



27 May 2010  
Term Two - Newsletter Six

**Quote:**  
Parenthood—Jane Seabrook  
I used to have a number of theories on raising children. Now I have a number of children and no theories.

**Dear Parents and Caregivers**

I have been appointed as relieving Principal at your school while your Principal is on sabbatical leave. Principals are offered an opportunity each year to apply for sabbatical leave for a Term if they have been in a Principals position for at least 5 years. It is an opportunity for the Principal to complete professional reading which there never seems to be time for, visiting other schools and sharing ideas and also time to reflect on how their own school is running, implementing new ideas etc so it can be a very good use of time.

I am very impressed with the school, staff and Board members who have all been so supportive and welcoming.

The school has the most wonderful country feel and the view from my office window is very picturesque. Your staff are passionate and hard working and there is a lovely caring feeling in the school and the children delightful.

I am very excited about being here and thank you to the parents I have met and who have been so welcoming. I grew up in TeKuiti and my husband in Thames and we met at Ardmore Training College! We both taught in TeKuiti and Thames then my husband took up a Principals position at a country school in Hawera, Taranaki to enable him to complete his country service 3 years so 39 years later we have just left Tarankai as all our children and grandchildren live in Hamilton.

I held the position of Principal for 22 years at a 7 Teacher school which looked and felt very much like Rukuhia.

**Assemblies**

I have talked to the Staff about having an assembly every Friday from 2.15–3.00pm as it gives the Staff and myself the opportunity to celebrate success more frequently and this is so important for children. I understand from the Staff that classes are rostered to run assembly and Room 2 are responsible tomorrow, so I am looking forward to this. Mrs Jane Coles Room 1 and I are involved in a course on Literacy and National Standards in Ohaupo on Friday but I will leave a little early so I can be back on time for assembly.

The format for assembly

1. National Anthem
2. Principal Awards ( 1 per class)
3. Class Certificates
4. Playground Prize Drawn
5. Jump Jam Prize Drawn
6. Class Sharing
7. A real good sing song together.

Parents are very welcome to attend assembly if they are able and I know the children really enjoy having parents there.

**Jump Jam**

We begin Jump Jam as a whole school next week, Mondays and Fridays at 9.00am. These sessions are great for fitness and the music lifts the spirits, I'm also looking forward to participating in this. Staff will be looking for children who Jump Jam well each session and there will be a Jump Jam draw each Friday at assembly of the children chosen at the Jump Jam sessions.

**Board of Trustees**

I attended the Board meeting last week which of course was the change over to the new Board. I am really impressed with the commitment of parents at the school. Some fine people have completed their time on the Board and we farewell Bruce Tocker, Sarah Grant and Christine Higgins who have been extremely hard workers on your behalf.

- Welcome aboard to  
Cath Knapton (Elected Chairperson)  
Owen Pratt (Property)  
Rebecca Berridge (Treasurer)  
Craig Tonkin (Community)  
John Macaskill-Smith (Personnel)

**Farewell**

Aaron Wilson has his last day at this school tomorrow and the Staff tell me he will really be missed at the school. Aarons parents Annette and Garry have made a very generous donation to the school which will be used to purchase ICT resources for the Junior School as Aaron had a real interest in computers. They have also donated a Magnolia tree to plant at the school for us to remember him and his family.

The Wilsons are moving to Morrinsville to start new employment on a farm and Aaron will be going to another country school. We wish the Wilsons all the best !!

**Reports**

The Staff and I are formatting new reports to reflect the children's progress against National Standards. Mid year reports will be out to you by the end of this term. Due to the changes in reporting to parents, children's profile books are no longer relevant. Room 1 children will have a profile book to accompany this report but in the future all children will bring home all exercise books on a specified day for you to see exactly what is happening daily in class and will be a true reflection of your children's work.

**Uniform**

What an amazing change in just the three days I have been at the school in the way the children have been wearing their uniform with such pride. Uniform is compulsory at the school and this does look so smart. It must be much easier for parents too in the morning, no arguments about 'what to wear'.

**Library**

Thank you to Catherine Grant who worked in the library last week and has been in again today. If anyone else has some time before collecting children at 3.00pm, there are always books to re-shelve and many other jobs in the library, we would be very grateful for any help you are able to give.

**Staffing**

Mr Taylor has booked Miss Grant and Mrs Adam to attend a professional development course with Waikato Institute for Leisure & Sport Studies next Wednesday 2nd June. There will be a reliever in the class for the morning blocks. Mr Taylor will be out Wednesday afternoon for his classroom release time. A reliever will be in to cover this afternoon block.

**Newsletter**

The newsletter will in the future come to you on a MONDAY so that we are able to publish the results of certificates and awards from the Friday assembly so there will be NO newsletter next week, but you can expect your newsletter (apart from next week) every Monday.

The Staff will also have an input in the newsletter from now on, they will be making parents in their class aware of what is happening in the classroom each week.

So next newsletter will be Tuesday the 8th June (due to Queens Birthday weekend). From then on it will be Mondays.

Kind Regards  
Lynne Wilson

**Staff Notes...**

**Room 1 Jane Coles**

Many thanks to those parents/caregivers who are listening to their children read at home. Children experience more success when they read at home—so keep up the great work. Please return all reading books daily so that other children get to use them. Reading picture books is another way to 'hook' children into reading, and of course, this experience develops children's vocabulary.

