

Newsletter March 13 2017

Kia Ora Koutou

Welcome to winter! That's what it feels like. The rain will be a welcome relief to many and a timely reminder to ensure the children are warm on the way to and from school.

Thank you to those who attended the Mahi Tahī assembly on Friday. It was great to hear a little of the scripts that were written for the Energy topic the children are completing at the moment.

We have a Curriculum Focus this year titled "Our Backyard" and it looks at Health and Sciences.

Term 1 - **Energy**

Term 2 - **Culture and Community**

Term 3 - **Change**

Term 4 - **Innovation and Discovery**

We want to focus on what our community can share with us and what we can learn about things in our backyard which includes Rakaia, and NZ as a focus.

The way Primary Schools include key subject areas like Science, Social Studies and Health is to include them in our Topic Inquiries. At this point in time our children are completing Science studies to further their knowledge, skills and attitudes to help prepare them for the future.

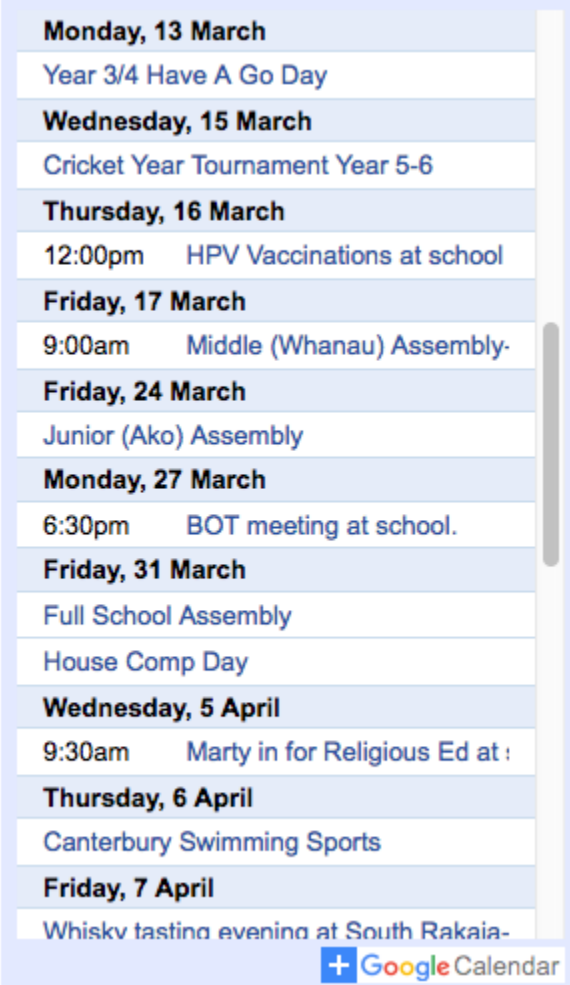
Our Year 7-8 pupils will be completing separate studies with Mrs Paul every second Thursday to help get them ready for the challenges of secondary school.

Thank you very much to those who have returned the Communication Survey. A report will be returned to you to share the findings.


#### **Our Goals for the children at school this year:**

We have to prepare the school charter to share with the Ministry of Education and to guide our student achievement targets for the year.

#### **Calendar of Events:**



<b>Monday, 13 March</b>
Year 3/4 Have A Go Day
<b>Wednesday, 15 March</b>
Cricket Year Tournament Year 5-6
<b>Thursday, 16 March</b>
12:00pm HPV Vaccinations at school
<b>Friday, 17 March</b>
9:00am Middle (Whanau) Assembly-
<b>Friday, 24 March</b>
Junior (Ako) Assembly
<b>Monday, 27 March</b>
6:30pm BOT meeting at school.
<b>Friday, 31 March</b>
Full School Assembly
House Comp Day
<b>Wednesday, 5 April</b>
9:30am Marty in for Religious Ed at :
<b>Thursday, 6 April</b>
Canterbury Swimming Sports
<b>Friday, 7 April</b>
Whisky tasting evening at South Rakaia-



Our data indicates that we have a real challenge ahead with the writing in the school and this is not new here or around NZ.

Our Maths and Reading National Standards data is lower than expected and a lot of discussion was held at the BOT meeting about the progress within a school year and how we report that as compared to reporting a National Standard piece of data at the end of the year, when it is too late to make changes.

The BOT will be asking the staff for interim data to see what progress is being made. They then can fund programmes appropriately and at the right time for intervention to help our students lift their levels.

***These are the overall targets for the 2017 year.***

***Maths:***

***Lift from 68% to 75% School wide with specific focus on Years 6,7 and 8***

***Reading.***

***Lift from 68% in 2016 to 75% in 2017 with specific focus on Year 2 and 6.***

***Writing.***

***Lift from 57% to 65% with a specific focus on Years 4, 6 7 and 8***

**From the BOT**

We meet this week with the members of the Ashburton Borough School BOT to share ideas about the way we work as a BOT and also the challenges we face. It is an exciting time to be networking and collaborating just as we ask our staff to do.

Andrew Slater is the BOT chair again for 2017 and under his leadership we are focused on the progress and achievement of our pupils and doing the very best to support Mark with the day-to-day operation of the school.

Our communication survey is almost ready to share and we look forward to using your comments and feedback to improve.

The next BOT meeting is March 27 and the public is always welcome to attend. If you wish to speak it is procedure to contact the BOT Chair to seek speaking rights.



# Community Notices

## **Rakaia School Support Group**

Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 21 March at 6.30pm at the South Rakaia Hotel. All Welcome! Any apologies or for further information please contact Rachel Hart 0275 303 503.

Tickets are still available for the Whisky Tasting evening on Friday 7 April, approx. 20 tickets left. Buy your tickets soon! R18 event.

## **Rakaia Rugby Club**

JAB registrations will be held on Wednesday 22 March from 3.30pm-6pm at the clubrooms on Railway Terrace.

Under 6 and 7 Rippa

Under 8,9,10,11.5,13.5 and 14.5

Come along and pay your sub and receive a free rugby ball and mouth guard. Sausages and a small fizz on the night.

Contact	Warren Jones	0274996727
	Dean Ford	0211208738

## **Rakaia Junior Soccer**

Registration Day Thursday 16 March at the Rakaia Domain 4pm-5.30pm

For boys and girls aged 4 years and over to play in the Mid Canterbury Competition on Saturday mornings in Ashburton.

Email registrations or information to: [jason.mattson@outlook.co.nz](mailto:jason.mattson@outlook.co.nz)

Or phone Jason on 0275387855