

From the Principal

Kia ora koutou



Exactly a year to the day after we opened our amazing bike track, we gathered together as a school to celebrate the opening of our **Rapuara (Finding Pathways)** play area. While it is situated outside our junior learning studio, Rapuara is a play area for all ages – we have even seen parents having a sneaky slide in the evenings! The first children to play in the new playground were those who had come along to the planting and mulching working bees for this area, as an acknowledgment of their efforts in helping improve our school environment. We are working hard to reinforce the message that the new gardens are not for walking on – and we think our children are doing a really good job of sticking to the path ways.

I received the following message from a Rāwhiti parent over the weekend.

*"I was at the school assembly last term where you spoke to the children about not walking on the gardens and potentially harming/destroying the plantings however in this case it's not the kids who are at fault. During the time we spent at the playground on Thursday and Friday I was horrified to see parents (on multiple occasions) walking over the garden area with no thought as to "leading by example". If this continues the new plantings won't have much of a chance to thrive and grow. It feels ridiculous to have to bring this to your attention but I just feel that if something isn't said then I'm just as bad as those who are trampling this new and amazing area."*

While it saddens us to hear this is happening, we'd like to thank all parents who are supporting us in looking after this incredible new area and its plantings, and would ask that at any time you see adults or children doing the wrong thing that you please remind them that we are all role models here. We are each the guardians of this place for the time we are here – and it is up to us to ensure we protect and treasure our environment for those who come after us.

### Staffing News

We have finalised the teaching appointments for 2018 and warmly welcome Judith Boeren and Rachel McLaughlin to the Rāwhiti team. We also congratulate Amanda Taueki-Kinghazel on her permanent appointment to our teaching staff.

Sue Tait will be on leave for the rest of this year recovering from recent hip surgery. While the children in Rongo-ma-tane are missing her very much, they are enjoying getting to know Kayla Laking-Anderson, who is covering for Sue.

### Planning for 2018

If you feel you need to share any information with us regarding your child's needs and the type of teacher you would like to see them placed within 2018 please let us know by emailing [admin@rawhiti.school.nz](mailto:admin@rawhiti.school.nz) no later than Friday, November 24th. We have quite a number of new teachers joining the team next year – chosen because they have the skills and personality to really connect with our children. If you know that your plans for 2018 do not involve Rāwhiti School please take the time to let us know.



## Swimming

The swimming pool is set to open this coming Monday, and we get straight into swimming lessons. Your child's teachers will let you know when your child has lessons so that they can be prepared with their togs when needed.

We are really pleased to be partnering with the team from the QE Swim Club. Their head coach is Serhiy Palchykov, who has been with the swim club for the last 18 months. Originally from Ukraine, Serhiy joined the QE2 club from Malaysia, where he was Head Coach at the Cempaka and Pirhanas Swim Clubs. Serhiy is an International Swim Master who had a distinguished swimming career from the age of six, when he was selected to train at the Specialised Sports School in Ukraine. He represented the USSR at the European Junior Championships in 1984 and 1985. As a coach, Serhiy has produced numerous champion swimmers in a career that has taken him to Poland, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

Cassie Wright is one of QE2 Swim Club's senior swimmers and has been a Swim Tutor for four years. Cassie is a backstroke specialist who will be travelling to the United States in mid-December to take up a three year swimming scholarship with the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota.

Serhiy and Cassie will be assisted by a team of senior swimmers from the Swim Club in running the School swimming programme.

Enjoy the final long weekend for the year. The last 4 weeks of school will no doubt fly by so please note the important dates from our school calendar so that you do not miss any end of year celebrations.

**Ngā mihi nui**  
**Liz Weir**

## What's coming up?

### November

17 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed Show Day
20 <sup>th</sup>	Swimming starts
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Yr 4 – 6 Disco 5.00pm – 6.00pm
	Yr 7 – 8 Disco 6.30pm – 7.30pm
	PTA Meeting
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Māori Whānau Hui 5.30pm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1 – 4 Athletics 1.00pm
29 <sup>th</sup> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Yr 7 & 8 Camp Spencer Park
30 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Helpers Function

### December

6 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome to Rāwhiti Party
7 <sup>th</sup>	BOT Meeting 6.00pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Reports come home
12 <sup>th</sup>	Final Assembly 6.30pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rumbustification Day
14 <sup>th</sup>	Show Case Assembly 1.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes for year 12.00pm





## School Notices



## Principal Awards

Rongo-Ma-Tāne: Leon, Sophie, Eliza, Angus, Archer, Will, Harvey, Jakob, Malachi

## Swimming

Swimming starts on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November – the cost is \$25.00 per student. Payment is required by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Please contact the school office if you wish to discuss this.

## Athletics- FUNletics. (Year 1 – 4)

The Year 0-4 children will be participating in an athletics afternoon on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm to 3pm. The NE/Y1 students will be out on the front field and the year 2, 3 and 4 students will be on the back field.

