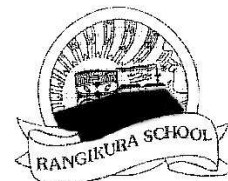


RANGIKURA SCHOOL

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School Goal – Term 1 2009

'We Will Complete our Tasks'

Teaching Beliefs – Success with Support, Teamwork and Communication, Achieving High Standards, Reflecting Diversity, Safe Secure Environment.

Kia ora, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo-ni, Greetings, Bula, Fakaalofa atu, Sabai de, Namesti

PRINCIPALS NEWSLETTER 11 February 2009

Welcome back for the 2009 school year.

We welcome a number of new students to our great school this year. Ariana Welch-Natras, Rewi Cable, JJ Akavi, Toloa Faraimo, Tatana Parai-Karepa, Evander and Anastasia Seiuli, Staci Walsh, Losania Wilson-To'omaga, Aaliyah Khan, Fuapauna and Tiara Rapana Aluni, Kaylah Keating-Hewitt, Eternity McLean, Sunshyne Tuialii, Tyrrell and Aria Samia, Stace Katu, Paris Va, Maria Mihaka and Kaylum Calcott. It is great to have you all with us. We hope you enjoy your time at our school and achieve to high levels.

We also warmly welcome some new staff members - Nikki Merval, (Pohutukawa), Angela Cole, (Kowhai), Elizabeth Charlton (Reading Recovery) and Lisa Tennant, (Teacher Aide). We are looking forward to working with all these staff members and to their contribution to Rangikura School. A powhiri for new staff and students was held this morning.

MEET THE TEACHER

We are having a very informal "Meet the Teacher" afternoon. All teachers will be in their classrooms from 3pm until 4pm on Wednesday 18 February (next week). Please take this opportunity to come in and meet your children's teachers and have a chat with them. We look forward to seeing you all.

RANGIKURA CURRICULUM

One of our major tasks this year is to develop a special Rangikura Curriculum that recognises the unique nature of our school, that reflects the wishes of our school community, our staff and our Board of Trustees, and that is based on the New Zealand revised curriculum.

Our staff have started this process by discussing the issues facing our school, what we want to achieve in the next 3-5 years for our school and our students and what we perceive to be the vision for our school. Our Board of Trustees will be having a similar discussion at their next meeting on 24 February. We invite you to join the discussion. Please fill in the section at the end of the newsletter responding to the questions. We will then put the staff, the Board and the parent information together along with what has been received from students and reflect it back to you as we shape up some directions and statements that we can all agree on. We look forward to your replies. All replies received will go into a draw for a \$30.00 Pak n Save voucher.

TARGETS FOR 2009

Every year we set specific achievement targets for our students and our school. We report the results of these to the Ministry of Education. We have a strong history of achieving the majority of our targets and gaining high academic results for our students. We set challenging targets because our philosophy is to extend our students as much as we possibly can. While some percentage levels may look low, the achievement levels we are expecting are high for each age group. We have drafted some targets for 2009 in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and bullying reduction. For reading and writing we have drafted targets for all students, for Maori students and for Pasifika students. A copy of these draft targets is included with this newsletter. We are seeking feedback on these targets. Please use the form at the bottom of this newsletter and return it, along with your comments on strategic direction and vision by Friday 20 February. There will also be a consultation meeting for parents at school on Monday 23 February at 6pm in Pohutukawa Block. A brief background on how these draft targets were decided will be presented. There will be opportunities for questions and feedback on the targets. The Board of Trustees will make any necessary amendments and ratify the targets at their meeting on 24 February.

