



From The Principal

Kia ora koutou

The Board of Trustees has had its first meeting for the year. The first job each year is to elect the Board Chair. **Jen Evans** has taken on this position for 2018, with Janet Carson taking on the role of Deputy Chair. We wish to acknowledge the work of **Karen Brandon** who has been board chair for the past three years. Karen's involvement with boards of trustees has been extensive. She was a long serving trustee and chairperson at Freeville School prior to being appointed, by the Minister of Education, to the establishment board of the Brighton Merged School – as we were originally known. Karen's integrity, financial knowledge and strategic thinking have played an integral part in the establishment of our new school. We have not lost Karen's skills yet – she remains on the board until the end of the current term of office.

2018 Learning Concept

We are underway with our Learning Concept for 2018 Identity. Throughout the year we will explore who we are as individuals and our family history, the values of Rāwhiti School and how we fit into our wider community, what it means to be a Kiwi and the history of New Zealand, and how we can become global citizens. In the next section of this newsletter you will find a number of suggestions of ways you can support this learning at home.

Staff Changes

This term we are farewelling two of our staff. Our lovely Office Manager **Jan Brennan** has made the decision to join her husband in early retirement and will have her last day at Rāwhiti on Thursday March 15th. Jan has been the 'first face' for many of our children, having run the school office at Freeville since 2004, and will be missed by many.

At the end of this term we will also farewell **Julia Smith** from the Tāwhirimatea teaching team. Julia has secured a position that combines both of her passions – teaching and sports – and will be joining the Kelly Sports coaching team, which means we will continue to see her at Rāwhiti. The appointments process for a replacement is underway and we look forward to making an announcement about Julia's replacement in our next newsletter.

Brogan O'Neill will be taking her Maternity Leave from Easter. Jude Seeto will be joining the teaching team in Papatuanuku from Easter until the end of the school year. Jude is already well known to the children and we are looking forward to having her back with us in a full time capacity. We are also looking forward to welcoming 'baby boy O'Neill early in Term 2.

Communication

We want you to have all the details you need about what is happening for your child at school and we want you to feel you can communicate effectively with us. In order for this to happen all parties have responsibilities. It is our responsibility to provide you with information in a timely manner and through a number of sources and it is your responsibility to access that information - to choose to be informed!

They say people need to be able to access information five different ways and we will work to ensure you have multiple options available to you. We ask as your part of our partnership that you commit to being actively informed. Here are the various ways you can access information about our school:

- **School Website** www.rawhiti.school.nz Our website underwent a transformation last year and we believe it contains the most up to date information under each section. Please feel free to let us know what else would be useful to have included on the website by emailing our DP Paul Wilkinson. paul@rawhiti.school.nz



