

June 11 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend. My day started wonderfully with a beautiful picture drawn for me by some pupils in Room 3. It is part of the reward of being a principal when these small gifts turn up on your desk and I appreciate the thought that has gone into the drawing.

It's these small competencies of kindness and thoughtfulness that help us create students who add to the community with the right attitude and awareness of the people around them.

Kahui Ako Update

Rakaia School belongs to the Opuke (Mt Hutt) Kahui Ako which is a group of schools working together on the same achievement challenges to build success for our learners. Our Kahui Ako is led by principal Chris Murphy from Methven Primary School, although he is away at the moment. Myself and Anthony Dorreen, from Dorie, are acting in the leadership role.

The schools meet together as a full staff once a term and in between we have an across school leader who supports the programmes and she works with the within school leaders to drive the inquiries.

The main focus for Opuke is centred around writing and what best practice looks like for our learners. We are all undertaking professional development to lift writing achievement and here at Rakaia we are doing this with the Storytelling model as well as good old fashioned "Deliberate Acts of Teaching"

Deliberate acts of teaching

Instructional strategies are the tools of effective practice. They are the **deliberate acts of teaching** that focus learning in order to meet a particular purpose. Instructional strategies are effective only when they impact positively on students' learning.

Effective Literacy Practice in Years 5 to 8, p. 78

Teachers need to be able to use a range of deliberate acts of teaching in flexible and integrated ways within literacy-learning activities to meet the diverse literacy learning needs of our students.

These deliberate acts include

- Modelling
- prompting
- questioning
- giving feedback
- telling
- explaining
- directing



As teachers we are constantly looking for ideas to lift engagement and to encourage our students to “be better” I hope to be able to share more examples of the students writing in coming weeks.

Please know that we have priority learners in our rooms that we do focus on but the strategies we look to use are transferable to all students and so they all get to try new ideas and plan to lift their skills.

Deputy Principal Appointment

We will be shortlisting tomorrow night and interviewing in the weekend. The BOT will keep you up to speed though the newsletter so you are well aware of any changes to staffing for the upcoming new term.

School Support Group Messages:

Rakaia School Support Group are making cheese rolls this Monday from 7pm and other evenings. Please contact Rachel 0275 303503 if you can help or message SSG on their Facebook page: rakaiassg@facebook

Paid Union Meeting June 20 - please note school is open but we are short of staff so you are asked to pick your children up at 1.30pm if you can. Thank you for your understanding at this crucial time in teaching.

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