

Newsletter Week 5 Term 1 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

A busy week is on the horizon with Interviews tonight and Wednesday after school. We also have a Full School assembly on Friday at 2.15pm.

We have our early closure on Tuesday March 3rd for the cluster Professional Development and so school will finish at 1pm. This happens every term until term 4 when we usually have the day before show day for Professional Development as well. This important work supports teachers to offer your children the best practice.



School Interviews and Goal setting - slots are filling up!

These are being held **tonight**, Monday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 4. Team Ako will only be Monday. We ask that you come prepared with any questions and the first part of the interview will be your opportunity to share your aims and aspirations for your child. We will be using timers for the ten minutes so please do not be offended if the teacher stands and guides you out the door as the next interview time arrives.

Please go to the website <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/>

And enter the password **h3jxc**

Choose your slot and book it in. If you have any difficulty then the office can book it for you.

Good luck to our county swimmers for Tuesday. I am sure you will all do the school proud. Also we wish the Ripa Rugby teams well for tomorrow night which is the first competitive game for March. These are held at the Ashburton A&P Showgrounds. The draws have been issued today and are also on the mid canterbury rugby site.



2020 School Board

Good afternoon everyone;

The Rakaia BOT had its first meeting for 2020 the other week and we successfully filled all positions;

- Grant Lorimer (Board Chair)
- Mark Ellis (Principal)
- Al Drye (Treasurer)
- Mandy Beevor (Staff Representative)
- Gabi Costello (Parent Representative)
- Nicola Habbitts (Parent Representative)
- Pete Harrison (Parent Representative)

Many of us are in at school regularly, so don't be shy – we enjoy the conversation.

Welcome back to school, we have started with a very good roll and the teachers are hard at work making sure every one of our little people have some learning goals. Please book a time on the appropriate nights to catch your teacher so that you can understand where your child is at.

The turf is down under the shade cloth and the pool has its new cover with winder. The government has given us a bit extra to spend on infrastructure and we'll be looking at projects that are on the wish list rather than boring maintenance. If you have a particular project idea in mind that will give greater educational outcomes and enhance the look of the school – then drop me an email or phone call.

Over the page is a bit on the COVID-19 virus that is currently hot news. The information is a mix from the Ministry of Education, our policy documents and our Boards input.

With the virus affecting global logistics, health resources and financial markets – it's likely that we will feel the effect in some form.

Please don't panic or treat it as something that will 100% happen, just take a moment to review your situation and put some little steps in place.

Nga Mihi nui and take care

Grant

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COVID-19

The Board wishes to raise awareness with the school community early, as the updates from the Ministry of Education and NZSTA are few and far between at the moment and the situation is very fluid.

It appears that the transmission rate is higher for COVID-19 in western countries and we should think about how life may change if New Zealand contracts this virus. The ministry is currently assessing 136 suspected cases in the Auckland region.

Depending on factors yet to be seen, Families may come under pressure with how they can operate.

We urge you to think about the essential daily things:

- Flexibility if schools and workplace hours are altered
- Accessing essential weekly items
- Travel inside of New Zealand

Anyone who is unwell should not be at school. If you have a particular concern about your child, please contact **Healthline** at **0800 358 5453** or your GP for medical advice. The incubation period (the length of time it takes to start showing symptoms after being exposed to the virus) is up to 14 days.

Rakaia School promotes basic hygiene measures to help stop the spread of infectious diseases. This includes key messages such as:

- wash your hands regularly
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- cover your coughs and sneezes.

The Board also wish to reiterate that the school has a **zero tolerance of racist remarks or behaviour** regardless of being virus related or not. Please make sure you have this talk with your children about everyone being susceptible to the virus.

Healthline has set up a dedicated 0800 number specifically for **health-related** calls about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus):

- The number is [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453)

For all other information and links visit

<https://www.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>