

Newsletter November 11 2019

Kia ora Koutou whanau

Welcome to a very short week at school as Show weekend approaches and also school closure on Thursday for all 9 schools in the Kahui Ako. It is professional development time again for all of the staff on Thursday and so a 4 day weekend is on the horizon for your children.

Congratulations to all of the students who took part in the County athletics on Friday. The weather was extremely hot and we did manage to get the gazebo there after the wind died down. All of the children I saw competed with pride and enjoyed the chance to run, jump and throw against the best in Mid Canterbury. Results will be through soon to see if any of our children have made it through to the Canterbury Zone event.

The year is slipping by quickly and teachers are beginning to look at final assessments. LincEd will have had some posts for you to read about your children and their progress and achievement. This term we will also add a general comment for you about their year at Rakaia School. Please ensure you are on this programme so you can engage with the staff about your children and their work. Staff will be doing their very best to make contact with you if you have not been in for an interview.



**Rakaia School has accepted the donations scheme from the Government for 2020** : The BOT has voted to accept the \$150 per student for 2020 year. The effect on the school is that no fees can be requested other than donations for things not considered curriculum. Extra curricula would include things like Jump Jam performances and competitions, EPro 8 and visitors to school such as performers.

Swimming would be free now, Mathletics and Readings eggs are dropped from our curriculum due to cost but you can choose to purchase for your own use. There are discussions about the

## **1** If your school/kura opts in to the donations scheme:

- » The board of trustees cannot ask you to make a donation **unless** it is for an overnight **school/kura camp** - and then you can **choose** if you **want** to pay none, some or all of the donation. If you choose not to make a donation, your child cannot be stopped from attending a camp if it is part of the school's core learning programme (curriculum).
- » You cannot be asked to make either a general or specific donation e.g. a donation for a day trip to a museum or a field trip to a hiking track.

future of the Duffy programme as its true cost is just over \$6000 a year. The Manual Tech fee will be discussed with a view to payment for the hard materials used while Year 7-8 pupils take part in this curriculum activity.

I will prepare a google form online for any feedback about curriculum changes for the school.

In regards to swimming, we are desperately looking for someone to do cleaning, chemicals, and testing in our school pool because our past swimming pool operator is unavailable this season. The weather is changing very quickly and we want to have the pool open for December.



Our School Picnic is set for December 2 at the Tinwald domain. You can travel by car or by bus and the day will be planned in some rotations so we can also enjoy the new Fire Museum and the Plains museum as well. Please mark this on your calendar as well as the school prizegiving and last day of school on December 12 2019.

**Sports shirts are due back now.** Please have a search under beds and in the bottom of draws and bags, as we still have a large number (59+) of outstanding shirts that we need before the end of the term. Please remember to take the stickers off the shirts before you wash them, as they are really hard to remove once they have been through the wash.

Thank you to all of you who have returned your chocolate fundraising. We still have a number of these to come in, so please return as soon as possible if you haven't. It is only 4 weeks until camp now, and we would like to award the prizes for this fundraiser!

Top Team comes to Rakaia School! Get ready for a morning of fun, where you move around different activities to find out who will be the top team in the school!

All students to come dressed in house colours and wearing practical clothes suitable for sports and water activities. No face or body paint.

Bring a towel and a full change of clothes for afterwards, as you will get wet!

Activities start at 9.05 am.

If there are any parents available to come and help supervise a station, please come along from 9 am-10.45 am!