FRUIT IN SCHOOLS

This has started and is wonderful. Every child gets a free piece of fruit for morning tea each day. Extra pieces are also available for snacks during the day. This will continue for three years. On Monday and Tuesday there was a choice of bananas or oranges. Today, tomorrow and Friday there is bananas, oranges and apples. Eating fruit and vegetables is associated with a lower risk of diseases such as heart disease and some cancers. Research tells us that in general, the amount of fruit and vegetables that New Zealand children eat is low. Many of you have always sent fresh fruit and vegetables for your children's lunch. Please keep doing this. The more fruit and

vegetables they eat the better. One of our parents, Alison Scott, has kindly volunteered to prepare the fruit each day and along with a team of students, deliver the fruit to classrooms. If you are available to assist her to do this please let me know.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

In 2008 we met our targets of reducing the school absence rate to under 10% for the year. We want to at least maintain this and hopefully improve on it this year. We also want to continue to lessen the number of late arrivals each day. It is not acceptable for children to be regularly late to school. Just as teachers and staff need to be here on time, so do students. If your child is regularly late, expect a call from us. If the problem continues expect a visit from the local truancy officer. We are currently working with neighboring schools to develop a common system to deal with these issues. Please continue to notify us by phone if your child will be absent or late to school. We look forward to your cooperation in these areas.

SCHOOL GOAL

We have a new goal for a new term and a new year. "We Will Complete our Tasks".

This is all about sticking at what we are doing and seeing it through to the end. It is about finishing what we have started or, as I have said to the children, "keep on keeping on until the end".

All teachers are emphasising this goal on a daily basis. At our assemblies each Friday one STAR student from each class will receive an award for their work towards our goal. You can help us by reinforcing our school goal at home.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Our school provides homework for students as we believe it is an important part of developing positive study habits and it teaches the skill of self management. We support our students with their homework through our homework club that operates each Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime and on Thursday from 3.30pm - 4.30pm in our school library. Children are supervised and supported to complete some of their homework at these times.

Please promote this to your children.

DUFFY PRE SCHOOL BOOKS

Did your preschooler receive a free book on or around their birthday last year? If not they may not be on our Duffy pre-school list. Also there may be a new baby in the house who won't yet be on our list. We have lots of books to give away so we would like as many preschoolers on our list as possible. If you would like us to add your preschooler please return the form at the bottom of the newsletter to me.

ROAD PATROLS

Our school patrols on Warspite Avenue and Desert Gold Street operate between 3 and 3.20pm and between 8.30 and 8.45am daily. To ensure safety, please encourage your children to cross at these times.

HOT WEATHER

With the very hot weather we have been having it is important for children to remember to drink plenty of water. We encourage students to bring water bottles to school which they can fill from the fountains in rooms around the school.

HATS

Brimmed sunhats are compulsory at our school this term. If students do not have these they will not be allowed to play outside. New students are provided with a free school sunhat. We also have school sunhats for sale. Hats are also available very cheaply at the Warehouse, Uncle Bill's and the \$1, 2, 3 dollar shop. Please ensure your child's sunhat is named so that they can be easily identified and returned if lost.

HEALTHY EATING

We encourage healthy eating practices at our school. We are one of 4 New Zealand schools to have achieved three consecutive Gold Heartbeat Awards. We are very proud of this and are committed to maintaining these awards each year. We will continue our Healthy Eating Days twice a term. We will also keep providing a Healthy recipe in each newsletter that you can try at home. Also check out the Healthy Food Guide, a magazine available monthly at supermarkets for \$6.00 a copy. They have a great website full of recipes. Check out www.healthyfood.co.nz

Summertime is a great time for healthy eating. There is plenty of summer fruit available. Raw vegetables such as carrots or celery are another great idea for the lunchbox. Sandwiches are easy to make, nutritious and cheap. Tomato and lettuce make great sandwich fillings at this time of year.

Here is this week's recipe.

TUNA AND CHICKPEA PASTA

Serves 4 - time to make: 10 minutes - cost per serve: \$1.64

400g pasta shells, 400g can chickpeas, drained, rinsed, 2 large tomatoes, diced, 425g can tuna in spring water, drained, 1 large lemon, rind finely grated and 3 tablespoons juice, 1 tablespoon olive oil, 2 tablespoons fresh thyme plus extra to garnish.

