

# Raglan Area School

## TE KURA A ROHE O WHAINGAROA

Kia ora and greetings to you all,

Most of us will have been stunned and appalled by the earthquake and the loss of life in Christchurch. We grieve for the families who have lost loved ones and particularly for those who, as yet, do not know if loved ones have survived, fearing the worst and hoping for a miracle. Next week we will be involved in events that will raise funds in support of the rescues and restoration.

This Friday afternoon there will be a brief ceremony in remembrance of John Hodges who died at this time last year and we will unveil a plaque in our garden of memories. At this time we also think of the Williams family as they commemorate the passing of Katherine and have the unveiling for her.

I have been made aware of some concerning issues on the Kea Crossing. Cars have been observed speeding over the crossing with scant regard for the safety of our students and road patrol students. The other issues that causes concern is dropping off students forcing them to either cross the road inappropriately or get out of the car onto the middle of the road at an extremely dangerous intersection. Please reconsider your drop off plan in relation to the crossing so that we do not have an accident involving our students. I have asked the police to assist us by regularly monitoring the crossing at the busy times.

Attendance to date is overall 87%. Given the goal of 90% there are some students who have, already, significant non-attendance at school. Remember that explained absences are often still unjustified and marked as such. We do appreciate the explanation but the MOE clearly mandate that other than illness, absences are usually unjustified. Shopping days, child-care, birthdays, and family holidays are all coded unjustified. Starting this Friday there is an audit of attendance across the whole country. This is used by the Ministry of Education to settle staffing and funding for all New Zealand Schools.

WEL will be announcing, in the Chronicle next week, their donation of a wind turbine to our school. This is already up and generating power as many of you will have observed. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to study sustainable platforms for energy production and, along with the solar panels erected by Genesis, we will be able to monitor the power produced by both methods into the school's grid. No, we will not produce enough to sell back to the supplier, however it will substantially lower our power bill and the money saved will be able to be redirected into

other aspects of education here. This is a Win-Win situation for Raglan and we are very grateful to WEL for their gift. It is an absolutely unique opportunity and we will certainly be the only school in New Zealand to have two forms of sustainable power production.

I have followed the news stories with regard to Morrinsville College and feel obliged to make a couple of observations. The first is that suspensions and attendant outcomes for students, are made by the Board, not the Principal, and the Board is constituted of representatives of the parents, staff and students. We Principals obviously support our Boards and the decisions of our Boards. Secondly, these students are required by law to attend schools so the outcome of excluding these girls from Morrinsville is that they go to another school. Fair enough. However, as many schools are zoned they can decline these students access so a few schools end up with a disproportionate number of these displaced students. Our school has had to accept a significant number of 'displaced students' over the last few years. This places further strain on some schools as we receive no further funding to assist these young people and, as they often arrive after the March 1<sup>st</sup> roll audit, we in fact receive no funding at all. I for one would rather resource my own community's students and be part of changing the lives of our own youth. This then implies that the issues and problems of a community stay in the community and are addressed there. It is extremely challenging however the alternatives are, though seldom understood, more unpalatable. Yes I do understand the emotions and the anger and grief especially around a significant injury, and yes I do understand the fear and the desire to remove the 'problem'. My concern is whose problem does it then become? We need to address the problems in our own families and community. The challenging question is what would you have our Board do if it were your child who is bullying?

On Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> March from 1pm to 3pm there is a Paid Union Meeting for all staff of all Area Schools. The school is officially open for instruction however we would appreciate parents taking students home for the afternoon. Students who remain at school will be supervised by non-union members or relieving staff employed for that purpose. PUMs are an exception to the rule, and students are not marked absent for the afternoon if they attend in the morning.

With warm regards to all,  
Malcolm

## Curriculum Update—Technology

Last year I talked about Gary Kite and I going to the Digital Technology (sometimes called ICT) conference in Auckland. As I said then, there is a NZ-wide shortage of students graduating with high-level Information and Communication Technology skills. "In NZ talent supply has been identified as a critical issue and the "single biggest constraint to growth of the ICT sector is the supply of appropriately educated graduates. It is recommended "the ICT sector, secondary schools, and tertiary institutions should be more strategic in aligning course content and graduate output with industry requirements. Mechanisms are required to ensure industry input into course design and to raise student awareness of ICT as a rewarding career with both domestic and global opportunities.

<http://dtg.tki.org.nz/What-is-the-DTG/Background>

Glenn Rangitonga is our HOD Technology, which includes Digital Technologies alongside Hard (wood) Materials, Food and Fabric Technology, and Graphics and Design.

This particular curriculum area is currently the focus of considerable support and development from the Ministry of Education. Last week a number of teachers had a morning of Professional Development, here at school, with the Waikato advisor, Malcolm Howard. We are working to better understand how to teach Technology effectively from Year 1 up.

We realise that our children learn digital technologies much faster than we, as adults, do. Our challenge at school is to provide them with a wide range of opportunities to learn more and better. Last year we invested in student laptops (Netbooks) for the Year 0-6 students, data projectors for more classrooms and four new Mac computers in the Mac Lab. There are desktop computers in most rooms and Jake Fyalka, our fulltime technician, is always working to upgrade/maintain our PC lab. We will make further investments this year.

Marlene (Smith)  
Deputy Principal

## What's Coming Up

25 February: Western Zone Cluster Softball.– hosted at Te Kopua

1 March: Year 7-13 Athletics Day.

9 March: "Attitude" presenting to Year 7-13.

9-11 March: Year 7-10 students at camp.

