

Newsletter August 22 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Week 5 is upon us and the term slips by quickly. The staff are working hard with the students to get the concert ready and to introduce the children to events in History. It has been wonderful to see the children being introduced to songs, fashion and the past. I am sure you will enjoy the performance on September 28th.



Sponsors feature - I would like to take the time to share with you some of the sponsors stories with Rakaia School.

For over 7 years we have had a relationship with Darryn and Gael at Dynamic Computer Services. They have been our preferred service agents for anything that involves computers and ICT. Darryn has also installed our IP phones and looked after the transfer to the Google suite. He is knowledgeable but more than that Darryn, Gael and their team of 5 full time staff believe in Rakaia School and go above and beyond to support the school

and its pupils with their sponsorship and the extra gifts given to year 8 students at the end of every year. They look forward to attending assemblies and sharing in the successes of our students and staff.

Darryn and Gael can help you with new computer purchases, laptops, phone systems and they support Mum and Dad computer owners as well as Business owners. They will work with you to secure backups and fibre connections finding the best solution for your situation.

I would highly recommend their services and encourage you to consider working with Dynamic Computer Services.

Caretaker required - Mrs Boag has resigned from her position and so we are on the lookout for a School Caretaker. This position is 15 hours a week with flexible working hours to suit the applicant and the school. The job involves basic maintenance and lawns as well as gardening and rubbish removal from the school. It is a 52 week a year job with normal holidays. It would suit someone semi retired or with an interest in making the school look great. You would need a Police vet to be completed. If you are interested then please contact Mark. We are looking for a September start.



Update for details - We have had some difficulty getting in touch with some parents recently. It seems cellphones change regularly and we are not getting the updates. This can cause issues like on Friday when we had a bus breakdown. Please tell us when you have any changes so we can keep the records up to date for any emergency issues.

Lost property - this is growing again and we would encourage you to check it out. We will wash all clothing at the end of the term and place it in the second hand uniform for sale. Please remember to name all of your items.

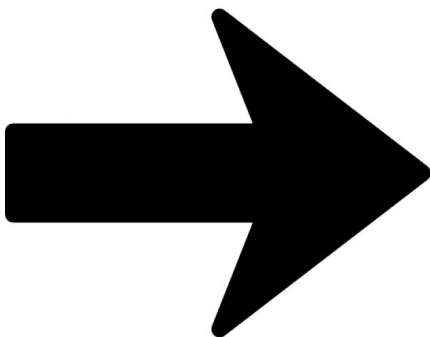
Parking on grass while collecting children - We have had some parents caught out when collecting children at the end of the day and Mr Dawson and helpers have had to push three cars out of the mud by the library. Please think carefully about this area as it is turning into mud and causing issues for drivers. I am awaiting a quote to see if we can compact it and shingle it but this will not be cheap.

Absences / Lateness and Justified absences - by law we fill in attendance every day at school. These documents are used when requested by the MOE or in the case of family court proceedings. We are seeing an increase in lateness and just recently some dubious decisions to keep children home for birthdays and to celebrate them during school time at timezones or entertainment places in Christchurch. Two recent decisions have caused concern and we have followed them up.

The insert here is from the attendance material supplied to school by the Ministry of education and highlights the extreme situations we have not found ourselves in yet. We do however have children in our school with 70-80% attendance rates that highlight potential for progress to lessen and achievement to drop.

- Please do your very best to get your children to school on time every day.
- Call us and tell us if your children are sick.
- Celebrate birthdays in the weekend or after school please.
- Be prepared for children to marked late and then for the Truancy officer to be in touch if patterns develop. We have a range of children late from 3 - 42 days this year.

Lets all just **“Be better”** at this. Education is important for our children and some of us are not taking this seriously enough. I have up to 11 or 12 families to talk to now and some who have had extended overseas trips but I need to reiterate the role you have in getting your children to school on time. Help us help your children. I want better for them and I am sure you do too!



Parents are responsible for their child's regular attendance at school:

Every parent of a person who while enrolled at a registered school, does not attend... commits an offence, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding an amount calculated at the rate of \$30 for every school day for which the offence has occurred... A fine imposed for an offence against that subsection shall not exceed \$300 for a first offence... or \$3,000 for a second or subsequent offence (Section 29).

In proceedings under this part of the Act (prosecutions), the burden of proving any of the following matters in relation to a person is on the person's parent:

- the enrolment of the person at a school*
- the person's attendance at a school*
- the person's exemption from enrolment or attendance at a school (Section 34).*