

June 26th 2017

Kia Ora Koutou

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to week 9 in term 2. It's hard to believe everything travels past so quickly. The teachers are hard at work completing assessments and observations for the year 4-8 interviews in week 2 of next term and we are also planning the school performance for the end of next term.

Principal's Comment

Newsletters are a chance for me as the Principal to share with you exciting news, challenges within the school and other important information.

Recently we have been sharing data with the BOT about the progress of our students. The BOT has a key role in ensuring progress is being made and that resourcing and time are being used to support the achievement of our pupils.

An observation has been made over the last few years at school that there are many 5 year olds not coming to school as well prepared as required. I have included a list of some basic things we would love to see when they arrive on day 1. Things that will make their days at school a lot easier and assist with their progress.

We would want to see a 5 year old be able to:

- Recognise their own name.
- Manage scissors and crayons.
- Manage their own clothes and shoes.
- Manage the toilet independently and wash their hands.
- Blow their nose.
- Sit down for a short time and listen.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Ask for things they need.

It is also helpful if they can:

- Recognise and name colours.
- Count to 10 and recognise numbers 0-10.
- Write their own name.
- Know the letters and sounds of the alphabet.
- Recognise that each alphabet letter makes a different sound.



Interviews/ reports - School to close at 1pm on August 1st 2017

School interviews for years 4-8 will be held on August 1st and 2nd in week 2 term 3. These are three-way conferences and the children are encouraged to attend so they hear exactly what is said about their progress and next steps.

Go to this page and use the code **j6zwd** to make your booking

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?z=CWsTSR>

Gretchen in the school office can book this for you if you have any difficulty.

End of the day pick ups

The end of school sees a large number of cars and parents arriving at school to gather the children. Please be aware of small people when reversing your cars and parking your cars. We are also concerned about the speed outside school. Passing buses should be at 20kmph and the eastern end of school by the teacher car park is becoming more congested with people parking on the grass.

The BOT are awaiting some quotes to see if we can extend the car parking behind the library area but this will not be completed this year.

In the meantime:

- Stay alert when arriving at school for pick ups.
- Obey the road rules (the Police have been invited to watch)
- Cross with your children and **listen** to Crossing Wardens



Hot Food

We will be returning to Hot food options in term 3 with the warmers being fixed. We encourage warm meals that are healthy choices and they need to be wrapped and named.

Tuesday - Mahitahi Hot food day - Senior Room

Wednesday - Whanau Hot food day - Rooms 7-8

Thursday - Ako Hot food day - Rooms 1,2 and 3

There will be no SSG Sausage Sizzles in term 3! However we will be having a soup day in week 2 of term 3 with more information on the way. SSG are looking for any volunteers to make a large bowl of vegetable soup and the veggies will be supplied for you.

Rakaia 101

As requested I am running another Rakaia 101 presentation on July 3rd at 7pm in Room 4. This is a repeat of what I presented earlier and will also be an opportunity to meet Miss Bridget Grant from Mahitahi. Please mark it in your diary and come along to hear information about the school.

Headlice is an ongoing issue for the school and is just a fact when you get over 200 children together that nits pop up from time-to-time. I have confirmed that Under 13 children get a free trip and script for any head lice treatment from the Rakaia Medical centre. If you are worried then please see the Doctor and treat the family. Thank you.

We have an exciting term 3 ahead with two shows visiting us.

On July 31st we have the NED Show and on August 7th we have another visit from the Kahurangi dance theatre who we have seen before. Kahurangi will be presenting a show titled "People of the Pacific"

NED - Our school-wide character education program centers around a 45 minute assembly called The NED Show. NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. Teachers love that NED is simple, relatable and kid-focused.

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