11 March: Western Zone Swimming Sports at Ngaruarwahia.

12 March: Maui Dolphin Day

12/14 March: Rip Curl Pro Surf Comp.

**Breakfast Club is off to a good start with Weetbix, Milo and fruit smoothies happening Monday and Thursday mornings in the Home Ec room - ALL WELCOME.**

## FEBRUARY 2011

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Waitangi Day
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentines Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 BOT Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28						

# Seadogs Needs You

The Seadogs junior surf club has reached critical mass and to avoid turning away new applicants we are looking for parent helpers and second hand equipment. We leave school every Wednesday at 2.30pm and return around 5.00pm. If you would like to join in or donate or loan any surfboards or equipment, please contact Mr Lee Copson at school on 825 8140.



## Yr 7-10 BBQ

Thanks to all the whanau students and staff who turned up to the Yr7-10 syndicate BBQ afternoon here at kura this Monday. It was great to catch up with whanau, share kai and swim together. Gwyn Brodie, Danny Te Moananui and Stevie Gardiner



## School Nurse Update

This year Dawn will continue to run a self-referral school clinic every Monday morning and Wendy will run a clinic on Thursdays between 9.30 and 2:30pm. Drop in for a visit, or fill in an appointment form and place in the box in the student foyer by reception.

The intention of the school clinic service is to deliver free primary care health services within the secondary school environment. The services are intended to be complementary to those current general practice services deliver. While providing primary care health services it is intended the clinic will support and educate students to access main stream health services during their secondary school years and build confidence to access services after they leave school.

Health clinics are CONFIDENTIAL—which means what is discussed is private. The exceptions are: if permission is given by the student to discuss a specific issue with someone who can offer more help or guidance, or if there is concern regarding the safety of the student or someone else's immediate safety.

If you have any questions about the school clinic service please feel free to discuss with Dawn or Wendy.

## Student Writing - Cool To Be Kind Show

This morning we went to the hall to a show called "Cool to be Kind". Marty was telling us not to bully. The golden rule was "treat other people how you would like to be treated. Marty told us that it is uncool to be cruel. He also told us to respect other people. If someone bullied you, you would look them in the eye and say "I don't like it, stop that". He hold a puppet which talked and told us things. *Year 3 student*


## The HOG Convention

Last Friday tamariki and whanau from Te Ropu Aroha Ki te Reo performed at the HOG Convention. Our children enjoyed sharing their culture and reo with others in the community and from around the world. They felt like stars for the night with cameras flashing and people cheering them on to sing another waiata. A great night enjoyed by all. Many thanks and aroha to our tamariki and whanau especially Whaea Dah. Tau kee! Over the weekend we also had a stall and made a good profit to support our end of year trip. It wouldn't have happened without the help of The Nannies, Papa Patty, Bow St Motors, our whanau and our tamariki. Once again thanks for all the support. Ka ngangaro te whanau!!  
Nga Mihi **Na Nga Kaiako o Te Ropu Aroha Ki te Reo**



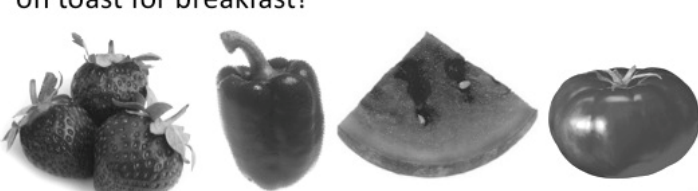
### BOOST THAT FRUIT

## I SEE RED!



Eat at least 3 red fruit this week. Strawberries, raspberries, watermelon, red apples, red plums.....and tomatoes!

Tomatoes are actually a fruit because they contain the seed of the plant. We usually use them as a vegetable which is why we get confused! Try tomato on toast for breakfast!



## Youthtransition Services

**Got a young person aged 15-19yrs? Are they unsure about their career path?** Let us help. My name is Ngaire-Anne Daniels and I work for Whai Marama Youth Connex, delivering the Youth Transition Service. Our job is to support young people to transition into meaningful activity whether it be returning to school, looking for work or moving into tertiary study. I travel to Whaingaroa every Wed, Thurs & Fri. If your young person attends RAS, it's likely I've already registered them. If you have a young person or you are a young person yourself who needs some tautoko, give me a call.

Ngaire-Anne Daniels  
Waikato Districts Youth Transition Coach  
Call or text: (027) 242 9533  
Free phone 0800 787 733 (landline only)  
E: Ngaire-Anne@whaimarama.co.nz



## Bits and Bobs

At Senior English level, students must read sophisticated magazine articles as part of their assessment. The English department is, therefore, looking for magazines similar to Listener, North and South, Mana and Time Magazine. If parents have these subscriptions and would be willing to drop off old copies to the school, this would be much appreciated. Thank you  
Dave O'Loughlin

### Adults Te Reo Maori Class.

Want to learn to (or improve your) korero but don't want anything formal?  
Can't commit to a long course in town?  
Fun / Conversational / Useful Maori Lessons with a qualified kaiako-reo-rua (bilingual language teacher)  
Intro lessons: 1st March.  
Tuesday evenings 7.30 – 9pm ish.  
Exact times and dates, course content, Koha to be decided as a class.  
Phone **Lizzy ( 825-8298 )** with any questions, for venue or to sign up!

### Raglan Junior Soccer Club Muster

**Sunday 6 March 2011**  
**12:00—3:30pm**  
**Te Kopua Domain**  
**5 years to 13 years old**

\$50 sub is required upon registration. Late registrations may not be accepted if teams are full.

Please phone Zoe 825 0056, Kath 825 7272, Rocehlle 825 8444, Steph 825 7219 or Mel 825 7005