

Newsletter May 14 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to another busy week that culminates with the Cross Country this Friday. The cross country will be held at the Bedford's property – Harrisons Road, Dorie, starting at 11:00am.

We will transport the children by bus and dish out sports shirts to as many of the children as we can. We are also giving out the KidsCan jackets this week as well and appreciate the wonderful timing for this winter gift. If you do not require a jacket and want to donate it back then that is totally understandable.

Teacher Strike: May 29

IMPORTANT STRIKE INFORMATION FROM THE BOARD OF RAKAIA SCHOOL

I am sure you are aware that the union staff at Rakaia School are involved with further pay negotiations presently. This may result in strike action on the Wednesday 29th May that will affect the whole day.

It is important to recognise that the Rakaia School Board of Trustees have elected to again support our teachers for this occasion.

It's important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child/children on the day of the strike.

The school will need to close during this strike.

Thank you for your understanding. The situation is dynamic and negotiations are continuing through the week, I will keep you updated with developments. Please contact me if you have any queries relating to this decision.

Yours sincerely

Grant Lorimer
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Strike - Principal Comment: I wanted an opportunity to share with you my thoughts and concerns around the proposed strike action we are taking. I need to assure the Rakaia School community that myself and the staff never wanted to upset or inconvenience you however we feel we have been pressured into the situation with the government's inability to recognise the concerns we have with our vocation and profession.

It is challenging times in the world when you have to wait up to 11 months to get support for a child and then have to go through the same hoops to set the scene. Children are incredibly

more challenging and complex and it has the tendency to derail a room when a child just refuses to work at all.

Staff are struggling to meet demands and the release time compared to our secondary colleagues is just a joke. We need at least 20 hours per term PPT (Professional Practice Time) and we currently get 10 hours.

We need the following things addressed to improve working conditions and the future of our profession.

- Address workload
- Teacher shortage
- Time to teach and time to lead
- Career development

I love my job. I love my kids and I am proud of my staff who do not get enough of me because I am strapped to the chair dealing with paperwork and trying to get extra staffing and finances to do what we can for our pupils.

Give me time to be at the front of my school so I can be in rooms and with my staff and children.

I am very happy to talk with you if you have concerns or questions and we thank the BOT for their support.

Reminder: Early Closure of School on Tuesday 21st May. School closes at 1pm, Buses will run at this time.

Lucky Book Club Issue 3

Orders close Wednesday 15 May

A big thank you to everyone who orders from the Scholastic Book Club. The school earns 20% in rewards on all orders. We have received over \$300 in rewards so far! The money goes back into the classroom in the way of games, posters, picture books and novel sets. THANK YOU!



BOOK WEEK ENCHANTED FOREST

20th May ~ 24 May

Dress Up Friday 24th May

Dress up as a butterfly, owl, unicorn, tree, mushroom, fairy, forest floor critter, anything you would find in a magical forest! Have fun and use your imagination! Think Enchanted Forest!

DRESS UP ON FRIDAY THE 24TH MAY - YOU MAY WIN A PRIZE!