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Newsletter 7 August 2019

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Families - kia ora, kia orana, talofa, malo e lelei, fakaalofa atu, hello and greetings

From the Principal

I have been enjoying the chats with parents that I meet on my travels around the school. It is nice to start putting faces to family names. We had a great discussion at our new parent morning tea last Thursday. Thank you to the mums that came and to our fantastic Helping Hands team that provided the sinfully delicious treats.

Please can we ask you to contact the office if there are going to be alternate arrangements for your children getting home. We have a legal obligation to ensure that students go on the bus UNLESS we have written advice or a phone call to let us know otherwise. We legally can't allow children to go with someone else, even if you have arranged it privately with another parent, unless you have told us. We also do not allow changes to be made by students if they have organised their own playdate. We have your children's best interests at heart to keep them safe.

Also please know that if your child is absent from school we will mark them truant if we do not hear from you as to a reason why. Vicki tries to contact parents if we do not have an explanation, but if she can't get hold of you the absence will be marked as a T. Again this is a legal obligation that we have, to ensure your children's safety. A quick email or phone call is all we require.

I am also concerned at the speed in which some people are travelling past the school. I am sure you saw the school on Fair Go the other night concerned at the risk that speed & cars present. Even though our students primarily take the bus, it would be terrible if a child was going to a car across the road, and got collected by someone practising their Grand Prix skills. Please if you are one of these Speedy Gonzales, take a moment to slow down past the school.

On a sunnier note, we are looking for any person, persons or companies that would like to sponsor our lovely school in some way. I have LOTS of ideas for what sponsorship could be used for. If you want to be further involved with the school on a deeper level, or know of a company that does, or have LOTTO winnings burning a hole in your pocket, please make an appointment to see me for a chat. I'd LOVE to meet with you.

A HUGE thank you to Lorraine Brien and her band of merry men who refilled our sandpit today. We really appreciate it.

Lastly from today we are changing our lunch eating time. Students will be eating their lunch AFTER playing rather than before. A large number of schools are now doing this. Research shows that the students eat more of their lunch as they are not worrying about getting to that swing on the playground first, and are more calm and settled to re-enter the classroom for the afternoon lessons. The classroom teachers will all be sitting with their own classes to eat, which is a great time for those all important relationship building chats to happen.

Enjoy the sunshine while it lasts and have a beautiful evening.

Cherylene Neels
Principal

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Unfortunately our school water has tested positive for e coli. We have been in contact with the Ministry of Health and have taken all steps to treat the water; we have provided the children without water bottles fresh water. Can we please ask that you send a water bottle filled from home for the rest of the week. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact the office

Key Dates - for this term

Friday 16 August

School speech competition

Thursday 22 August	Rodney Rural school Cluster Speech Finals at Tomarata School
Friday 23 August	DISCO- Mid Winter Xmas theme.
Monday 26 August	Teacher Only Day NO SCHOOL
Wednesday 28 August	Senior Wheels day
Thursday 29 September	Junior Wheels day Year 4-8 Netball/Touch day
September 9-13	Maori Language week
Tuesday 10 September	Production Dress rehearsal Wellsford Community Centre
Tuesday	17 th September School production at Wellsford Community Centre
Wednesday 18 th Sept	Rodney College enrolment interviews for Year 8 students School production at Wellsford Community Centre
Monday 23rd September	Music School Concert 11am
Friday 27 September	Last day of Term 3
Saturday 28 September	Trivia Night-Rugby Club

How important is attendance?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per weeks	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr, 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years



MID WINTER XMAS DISCO

TOMARATA HALL

HO HO HO- come join the fun at our disco on Friday 23 August 6-7:30 pm

\$5.00 entry fee

Food, drink and glow items for sale

Photo booth available \$1.00 per photo

