



# Raglan Area School

## TE KURA A ROHE O WHAINGAROA

Kia ora and a warm welcome to you all,

Welcome to our students, new and returning, welcome to staff and welcome to all of you who have youth in our kura, or who support the kura in the community. I hope that your break from school was relaxing and enjoyable and I am looking forward to a happy and productive year.

Our condolences are extended to Neil Gilshnan and his family on the death of his mother, Patricia Gilshnan, who is also great grandmother to students Kayla and Shaun.

A warm welcome to 'new' staff, in particular to Liz Rangiawha who is the lead teacher in the Roopu, to Arna Rose who is relieving for Miromiro for 2010, and to Kim Geros who is long term relieving teacher in Year 2.

### WHAKATAU INVITATION

**On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. we are having a whakatau for all new students and staff in our hall. Parents who wish to support their students in this welcome, and any other whanau who would like to attend are also very welcome. New students and parents will then be hosted for kai before returning to their classes. If you are new to the school you will be met at the front of the school at 8:50 by a staff member and supported in the whakatau.**

The school has had a very recent paint maintenance and the Home Economics room is getting it's external makeover to bring it up to the standard of the rest of the school.

Our whole staff attended a three-day hui last week. Thanks to Quenten and Gwyn for their support, this was a very successful event. Thanks also to Sean Ellison, Tex Rickard and Enoka Martin, who supported us as we traveled to Maketu Marae and to Turangawaewae. We do have a demanding year before us as we prepare to implement the (new) Curriculum Document and we look at the changes that National Standards require.

On National Standards you will have already read much in the media and certainly been inundated with opinion. For the most part, teachers have no issues with collecting data, including norm referenced data, and all would agree that parents are entitle in information about their own child's progress in plain language. I am including a cut and paste below so that some of the debate is placed

before you.

These are from the New Zealand Principals Federation.

### Do

- Tell our parents what is wrong with National Standards;
- They have failed in all countries to raise under achievement; are untried and untested;
- They are a quick fix idea (politically motivated and without any evidence to show that they work);
- They will change what teachers do tipping the balance from teaching and learning to assessment and reporting;
- They will result in misleading and damaging school league tables;
- They will narrow the focus of teaching and learning;
- They will challenge the ethics that operate in the school;
- They will label children at an early age as failures with the resultant negative impact on children's self worth and their understanding of what learning is and what success means.

### What is needed rather is:

- Opportunities for all teachers, parents and whānau to talk about their child's progress and learning needs;
- Support for teachers to boost effective teaching and better understanding of the diverse needs of students;
- More highly qualified/experienced teachers for children with greatest (at risk) learning/behaviour needs;
- Support for principals to provide strong community professional leadership;
- Brief teachers and parents on how the school will raise student achievement in 2010 and how schools will report on this two times a year;
- **Do** focus on plain language reporting of student **PROGRESS** to parents and consider a review of how your school does this currently;
- **Do** continue focus on formative assessment;
- **Do** continue high quality PD;
- **Do** develop a rich and deep NZC for your school – make it this year's focus as 2010 is the year that we are to implement the curriculum.

Best wishes

Malcolm

## WHAT'S COMING UP

8 February - Whakatau for new staff and students in the school hall at 9am.

6 February - Waitangi Day

6 February - Kawhia Food Festival

17 February - Athletics sports

20/21 February - Senior Art/Maori wananga at Motakotako

20/21 February - Polyfest Manukau City

22 February - Hearing and Vision Test

## February 2010

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

## Raglan Fire, Police & Operational Support Unit

Raglan has a newly established Fire, Police and Operational Support Unit to support the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the community. The Unit does not have a fire fighting role but provides support to the fire fighters and Police. It is currently building capability to undertake it's key activities e.g. incident support traffic management, administration support, external scene protection, evacuation, victim support etc.

and the Unit is keen to grow it's members. For further information, donations or to request an education session for your group contact Bob MacLeod on 027 4717171.

## School Acquires 30 New Toshiba Netbooks

Exciting News!!

The school has acquired 30 new Toshiba Netbooks for the Yr 0-6 syndicate. This means that every class will have 6 Netbooks at their disposal for classroom based, inquiry learning.

They are the first computers in the school to operate on Windows 7 and soon they will be on Office 2010 as well.

It is exciting to have such new technology in the school and the Netbook size is great for the young students.

## Hearing and Vision Screening in Schools

Community services vision hearing technicians regularly visit schools to carry out routine hearing and vision checks. The objective of these tests is to identify previously undetected ear and eye defects.

Which children are routinely checked?

- Catch up screening for children who have not completed hearing and vision checks as part of their B4 school check.
- Children absent from previous visit, require re-tests or follow up.
- In special circumstances, parents, teachers or others may request a hearing or vision check.
- New immigrants.

What tests are carried out?

Ears

- Audiometry - hearing test.
- Tympanometry - middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range).

Eyes

- Long distance vision tests - not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test.
- Colour vision tests (Year 7 boys only).

**The Vision Hearing Technician will:**

- Notify parents of all test results.
- Enter results on Ministry of Education database ENROL.

The vision hearing technician will obtain personal details from the school, i.e. name, date of birth, ethnicity.

If the technician needs to contact parents or caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required. Community services may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.

Gay Mohi (technician) will be visiting the school on the 22nd of February. If any parent or caregiver does not want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a hearing or vision defect, they should let the technician know by leaving a message with the school.

**NB All these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort**

## 'BITS AND BOBS'

### STATIONERY

We are selling stationery and uniforms from the AV room, which will be open between 8.20am to 11.30am until the 17th of February. The subject fees will be invoiced to you later in the month. If you would like to set up an automatic payment, please see Sue or Karen in the office.

### SECOND HAND RAGLAN AREA SCHOOL JACKET FOR SALE.

size 14, excellent condition, \$20. Please phone Nicole at the school 825 8140.

### CHANGE OF DETAILS

Please contact the school office if you have any change of contact details for your

child/ren. We are especially keen to keep all the emergency contact details up to date.

### DRUM LESSONS

Brendon Rickard will be back teaching drums after school on Wednesdays this term.

Lessons are \$25 for half an hour one on one with him or you can double up with a friend for \$12.50. Brendon has loads of experience playing in numerous bands including Late 80s Mercedes and Radiator. Lessons start next week on the 10th of February. Call him to arrange your lesson now. 021 894 037.

### FREE EAR CLINIC SERVICE FOR CHILDREN - 26 FEBRUARY 2010

- Glue Ear Assessment and Management
- Wax/Foreign Body Removal
- Grommet check

- Treatment of Discharging Ears

For enquiries regarding this service, please contact the phone numbers listed for each area or Hamilton 838 3565 or fax 834 0039.

### PIANO LESSONS

Dear Parents

I am a qualified piano teacher and I would welcome students from Raglan Area School in Term One for piano lessons at my home in Government Road. My number is 825 7427. Jacqueline Barry.