- **School Newsletter.** This is emailed to you fortnightly on a Thursday. It includes updates from the principal, the Board of Trustees, weekly school notices, upcoming events, and sharing of childrens learning and achievements.
- **Facebook Page.** Our Facebook page is primarily used for last minute or emergency notifications - for example it was a useful place to give instant updates with regard how weather may affect school opening last week during Cyclone Gita. We may also remind you of events that are occurring in the next 24 hour period, as well as highlight opportunities and achievements.
- **School App.** We have our own Rāwhiti School App to make it even easier for you keep up with what is happening at school! Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android device and search Rāwhiti School to download the App to your phone or tablet. Our App is free for users. You can use the App to let us know your child will be absent from school, contact staff members, read the latest newsletter, check the school calendar or the terms dates for next year, and see what's new on the class blogs. Once you have set your preferences you can also receive alerts about various things happening at school. The App is another way for us to let you know very important information in a hurry – e.g. if we need to close the school for reasons such as snow or natural disasters, or if we need to open late because of plumbing or power issues.
- **Emails.** From time to time we email home information to parents, using the email address supplied to us at the beginning of the year. You are also able to access your child's teacher through their school email address. There are some guidelines around email communication that need to be made clear in order to ensure we all have the same expectations. Teachers will not be looking at their emails during contact hours - i.e. 9.00am-3.00pm as they are teaching during these times. If you email them at this time there is unlikely to be a response until after school hours. Staff have life commitments beyond teaching and so I ask them not to check their school email after 5.30pm in the evenings or during the weekends. They MAY check on a Sunday evening and they WILL check first thing on a Monday morning. A good rule of thumb is to expect a reply within 24 hours. It is always difficult to interpret tone in an email and it is often easy to send an email in the heat of the moment - we ask you to take some time to consider how the content may be interpreted and whether a face to face conversation would be in the best interests of all parties
- **Conversations:** We welcome one-to-one conversations if you require more clarity. While some things are easy to chat about when you see the teachers at drop-off or pick-up times, some conversations are best planned for. You can email your child's Kaiawhina to make an appointment, or phone the school office to do this. I also love to talk to the school community, families and friends when I can. Because my days are as busy as yours it is not always possible to fit you in on the spot, so it is always best to contact the school office and make an appointment so that I can give you my undivided attention. Please don't be offended if office staff ask what you need to see me about – they are just wanting to make sure they allocate enough time in an appointment, or to direct you to someone else if they are better able to help.

This year we are introducing something new. Twice each term, following the Whole School Assembly, our Senior Leadership Team (Paul Wilkinson, Helen Parata and I) will be available to meet with parents and whanau informally for a coffee and a catch up. This is intended as a forum for asking questions about the way we do things, clarifying something that may be confusing, or even sharing your own ideas or suggestions with us. The first of these will be at the conclusion of our assembly on the last day of the term, Friday April 13th. We are calling these '**Parents Pop In**' sessions, and the dates have been added to our school calendar.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Liz Weir

What's coming up

March

2 nd	Whole School Assembly 9.15am Ballot for Term 2 Out of Zone places Year 1-3 Tryathlon 1.00pm Scholastic Book Orders Due
7 th	Year 4-8 Swimmig Sports
8 th	PTA AGM 7.30pm
15 th	Zone Swimming Sports
21 st	School finishes 12.15pm for Paid Union Meeting
26 th	"Power to the Puoro" shows
30 th	Good Friday



April

2nd & 3rd

Easter

11th

Hearing & Vision Testing

13th

Parents Pop In session after assembly

School Notices

Success@Rawhiti

You are welcome to email us at success@rawhiti.school.nz with news of something your child has achieved outside of school, and we will celebrate this with our whole community by including it in our fortnightly newsletter.

Eva, Rosie and Abe completed the Weet-Bix Tryathlon on February 25th. They swam 100m, biked 4km and ran 1.5km. They gave it their all and were rewarded with an awesome medal at the end!



Principals Awards

Haumia- tiketike: Jasmine A, Reyne, Mihiata, Aaliyah-Rose, Zyah, Makaia, Lakyn, Kaiden, Harlem, Emma-Rose, Natalija, Jenny, West, Lakeisha.

Hearing & Vision Testing

The Hearing and Vision team will be at school on April 11th. If you have concerns about your child's hearing or vision please contact the school office and they will register their name for the team.

Mike Pero Sponsorship

Thank you to Nic McIsaac-Luke from Mike Pero Mortgages who is sponsoring our Vistab sign in system, you will find his advertisement on the bottom of the tablet. We appreciate his support.

Power to the Puoro Show

On Monday 26th March we are hosting Grammy award winning musician and international Taonga Puoro artist Jermone Kavanagh. He will be performing an interactive show inspiring our children by celebrating culture, pride and self-identity. Jerome will share his family collection of around 40 different types of Taonga Puoro (Ancient Maori musical instruments) using live performance with modern sound technologies while weaving ancient story telling that connects us all with nature.

The show also includes Taa Moko (Maori tattoo), Waka Haurua (sea voyaging), Maara Kai (gardens/healthy food technology) and Kaitiakitanga (native forest and bird conservation).

