

Newsletter 20: 01 December

From The Principal



Kia ora koutou

An extra newsletter this week as it is such a busy time of the year, and there is plenty of information to share. Please remember that **mufti day tomorrow** is for the PTA Xmas Raffle, which was a great fundraiser for us last year. Children are asked to bring either an item for the Xmas hampers, or a gold coin donation.

2017 Organisation

In 2017 there will be some changes to the composition of some of the Learning Studios. We have listened to feedback from our children and our community, and also want to make best use of teacher strengths within each team.

The studio teams will be as follows:

Tanagaroa (Year 7/8): Andrew Redmond, Nogo Sipeli, Sharon Thompson, Anna-Belle Graham.

Tāwhirimātea (Year 4/5/6): Kathy Lumley, Nigel Stewart, Julia Smith, Sharon Robertson, Jordan Shallcross.

Tane Mahuta (Year 4/5/6): Elizabeth Kazmierczak, Stuart Reid, Rachel Bourke, Sarah Lean-Massey, Vicki Stevenson.

Haumia-tiketike (Year 2/3): Helen Hogarth, Rachel Beaument, Brogan O'Neill, Amy Parish

Ronga mā tāne (Year 0/1/2): Nicole Cunningham, Kylie O'Keeffe, Lisa Handley, Sue Tait, Bev McTaggart

Papatūānuku (Ata Hāpara): Jasmine Stirling, Lauren Yaxley, Amanda Taueki Kinghazel.

Paul Wilkinson and Helen Parata will continue to be fully released from classroom teaching duties next year. Lauren McDonnell will carry on in her full time role as Learning Support Coordinator, and Elizabeth Kazmierczak will be spending half the week teaching in Tane Mahuta and leading that team, and the other half working across the school in her role as the leader of eLearning.

Nicole Johnston has been granted extended maternity leave in 2017 but will be joining our part time teaching team to provide release in our Year 7/8 team each week. Wayne McQueen has also been granted a years leave from his full time position in 2017, but will be with us 3 days a week as part of the release teaching team. Other members of the part time teaching team are Diane Gowland, Tania Luke, Marcella Wood, Caroline Briggs, Clare Byers (Reading Recovery) and Iris Derham (ICT).

The number of children in each team will remain similar to this year, and our new enrolment scheme will mean that the number of new additions at each level throughout the year can be controlled. We do have growth in our Year 7/8 team due to the high retention levels of Year 6 students and so we have increased the number of teachers in that team from 3 to 4. Rongo mā Tāne will start with a smaller number of children and will gradually grow as new entrants enrol during the year. Ata Hapara will be starting the year in Papatūānuku to allow the teachers to further develop the reo and tikanga specific to a Level 2 bilingual programme. As numbers of younger children grow throughout the year the space in Papatūānuku will need to be shared.

Composite Teams

In 2017 all of our Learning Studios will have composite year levels. By "composite classes," we mean putting two or more consecutive year-groups together in one class – which is how the school is currently organised. Composite classes are not new. They are a common form of class organisation in schools across the country. However composite classes can be a source of worry for some, especially where parents believe that their child is being disadvantaged in some way if they are placed in a composite class. Further on in this newsletter you will find a fact sheet that will hopefully answer any questions you may have about composite classes.

Ngā mihi nui kia a koutou

Liz Weir
Principal



Principals Awards



Rongo Ma Tane : Shayden M, Ruby

Tawhitimatea: Flynn

Haumia-tiketike: Jakaiya

What's Coming Up

1/12	Parent Helpers Thank You (5.30pm)
2/12	Mufti Day for PTA Xmas Raffle
6/12	Year 0/1 Fun Athletics 9.30am BOT Meeting 5.30pm
7/12	Canterbury Athletics Applications for Out of Zone places for Term 1 2017 due at 12pm Year 2/3 Athletic Sports 12.30pm
8/12	Year 8 Day Out & Leavers Dinner
9/12	Ballot for Out of Zone places for Term 1 2017
13/12	Final Assembly 6.30pm
14/12	Rāwhiti Rumbustification (Fun Day)
15/12	Showcase Assembly 1.30pm
16/12	School Closes 12pm.

School Notices

Good Luck Dara

You may have seen Dara (Year 7) featuring on the front page of the Pagasus Post this week. Dara is competing in this weekend's South Island Primary School Surfing Champs at North Beach and is one of the favourites to take out the Year 7 boy's title. Best of luck Dara!

