



Raglan Area School

TE KURA A ROHE O WHAINGAROA

Kia ora and warm greetings to you all,

We have nearly a dozen new students starting this term at all levels within the school and I would like to welcome them and their whanau to our kura. We also had a whakatau for Ben our new SWiS Worker (Social Worker in School) and he has begun working with us this term.

Congratulations to Quenten Browne who has been appointed to the permanent position of Tumuaki Tuarua (Deputy Principal) at Raglan Area School working alongside Marlene and I in the senior leadership team. Quenten has long been a tower of strength and support for staff and students in the school and we are delighted with this appointment.

The network upgrade for the Kura has now gone to tender and we will expect some minor disruptions while the new cabling is installed over the next month or two.

Reminder:

The Minister of Education has proclaimed two Teacher Only Days (TOD) for later this year for staff to prepare for changes in National Certificates. The first of these days will be next Friday 12th August and teachers across the Waikato will have the opportunity to network and plan for the changes. The date for the second of these special days has yet to be decided.

The Ministry of Education has written to our Board and congratulated them on our Charter, and the goals and aspirations for learning at Raglan Area School. Part of their complimentary message was focused on the calendar that we hope you are enjoying, and using. This is a great chance for me to thank the Board for their work and our staff for their commitment to our students, and especially a thank you to our Deputy Principals who work to support myself and the whole kura.

With warm regards to all,

Malcolm

Teacher Only Day Friday August 12

Curriculum Update—NCEA Standards

It is great if parents are well informed about how qualifications at Year 11-13 work before your child gets to that age. Knowing about NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) is a moving target as, like any system, it is continuously being reviewed and improved so think about building up your knowledge gradually and keep an eye on the NZQA website and the newspapers for updates.

In an ideal situation you want your child to leave school with NCEA Level Three as this gives entry to tertiary education. We talk a lot about 'lifelong learning' and it is very common for people to work for a while and then see a need or desire to go to polytech or university. Having Level Three means that you have developed the skills/knowledge to be able to take that step. NCEA Level Two, however, gives entry to apprenticeships and that is another excellent learning pathway.

At NCEA level, learning a particular set of skills and knowledge is collated into a standard. There are hundreds of potential standards that students and teachers are able to choose from. Each standard describes what a student needs to know, or what they must be able to achieve, in order to meet the standard. Having met it, they will gain credits towards national qualifications. Different standards are worth different numbers of credits.

As students study new topics, their teachers will explain what will be assessed and how. Teachers ensure that students are prepared for assessment. If students pass the assessment, the standard is achieved. Internal assessments are used to assess skills and knowledge that cannot be tested in an exam, e.g. speeches, research projects and performances. Most external assessments are by examination at the end of the year. For some subjects, e.g. Technology or Visual Arts, students submit a portfolio

of their work at the end of year.

For **achievement standards**, there are four grades:

- Achieved (A) for a satisfactory performance
- Merit (M) for very good performance
- Excellence (E) for outstanding performance

Not achieved (N) if students do not meet the criteria of the standard
Look for further information on <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/standards>

Please don't hesitate to phone Pauline, Gary, Quenten or me if you have any questions,

Marlene Smith, Deputy Principal

What's Coming Up

- 23 August BoT Meeting
- August 23/24/25 Surf Competition hosted by Surfing Academy;
- August 24/25 Sex-Wise Theatre;
- August 27 Student Ball;
- September 9 You've Got the Power Year 0 -Year 8;
- September 16 Western Zone Fishing Contest Year 4 – Year 8.

August 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Whangamata Sports Exchange

DING,DING,DING! Let the games begin!

We enter the Whangamata School hall, listening to the people chatter away sounding like buzzing bees, buzz buzz, buzz. We all sit on our seats and then do our haka powhiri, while they do a harmonized song.

After we all calm down, we get partnered up with our billets coming up the front with red faces and big smiles. We then start socializing before we become eternal enemies, and have a quick snack before we start our battle.

Lining up for the sports we're playing, hoping to win, hearts beating in our throats boom boom boom boom - getting shaky legs, afraid you'll mess up. But we all held that back for a while to try and win the trophy and shield back. We all had a tough day in the rain feeling the hurt and hating each other even more.

And so it went on... in the end it all came down to the Year 9 and 10 basketball game. It was a close game but Whangamata won it. We were so devastated but we got over it. On the trip home we had a quick swim at the hot pools and soaked out all the pain.

By Myaaliyah
Year 8.



Health Waikato Measles Update

There was an outbreak of Measles in the Waikato area, late July. The timing of onset of these young people's illnesses indicates that they acquired the illness in the last week of Term 2. The subsequent school holiday break means that the cases are very likely to have exposed others in the wider community and beyond. More cases are therefore expected, but only those who are not immune will be at risk. Anyone who is unimmunised and has been exposed to Measles is highly likely to develop the illness, usually 10-12 days after exposure. They in turn will be infectious from their earliest signs of illness, long before any rash appears.

Measles is a serious and highly infectious viral disease that causes fever, cough, sore red eyes and a rash. The rash does not appear until the person has been sick for around 4 days. Measles can make children and adults very sick and complications will develop in many people. Some possible complications are severe and lifelong.

Raglan Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Club

Due to the change in dates for the school terms this year the annual School Calf Club Dates have been changed accordingly. This will affect 2011 only. The area Group Day will be held on Saturday October 8th at Te Mata – the first day of the next holiday break. The combined Raglan/Te Uku day will be held on Wednesday 5th October. This is during Week 10, the last week of this Term. Please be in touch if you have any concerns/questions about this. Sue Brown (Calf Club liaison staff member.)

Bits and Bobs

NZQA Payments

NZQA payments are due into the school office by the 29th August. You will receive, in the mail, your account along with a Financial Assistance Information Sheet. Financial assistance is available to assist with the payment of entry fees for National Secondary Schools qualifications. Please read, as we encourage our students to use this service and an early return would be appreciated. Any queries, you can phone Pauline Sweetman

Lost Property

We have a considerable collection of jackets, shoes and sweatshirts which will be out on display in the senior common room area Wednesday 10am to 3.05pm. Lots of things from Year 4-6 students.

Kids Clay Class

Age 5-12 years
\$49 each workshop (includes supplies and materials)
Register at Old School Arts Centre
825 0023

Piano Lessons

I am a qualified piano teacher and I would welcome new students. Piano lessons will take place at 45 Government Road, Raglan. If you are interested please phone 825 7427. Mrs Jacqueline Barry