

Newsletter 11 : 4 August

From The Principal Kia ora koutou

It is lovely to be back at school after so many weeks of being at home recuperating. I am gradually catching up with some of the changes that happened in my absence. There is quite a lot of information in this first newsletter for the term.

Welcome to new families joining our school whānau this term, and to our new teaching staff. Stuart Reid and Vicki Stevenson have joined the teaching team in Tāne Mahuta, and Marcella, Caroline and Jude have joined our part time teaching staff.

The bag storage is in place – finally – and looks great. It is already attracting plenty of attention from other schools as they search for space saving ways to store school bags. Now that the bags are out the back of each studio teachers have had to think through the ‘shoes off’ issue. Our objective is to keep the carpets as clean as possible - not just for the financial implications, but predominantly to make sure that the classroom environment is as pleasant and user friendly as possible - and wet, muddy floors are not an attractive option for children to sit on. This term each studio will work with their children to determine a solution that is workable for them, and they will communicate this to you. If you have any questions or concerns then you can speak directly with the teachers in your team.

The basketball hoops are in place, and we also have some new paths on the north side of the building so that the studios are all linked. It feels great to be ticking things off our list!



This week Georgina and George have made a start with planting our empty garden plots. Planting is not covered as part of the build – but we do have a complete landscape plan for our site, so we will deal with different areas as and when funds are available. The plan was created by Kamo Marsh Landscape Architects and is strongly influenced by the cultural narrative prepared for us by the Ngāi Tūāhuriri Education Committee.

It was great to have children helping with the planting – we know they will make excellent guardians for our developing gardens. If planting is your passion please make yourself known to Georgina so that she can let you know when the next batch of plants arrive in a few weeks.

Bike Track Donation

We were delighted this week to receive a \$30,000 donation from our PTA for our bike track project. This amount gets added to the \$50,000 anonymous donation we received last year, \$10,000 from the RSCI, \$10,000 from the City Council and \$30,000 from the board of trustees – and means that we can build all three components of the track (the distance circuit, skills track and pump track) all at the same time.

Please support our PTA fund raising efforts when you can – the money they raise goes directly towards funding projects that benefit your children. Their current project is the Hoe Down on August 13th – so dust off your cowboy boots and dosey doe down to school to buy a ticket!



Competition Winners

Congratulations to Sophie, Marshall, Autahi and Xander on winning the New Zealand Transport Association traffic safety game design competition. Their entry, 'The Roadbot's Journey' won \$5000 for the school and each student also wins \$375 of vouchers. This is an amazing achievement –here's what the judges had to say about their entry.....*"This is a big ambitious game, which looks fun while putting important ideas about road use into action. The Roadbot is an appealing hook for younger players, and externalizing the learner (by having players teach the robot) enhances gameplay. We like that each level asks the player to make decisions related to different kinds of road use (scootering, bicycling, riding in a car). The maps and character sketches are gorgeous. The design is thoughtful, playful and responsive to feedback."*



Enrolment Scheme

Our school roll has grown at a rate that is much quicker than we expected and the board of trustees has been advised by the Ministry of Education that they need to begin the process of establishing a zone for Rāwhiti in order to manage roll growth. Discussions are in the very early stages, and community consultation is part of the process so there will be opportunity for to express your opinion.

At this early stage it is essential that the board have accurate enrolment data for the next 18 months, including younger siblings of current students. If you have a pre-schooler due to start either this year or in 2017 please make time to pop in to the office and fill in an enrolment form. This is not binding in any way – but gives us a much better idea of the number of pre-schoolers in our catchment area. It is never too early to enrol!

The board will keep you informed as the zone negotiations progress.

Learning Conversations

A reminder to book for the learning conversations starting next week. You can make your booking by going to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and entering the code: **ekz8t**. If you don't have internet access at home please contact the classroom teacher or the office to make a booking.

The purpose of these meetings is for your child to share their learning and achievement, and for you to discuss this with them and the teacher or teachers most closely involved with their learning. The format may be slightly different in each Learning Studio but children will have learning to share with you and you will have time to ask questions. Because of the staff changes in Tāne Mahuta we have postponed the Learning Conversation bookings until later in the term for this room. If your child is in this class we will get back to you later in the term and let you know when Learning conversations will be.

Dancing Like the Stars



On Tuesday night a group of students from Tāwhirimatea represented Rāwhiti at the YMCA Dancing Like the Stars performance involving 14 schools from across Christchurch and teams of professional dancers. The group has been working with their tutor, Sandy Gray, over 9 weeks to develop their jazz routine ready for their performance at the Isaac Theatre. . When Rāwhiti took the stage their energy and enthusiasm was amazing and the smiles on our dancers' faces said it all. They truly were the stars of the show!

