

From the Principals Desk**PTA Back to School Picnic**

Tonight from 5.30pm-7.30pm. Bring your own baskets with lots to eat and drink. Classrooms open for meet and greet with the teachers 6.00pm-6.15pm. **If wet, the event will be held in the school hall.**

Swimming Instruction

All classes have the opportunity this week to receive professional swimming instruction from Fulton's Swim School. Daniel, Rachel and Zak have been working with Karaka classes for three mornings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am till 11am. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to receive instruction from someone in the water with them. The teachers have learnt a variety of techniques for encouraging children to develop their water skills. We are grateful to Fulton's Swim School for giving our children this wonderful opportunity.

EOTC – Education Outside The Classroom

Junior and Middle teams: Last Thursday all the children from the junior and middle teams assembled in 9 mixed teams in the hall. The teams were sent to start at one of 9 outdoor activities – making scrogin, making damper, making a fire and cooking damper, canoeing, water slide, confidence course, packing a pack and putting up a tent, singing campfire songs and trust building activities. For the whole day the teams rotated round all the activities. Many of the children said it was their best ever day! Quite a few of the children got to try or experience something they had never done before. Then the following day we all tramped over Guy's Farm. It was extremely hot so we chose a shady spot to sit down in and eat our delicious scrogin. That gave us the energy to continue walking up and down hills. We stopped in a paddock near the end to eat lunch before crossing back to school and a very welcome swim the pool. We have a lot of people to say thank you for helping us with this two day adventure. First thank you to Mrs McDonald and all the teachers for making all the arrangements and doing the organising. Thank you to Mrs Spencer who helped with the fire activity and Mr Downey for digging the fire pits, thank you to Mrs Boshe-Mansell for helping the children make damper, thank you to Mrs Fons who showed the children how to pack a pack, thank you to Mrs Fell for assisting with the trust activities and thank you to Jenny (from Outward Bound) for her leadership on the confidence course. Thank you also to Mrs O'Callaghan for the use of the canoe and to Mr Tatton (Dad of Lola in Room 6) for setting the course for our tramp and ensuring the trail was marked clearly and the gates left open for us. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Guy for allowing us to walk over their farm.

**Help Needed**

The Junior Syndicate needs the help of some parents/caregivers to shelve Junior reading books each week. If you are able to give a half hour of your time each week please see Diana McDonald in Room 6. Any help would be greatly appreciated by the Junior teachers.

ICAS Exams

Please return your exam entry forms and money to the office by the 22 March 2012

Personal Details

Thank you to those families who have already returned these.

This details what information the school holds on its student manager system in relation to address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts. Please take the time to check the details are correct. If not correct please change and return the sheet to the school office. We find that many of the mobile numbers we have are not correct. It would be appreciated if all of these forms could be returned as soon as possible. If for some reason your personal details change later in the year, please ensure you let the office know.



Some Important Dates for 2012

22	February	PTA Fun Evening at school 5.30pm to 7.30pm – In the hall if wet.
28	February	Junior Team trip to Butterfly Creek
28	February	East Counties Interschool Swimming
01	March	Middle Team trip to Awhitu
01	March	Bible in School starts
09	March	Class Photos
13	March	Year 5 & 6 to Volvo Ocean Race Village
14	March	PTA AGM, 7.30pm
19	March	BOT meeting
26 to 30	March	Year 7 & 8 Camp at Tui Ridge Park
31	March	Scrap Metal collection PTA fundraiser
05	April	Last Day of term one



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

23	April	School Starts term 2
23	April	BOT Meeting
15	May	Westpac Rescue Helicopter Chopper Challenge
21 to 25	May	Year 5 & 6 Camp at Camp Benson Kawau Island



Karaka School PTA Scrap Metal Fundraiser - Saturday 31 March 2012

The PTA will be running a scrap metal fundraiser in conjunction with CMA Recycling on Saturday 31 March 2012 7.30am-1pm at Karaka School. Clean up your home or farm - bring your unwanted scrap metal. Tell your friends and neighbours. All types of steel, copper, aluminum, cast iron, brass, lead, batteries, radiators, cars, tractors and appliances. **If you have a large item we can arrange for it to be collected from your place - contact Jude Higgins 2388984. Further details to follow closer to the date.**

Scholastic

Brochures have gone out to all those who were given \$2 vouchers based on their Term 4 purchase (redeemable only on Issue 1). The orders for Issue 1 close on 28 February 2012. Some brochures have been left at the office should anyone wish to order on Issue 1. Issue 2 is due out early March and brochures will be sent out to all students. Thank you to all for your support for Scholastic books. In 2011 student orders earned free books for the Karaka School library and classrooms worth \$957.



