchtime and I am sitting in the sun completing the newsletter before another busy week at Rakaia School presents itself with a Monday welcome.

I wonder sometimes if turning 50 has changed me a little.

I've done some of the mundane weekend things like getting the wood, chop some kindling, hung out the washing but haven't vacuumed yet. I've heard that a teacher is sick and been assured we have it covered. I have wished a happy birthday to a friend and managed to get to Christchurch last night to go ten pin bowling with the family. A pretty normal weekend. But what is normal?



Being a School principal and fireman puts you in contact with people at different times in their lives. I see angry people, happy and engaged people. I spend time with people in pain and sometimes in their last moments and these times highlight what is important for us.

I think I tend to "sweat the small stuff" and so do many of us. I wonder if we all just stopped and took a breath. Turned off the device, listened to the rain on the roof and smelled the roses along our journey. As the pace of life seems to increase with technology and we become influenced more and more by what we read and see on the internet I hope we realize it all happens around relationships.

Am I writing this for you or me? Not sure yet because it can be so easy to just say words, so easy just to write them. The hard part is to live them.

I just really want us to "be better" at what we do daily. The students, the staff, the BOT, and the parents. Before we leap into a tirade or complaint have we considered the other point of view. Before we complain to a friend about someone, have we shown compassion and the strength to actually talk to the person that is upsetting you. Have we paused to just consider what someone might be going through? Every behaviour is a communication of some kind and the challenge is to work out what they are saying with their actions.

In many ways, the lesson is of course for me to "Be better" To lead with compassion, understanding, and strength. I value my time at Rakaia and the community that lets me be me. Thank you to you all for giving me the opportunity and responsibility of Principalship. I do my best but sometimes, like you, I have some baggage to address because I am a normal man trying to be the best I can be.

Thanks for listening. I am off for a ride on my motorbike now to organize a camping spot for Christmas. Yep, it's just around the corner. Have a great week everyone.

Mark Ellis