

Newsletter May 14 2018

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Congratulations to the Year 6 Ripa Rugby teams for the work on Friday. The A Team won the day and will now go through to Timaru with Methven to represent Mid Canterbury at the zones. Well done Year 6 players for your efforts and commitment and a huge thank you to Dean Stapleton for your coaching and managing skills. We will advise you all of the Timaru dates and times when they are finalised.

Dorie/Rakaia/Ashburton Christian School Cross Country

Wednesday 16th May 2018

Postponement date Wednesday 23rd May 2018

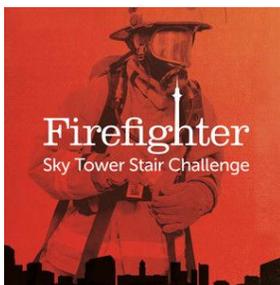
The cross country will be held at the Bedford's property – Harrison's Road, Dorie, between Dorie School Road and Acton Road, it will be well sign posted, starting at **12:00pm. School buses will leave school at 11.15am**



School Closes Early on May 22nd due to the School's involvement with the Community of Learning. The nine schools will all be closing at 1pm so all staff can attend Professional Development in Methven.

The Community of Learning (COL) is developing well and recently we had five schools here with their staff to look at writing across our schools. This helps teachers across the COL to moderate their work and know that other professional would rate the work the same.

The Vision for our COL is Ako Tahī, Mahi Tahī, Paetae Kohi - Learning Together, Working Together, Raising Achievement for all of the learners in the COL. Our learners include staff, BOT, students and our wider community or parents, Early childhood centres and employers.



Mark on leave Friday - I will be absent Friday getting ready to climb the Sky Tower on Saturday for The Blood and Leukaemia Foundation. I will be back at school on Monday (hopefully, if all goes well and I don't trip up). If you would be interested sponsoring at all then please go to <https://firefightersclimb.org.nz/> and look for me there or any of the Rakaia Fire Fighters who are climbing this week as well.

It is a great cause and 20 minutes of pain that is nothing compared to what cancer patients go through.

This Sunday the Year 7/8 children will be having a camp fundraising Gala. This will be based outside Mahi Tahī and will start at 10am and run until 12.30. Please come down and support the children with their enterprise activities. There are bake stalls, slime purchases, carnival games and sports car rides. All proceeds will go towards the Year 7/8 Wellington Camp.

BOT Chair Report:

Hello Everyone, Welcome back to Term Two. I have a few things to share;

Survey

Thank You for those who responded to the survey. I understand it took a while to get through, but am confident that the right questions were asked and am impressed with the level of thought, feeling and explanation that was written. Rakaia School is owned by the community for our children to grow. We can ensure that what we are doing benefits us by this important consultation.

We have a board meeting Monday 14th at 6.30pm and we will work through the answers. I will provide a summary in a newsletter for you as soon as I can.

NZSTA Residential Chair Program

Recently I completed a two day conference in Wellington focused around 'Leading with Purpose'. This was entirely funded by the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA). This is only a small part of the total training that is available through the association to all board members up and down the country.

Tracey Martin, Associate Minister of Education gave a cracking keynote that portrayed the values of the Ministry of Education as they undertake their massive review of the way children are taught in NZ. The Ministry have embraced the fact that plenty of kids with underlying medical conditions are finding education hard. Minister Martin explained that she was dedicated to "Stopping exclusion" and was interested in early screening for medical conditions that will eventually paint a true picture of the depth of diversity in NZ. Minister Martin went as far as challenging the beliefs around the learning abilities of cultural stereotypes and explained that more often than not, it was a medical condition that was the cause.

It is heartening to have a government that thinks this way. Rakaia School spends a lot of time working hard to get the right help for our children.

Amongst the rest of the workshops, Communities of Learning (COL) was a great discussion. I am dedicated to bringing you clear information around this national initiative by the Ministry. The COL we are involved in affects the way your children are assessed, taught and presented new learning opportunities. It is vital you understand how this works and more information will come.

As always, if you have any concerns, please make an appropriate time with your teacher or Mark to discuss and our board members of;

Daniel Watson, Gabi Costello, Pete Harrison, Michelle Jones, Mandy Beevor

The office can help you with contact details. I have realised that our contacts aren't on the app, so will be seeking approval to do this.

Talk again soon,
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