Uniform Shop

Please note that the uniform shop will be open Wednesday next week 29th February and **not** Monday the 28th February.

Karaka Junior Rugby Registration

If you are thinking of playing rugby this year then the Karaka Rugby Club is the place for you. All you need is a pair of socks & boots and a mouth guard. The club will supply you with a playing jersey, shorts, gear bag, jacket and even a drink bottle. It doesn't matter if you are playing rugby for the first time or a seasoned campaigner. Karaka Rugby Club has junior teams to cater for all age group players from 3-14, with teams from the under 6's through to under 14's.

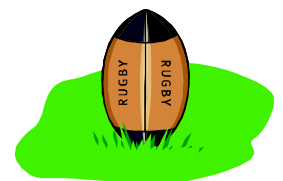
Club registrations and weigh in's are happening in the months of February and March, and we would like you to come and join us in what will be an enjoyable and successful season.

Contact Colin Lambert 0274 903244 for further information.

Times and Dates for Registrations are as follows.

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| • Wednesday 22 nd Feb 6.00pm – 7.30pm | Sunday 26 th Feb 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| • Wednesday 29 th Feb 6.00pm – 7.30pm | Sunday 4 th Mar 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| • Wednesday 7 th Mar 6.00pm – 7.30pm | Sunday 11 th Mar 10.00am – 12.00pm. |

See you at the club, and remember if you can't beat us, come and join us.



Playcentre Awareness Week

As part of PLAYCENTRE AWARENESS WEEK "Investing in Our Children", we would like to extend an open invitation to anyone in the community (with or without preschool children ☺) to come and spend some time with us! Open Days at Karaka Playcentre , 5 – 9 March 2012 (Monday – Friday, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm) Karaka Playcentre, 299 Linwood Rd (next to Karaka Hall). For further information, contact Jenny Glover on 2927 756.



Kereru (Wood Pigeon) Count

We think the kereru is a berry berry important bird.

Why? It's one of the few birds big enough to spread the seeds of native trees with LARGE fruit like tawa, karaka and miro. Our kereru helps to keep our forests healthy.

We want to help our kereru thrive, so we're running a kereru count. The more we know about kereru, the better we can help them. Help us help the kereru by heading out into your garden or local park this week (Feb 19 – 27th) and noting down where you saw them, how many you saw, and what they were doing (perching, eating, flying).

Then head online to www.kererucount.org.nz and put a flag on the map. Happy counting!



Children's Day

Sunday 4th March, 1:30 – 4:00pm, Samuel Miller Reserve, Cnr Nelson St and John St. Pukekohe, NZ Police, Fire Service, Water slide, Hip Hop, Music and Movement, bouncy castle, food stalls, Olympians, tug o war, limbo competitions and lots more.

CALL FOR SCHOOL HOCKEY REGISTRATIONS

It doesn't seem that long ago since we put the hockey sticks away but the great news is that the 2012 season is just around the corner with the first competition games set to start at the end of April. In addition to our own junior teams, Karaka School will again be looking to combine with Waiau Pa to form two senior Waka 11-a-side teams for our older, more experienced players.

All players should register their interest in playing hockey this season for the school or Waka on the form below. We would appreciate it if you could fill in the attached form and return it to the School Office **within the next two weeks i.e. by Friday 2nd March. We would also like to hear from any parents who would be interested in helping run a team as we need at least one new coach.** If you would like more information, you can contact Colin O'Callaghan on 294-8984 or 021-722111.

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Karaka School Hockey Registrations 2012

Child's Name:..... Child's Age:.....yrs

Child's D.O.B.: School Year:

Playing Experience:yrs Interested In Playing For WAKA (Y/N):.....

Parents Name(s):

Address:

Parents Contact Phone Numbers (Hm / Mobiles):.....

Parents Email Addresses:.....

Parent Management/Coaching Availability:

Yes, I am interested in helping manage and/or coach a team
Season Fee: \$95

Tick Here



