

May 28 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to week 5 and swim week for Team AKO. The children will be travelling to and from Ashburton by bus. The \$30 fee for swimming covers some of the bus travel and entry to the pool however your tuition is covered by the Ashburton Trust. We are very grateful for this support.

**County Cross Country** - Congratulations to the winners and placegetters at the Cross Country event we held on Monday. The following have qualified within the times and will head to the County event on June 5.

Year 5 - Levi Docherty, Fox Wilson, Barnaby Habbitts-Melville, Maddison Davidson, Audrey Smith

Year 6 - Austin Ford, Riccardo Hurst-Evangelista, Lachie Jones, Mikayla Marshall, Melissa Mattson

Year 7 - Tayla Davidson, Zak Hayden-Gliddon, James Leary



Winter is on the way and we can get school beanies through Kukri. I would like to know if we have enough interest to get an order together. I would imagine it will still take 6-8 weeks but then you're covered for the remainder of winter and spring. Please drop me an email or let the office know. If I get an order for 10 or more then I can get underway and they will be here for the beginning of August. They will be around \$20 each.

### **Staffing updates**

The BOT have received and regrettably accepted the resignation of Anita Paul as deputy principal at Rakaia School effective at the end of term 2, 2018. Anita will stay on to help with release 2 days a week but wants to focus on her daughter and family after the birth of her first child. We accept that respectfully and now will advertise for a new DP. Anita has been a huge part of Rakaia School and its transformation into the vibrant place it is. Her leadership and vision will be missed and we wish her and Jason and their daughter Zoey all the best for what the future may bring.

Anita was on maternity leave and Mrs Adams and Mrs Doody covered that position so this means if we are successful in finding a DP to teach in the junior school then Mrs Doody and Mrs Adams will finish at the end of term 2 as well. For some of you this may come as a shock but

the maternity leave positions only offer cover until decisions are made about permanent positions and this opens up other applications.

For your information you may be aware that Mrs Bonnington and Mrs Young are currently on maternity leave until the end of the year and their positions have been covered by Miss Anderson and Miss Wilhelmus. The BOT will keep you all up to date with any developments.

### Policy and Procedures :

Our school has been working with SchoolDocs to create a website for our policies and procedures.



The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our board of trustees has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site at <http://rakaia.schooldocs.co.nz/> (note that there's no "www!"). Our username is **rakaia** and password **dunford** .

Currently we are reviewing the "Reporting to Parents' policy and you are invited to take part

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1. Visit the website <http://rakaia.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
  2. Enter the username (rakaia) and password (dunford).
  3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
  4. Read the policy.
  5. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
  6. Select the reviewer type "Parent".
  7. Enter your name (optional).
  8. Submit your ratings and comments.

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

**Full School Assembly this Friday June 1st at 9.15am so all of the school can be present.**



#### **Teacher - Paid Union Meetings - June 20 2018**

You may be aware of the nationwide crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

While there are many more children coming into the school system, there are not enough new teachers being trained. Urgent and significant changes are

needed to ensure that the teaching profession can attract the people it needs and to ensure class sizes do not start to increase.

On *Wednesday June 20*, the teachers from this school will be attending a NZEI Te Riu Roa paid union meeting regarding the *Kua Tae Te Wā - It's Time* campaign. The campaign aims to free teachers to teach and principals to lead, by getting the additional support and staff that schools need. The meetings will allow our teachers to discuss how the Ministry of Education has responded to changes that the union is seeking.

Our teaching staff are members of NZEI and legally entitled to attend this meeting. Some of the teachers will be leaving school on *Wednesday June 20* to attend their paid union meeting which starts at 2pm.

I strongly encourage parents to make arrangements to pick their child(ren) up from school by 1.30pm on June 20. If you are unable to pick your children up then, please advise us so that your children can be supervised until *the end of the school day. Staff will be here to supervise.*

I appreciate that this creates some inconvenience for families. However, I encourage you to support your teachers as they strive to achieve the changes which will safeguard quality education for all children and ensure we make teaching an attractive profession for graduates. Anyone who may need help with arrangements should contact the office.

Mark Ellis  
Principal