Parents are welcome to come along for a fun afternoon and to encourage the children.

### What children need on the day:

Sunblock, school sunhat, shoes and shorts suitable for running and jumping activities, drink bottle with water in it (we can't take studio drink bottles outside) and a school jersey just in case the weather changes.

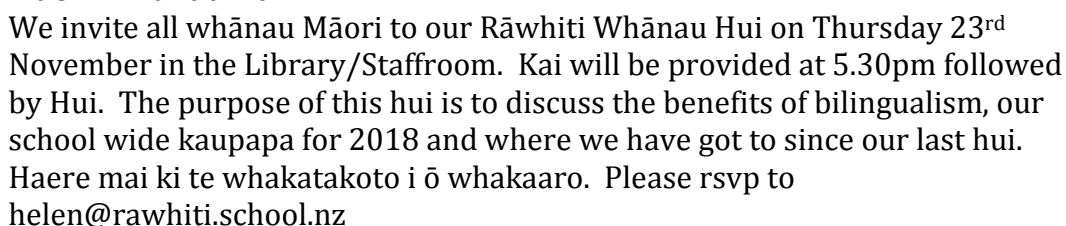


If your child has grown out of their school uniform, or you are leaving Rāwhiti School at the end of the year, we would appreciate your second hand uniform so the PTA can on-sell this. Proceeds will go to the PTA. Thank you for your support.

The cost of the Year 7/8 camp to Spencer Park is \$40.00 per student. If your child has advised they are taking part in Adrenalin Forest the cost is \$22.00 per student. Full payment needs to be received for Adrenalin Forest to allow them to participate. Both payments are due by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Tangaroa are organising a disco for the middle and senior students on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Tickets \$2 will be on sale from next week. Snacks, drinks etc will be available to purchase on the night.

Year 4-6      5-6pm  
Year 7-8      6:30-7:30pm



Our senior students have the option of a senior school jacket with the school logo printed on it. We are able to offer our Year 6 students, who are continuing on as Year 7 students with Rāwhiti School in 2017, a discounted price of \$65.00 per jacket, down from the normal cost of \$115.00. We will size your child with current jackets to ensure they receive the correct fitting.

Payment will need to have been received in full by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to allow your order to be processed. You may wish to make this payment at the school office or via internet banking:  
03 0814 0000333 25. Please reference your child's name.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)      Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## Well Done

Georgina, George and some students attended the Keep Christchurch Beautiful Awards last night.

Congratulations to them for winning the following awards:

- Highly Commended School Environment Award with Waste minimization and recycling endorsement
- School Environment Caretakers Award- Georgina
- School Environment Caretakers Award - George



## Holiday Camp

We have some positions available at the Woodend Camp in January. If you would like your child to attend please contact the school office for an application form. Forms need to be returned by Thursday 23rd November.

Year 7& 8 students 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January

Year 5&6 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## PTA NEWS

### Xmas Raffle

Yes, it's that magical time again for the annual PTA Christmas Raffle! Last year we had over 20 prizes of Christmas goodies and we anticipating having even more this year. And remember first prize includes a ham and a beautiful Christmas cake as well as a huge hamper!

We support this raffle by holding a mufti day which is on **Friday 24th November**. Send your kid to school with a food item for a Christmas hamper, or the normal gold coin donation. Any money we receive from the mufti day we use to purchase extra goodies for the hampers.

One raffle sheets of 10 will be coming home with each child soon and you can sell tickets to friends and family for \$1 each. If you are able to sell more than 10 tickets, then simply pop into the office to pick up more sheets. All sheets and money need to be returned by **9am on Friday 8th December** to be in the draw, which will be done on the same day.

We will be giving prizes to three children who sell the most, as well as giving out a range of spot prizes to ANY child who returns a raffle sheet. Thanks so much for your support of this raffle. (PS - if anyone has any gift baskets that they could donate for our use could you please drop these off to the office, thanks)

### Coast to Coast Food Stall - Saturday 10 February 2018

The school has been given the opportunity again to provide food for sale at the finish line of the Coast to Coast at Brighton beach on Saturday 10 February.

We had an absolute blast last year making and selling food at this exciting event (right on the finish line) but we couldn't have done it without our amazing team of volunteers. If you think that you might possibly be able to help (either before the day with food preparation or on the day with set up or serving) then please email [pta@rawhiti.school.nz](mailto:pta@rawhiti.school.nz) as an 'expression of interest'. Thanks.

## Our Supporters

If you haven't done so already do please check out the page on our Blog that lists the amazing businesses that have supported the PTA this year. A few more businesses have just been added. If you visit any of these businesses please do say that Rāwhiti PTA sent you, thanks! Here's the link: [www.rawhitipta.org.nz/our-supporters.html](http://www.rawhitipta.org.nz/our-supporters.html)