

Newsletter April 2nd

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It was great to see so many parents at the Full School Assembly on Friday. I appreciate it was a change of time so I could attend another special event in the afternoon. Congratulations to all of the students who received awards and recognition. It is a wonderful time to celebrate the success of our students.

We welcome back Mr Dawson after the sudden loss of his loved Mother. Shane had a few days with his mum before she passed away and we are happy he is back on deck for the last two weeks of school.

We send our condolences to the Dunlea family after the death of Donald Dunlea who was the ex Rakaia Fire Chief here in Rakaia. I worked with him at many scenes and he had a larger than life personality and always had time for a yarn and a joke. He was a loved Father, Grandie and Husband.

Also our thoughts are with the Baxter family for the passing of Natasha's father and Lucia's Grandad. The staff and BOT send their wishes to you.

Recently there have been other grandparents of Rakaia School children who have passed away and we want you to know we are here for your children and care about their loss. It is not an easy time for families and the danger of naming families is that I miss some out who are grieving silently and we may not have even heard about the situations. I am sorry for your recent loss and hope that time heals the pain and highlights the memories for you.

Car Park - our new car park has been finished and staff will be encouraged to park up by the library and caretakers shed. This means that you can begin to use the staff car park and very soon we will finish the layout lessening any parking and pick up issues.

Gumboot Up on Friday 5 April!

We're asking you, your teachers and parents to wear gumboots to school in support of Gumboot Friday. Put your gumboots on and bring along a gold coin donation (if you can). All funds raised on the day will help provide free counselling to kids who need it.

Gumboot Friday is a new initiative by New Zealander of the Year, Mike King, and I Am Hope. We're aiming to raise \$2million for kids who need some mental health support.



You can find out more about Gumboot Friday at www.iamhope.org.nz/gumbootfriday
Please encourage your friends, family and community to #GumbootUpNZ on 5 April!

The classes are coming to the end of their units of work with the International primary Curriculum. The exit points are a celebration time and it's great when you can join us. Yesterday the Ako team had their exit point with the burial of a time capsule for them to open when they are in Year 8.



Mahitahi and Whanau will be having their exit points in the next week and I encourage you to join in and learn about the studies they have been completing. There has been some superb learning and the children can now share that with you.

ANZAC Day - Children are invited to wear School uniform and join us for the day and march proudly for those fallen soldiers and people who gave so we could live the way we do.

Lockdown Practice held - Today we had a school Lockdown drill. The children and staff did very well. We are looking at more curtains and working with the MOE about some of our doors.



Next Full school assembly is planned for the last day of School April 12 at 2.15pm in Mahitahi.