If you were unable to see the dancers in one of their practices or at the show, they will hold a special performance in our hall next Tuesday at 12.15pm.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Liz Weir

Principal Awards

Rongo-mā-tāne – Riley B, Bella-Rose, Violet, Jakob,

Ata Hāpara – Kahukura, Maia



Calendar of Events

August

- 1 Year 7/8 information sessions 3.30pm & 6.30pm
- 2 ICAS English testing
Dancing Like the Stars performance 12.15pm
Learning Conversations
- 4 Winter Tournament
PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 5 School Assembly 9.15am
- 7 Parent Y5-8 Puberty information session
- 9 Learning Conversations
- 10 Learning Conversations
- 13 PTA Hoedown
- 15 Learning Conversations
BOT Meeting 6.30pm
- 16 ICAS Mathematics testing
- 18 Mairehau High School Music Group performance 9.30am

School Notices

Year 7/8 Information sessions

We are very aware that this is the time of year parents of our Year 6 children make decisions about where to send their child for Year 7 and 8. We believe that being a Full Primary School (Year 0-8) makes Rāwhiti School the ideal option because we offer a complete package for children between preschool and high school. We are very proud of the developments in the senior part of our school since we opened last year and we will be holding an information evening for parents of our current Year 6 students at which we will outline the options and programmes available at Rāwhiti School for Year 7 and 8 students.

Please join us at either 3.30pm or 6.30pm in Tangaroa studio, on Monday 1st August to hear about some of the initiatives that have been introduced and talk about plans still in development.

Birth Certificates and Immunisation Records

It is a legal requirement that evidence of date of birth and immunisation status is sighted when children enrol in a NZ school for the first time. If your child has started as a new entrant at Rāwhiti since we opened last year and we do not hold a copy of these documents Jan will be contacting you and requesting that you drop these in. If you do not have a copy of the birth certificate Jan will be able to give you information about obtaining a copy.

Health Community Consultation

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the recent health consultation survey. Your responses will be valuable as we build on our school health programme. Health is such an important part of our lives and is integrated into our programme in many ways, but there are always some topics that require specific teaching. There were some common themes among the responses including: managing friendships and interacting with others, te whare tapawha, self-management of health needs, food and nutrition, resiliency and stress management, healthy environments, parent education and communication.

It is our hope that this is the beginning of a continuing conversation and we will keep you informed of progress. If you have any more questions or concerns please feel free to approach your classroom teachers, Sharon Thompson (teacher in charge of Health) or any member of the management team.

Puberty Evening for parents and caregivers of Year 5-8 students

During the up and coming terms, students in year 5-8 will be covering the topic of puberty. This is a major component of the health curriculum at these levels. At Rāwhiti we intend to use a comprehensive and appropriately levelled programme put together by Family Planning Association in accordance with ministry guidelines called The Sexuality Road.

As part of our commitment to whānau involvement, we invite you to attend an information evening for parents and caregivers of Year 5-8 students. We have invited Paul Scammell Family Planning to share the programme with you and answer any questions you might have about how to talk about this topic at home.

Monday 8 August
6.30 - 7.30pm
School Hall

Parking Safety

A few reminders about parking safety at school. Please do not drive in to the car park to drop children off in the mornings as it creates a hazard when we have cars turning in this space. There is no on-site parking for parents. The mobility parking spaces are only for vehicles displaying parking permits. We also note a number of parents parking on yellow lines outside the school grounds, which endangers our children. Please don't be offended if you are asked to move on when you have parked in the wrong place.

Dogs on School Grounds

Dogs are an important part of life for many Rāwhiti School families, and are often included in activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values the place the dog has within a family. It also acknowledges that some people can find contact with dogs stressful, and even frightening.

Parents who bring dogs on to school grounds do so on the understanding that their dog has no issues around children, has never displayed any aggression towards children, and that the owner believes the dog is fully trustworthy in a school environment.

Owners bringing a dog or dogs on to the school grounds must follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines

- All dogs must be on a leash that keeps the dog reasonably close to the adult. The leash must be held by an adult.
- If the dog is considered by the council or any other authority to be a breed that needs muzzling, the dog must be muzzled on school property.
- Dogs are not allowed inside school buildings.
- Dog owners should help educate children about how best to approach their dog.
- Dogs are not allowed to drink from school water fountains.
- Owners must remove any mess left by their dog.

Rāwhiti School is committed to teaching children appropriate behaviour when approaching dogs so that they have a positive experience interacting with the animal, and in order to reduce the risk of accident or injury.

Stray dogs

Any stray dog at school will be reported to dog control and taken away so there is no danger to our students.

