

Newsletter April 9 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to the last week of term 1 2019. It has flown by with lots of interesting activities and learning opportunities for our students. I would like to thank the staff for the dedication in planning and delivering topics that cover knowledge, skills and understanding for our pupils to learn and apply. The International Primary Curriculum is certainly stimulating some great discussions and interest for the students as well as the staff.

Term 2 starts April 29 and the Cross country will be upon us very quickly as well as some of the first swimming sessions at the Ashburton EA Centre. Swimming is charged out at \$30 per pupil which covers some of the buses and entry to the pool.

Finance Discussions: In term 2 we will also be extending an invitation to you all to attend an evening at the school where we take some time to look at finances. This will be one of the tightest years we have seen and last year we had only 50 or so donations made to the school and so money was redirected. This means we missed out on almost \$9000 of donations in the 2018 year.

As a BOT we want to share some of the costings with you and see if you can come to a consensus about how we continue to fund what we do in the school with the support of the School Support Group and our generous sponsors. We will have some comparisons for you with other school costings and urge you to check in with other family members to see what they pay at their school of choice.

We are covering buses into town and subsidising many other things in the school and the true cost of having children at school is masked by our contributions. We do not want to move to a total user pays scheme like many schools because it's just not achievable by all and we do not want to lessen the opportunities we provide for the children at Rakaia School however we cannot continue with the current subsidies and need your input to how we move forward.

I hope this will be a robust discussion and no decisions will be made without further consultation but it is important we get some figures out to you so we can share ideas to move forward into 2020.



We will be sending out invoices this week. The invoice covers the whole year, and can be paid throughout the year. If you would like to set up weekly/fortnightly payments this is an easy way of keeping up to date. Please remember to put your child's name and fees as a reference. Mandy is available in the office if you have any queries.

E-mails - we would encourage you to have an email for next term that the school is aware of and can use. The new School Management System is set up to alert you to comments from staff and this year we plan to roll this out to you on your smart phones and computers. This means that when we turn on this feature you will logon using your email provided to the school and begin to get updates on your child's progress and achievement. This is called Linc-Ed and is in over 200 NZ Schools. We will run some training in term 2 and 3 in preparation for this roll out.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOT Elections 2019 - Please consider your opportunity to be on the Rakaia School Board of Trustees. Elections will be held June 7 2019 and we will have three elected positions up for consideration. It is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the school and gives you another insight on the workings of a NZ Primary School. Please consider this carefully and if you are interested talk with Gretchen in the school Office as she is the returning officer for the school.

Please note: If you are sending children to school and they need medication during the day there is a form in the office that needs to be signed before staff can give your child medication. Please come to the school office with the medication and fill in this form, rather than sending your child to school with medication in their bag.

Sports Uniform : Please can you return your sports uniforms to the office once washed.

Rakaia Soccer: 1st Practice Wednesday 24th April 4pm at the Rakaia Domain. Still taking registrations. Please contact Jason Mattson on 0221396144. 1st game 4th May.

