

RANGIKURA SCHOOL
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Ascot Park
PORIRUA



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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 MARCH 2009

NEW STUDENTS

We welcome Regan Huntly, Tyana Wihongi, Selina Akavi and Jack Fuli to our school. We are already enjoying spending time with these children

SCHOOL GOAL

Our school goal is still “We will complete our tasks”. Our students are working well towards this. It is great to see a large amount of Quality Work in class displays as well as in the Quality Work areas in each classroom.

The following students have been recognised and rewarded at the last two assemblies for their great work towards our goal:

Faatasi Faatonuga, Elaia Seiuli, Staci Walsh, Parys Wirangi, Anna Lolohea, Tamiem Pahina-Edwards, Matisse Uluilalata, Elizabeth Doughty, Nathan Luapo, Melehina Kilino, Junior Ahhoi, Jacob Rameka, Evander Seiuli, Ashleigh Bell, Arai Samia, Paije Vettori, Paige Enea, Keanu Brightwell Ina Tou, Joshua Teo, Jacob Scott, Miles Mauafua, Brandon Ahhoi, Elijah Rere, Jasmine Kaa, Cori TeAo.
Congratulations to you all.

ABSENCES

We have joined all other local schools in a scheme to reduce absences in all schools. We are working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Police, Child Youth and Family, Capital and Coast District Health Board and the local Truancy Officer. We have worked out a system common to all schools which we will all follow.

If we are concerned about the number of absences your child has we will be sending you an official letter on behalf of us and all the above organisations. The letter will invite you to discuss the concerns we have. Hopefully this will be sufficient to improve attendance.

If it doesn't there are a series of more formal letters with the Truancy Officer and the Police becoming increasingly involved.

The first letters are scheduled to be posted this week. If you have any questions about this scheme please do not hesitate to contact me.

RAAYS is a Porirua / Kapiti Youth Offending Team initiative. Main sponsors of the project are



RAAYS - Raising Achievement Across our Youth Sector

LATENESS

Lateness can also be an attendance concern so the above system applies also to children who are continually late to school.

Since the last newsletter an average of 12 students have been late each day. This is slightly more than reported two weeks ago. It is a concern that this is increasing and that the same names keep coming up as late arrivals. Please help us by getting your children to school before the bell. That will ensure they have a good start to the day and can progress with their learning from 9:00am each day.

SWIMMING

Swimming begins next term. All syndicates will have one week's swimming only this year, Kowhai are the first syndicate to go to the pools, from May 4th. We have to charge \$10.00 per student for swimming to help cover the pool hire. The school pays for some of this and all of the transport. Please pay this amount to your child's teacher before swimming starts. We will issue receipts on request.

HALL PROJECT

Our hall is finally nearing completion. We have been given a date of 24 April for when it will be ready. We are planning an opening ceremony early on Saturday morning 9 May. This will be a community event. There will be more details in our next newsletter.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Our school is one of three schools in the Wellington area to be given Government money for more school buildings. This is part of the Government's package to stimulate the economy. We have been allocated \$453,000 which we will use to turn Jason Maraku's classroom into a school resource room and build two new classrooms for Kahikatea students. These classrooms are likely to also include teacher preparation offices and small group teaching areas.

We have also been allocated a further \$100,000 for an extra Kowhai classroom. This is because of the new 1:15 teacher students ratio for Year 1 students. This will be built as part of Kowhai Block and use some of their current shared space and resource area. We will also be creating a new resource area for them.

We are currently having detailed plans drawn up for both these projects. They are likely to be complete before the end of this year.

Some Board members along with some senior school staff attended a meeting at the Education Review Office in Wellington today. The meeting was for schools likely to receive an ERO review late this year. Our school will welcome ERO with the knowledge and confidence that we are performing to extremely high levels in all areas and positively improving student achievement in our school. Our Board has also completed its input into School Strategic Planning and Vision for the Future. This will now be put with the work done by the community and the staff to work towards planning the future. This will happen at the Teacher Only Day on 9 April

Maria Uluilalata - Deputy Chairperson

HEALTHY EATING DAY

Our second Healthy Eating Day for this term is tomorrow (Thursday). As usual the only packaged food acceptable tomorrow will be that displaying the Heart Foundation Tick. The idea of this is not to make you buy expensive food. Although we know some healthy packaged food items do not have the Heart Tick we have to have a clear way to identify what we do or do not allow.