School Reports and Information for 2017

School reports will be sent home next Friday December 9th. Included in the envelope will be information on your child's placement for 2017, the name of their key teacher, an introduction to the teachers in their learning space, a stationery list, and some details about 2017 starting dates – along with some information and vouchers from the PTA. Please make sure your child gives you the envelope containing this vital information. We will also create a page on our website for you to access all of this information over the holiday period.

What's Coming Up

You will have noticed these events in the calendar – here are some details about what each involves:

Leavers Assembly: Tuesday December 13th. 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

This special assembly is a whole school event where we recognise a range of achievements, celebrate our year, and farewell our Year 8 students. It's a chance for us all to acknowledge our senior students and wraps up the year in a collaborative way. All children are expected to be part of this event, which is scheduled for the early evening to allow families to attend. Children are to meet their teachers in their learning studios at 6.15pm.

Rāwhiti 'Rumbustification': Wednesday December 14th

This is a fun picnic day event organised by the staff to help our children celebrate the end of the school year and the end of our first year on our new site. All the fun will take place between 10.00am and 2.30pm. Details for the day will be published in next week's newsletter.

Rāwhiti Showcase Assembly: Thursday December 15th 1.30 pm in the Whare Tapere (Hall). Another chance for our choir and Kapa Haka groups to perform, our school bands to do their thing, and our music students to share their talents. All welcome to come along and be a part of the audience.

Hollie and Hayley receiving their Rotary awards.

Well done girls



Tough Kids

Iscyss Ruiter, Tāwhirimātea

Tough Kids is a big event when you get muddy and wet. My favourite bit was climbing up the huge inflatable slide and sliding down it. If you love getting wet and muddy then this is for you and you should give it a go next year. The slide was the last obstacle. Afterwards you feel proud that you gave it a go and finished it.

Lauryn Crowe, Tāwhirimātea

On Wednesday we were getting ready for Tough Kids. We had lunch, then we got dressed in the toilets. We all went to Miss S to get stripes on our cheeks and then we had to go to the adults that were looking after us so we didn't get lost. Once we were in our groups we went to the gate and got on the bus. It wasn't a long trip to Tough Kids.

Ryan Scammell, Tāwhirimātea

On Wednesday 30th November we got muddy and soaked at Tough Kids. At 11.30 we all had to meet at the Sun (middle of the studio). Miss S said how much time we had and what parent we would be with. Most of us got stripes on our faces like they do at Crusaders games. Soon enough we were heading to the bus with our parent helpers. The bus ride was really loud, 50 children yelling at once! It seemed so quick before 3, 2, 1, GO! All of us ran like crazy. It felt awesome running at an event with our classmates. There were tyre climbs and mud pits and I was sad when it was over. I said to myself I want to do it again next year.

Miss S, Tāwhirimātea

Tough Kids Christchurch is a Obstacle race similar to Mud, Sweat and Tears but for children in Years 3-8. It is held at South New Brighton Reserve and it is 2.5km long (shorter for Year 3 and 4s). There is a variety of challenges that test the children's agility and endurance, including mud runs, mud crawls, water slides, tyre climbs and inflated obstacles. In total 49 Rāwhiti Children, 2 Rāwhiti Teachers and 2 Rāwhiti parents faced the Tough Kids Course and all completed it. This was a fantastic event organised by Sport Canterbury and well organised with music, lolly scrambles, designated changing areas for children and even a coffee cart for parents. We had a great afternoon and are all proud that we completed the course.

Some of our Tough Kids



Well Done James



Congratulations to James one of the winners of the Sir Bob Charles essay, he received a signed golf glove by Sir Bob Charles. WELL DONE James from David and the Rawhiti Golf Club.

Parents of 2016 Year 6 students attending Rāwhiti School

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 \$50.00 per jacket, down from the normal cost of \$81.80. We will size your child with current jackets to ensure they receive the correct fitting.

We will be putting through an order for all families who wish to take up this offer on Friday 9th December 2016. Jackets will be available for your child at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Payment will need to have been received in full by Friday 9th December 2016 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.

Lost Property



If you recognize any of these items please come and retrieve them as at the end of the term they will go to City Mission.

Second hand uniform sale

Rawhiti School's very first second hand uniform sale will be held the week before the start of Term One on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th January 2017, at 10am - 12pm in the School Hall.

As we have just had one year in the new uniform, we do not have an accumulated stock of second hand uniforms. If you have a child leaving the school or have clothing items you no longer require then please consider donating these to the PTA for the sale. And we'd love any of the black separates on a donation basis.