The cost for this show is \$5 00 per family. Whanau are welcome to experience the show with us. Year 1-3 show is at 11.00am, and the Year 4-8 show at 1.00pm.

Home Learning

At Rāwhiti School we believe learning happens everywhere and often the best learning is a result of shared experiences and conversations. We understand that families have busy lives and children are often involved in many out of school activities and sports.

Research shows homework does not work! We do not want to send home busy work which does not relate to the classroom. If home learning becomes stressful with arguments or tears it turns children off learning and becomes ineffective and has a negative impact for families. Research also acknowledges that while reading and learning basic facts is beneficial for learners, all other compulsory homework (in primary schools) is not proven to improve outcomes.

Many parents ask us about things they could do at home to support their child's learning. We have created some suggestions and activities that you may like to try at home that fit in with our Term 1 theme of Identity (Ko Au Tenei - This Is Me) and Health curriculum focus. You can find the document at <http://bit.do/term1homelearning> or by scanning the QR code.



Sunshine Online



Did you know that reading with your child at home can greatly increase their literacy skills and comprehension, plus it's fun! Our school has a subscription to Sunshine Online – with over 560 e-books ranging from Levels 1-30 (Magenta – Sapphire) and over 1000 interactive activities that focus on phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency and writing. Go to www.sunshineonline.co.nz to log in.

Username: rawhiti

Password: east1

From the Board of Trustees

As part of our succession planning the Board of Trustees is currently looking to co-opt up to 2 new members onto the Board. If this role holds interest for you we would appreciate you giving it consideration, speaking to a Board member if that is helpful, and attending our next board meeting on Wednesday March 28th.

So – What Does the BOT Do? If the school was a cruise ship the Board of Trustees would decide the ship's destination. The principal and the teaching staff steer the ship, deciding the best way to reach that destination. The board has a vision for constantly improving the school, sets a direction and strategy for the school, agrees and monitors learning goals and targets, oversees school building and grounds developments, and sets the school budget and monitors the spending. It does not tell the teachers what or how to teach, tell the principal how to run the school, decide what is taught, have access to individual pupil's records, or decide what sports, arts or cultural activities are run within the school.

We are not looking for any particular professional background or expertise. A Parent Representative needs to have a passion for making the school a better place and a willingness to use their skills and experiences to help shape a better school for everyone's children. We are not looking for any particular professional background or expertise but the following skills would be beneficial; Integrity, Honesty, Curiosity, Courage, Interpersonal skills, a genuine interest in the schooling community and its students, and Time and Commitment

Our Board is highly collaborative and collegial. We really value our strong, supportive relationships and we have plenty of passion for Rāwhiti School. Training through NZSTA (NZ School Trustees Association) will be provided for new members and support will be provided from within the Board. The role of Trustee is highly rewarding and challenging. It provides great learning, a different perspective on the operations of the school and a deep sense of contributing to the achievement, culture and future direction of Rāwhiti School. There will be an opportunity for interested parents to sit in on a Board meeting.

Current Board members are; Jen Evans (Board Chair), Janet Carson (Deputy Chair), Karen Brandon, Jonny Langley, Thomas Parata, Elizabeth Kazmierczak (Staff Rep), and Liz Weir (Principal).

PTA AGM - Thursday 8th March, 7.30pm

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of Rāwhiti PTA, to be held on Thursday 8th March, 7.30pm in the Rāwhiti School library.

The PTA plays an important part in the school community and all whanau of Rāwhiti School are invited to come to our AGM. We will have food and drink on hand and this is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children at Rāwhiti School. You will also learn about our fundraising goals for 2018.

If you are interested in 'helping us help the school' then come along on March 8th. There are jobs that take no more than a couple of hours a month and some that are more involved but on a short-term basis. We do a variety of things from event-planning to food selling and filling out funding applications. It's as much or as little as you want.

