

Dear Parents

Great news! Mrs Doody has agreed to come back in 2018 for two days a week and support the junior school therefore they will have a staffing of three. Mrs Doody will work with Mrs Adams in Room 2 and be part of the team with Miss Grant and Miss Anderson. It's fabulous to have the staffing to do this and give a great start to 2018 for our junior children.

All of our new staff have been to school already and met the children. This has been positive for the staff and students and we are very excited about 2018.

This term still has a lot of events and learning to get through. We encourage you to check the calendar on the website and also check your app for any messages that have been shared.

This week is a very short week with only three days at school. This Thursday school will be closed and the teaching staff are taking part in a Teacher Only Day at Mt Hutt College as part of the Community of Learning we belong to. Nine local schools and staff are going to be sharing information and ideas to improve educational opportunities for our students.

The Community of Learning is also known as a Kahui Ako. The work streams being completed are creating opportunities to build better relationships amongst the staff and the professional development is supportive and timely.

Friday of course is Show day and a public holiday for all Cantabrians.

### **Health meeting - Wednesday 6.30pm - Rakaia School Room 4**

This Wednesday evening I will be meeting with interested parents to talk about the Health Curriculum as part of our legal requirement to consult on Health Education. I will be discussing the Fire Safety programme for Years 5-8 as well as Sexuality Education which will be shared with year 7-8 next week before they head off to High School and the wonderful world of puberty.



We encourage you to mark November 23 in your diary for an evening seminar with John Parson's. This has been advertised in the past two newsletters and will be worthwhile attending. John is a leading NZ presenter in this field of Internet Safety



**2017 SCHOOL TRUSTEE ELECTIONS:** Note: Because the national closing date for nominations is noon Friday 17th November, which is a public holiday in Canterbury, we remind people to have all nominations into the school office by the end of Thursday 16th of November

<http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

### **Health Notice - It seems we have had a few cases of “Hand, foot and Mouth”**

Anyone can get hand, foot and mouth disease, but it is most common in children under 10. Preschool children tend to get sicker. If your child has hand, foot and mouth disease, they’ll have painful sores in their mouth and a rash with blisters on their hands and feet. Paracetamol is recommended. <http://www.health.govt.nz/>

### **Rakaia School Support Group Notice**

Thank you to everyone who supported Rakaia School Support Group’s stalls on Guy Fawkes Night, Athletics Day, Pet Day and our recent Bad Moms 2 Movie fundraiser. Congratulations to Val Scott the winner of our Athletics Day raffle of the large Flamingo Garden Ornaments made by Grant Lorimer, with Gretchen Ford and Viv McLachlan runners up winning necklaces by Copper Orchid.

It’s that time of year again and we are running our annual Christmas Raffle and thank our community in advance for supporting this raffle and all families have tickets to sell. Prizes are Christmas hampers full of goodies including homemade Christmas cakes. Our annual Christmas Raffle is a major fundraiser for SSG towards core items we donate to Rakaia School, including reading and classroom resources, sports equipment, Duffy Books in Homes etc. This year we are also fundraising towards a new playground for Rakaia School and have other fundraising on the go, including a Mascarathon where we get \$5 from every mascara purchased. Orders through a school family, school office or see our facebook page: “rakaiassg”.

We have a special thanks to Southern Pastures for the recent donation of a new bbq for Rakaia School Support Group – this new caterer bbq will make life a lot easier cooking sausages and we are most grateful for their generous donation.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rachel Hart / Lara Reihana  
Co-Chairs of Rakaia School Support Group