Additionally, we will offer credit or cash for the **polo shirts** and **fleeces** at the sale. We want to make the prices good value for parents but also raise a little money for the school - so good condition polo shirts will be bought for \$10 and sold for \$15. Polar fleeces bought for \$20 and sold for \$25. Any items in worn condition will be worth somewhat less.

We also hope to have a fresh stock of Hair Princess accessories available at the sale and some sunhats also.

Please contact pta@rawhiti.school.nz if you have any queries or items for sale or donation before the end of the school year.

Christmas raffle

By now your child should have brought home a raffle ticket form with 10 tickets to sell at \$1 each on a voluntary basis. This Friday 2nd December there will be a mufti day. Children can either donate a gold coin, or an item suitable for a Christmas hamper. Last year we had more than 35 amazing hampers as prizes and hope we can do the same again. Please return the ticket forms sold or unsold to the office by 9am on Friday 9th December. There are prizes for children who sell the most tickets and spot prizes for children who return any ticket sales. If you've been spring cleaning (ha ha!) and have any spare baskets or nice boxes, please pass them into the office to help make up the hampers. Cheers.

Last Friday's Mufti Day

We raised \$786.00. What a Top effort.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION FOR 2017

Are you interested in transferring your child into our school bilingual programme? Our bilingual programme Ata Hapara is open for anyone interested from New Entrant to Year 8 level. Focus is on developing strong oral te reo skills and a strong understanding of Tikanga Maori.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact our Kaiwhakahaere (Team Leader) Jasmine jasmines@rawhiti.school.nz or Helen helen@rawhiti.school.nz

Composite Classes – Stages not Ages

Composite classes are classes that include more than one age group in a classroom. The composite class offers programming in response to students' shared and individual needs. Whether a child is gifted, or one needing much assistance, each will be challenged in a composite class as he or she would be in a straight year level class.

The composite learning environment:

- Is flexible and responsive to individual needs.
- Recognises and supports independent learning.
- Encourages your child to take ownership of his or her learning and to work with others.
- Actively involves and engages all students.
- Offers students opportunities to develop a sense of belonging, support and confidence.

The composite classroom teachers:

- Values your child's individual strengths and needs.
- Provides whole group, small group and individual learning activities across a range of subjects.

The composite classroom learner:

- Interacts with a range of other learners for a variety of purposes.
- Engages in learning tasks based on his or her interests and abilities,
- Performs as well as students in straight year level classrooms on academic tasks.
- Often has improved work and study habits, social interaction and collaborative skills.
- Works at his or her own level on different learning tasks related to the learning that is taking pace in the classroom.

Frequently Asked Questions about Composite Classes

What are composite classes?

Composite classes are classes where the children may be from two or more Ministry defined year groups.

Why would we have them?

For a variety of reasons including.

- Meeting social needs.
- Meeting academic needs.
- Allowing children to learn within a more effective group to meet their needs.
- Matching children to teachers.
- Maximising teacher strengths.
- Minimising/making equitable classroom sizes.

What are the negatives about composite classes?

There are none according to the research and according to children once they get into them. Research in NZ, the UK and Australia shows that children in composite classes achieve outcomes no different to those in straight year group classes.

What are the benefits?

Research shows that children in composite classes have enhanced social development. They are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups. In later life, if we have a one year age difference with someone this becomes of no consequence. Veenman (1995).

New Zealand rates as one of the best educational systems in the world. Teachers who are New Zealand trained are sought throughout the world. Why? They teach to stage not age! They teach what your child needs – not a Year 4 or 5 curriculum from a text book, as there is no Year 4 or Year 5 curriculum.

Won't things be too hard for my Year 4 child if s/he is in a Year 4/6 composite?

No - stage not age

For my Year 6 girl in a Year 4/6 class won't it be too easy?

No - stage not age

Won't my child who is in a Year 4-6 composite learn bad behaviour from the Year Six children?

No. There is absolutely no evidence to suggest that children get more 'naughty' as they get older as a result of being in a composite class

Don't we have a curriculum for each year group?

No, we never have. We have a curriculum separated into levels (children in Years 1-8 are expected to move through levels 1, 2, 3 and 4). The curriculum was designed in the knowledge that learning is not linear and children, regardless of their age, have differing needs and learn at different paces.

What about National Standards?

National Standards are an indication of where the Ministry believes that a child should be at the end of each year. This does not mean we should limit children who have already exceeded the standard (stage not age) nor reprimand those who do not make the standard by the expected year.

