

# Rakaia School Newsletter - Welcome back to School!

Kia ora Koutou

Dear parents and caregivers,

It is wonderful to be back at school ready to Inspire the children and Celebrate their successes. We welcome Mrs Ashleigh Scott to the Mahi Tahi team and also Mr Shane Dawson as well as Mrs Libby Chambers. We also welcome Miss Lara Reihana to teacher aid work at school.



Our focus on collaborative teaching continues with Year 3 and 4 working with Mrs Jenkins and Miss Gardyne as well as Mrs Paul. Mahi Tahi will also work as they did last year continuing to encourage the skills of self management within curriculum giving students some choices with their studies. The Junior school will also spend some time together sharing teachers from time-to-time giving students a chance to work with more staff and form relationships to help support their learning.

Our focus, as staff and a school, is also on Relationships and Communication. If at any time you feel you do not have those two key areas not being met then it is your responsibility to let us know so we can act on it. We cannot improve if we do not hear what is bothering you and also what is working for you.

The education of your children is a Partnership that is worked on by all participants. The School, the Student and The Parent are the links that make education strong and enjoyable. I urge you to please do your very best to communicate with us and I will be encouraging the staff to do the same with you.

Please also take time to check the school website and also download the app which is free from the apps store for both apple and android platforms. We also have the school facebook page and so do the School Support Group which helps makes things easy to read and gives you a chance to comment and give feedback.

**A great relationship has great communication. That means knowing how to effectively express yourself and how to listen properly.**

**Stephan Speaks Relationships**

## School Calendar Events:

Listed to the right are the events on the school website at this moment in time. This is updated frequently and it is worth referring to weekly so you know what is coming.

Full school assembly this week on Friday at 9am and also Tuesday february 7th is an evening BBQ at School with a chance to meet the staff in each syndicate.

## School Teams - led by Mr Shane Dawson, Mrs Natasha Jenkins and Miss Anna Walsh

This year we have 3 teams teaching your children. The Mahi Tahi team teaches Years 5-8, Team Whanaungatanga (Whanau) teaches years 3 and 4 while Team Akonga (Ako) teaches NE to Year 2.

These names will be used in newsletters and communication so it is important you understand which one your children are in.

**Important information:** This year we also welcome a new student to school who has a severe egg allergy. Maddie has anaphylactic reactions that can be life threatening and so it is very important that students and teachers working with Maddie understand and respect her needs. Her allergy is so severe that holding her hand after touching eggs will set things off.

Maddie will have an epi-pen at school and antihistamine for emergencies how ever I will ask that you think really carefully about not sending eggs, quiche, bacon and egg pie or egg sandwiches to school to support Maddie and her family.

If you have any questions please direct them through to Mark in the school office.



**Music lessons** available with Stephen Wightman on guitar, drums, keyboard, or ukulele. \$20 per half hour lesson. Phone 027 294 5030 or check out Steve Wightman Music on Facebook.

<b>Friday, 3 February</b>	
9:00am	Full School Assembly
<b>Tuesday, 7 February</b>	
5:00pm	School BBQ and meet the teac
<b>Wednesday, 8 February</b>	
Senior Swim Carnival at Rakaia pool	
<b>Friday, 10 February</b>	
Senior (Mahi Tahi) Assembly	
<b>Wednesday, 15 February</b>	
Swimming Sports at Ashburton Community	
<b>Friday, 17 February</b>	
Middle (Whanau) Assembly	
<b>Friday, 24 February</b>	
Junior (Team Ako) Assembly	
<b>Tuesday, 28 February</b>	
3:30pm	Goal setting meetings with Cla
<b>Wednesday, 1 March</b>	
3:30pm	Goal setting meetings
<b>Friday, 3 March</b>	
9:00am	Full School Assembly