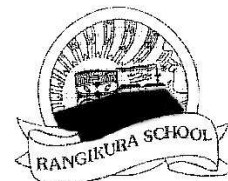


RANGIKURA SCHOOL

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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 WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009

We welcome Darone Iraia to our school. Darone is a Year 8 student who is in Mr Uluilalata's class.

RANGIKURA CURRICULUM

Thank you to those parents who responded to the questionnaire in the last newsletter about our school's strategic direction and vision. It was great to get your thoughts and feedback on these very important matters. We have decided to extend this opportunity for another week to allow for as many people as possible to respond. The feedback sheet is reprinted at the bottom of this newsletter. Please take the time to fill it in and have your child return it directly to the school office. On March 6 we will draw a name at random from replies received for the \$30.00 Pak n Save voucher promised in the last newsletter.

TEACHER ONLY AFTERNOON - IMPORTANT

On Friday March 6 the teachers will be having a teacher only afternoon. We will be spending time looking at school wide spelling programmes, one of our goals for 2009. Teachers will be spending from 1pm - 6.30pm that afternoon/evening on this work.

We therefore are asking you to make alternative arrangements for your children on this afternoon. School will finish for children at 12.30pm. There will be no school lunches that day. Patrols will operate from 12.30 - 12.45pm at Desert Gold Street and Warspite Avenue.

If making alternative arrangements causes you difficulty for this afternoon please contact me directly before Wednesday 4 March.

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Another Teacher Only Day for our staff will be held on Thursday 9 April, the last day of Term 1. There will be no school that day. We will be closed for instruction. The purpose of this day is to do further work on the school's vision, strategic direction and curriculum. This is one of two days given to all schools by the Ministry of Education to do this work. Please make alternative arrangements for your children's care for that day.

ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE

Our school is currently talking with other local schools about putting consistent attendance follow up methods in place. There is already some consistency with all schools phoning parents daily when children have an unexplained absence. We are looking at implementing the RAAYS Scheme across all schools in the area. This scheme has been used successfully in local secondary schools and involves working together with the Ministry of Education, Truancy Officers, The Police and CYF to improve attendance, punctuality and unjustified absences. I have already been talking to some parents about why we are recording some absences as unjustified. Our position has always been that students need to attend school in order for our teachers to be able to achieve progress with their learning. All children have the right to achieve and progress with their learning. Initiatives are put in place are designed to achieve that goal. As firm decisions are made about changes in practice for all the schools I will be informing you.

LATENESS

The positive news about attendance is that there are already fewer students signing in late each morning in comparison to last year. We definitely want to keep this up. Lateness seems to be worse on wet days. We need to work to make sure children are on time no matter what the weather is.



HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Our first Home/School Partnership for the year will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 6pm in the library. By the time we have our next meeting our new hall will be up and running. The focus is 'Languages'. We are all very excited about our new languages we are offering to our Year 4 to Year 8 students. The students get a choice of Japanese, French and Te Reo. The Pohutukawa students also have a choice of Cook Island Maori. Please come along to our meeting, have a light dinner and find out more about this wonderful programme.

HEALTHY EATING DAY

Our first healthy eating day for 2009 is tomorrow 26 February. We currently have two healthy eating days each term. This is part of our commitment to our Gold Heartbeat Award. We are one of only four schools in the country to have achieved 3 consecutive Gold Heartbeat Awards. We are very proud of this achievement. To make the rules of healthy eating day manageable and transparent we only allow packaged food that displays the Heart Foundation tick for that day. Any other packaged food will be kept and returned to students at 3pm that day. The easiest way to ensure your child's lunch is healthy on these days is to prepare sandwiches, perhaps some raw vegetables such as carrot and celery and a piece of fruit to supplement what the school provides. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

HEALTHY RECIPE

Our healthy recipe this week is ideas for lunchboxes. This comes from the Healthy Food Guide Magazine.