The first part of our school morning is on language. This includes alphabet/blend knowledge, sharing news, making words that rhyme and basic sight word knowledge. Our letters for next week are: c n k e h, and our sight words are: out shout shouted shouting. **Happy Birthday to Tiffany today.** Thank you for sharing some birthday treats with Room 1.

Our inquiry focus is "inventors". We have been talking about New Zealand inventors and the things that they have invented. Children will start writing reports about an inventor. This is a follow up to the report writing that we did in Term 1.

Within our maths programme children are continuing to learn about numbers - counting forwards and backwards, as well as counting in twos, fives and tens. Children are learning to solve addition and subtraction problems. If you would like some basic facts cards (addition flash cards) please let me know.

I will be at a course this Friday on National Standards with the focus being literacy. Last Friday's course was also on National Standards, however, maths was the focus. The information from these two days will be shared with the whole staff next week.

*Remember to send spelling books (green covered books) along to school on Fridays please.*

**Room 2 Leanne Adam**

We are now over half way through the term. We have been busy looking at inventions and inventors. Thanks to all the families who have helped by looking for information on the internet. We have found out all sorts of interesting things.

A reminder that all children will be bringing homework home on Mondays and this should be returned on Fridays. Year 2 & 3 children have homework books and those who have moved up from room 1 will have home spelling books (they will have homework books next term). This homework is not onerous and can easily be completed in just minutes spread over 4 nights. It is a good habit to get into as this homework happens right across the school. We will be expecting this homework to be done weekly next term, so we will start getting into the habit now. Of course, your child can always complete this at school on Friday mornings if you have had a hectic week.

We are looking at measurement in maths and have been exploring fractions. Ask your child to show you a half and a quarter. See what else they know. We have also been pushing basic facts and it is great to see how some children have been progressing.

Remember to try and listen to your child read every night, but if you are busy, encourage them to read to a sibling. Even listening to a few pages or buddy reading is better than nothing.

This is Aarons last week with us. Room 2 are having a shared lunch on Friday. Aarons family is moving onto a new farm and Aaron will be going to Kereone School. Aarons family have donated a magnolia tree which we will be planting on Friday also.

Have a good safe weekend and see you next week.

**Room 3 Sarah Grant**

Welcome to Week 6 in the wonderful world of Room 3! As I write this, Mrs. Scott is sailing down the River Nile, but here in Room 3 we are well into our Inventors and Inventions unit but have applied the handbrake to this topic for a while because we now have . . . . a pumpkin! Not just any old pumpkin, but a HUGE pumpkin! We are getting out our thinking skills and using the pumpkin as a tool for inquiry learning; come on in and see how we're getting on.

Tummy bugs are doing the rounds so please keep your children home if they have vomiting and/or diarrhea. Thanks for keeping your child supplied with stationery, it helps them work more efficiently when they have all the right tools. I hope you all enjoy the freedom of this week's homework task, the children came up with the ideas themselves!

I'm always here and you're always welcome!

**Room 4 Zac Taylor**

Room 4 is going to be digging into the past this week and looking at inventors and inventions. We will be brain storming, researching and starting a web quest to gain valuable knowledge.

We are coming to the end of our report writing unit, we will be writing two more reports, one on the super hero they created, the other will be an assessment task. It's been great to see the improvement in all their report writing ability.

We have been focusing on Geometry for the last few weeks in maths, we are also nearing the end of this unit of work. We will be looking at the last couple of aspects of translation, rotation and enlargement.

Netball, Football or Rugby will be a daily event in the next few weeks. As we approach the winter sports tournament we will be developing our skills and team work. It would be great to see any parents or older siblings dropping in at lunch times to help out developing these skills.

KEEP UP THE READING AT HOME ROOM 4, only a couple of weeks to go before some of your novel chains are due.

**Calendar these Coming Events...**

|    |         |                        |
|----|---------|------------------------|
| 7  | June    | Queen's Birthday       |
| 22 | June    | BOT Meeting            |
| 23 | June    | Winter Sports          |
| 2  | July    | Last Day Term 2        |
| 19 | July    | Term 3 commences       |
| 5  | August  | Year 7&8 Immunisations |
| 13 | August  | School Photographs     |
| 24 | Sept    | Last Day Term 3        |
| 11 | October | Term 4 commences       |
| 18 | October | Country Day            |
| 22 | October | Group Day              |
| 25 | October | Labour Day             |

**School Accounts**

Account details if paying by Internet Banking:

**Name of Account:**  
FOR RUKUHIA SCHOOL

**Account Number:**  
020316 0126515 00

**Note:**  
Use your surname as a reference so we can identify your payment. Thank you

**FOOD LABELS**

**Nutrition claims – "lite / light"**

This could mean many different things and doesn't necessarily mean that it's low in fat. It may well mean that its low in energy (kJ), sugar, colour, flavour, salt...the list is endless.

Always read the nutritional information panel and ingredients to find out what is really going on.

**Rukuhia School**

**A quality educational community where meaningful learning is paramount and supported by our people, environment and values.**