

**Music Lessons** – Due to family illness Mrs Moon will be taking a few weeks leave from tutoring the children in piano, guitar and ukulele. We will let all the families know in advance her date of return. This will be before the end of this term. Any concerns in regards to this please call Tania in the office.

### COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Holiday program CatsallaD** - Lots of fun and friends to be made next holiday program dates are 29th April to the 03 May 2013, WINZ subsidies available for working or studying families. Contact Dallas 432 2011 or 021 114 8937.

**Drama** - Do you want your children to be confident public speaker? Our drama classes at Ruakaka for primary school students are on a Wednesday at 3-30. If you are interested please contact Helen at 433-0288 or email [info@makingascene.co.nz](mailto:info@makingascene.co.nz)

**Kids Night out** Fun activities all evening - Gymnastics, Touch Rugby, Easter hunt, etc Friday the 15 March from 5.30pm to 10.00pm at Ruakaka Recreation Centre cost \$20.00 per child. To register visit [www.activeattitude.co.nz](http://www.activeattitude.co.nz) or Ashleigh 021 145 7636.

**Kids triathlon** Sunday 17 March 2013 Onerahi, Whangarei. All kids welcome between the ages of 8-14 yrs. To enter online [www.rwwhangarei.co.nz](http://www.rwwhangarei.co.nz)

**PGG Wrightson** Cash for Communities. The 2013 programme is now underway which means you can earn \$\$\$\$ for your school. Go to [www.pggwrightson.co.nz](http://www.pggwrightson.co.nz) and click on cash for communities for further details.

### Reading

*Encourage your child to read at least ten minutes everyday, it makes such a difference . It can be a sharing time between siblings, or one on one time with mums and dads.*

*Here Chantal (year 6) reads "Hattie and the Fox" to Brooke (year 2 ) before school in the library.*



12 Sandford Rd  
Ruakaka  
RD1 Whangarei



14 March 2013



Our  
Tennis Stars



A Balanced Education in a supportive environment

## Dear Parents and Caregivers

Tena ra koutou katoa

What amazing weather we have had lately but it is certainly creating problems for many people – particularly our farming community and those of you on tank water. I really hope we do get the rain expected this weekend. Maybe we all need to get out there and do a rain dance!!

**PAID UNION MEETING REMINDER**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
**See attached note**

**GREEN DAY** – We are very excited about our “Green Day” here at school this Friday from 9.30 – 12.30. We need heaps of helpers to achieve all the tasks that we have set out to do. Even if you can spare an hour, around 10.30 is the ideal time. Come along wearing something green, armed with some garden tools if you have them. We will be finishing off the morning with a sausage sizzle.

**SAUSAGES WITH BREAD AND SAUCE WILL BE ON SALE FOR \$2.00.**

**CAMPS – ROOMS 3 & 4** will be camping at the Takahiwai Marae from the 20th – 22nd of March which is only next week!

**Rooms 4 & 7** will be camping here at school on the 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of March. For these camps to be successful, we need your support. Thank you to all of you who have offered to help in some way. The programmes look amazing and some of the senior classes’ activities are very expensive to provide. We would like to thank our wonderful Support Group for their contribution towards some of these costs which has greatly reduced your child’s camp fee. If you are having difficulty paying your child’s fee, please come and talk to us – we don’t want any child to miss out because of the cost.

**WHOLE SCHOOL MARAE TRIP** – By now you should have received a notice about our marae trip next Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Rooms 3 & 4 will already be up there and will welcome the rest of the school onto the marae. We are relying on parent transport to get us there and back so please let us know if you can help. Don’t worry, if you are not confident about the powhiri process, we will talk you through it as we go. It is a learning curve for many of us. Our overall curriculum focus for this year is “Te Ao Maori”.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS** – These will be taken on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March and order forms will be sent out soon.

**TENNIS** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, the Northland Primary Schools Tennis Doubles tournament was held. Luca Matenga, Layton Carrington, Jessica Carswell, Ella Johns, McLeod Ritchie, Jack Paton, Jack Hodgson and Ben Litchfield did a wonderful job of representing Ruakaka School. Luca and Layton, and Jessica and Ella both won 2 games. McLeod and Jack Paton were semi-finalists and Ben and Jack Hodgson came runner up. Well done everyone.

**HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL** – We are a Health Promoting School and as part of this, we often talk with children about the food they are eating. Below are some tips that may help you with their lunches. It is so important that they do not bring food to school that is full of sugar, salt or fat.

### **Top Tips / Kai Pai:**

- Involve your children in lunchbox decisions and preparation and be a role model – prepare your own healthy lunch at the same time
- Cut large (seasonal) fruit and vegetables into smaller pieces
- Vary the shape of sandwiches: triangles or use a cookie cutter
- Experiment with different breads, e.g. wraps, pita, fruit bread
- Water and milk are the only drinks recommended for children
- Freeze a drink bottle for the lunch box to keep food cold and safe
- Keep it interesting...leftovers are great - or try sushi, corn thins, tuna or potato salad etc.

Make sure snacks come from the four food groups.

**HUTS** – Our children are having so much creative fun on the back field building huts. The only problem we are having is that we don’t have enough materials to keep everyone happy! If you have any big barrels, pieces of timber, ply..... please bring it along to school and leave it behind the caretaker’s shed. As long as it is not rotten and has no nails in it, we will have it!

**INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING SPORTS** – What an amazing event this was. It was the first time Ruakaka School was responsible for the organization of the event and it ran like clockwork thanks to all the work put in by Sarah Sade and Tania Morgan. I was so proud of all our swimmers – they swam their hearts out.

Thanks go out to all the parents who helped on the day and also to Bream Bay College and The Bream Bay Swimming club for the use of the pool and all the club equipment.

This year Ruakaka School was pipped at the post in the final points tally by Waipu who scored 0.69 and we scored 0.63! Congratulations Waipu.

**EASTER DATES** – This year the Easter break is not included in our school holidays. The dates for Easter are Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The school holidays start on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April for 2 weeks.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS** – Please consider standing for our Board in May.