

The Cornerstone Value for term one is obedience.

February 2010.

Dear Parents of Room Rata Children,

Welcome back to Kaharoa School. I hope you have all had a lovely, restful holiday. I am delighted to be teaching the children that were in Miro class last year, and a warm welcome back to the other children who will make up Room Rata.

I have had a lovely holiday with my husband John, who is also a teacher, and our two boys, Luke (18) and Daniel (13). John and I have just celebrated our 21st Wedding Anniversary! We are soon to farewell our eldest son, who is going to study Engineering at Canterbury University.

I will be working Monday to Thursday and the very talented Mr. Powley will be teaching in Room Rata on Friday.

In our first two weeks we will be getting to know each other as a new class and learning new middle school routines. Our main focus will be how we build good friendships in the classroom.

There will be testing over the first few weeks. The children will have homework from Wednesday to Monday. This will start within the next few weeks. I expect the children to read every day at home for at least 20 minutes from today, if they don't already! Those children who have busy lives after school may choose to complete their homework in the weekend. Homework is a reflection of what your child is learning in the classroom.

We will be swimming daily in our lovely pool starting from tomorrow. The children need to bring their togs every day even if it is wet as the weather often improves. **A note is needed if your child cannot swim for any reason.**

Please send the camp permission form (overleaf) back to school as soon as possible.

I would like to give the children an opportunity to design their own Camp Awhi Tee Shirt! When we do our camp activities I'd like them to be identified easily and I think it will be great fun for the children to design their own tee shirt.

Could you please send a black or blue tee shirt to school with your child's name on the inside label. It can be new or used. It would be wonderful if the children can have the tee shirt at school by the beginning of the third week of school.

Thank you.

If you require any information about your child's school life, please don't hesitate to leave a message at the office and I will phone you back.

Wendy Schwartzfeger

CAMP AWHI

Awhi is the closest word in Maori to describe support that is all encompassing.

Where: We will be staying at Tangatarua Marae in Rotorua. Tanga means people and rua means two in Maori. This marae was built with the purpose of being a place of multicultural educational. We will be staying in Ihenga Whare, the beautiful meeting house. Everyone will sleep in Ihenga Whare/Meeting House together. Snorers have no option but to have frequent cold water dumped on them during the night!

Who: Room Rata Children, Mrs. Schwartzfeger (Thursday and Friday) and Mr. Powley (Friday) and parents.

What: Our annual Class Camp/Noho Marae.

When: Thursday 11 March to Friday 12 March 2010.

Why: It is my aim to provide an environment, through activities and games, at camp which will encourage interdependence and a supportive environment amongst the children.

How: We will need **very energetic** parents who can exist on minimal hours sleep and constant contact with children throughout the camp! The parental roles will include cooking, overseeing the children's dishes and cleaning duties, to take a small group of children and oversee them during all activities, be prepared to spend time in water with the children and have reasonable fitness. Most of all we need the Camp Awhi parent helpers to be willing to support and encourage the children in all activities and ensure Tikanga Maori, Maori cultural practices are respected. These activities will be shared closer to the time.



It is very important that you let me know about any issues that may arise with your child on camp, e.g. bed wetting, sleep disturbances and home sickness, and of course the usual health form will be given to you next week to fill out. I have been on many children's and teenage camps before and nothing has phased me yet! It is important that you know that I will do my utmost to ensure your child's safety and happiness during camp.



CAMP: Awhi

I give permission to go to Camp Awhi.

I am able to help at the camp from 8:30am Thursday March to 4:30 Friday March 2010. I have number of seat belts for children in my car.

Name.....Signature.....Date.....