

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS

Do you all know about the Northfuel Fuel for Schools programme? Local farms or businesses who receive bulk fuel deliveries from Northfuels can nominate a school to receive a donation based on fuel purchased. Thank you to those already signed up for this sponsorship—our school received \$56.98 from this programme last year. "From little acorns, mighty oaks grow!" If you would like to join the programme and nominate our school as the beneficiary, go to the website www.northfuels.co.nz

RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND have been campaigning for better awareness of the 20km/h speed limit past school buses. In the 23 years from 1987, 23 children have been killed in NZ when crossing the road to or from school buses. 47 were badly injured and 92 received minor injuries. **** DRIVERS—PLEASE OBSERVE THE 20KM/H SPEED LIMIT. ** PARENTS— PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN TAKE CARE AFTER ALIGHTING FROM THE SCHOOL BUS.**

ASB \$250 Sponsorship Voucher

ASB Whangarei has instigated a fundraising scheme for schools, by offering a \$250 donation for each teacher/parent who draws down a new Home Loan of over \$150,000 with ASB Whangarei branch. The only condition is that our school voucher must be presented to ASB staff when making the loan application. This week we received our first \$250 donation!! These funds will be put aside for a special purpose to be decided by the Board of Trustees. We will update you on this. Ruakaka School Vouchers are available at the office.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- ⇒ Waipu Junior Rugby Registration Day, Sunday 3rd March, 4.30-5.30pm for registration and weigh-in—looking for new players in all grades. Queries to Ali Mackay 0274-395978 or Mutch Ulrich 027-2971144
- ⇒ Bream Bay United Football Club Registration Day—Sunday 3rd March, from 10am—1pm. For more information, contact Hineapa Kauwhata on 0275041935
- ⇒ Junior Rugby League Rally Day, March 10th at Takahiwai League Club. U7's—U18's. Mark this on your calendar now!
- ⇒ Bream Bay Gymnastics with "Active Attitude", ages 1-13, has started. For more information or to register, phone Ashleigh on 021-1457636.
- ⇒ Marsden Cove "Kids Fishy Friday" - meet at Waterline Café 4.30pm with an adult, fishing rod and bait. Further info—02173898
- ⇒ Coming up—Kauri Coast Surfcasting Contest, Saturday 23rd March. 1st prize: Heaviest Kahawai \$3000 cash!! 2nd & 3rd prizes of \$2000 & \$1000 cash. Other prizes valued up to \$600. Fishing from 9am-4pm. Weigh-in activities at Omamari Gap—quick fire raffles, all day BBQ Website: kcsurfcasting@yahoo.co.nz or phone 09 4390070

Phone: (09) 432-7503 Fax (09) 432-8631 Mobile 021-02332267 E-mail : ruakaka@xtra.co.nz

12 Sandford Rd
Ruakaka
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28th February 2013



**Hot off the
press!!**

**A great day
swimming.**

A Balanced Education in a supportive environment

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tena ra koutou katoa

Here we are into week 4 already and suddenly I remembered it is 'newsletter day'! It is also senior swimming sports day so everything is very busy here.

It has been a great start to the year. The children are still very settled and after wandering through the rooms this week it was wonderful to see the children so engaged in what they were learning.

FAMILY PICNIC – DON'T FORGET THAT THIS IS ON TONIGHT – THURSDAY – AT 5.30PM.

SCHOOL TARGETS

Each year we are required to set academic targets. The results of these targets are reported to the Ministry at the beginning of the following year. These targets come from our assessment data. This year our targets are:

TARGET 1

80% of all students will achieve at or above their age in *spelling* – target groups Y3 & Y6

75% of all children will achieve at or above the national standard in *writing* – target groups Y3 & Y6

TARGET 2

Target 2013 – 80% of all students will reach the National Standard in *maths*. Target groups will be Y3 and Y6.

STATIONERY – This week some of you received a note about unpaid stationery. Thank you so much to those of you who have come in and paid for this. The smile on the children's faces is priceless when they get their new books. If you have not managed to do this yet, please come in and see us so that we can work out a way of this happening.

LOST PROPERTY – Our Lost Property has now been shifted to the corridor outside Room 1. Please check regularly to see if any of your child's belongings are there.

MRS STAITE IS LEAVING US TOMORROW

Tomorrow is Emma's last day. As she takes her maternity leave, I would like to wish her and her husband, Jae, all the very best with their little bundle of joy! We can't wait to meet her/him!

TEACHER PAID UNION MEETING DAY

This will be held on Wednesday 20th March, so school will be finishing at lunchtime that day. Please note this date on your calendar. We will give you more information as the day approaches.

SWIMMING SPORTS

As I am rapidly typing this newsletter, our seniors are buzzing outside, waiting for the bus to go to the College for their swimming sports. I hope those of you who were able to join us today enjoyed the day as much as the children.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS

Many of the senior children who swam today will be selected to represent our school at the interschool swimming sports next Thursday, the 7th of March. These will also be held at Bream Bay College. If your child is selected, you will receive a notice about this shortly.

A huge thank you to all those parents who helped with swimming today. If you are able to help again on March 7th, let us know at the office please.

HOUSES

All our children have now been put into their houses and House Leaders have been selected. There may be an opportunity for others to share this role later in the year. The House colours are: kowhai – yellow; pohutukawa – red; kauri – green; rimu – blue. Many of the children have dressed in their colours for today's swimming sports.

BOT ELECTIONS

Just a reminder that these are to be held early in Term 2. Please seriously consider putting your name forward for election. It is a great way to find out how schools operate and also a way of having some say in how we operate. Meetings are generally held once a month. Please watch out for information coming home about this.

RIPPA RUGBY AND HOCKEY

This year we are very fortunate to have the involvement of both the Northland Rugby Union and Hockey NZ in our sports programmes. Throughout the year, coaches will be working with all our children in both these sports.

CAMPS

Camp organisation is full on at the moment. The senior camp at Takahiwai Marae is on March 20th-22nd. The Rooms 5 & 7 camp is here at school on March 27th-28th.

You will be receiving more information about this from the classroom teachers. Once again, if you have difficulty paying for this, please come in and see us. It is so sad when children are unable to go to camp because they haven't paid. We will work with you to have as many children as possible take part.

TAKAHIWAI MARAE VISIT

On Thursday March 21st the whole school will be visiting the Takahiwai Marae. The seniors will already be there at that time for their camp, so we will be taking the junior and middle school children to be welcomed on and shown different parts of the marae. More information will follow shortly.

TUESDAY MARCH 12TH GREEN DAY!!!

This will be a special gardening day and we would like to invite you all to come along and take part—mums, dads, nanas, grandads etc. You will need to bring gumboots and sunhats, plus any equipment you have available - weedeaters, spades, forks, trowels etc etc. Hands in the kitchen would also be appreciated as we will have a shared lunch with produce from our gardens, eggs, honey etc etc. Look forward to seeing you all here....