



16 February 2023

Week 3, Term 1

**"Better Together"**  
"Mahi Tahī"

**KIA ORA**

Another week has flown by and so much within the country has changed. I am incredibly grateful to be here in Canterbury right now and do hope that for anyone with family or friends up North you have been able to make contact and know that everyone is safe.

Here at school it has been a busy time with teachers starting to get their clubs started by gauging interest and timing on these. They have also worked hard on building relationships with the tamariki in their class as this is the best way to build trust. On Tuesday we had a staff meeting where the focus was on "Circle Time" and our Resource Teachers of Literacy and Behaviour came and ran this session. Circle Time is such a fantastic way to check in with children as to where they are emotionally and socially and also to teach new skills.

This week we have also had the Year 4-8 swimming sports, a Year 7 and 8 trip to Ashley Rakahuri River and mini ball start. It has been so good to have the children learning off site and getting to take their learning into the wider community. In the community survey sent out last year of things we should start doing, getting out into the local community was one of the suggestions and we are keen to do more of this for the children in all areas of the school.



## Ashley Rakahuri School Community Picnic

**When:** 17th February

**Time:** 5.30-6.30pm

**Where:** at school

**What to bring:** BYO food and drink, blanket, maybe some games to play

Come along and meet other members of our community. We would love to see you all here.

We would really love to see as many of you as we can tomorrow night for a catch up.



**WORKING BEE**

**Upcoming  
Information  
Session**

**When:** 19th February

**Where:** At School

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

Please come along for an hour or two and help us clean up the gardens and playground areas. Many hands make light work.

If you have shovels, wheelbarrows, gloves, weed eaters and trailers then please come and help out for an hour or two. We have so much that we need to do to keep on top of the maintenance of the school grounds. We will have a BBQ lunch for those who attend.



**Special Education/Learning Support  
Information Session  
22nd February  
2.30pm in the school hall**

Have you ever wondered how the extra support for children works? OR what the process is to get support for your child?

If so come and join Sue Graham (Learning Support Coordinator) and Linda Horne (Principal) for a catch up where we can hopefully answer your questions and also show you what processes we do go through.

**Mathematics Information Session For Parents  
7th March  
7pm - 8pm in School Hall**

We ran one of these a couple of years ago and it was great. Now it is time to share again as your children have changed level and learning goals. Come along and see what is going on in the classrooms.

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

On Monday night we had our first Board Meeting. Each year at the first meeting we have to elect a Presiding Member. This year, after a number of years in this role **James McFarlane** chose to step down due to work commitments. James will continue to be on the board. He has been such a huge support to myself as Principal, and has always had the children at the heart of every decision made. He is such a valuable part of our board and I thank him for his time in this role.

**Meika Foster** has stepped up into this role as Presiding Member. I welcome the chance to work alongside her and the board as a whole.

**Our Board of Trustees is:**

Meika Foster (Presiding Member), Stuart Morris,



We are so fortunate in New Zealand to have access to have free professional development in reo and tikanga for staff..

This PLD is a huge commitment for those staff who undertake it as it is 3 hours after school once a week and two full days in their weekend and the school holidays.

To get to these courses on time (as they start at 4pm and some are in Christchurch), you may notice that some staff leave very soon after 3pm once a week.

This first six months the following staff are involved:

James McFarlane, Ruth Cross, Robert Clark and our newest member Steve Fountain. Our staff trustee is Sue Graham. As Principal I also sit on this Board.

Rochelle Standen completing Level 4  
Julie McDonald completing Level 2  
Juanita O'Loughlin completing Level 1



This is our kīwaha for the week.

Have a go and see if you can use it during your week somewhere.

Each fortnight we have a focus at school that we share with the children in Assembly on Monday. The focus was on the REACH values and we discussed how to remember them as REACH is an acronym for the values.



### **NZEI Paid Union Meeting - Friday 3 March - School closing @ 12.40pm**

No matter who you are or where you live in Aotearoa, we all want to ensure that the young people in our lives have access to a quality, public education. However, severe underfunding and increased pressures because of the pandemic are hurting the education system.

The current New Zealand Education Institute (NZEI) Te Riu Roa campaign, **Wāwāhi Tahā | Time 4 Tamariki**, goal is to create a pathway to fully staff our primary schools and address the issues that currently prevent many children from thriving and reaching their potential. Teachers are calling for more staffing for primary schools so they can better support all students to get the education they deserve.

This includes:

- More time for individual students
- More specialist learning support staffing
- Improving student/teacher ratios

NZEI are holding a Paid Union Meeting for all teaching members to hear from the Government on their offer to meet these needs. To support our teachers to attend this important meeting, **school will close at 12.40pm on Friday 3 March.**

## Term Dates for 2023

**Term 1:** 30th January - 6th April  
**Term 2:** 26th April - 30th June  
**Term 3:** 17th July - 22nd September  
**Term 4:** 9th October - 18th December

**NOTE: Teacher Only Days will be 24th April and 16th November**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

16th February	PTA Meeting 7pm Staffroom
17th February	Community Meet and Greet 5.30pm
19th February	Working Bee 10am start
22nd February	Special Education Parent Information Session 2.30pm
27th February	Tri-Schools Swimming sports at Dudley Pool
3rd March	Early Finish to School 12.40 due to Paid Union Meeting for Teachers
<b>7th March</b>	<b>Mathematics Information Session for Parents 7-8pm School Hall</b>
14th March	Rakahuri Swimming Sports at Dudley Pool
16th March	PTA AGM Meeting 7pm Staffroom
20th March	Goal Setting Interviews with teachers from 1.30pm NB: School will close early
21st March	NC Swimming Sports at Dudley Pool
27th March - 6th April	Year 1-6 swimming Lessons at Dudley Pool
6th April	Canterbury Swimming
6th April	Last day of Term 1
7th April	GOOD FRIDAY and school holidays begin
24th April	Teacher Only Day
25th April	ANZAC Day
26th April	Term 2 begins

Linda Horne

Principal/Tumuaki

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