

Kia ora koutou whānau

Welcome back to kura for Term 1. We have started the year with such a positive attitude amongst not only the staff but the students as well. It is so lovely to see the way the older children are interacting with the younger students and the way they have embraced their senior status within the school. Their attitude sets the tone for the year and we look forward to seeing them developing their leadership skills throughout the year. Thank you to you all for the way you embraced the whānau hui as these set the tone for the year. I know that the staff love the chance to connect with you all and learn more about your goals and aspirations for your child.

With this in mind it is important that you continue to communicate with your child's teacher any concerns you have. Please do this early rather than leaving things until too late in the year.

**Reminder: Friday the school is open for instruction.**

As you will have seen the renovations on Mānuka have begun. We are extremely excited that this project is finally underway as it has been many years in the making. I have heard conversations and wonderings about why it wasn't pushed over and a new start made. Some of the delay in starting this project was that the Board tried very hard for this to be the case but the Ministry of Education deemed the building fixable, and at the end of the day we are bound by their decisions. What I do know is that at the end of the project we will have a wonderful space that will be user friendly and fresh. The timeframe for this is approximately a term but we will know more as the project moves forward.



Ashley Rakahuri  
School

**Welcome Back**  
Ashley Rakahuri School Families

Join us for a  
family Picnic!

Bring your own picnic dinner and share in  
some games with our school community.  
What better way to spend Valentine's Day?!

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

# Our Cultural Narrative

Last year we worked with Whitiara on behalf of Ngāi Tūāhuriri Education to help us have more understanding of our cultural narrative and why we were given our dual name. They were so helpful and went above and beyond with the support they gave us. Below is our Cultural Narrative for our kura.

The school was gifted the name because it is named after the Ashley River.

Rakahuri is the Māori name of the river. Given its relevance, we thought that would be most appropriate. Below is an explanation of the cultural significance and importance of the river:

The Rakahuri is the awa that flows south eastwards before entering the Pacific Ocean at Waikuku Beach. It has long been a source of mahinga kai for Ngāi Tūāhuriri. Some of the main sources of food foraged from this place are where kāuru (cabbage tree root), aruhe (bracken fernroot), tuna (eels), matamoe (shortfin eel), and panako were gathered. The most important place for taking food was at the river mouth, known as Te Akaaka. The lower tributaries are important breeding habitats for inanga (whitebait), waikōura (freshwater crayfish), tuna (eels) and others. Various types of freshwater shellfish were also taken from the Rakahuri. However, this local resource has now largely disappeared, mainly due to decline of water quality. The catchment has also been greatly altered by wetland drainage, and land use changes including stock access. Taranaki Stream, a tributary near the Taranaki floodgate, is the most important mahinga kai in a modern context on the Rakahuri. During the whitebait season, Ngāi Tūāhuriri have traditionally camped by the Taranaki to catch fish by setting up make-shift huts on the stream banks. However, in 1987 the Rangiora County Council passed a by-law that stopped the erection of temporary buildings in the area. This in effect forced a number of Ngāi Tahu to abandon their customary food-gathering practises.



As you will see our vision for the school of "Better Together - Mahi Tahī" has been tweaked to be grammatically correct and to honour our intent. It is now, "Better Together - Ma te mahi ngātahi, ka tutuki" Our REACH values have also been translated.

We were also gifted a whakatauaiki which means it was written specifically for us, and this is something we are going to be embedding throughout the year.



Lastly, we were gifted a school song that is currently being put to music by an ex-parent/teacher of our school community, Danni McCord and we are excited to start practising this when it becomes available.

## REACH ASSEMBLY FOCUS FOR THE WEEK

This Week's Focus

### Respect

*Respect* is the first value of our REACH values. :

- ★ When we discuss *respect* we think it's about '*respecting our school environment, our belongings, each other and all members of our community*'.



Examples

We call them our REACH values because each letter represents a specific value (plus it's easier to remember!)

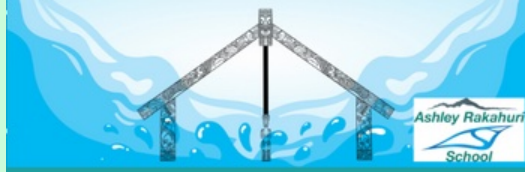
R= Respect E= Excellence  
A=Aroha C=Courage H= Honesty



## KARAKIA TĪMATANGA

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a te mea ngaro  
ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o tātou  
Kia mahea te hua mākihikihi  
kia toi te kupu, toi te mana, toi te aroha,  
toi te Reo Māori  
kia tūturu, ka whakamaua kia tīna! Tina!  
Hui e, Tāiki e!

Let the strength and life force of our ancestors  
Be with each and every one of us  
Freeing our path from obstruction  
So that our words, spiritual power, love, and language  
are upheld;  
Permanently fixed, established and understood!  
Forward together!



Our karakia for this term - this is how we start our day and also any assemblies. This was chosen this time by our Kaitātaki and Mrs Standen.

# Karawhiua!

Give it heaps, go for it!

Each week we have a new kiwaha (saying) that we practice as a way to build up our reo. This is introduced on a Monday at assembly.

## Dates For Your Diary!

- 6th February Waitangi Day Holiday
- 11th February Year 4-8 School Swimming Sports
- 10th March Teacher Only Day
- 11th April - End of Term 1
- 28th April - Term 2 starts
- 10th March Teacher Only Day
- 30th May -Teacher Only Day
- 2nd June - King's Birthday Holiday
- 20th June - Matariki Holiday
- 27th June - Term 2 Ends
- 14th July -Term 3 Starts
- 22nd August -Teacher Only Day
- 19th September -End of Term 3
- 6th October -Start of Term 4
- 27th October -Labour Day
- 10-12th November -Year 5 and 6 camp to Woodend
- 13th November -Teacher Only Day
- 14th November -Show Day Holiday
- 2nd-5th December -Year 7 and 8 camp to Living Springs
- 15th December - End of School Year