

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to week 5 of the term as we head into level 2 again. We really appreciate your commitment and understanding with the changes being forced upon you and the decisions being made in regards to safety. This is why we have :

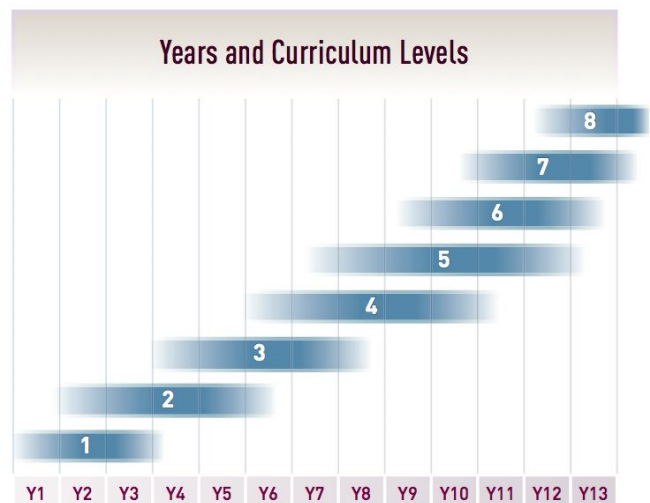
- Cancelled swimming for Mahi Tahī this week.
- Postponed the Soup and Kahoot night
- Asked parents to drop off and pick up at the gates
- Reduced assemblies

We have hand sanitiser available and will be encouraging the hygiene standards that were set via the Ministry guidelines.

This week we interview for the permanent Teachers position for 2021. We have appointed a Deputy Principal, Mr Morgan Platt who will start with us in term 4. Morgan visited school on Friday and met the staff and will be back again this term to spend some time with his classroom and undertake some transition to Rakaia School.

HERO - Our school management system will be sending out updates for you in the next week. The staff have commented on your child's work and you will receive two comments this term. This is our way of ensuring you receive up to date feedback and we encourage you to make appointments with the staff if you have questions or comments that you want to discuss. Our partnership is vital to the success of your children and this means being clear on next steps and understanding where you children are up to.

The NZ Curriculum has 8 levels and we try to cover 4 of them at primary and intermediate school. A level can take up to 2 years to get through. You can see with this image that the levels can stretch and because learning is not linear then children can be on a level for more than 2 years or even less. It depends on them reaching and succeeding at the goals set for them.



Reminder School is closed for Tuition this Friday August 21st for a Teacher Only Day



BOT Chair Report :

Good Afternoon Everybody,

I hope you are well. With the changing of the seasons it is tempting some days to break out the t -shirts, but the evenings and nights are still cold.

Firstly thank you for your flexibility with the Teachers Only Day (TOD) on the first Monday back to Term. The back half of Term Two was stressful for the community, students and staff as we tried to make sense of where we were, how we felt and what needed to be done after lockdown. The Rakaia Board acknowledged this, but also challenged Mr Ellis and his Team to look at where the student achievement was, how HERO reflected this achievement and a solid plan for Term Three. This is a fundamental role of the Board to ask these questions, and as usual the teaching team rose to the challenge on the TOD to define these items. The result is a focussed approach and continuing excellence in evidence collection.

The Board would like to thank Jill Cogger for her contribution to Rakaia School. Jill's warmth, understanding of the curriculum and structure to the classroom has been appreciated by students and staff alike. Jill is finishing the term with us and then Mr Morgan Platt will be joining us as Deputy Principal. Please make sure you catch Jill personally or by email and say thank you before she departs.

Rakaia School has been approved for some school improvements recently. The extension of the 'turf' area out past Mahi Tahi and Whanau and the development of a permanent shade area around the pool are two projects made possible with the current governments extra funding. Any reduction in real grass puts a bigger smile on Mr Eddington's face. Thank you also to Nicola and Daniel for progressing an application to insulate the main block and library and provide LED lighting through the school. This is yet to be approved, but demonstrates the commitment by the community to keep Rakaia School in good nick.

There are Board elections this year with two positions up for rotation. The election date is early December and more information will come later. However, if you wish to make yourself known to the office or myself to register your interest in the Board's work and possible nomination, please do so.

Lastly, Our Partnership, Quality and Respect values have been challenged recently with some unrepeatable language by some students whilst at school. It is naive to think that this language doesn't exist, but what we do expect is that you educate your kids to recognise the appropriateness of what comes out their mouth. There is a zero tolerance while at school and we will act where necessary.

Thanks for your attention to these few items and feel free to be in contact.

Regards

Grant Lorimer
Board Chair – Rakaia School
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