

February 2 2009 - Newsletter 1

Dear parents

Welcome back to 2009 and we all hope you had wonderful holidays. We apologise for the school phones being out of order over the last two weeks. This was due to the storm in January and it knocked out the phone server and it was sent away to be fixed last week. We hope it was not too much of an inconvenience.

A special welcome to our new staff. Mrs Marr in Room 1, Mrs Breen in Room 5 and Miss Johnson who is a permanent member of the staff now. All of the staff have just got back from conference in Rotorua and had a tremendous time learning new skills and strategies to support the learning for your children. We are all very grateful to the BOT and School for this experience.

2009 Staffing

Principal	Mark Ellis
Secretary	Mandy Beevor
Teacher Aides	Carol Muckle and Donna Bremner
Caretaker	Marg Lloyd
Cleaner	Christine Flanagan
Room 1 Yr 6-8	Melanie Marr
Room 2 Yr 5-6	Nicole Handley-Packham
Room 5 Yr 3-4	Margaret Breen
Room 3 Yr 2-3	Tiffany Johnson
Room 4 Yr 0-1	Pauline Doody
Teacher Release	Simone Stapleton Rm 3&4 and Katherine McKimmie Rm 2&5
BOT Members	Julie Boag, Jane O'Reilly, Paul Stockdale, Simon Jackson Marion Logan, Pauline Doody and Mark Ellis

Buses have changed over the holidays as notified in the school newsletters and information home to bus students last year. I regret to say that not all students have been enrolled on the service and as I write this newsletter I am afraid that some were unable to be collected this morning due to this late registration. All students traveling on the Mid Canterbury Schools Transport Service (www.mcsts.co.nz) must be enrolled and if they are ineligible then they also need to pay for the service before the children travel. Eligibility rules are listed on the site but fit the Ministry of Education standards of 3.2km under ten years and 4.8km over 10 years away from the school. This may mean that you children are not collected in exactly the same place but we will have some flexibility as the routes settle into action.

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decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Any questions need to be directed to myself as bus controller and then we can approach the MCSTS if we are looking for changes.

Senior swimming starts at the Ashburton community pool next Monday and will happen 5 times this term and 4 next term. The cost for this in 2009 has risen from \$20 per student to \$30 per student to help cover increasing costs for travel and pool increases in price. This is also still subsidized by the school and is a very good rate for the children to have tutors support their swimming. This money can be paid to the school office and is due by February 13.

The whole school will also be using the school pool and community pool as the weather permits so the children will need to have their togs at school everyday with a towel and swimming bag to keep clothes together and dry.

Interchange

This year the staff will be running interchange programmes on every alternate Wednesday afternoon. This means that the classes will have a different teacher for that period and will learn a variety of skills and knowledge over the year. This helps the children as staff can share their expertise and motivate a different class once every two weeks.

Mrs Marr will be teaching PE skills

Miss HP will be teaching Music

Mrs Breen will be teaching Taha Maori/Te Reo

Miss Johnson will be teaching Spanish (Yr 5-8) and Geology/Science (Yr 1-4)

Mrs Doody will be teaching Art

No Fish and Chips this year. We have been contacted by the fish and chip store to advise us they cannot offer this service this year.

Rippa Rugby will be in action again this term and we have been invited to enter teams to play on a Tuesday night starting February 24. The venue is Argyle park this year and games are played at 6pm and 6.45pm. Seven children play at once and teams consist of 3 reserves as well. The grades are Year 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6 and Year 7 and 8. The draw closes February 18. If you are interested in playing then register at the school office by returning the form attached.

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New Students

A special welcome to:

Ella and Preston Docherty, Jake and Dominic Sonnenberg, Emma Warmerdan, Hopoate and Laulelei Finau, Danielle Morrison.

We all hope your time at Rakaia will be full of fun and laughter.