Method: Cook pasta following packet directions. Meanwhile, heat chickpeas and tomatoes in a large non-stick frying pan over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Stir in tuna and heat through for 2 minutes. Drain pasta. Return to pan off heat. Toss well with tuna mix, rind, juice, oil and thyme. Serve topped with extra thyme.

STUDENTS SUCCESSES

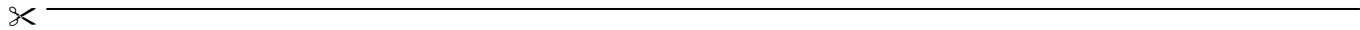
Toa Waka Ama, a squad of 12 young women competed at the 2009 National Waka Ama Sprint Competition at Lake Karapiro on 13 and 14 January. One of our students, Briar Barnsley, is in this squad. They achieved two gold and one silver medal at the competitions. Briar was also placed 6th in the Outrigger Canoe 500m finals. Well done to you Briar, and all your team mates.

Kind Regards,

Paul Nees
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 13 Feb STARS Assembly 10.15am
- 18 Feb Meet the teachers in their classrooms 3pm - 4pm
- 20 Feb School Assembly 10am
- 23 Feb Parent Consultation Meeting re targets 6pm - Pohutukawa Block
- 24 Feb BOT Meeting 6pm in Library, including report on ICT and information on curriculum development
- 25 Feb Police Education Officer trainees reading to Pohutukawa and Rimu students 10.50am
Next Newsletter
- 26 Feb Healthy Eating Day
- 27 Feb Scheduled date for hall completion



Strategic Direction/Visual Feedback sheet
I think the issues currently facing the school are

For the next 3-5 years I believe the school needs to focus on

My vision for Rangikura School in the future is

Target Feedback
I have the following comments to share regarding the Rangikura School Draft targets for 2009.

Name

Duffy Preschool. Please add my child's name to the list to receive free birthday books.	
Child's Name	Date of Birth

DRAFT TARGETS FOR 2009

Reading

- For 65% of all Year 6 students to be reading at Level 3P or above and for 26% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 65% of all Year 6 Maori students to be reading at Level 3P or above and for 27% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 75% of all Year 6 Pasifika students to be reading at Level 3P or above, and for 30% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 55% of all Year 7 students to be reading at Level 3A or above and for 25% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 47% of all Year 7 Maori students to be reading at Level 3A or above and for 35% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 60% of all Year 7 Pasifika students to be reading at Level 3A or above and for 22% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 52% of all Year 8 students to be reading at Level 4P or above and for 15% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 49% of all Year 8 Maori students to be reading at Level 4P or above and for 16% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.
- For 41% of all Year 8 Pasifika students to be reading at Level 4P or above and for 10% to be achieving in the above average and outstanding ranges in the STAR reading test.

Writing

- For 18% of Year 4 students to be working at Level 2A or above.
- For 10% of Year 4 Maori students to be working at Level 2A or above.
- For 16% of Year 4 Pasifika students to be working at Level 2A or above.
- For 63% of Year 5 students to be working at Level 3B or above
- For 54% of Year 5 Maori students to be working at Level 3B or above
- For 63% of Year 5 Pasifika students to be working at Level 3B or above
- For 53% of Year 6 students to be working at Level 3P or above
- For 51% of Year 6 Maori students to be working at Level 3P or above
- For 63% of Year 6 Pasifika students to be working at Level 3P or above
- For 70% of Year 7 students to be working at Level 4B or above
- For 60% of Year 7 Maori students to be working at Level 4B or above
- For 80% of Year 7 Pasifika students to be working at Level 4B or above
- For 25% of Year 8 students to be working at Level 4P or above
- For 20% of Year 8 Maori students to be working at Level 4P or above
- For 25% of Year 8 Pasifika students to be working at Level 4P or above

Mathematics

- For all year levels to show improvement in achievement as measured by school expectations, between the beginning and the end of 2009

Health and Safety

- To reduce reported levels of bullying across the school to 15%.
- To achieve over 60% of bullying reported to staff.
- To reduce annual absenteeism / truancy rates to under 10%.