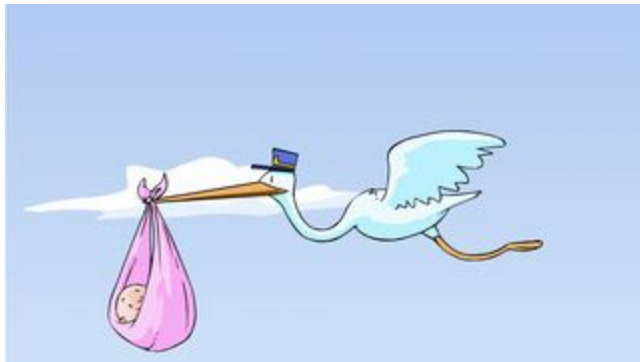


## Newsletter September 5

Welcome to spring everyone! It sure feels like spring weather and the days are getting longer.

Thank you very much to those parents who came to our Maori and Pasifika evening last week. It was a great meeting and the attendees said that the next meeting must invite all families who identify with another culture so we can ensure the diversity in our school is celebrated and appreciated. We openly invite you to come and share in some food, some conversation and learning with each other.

Another idea raised at the meeting was the opportunity for us to have a mufti day where all children, and adults if they wish, celebrate their heritage and wear national costumes and maybe perform national dances. This is an important way for all of our children to learn from each other and respect our cultures and customs.



Last Friday the staff celebrated the news that Mrs Young and her husband Russ will be celebrating the birth of their first child in March next year. It is tremendous news for Anna and her family and we wish them well.

Some of our colleagues have asked the question “What is in the water at Rakaia?” This will be the fifth pregnancy within two

years and creates some real changes amongst the staffing. I will keep you up to date with developments as we advertise the positions.



Thank you to all who attended the Ako Assembly on Friday afternoon.

These students received awards at our Team Ako assembly on Friday. Well done Oscar, Ofa, Fineasi, Amy-Rose, Monty and Deacon for all your hard work.

Also we have included a few pictures of the great Ski Day run by Mrs Bonnington.



**Children bringing toys to school** - At Rakaia School we are happy for children to bring things to school if they want to share or play with them however we remind you that we can take no responsibility for the toys if they are not put with the teacher for safekeeping. The latest issues are the boys in Whanau bringing their matchbox cars to school. These need to be marked or named in some way so that they are not mixed up or taken by mistake at the clean up stage of the day.



**Sponsor's Message - Hit Play - Room 1 sponsor.** - <http://www.hitplay.co.nz/>

Hitplay run before and after school care for students in Mid Canterbury. They run programmes for youth as well as working in Allenton, Hampstead and Rakaia School with their after school programmes. La Tisha and Peter have been on board with Rakaia School for almost two years as a sponsor and they employ staff to run the after school programme at or school. We have around eight children who utilise the service and would love to see it cater for more children if the need grows. They employ staff from Rakaia and support the school with our activity days where we have seen them on the BBQ feeding our children.

I would encourage you to consider this as an option if you are working late and need some professional supervision for your children. Subsidies may be available for your family and all you have to do is call La Tisha and discuss.

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