Following the AGM we will have a regular PTA meeting, discussing general business for the start of 2018 and hopefully setting a date for a spring school fair! Exciting stuff.

Nominations: If you're interested in joining the PTA committee this year there are copies of the nomination form at reception. You can nominate yourself (or someone else) before the AGM itself by dropping it in the box at the school office.

Any questions please email pta@rawhiti.school.nz or text Steph on 021-136-5391.

Community Notices

(Notices placed here are contingent on space and do not reflect the views or opinions of the school.)

New Brighton Library promote our afterschool programme, the Maker Space Workshop Club

This is a dynamic and innovative workshop that will explore a different topic each term. The topics that will be covered are:

- 3D Design
- Coding and Robotics
- Photo editing and animation
- eTextiles and Papertronics

This is for 10-12 year olds and the theme for term one 2018 is eTextiles and Papertronics. It is at the New Brighton Library on Tuesdays 3.30 – 4.30pm and costs \$20 for the term. For children to make a booking, parents/caregivers can call 941 5140 – places are limited so get in quick!

Gabrielle George, Learning Administration Co-ordinator, Programmes, Events and Learning Team (Te Rōpū Poutama). DDI: [+64 3 941 5140](tel:+6439415140) | FAX: [+64 3 941 5155](tel:+6439415155) | EMAIL: LearningCentre@ccc.govt.nz

"Children's Sunday Art Classes

Classes are run by local artist with over 8 years' experience teaching children. You can check work on face book "Ursula la bear". 2hours sessions for \$20. Ring Ursula Baillie on 3528492 for further details

Youth Alive Trust Clubs

2018 weekly youth clubs have launched - something for all ages from 5's - 18's. More info on all our Programmes and the term plans are on our website: www.yat.org.nz - or just pop along to the club, no prior sign-up necessary.

- 1) Kitchen Club - Mondays 3:30 - 5:00pm (School Years 6 - 8)
- 2) Craft Club - Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:00pm (Years 6 - 8)
- 3) Basketball Clubs - Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:15pm (Years 3 - 5) & 4:30 - 5:30pm (Years 6 - 8)
- 4) Boys Club - Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm (Years 1 - 6)
- 5) Girls Club - Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:30pm (Years 1 - 6)
- 6) Rock Solid - Fridays 4:30pm - 6:00pm (Years 7 & 8)
- 7) Surge - Fridays 7:00pm - 9:00pm (Years 9 - 13)
- 8) Dance Fitness – Mondays & Thursdays 7-8pm (adults)

If you came to club last year, re-register young people on your normal Aimyplus log-in if you have one, if not, it's an easy process at this link: <https://yatclubs.aimyplus.com>

Any questions, email: rego@yat.org.nz or call Stephen on 3881001.

You wanna play?

Guitar Lessons in Waimari Beach



JACOB PETROSSIAN
GUITAR TUTORING

Come and get your private Guitar Lessons from Jacob, an enthusiastic guitarist who is dedicated to make YOU a better guitar player

- Over Ten years of experience playing in rock bands, jazz combos, choirs and acoustic duos
- Three years of tutoring at various schools
- A Youtube Channel with over 15k collective views

Jacob Peters - 021 068 6532
www.facebook.com/JacobPetrossianMusic
www.youtube.com/JacobPetrossian

16th—20th
April
2018

OSCAR
School Holiday
Gymsports Programme
For ages 5 - 12 years

9am - 3pm daily - \$160.00 per week
(Daily Bookings \$40 per day)



TEAM CHALLENGE WEEK

Holiday Programme activities:

Monday: Welcome games, gymnastics, team fashion show, games
Tuesday: Trampoline (bring white socks), creative crafts, team quiz, games
Wednesday: Baking, biscuit challenge, gymnastics, team treasure hunt,
Thursday: Trampoline (bring white socks), team talent show, foam building challenge
Friday: Come dressed in your team colours, Shared lunch (please bring a plate), team obstacle courses, games


www.csg.org.nz