All we ask is that each child have a simple sandwich and extra fruit to supplement what we give out at school, if desired. This is far less expensive than any packaged food and much healthier.

HEALTHY RECIPE

I have been receiving feedback from a number of parents that they enjoy trying out the healthy recipes in the newsletter. This is great to hear - I am pleased that the recipes serve a purpose, I have also tried each one and have not yet found any that I did not enjoy.

This week's recipe is **Pita Crisps** - a healthy alternative for potato chips, and delicious as well. Enjoy!

Portions: makes 40

Time to make: 20 minutes

Total cost of all ingredients: \$4.40 / \$0.11 per serve



Ingredients

1 packet (400g) pita or naan bread (350g/5 pieces)

olive oil spray

2 1/2 teaspoons herb and garlic seasoning (or seasoning of your choice)

Step 1 Preheat oven to 180°C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper.

Step 2 Lightly spray each piece of pita with oil on one side. Sprinkle each pita with 1/2 teaspoon

seasoning. Cut into 8 wedges. Bake for 10 minutes. Swap tray positions and cook for another 2-3 minutes, or until lightly golden and crisp. Serve immediately.

These crisps are especially delicious served with Beetroot dip or chutney.

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

This event was held today. As usual our children represented the school with pride and showed a great sense of sportsmanship and fair play.

KINDERGARTEN LIAISON

As part of our transition to school programme, Ascot Park Kindergarten children have been making weekly visits to Mrs Gullivers's class.

This Friday, Mrs Gulliver's class will be visiting the kindergarten to have a picnic with the children there. We are very pleased to be putting greater effort and emphasis on this very important transition process.

OVERSEAS VISITOR

Our school's great reputation has spread overseas! Mr Tony Cummings , Principal of Shellharbour Anglican College, Dunmore, New South Wales, Australia has heard great things about our school. He will spend time visiting us next Monday morning. Of course we are highly delighted about this - it reflects really well on our school, our students, our staff and our community.

TEACHER ONLY DAY AND END OF TERM

We have a teacher only day on Thursday 9 April. This will enable staff to collate and discuss the results of the Board, community and teacher input into the school's strategic direction and vision. This means school will finish for Term 1 for students on Wednesday 8 April. We will finish at 2:00pm. If this causes problems for you, please let me know.

Good Friday is 10 April

Term 2 begins for the school at 8:55am on Monday 27 April.

KAHIKATEA COLONIAL KNOB WALK

Kahikatea Syndicate will be heading up Rangituhi on Wednesday 1 April. Parents are welcome to join them. They will be leaving school at 10:00am

HEALTH ISSUES

One child in Kowhai Block has been diagnosed with scabies and school sores. These are highly contagious please check your children as we don't want them to spread through the school.

There also seems to be an outbreak of nits throughout the whole school. Please check your child and treat the problem if necessary.



Kind Regards,
Paul Nees

Principal

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DATES TO REMEMBER

26 March	Healthy Eating Day
27 March	STARS Assembly 10:15am
30 March	Tony Cummings - Australian Principal visiting Duffy Assembly 9:30am
31 March	Kahikatea overnight stay at school
1 April	Kahikatea Colonial Knob walk
3 April	Cross Country 11:00am start. Postponement date Wednesday 8 April
7 April	Year 7/8 immunisation information visit. Kindergarten visit our library Rimu - Fire Day 11:00am
8 April	Literacy Quiz Last day of term - school finishes at 2:00pm
9 April	Teacher Only Day
10 April	Good Friday
27 April	Term 2 begins - 8.55am sharp.