The ideal lunchbox

To provide everything a child needs for energy and growth, the lunchbox should always contain at least:

- **Bread:** eg 2 x high-fibre white bread sandwiches made with margarine and marmite
- **Fruit:** eg a container of berries and grapes
- **Dairy:** eg 1 x cheese triangle
- **Drink:** a pre-frozen drink bottle
- **Snacks:** a piece of homemade slice or high-fibre muesli bar or 2 x fruit digestive biscuits; a raw peeled carrot

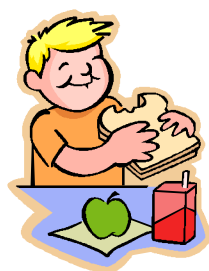
Interesting lunchbox fare

It can be tough for parents when lunches aren't eaten. Variety can help, so try these ideas:

Vary the bread:

You could try doing a different type of bread or baked item each week to jazz up sandwiches:

- Week 1: Wraps or pitas
- Week 2: Rolls
- Week 3: Muffins/scones
- Week 4: Focaccia bread
- Week 5: Crackers
- Week 6: Regular sandwiches



Mix up the fruit

Use fruit in fresh, canned or dried forms. A whole piece of fruit will be most likely returned uneaten if it is bruised or battered. Try popping bite-sized fruit into small containers. I personally like any kind of seedless grape with mandarin segments, or frozen orange quarters. Transfer canned fruit into a small container with an easy to remove lid, or buy the individual fruit pottles (don't forget to include a spoon).

There are so many varieties of dried fruit these days; dried cranberries, dried blueberries and dried papaya are some of the more exotic ones. However, eating raisins and blowing into the box to make the squeaking sound is always a fun thing to do if you are a kid!



Strategic Direction/Visual Feedback sheet

I think the issues currently facing the school are

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

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My vision for Rangikura School in the future is

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Target Feedback

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

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Name

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Our school Board of Trustees held its first meeting of the year last night. Action towards achieving a number of the goals for the year was begun. This included discussion around a review of Technicraft programmes, Board input into school strategic direction and vision and producing a Governance Manual to guide the Board in its operations and decision making. The Board is in full support of school involvement in developing a truancy and absence framework with other schools. Protocols for a hall opening were also discussed. The date and details of this will be advised as soon as we have a firm date for the completion of the construction. We anticipate the building will be completed by 13 March but this is not yet set in concrete. Expect the opening celebrations, which will be a dawn ceremony to be sometime in late March.

Fru Egan - Chairperson

GREEN TEAM



We are establishing a Green Team at our school, focusing on how we can become more environmentally minded and sustainable. We are starting with small steps but with a big vision. We would welcome any community input. You may have ideas/skills that we would welcome. Please come in or ring and speak to Mrs Gulliver or Mrs Nui.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Boys Brigade is underway for 2009. Phone Mike Batten on 233-8536.

Girls-only Football Leagues. Every Sunday morning starting 26 April. For more information contact a local football club or go to www.capitalfootball.org.nz

Mana Music Centre - Piano/keyboard classes - for more information contact Sandra 235-9019.

Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet 9th Annual Photographic Competition is underway. We have some entry forms here at school. The completed entries must be sent by 6 March 2009.

Kind Regards

Paul Nees
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

26 February	(Tomorrow) Healthy Eating Day Firefighters visiting Kowhai Block as part of their Social Studies work
27 February	Tabloid Sports Day 11am - 3pm. STARS Assembly 10.15am
4 March	PCT Challenge
6 March	Teacher Only Afternoon - School finishes at 12.30pm Assembly 10am
10 March	Home School Partnership 6pm - Library
11 March	Next Newsletter
12 March	Walk to School Day
13 March	Rimu to Capital E Festival Hall construction completed STARS Assembly 10.15am
18 March	Pohutukawa to Capital E Festival
19 March	Kahikatea - Careers Expo - Rec Centre
20 March	Kahikatea to Capital E Festival
8 April	Last day of school for students this Term
9 April	Teacher Only Day - School closes
10 April	Good Friday