



**Newsletter 25:** 14th December 2015

**From the Principal**  
**Kia ora koutou**

This is our final newsletter for the year and as it contains important information regarding the start of the 2016 school year, a paper copy is being sent home with each student.

Thank you to all those who attended the assembly last Thursday night to celebrate the things that have been achieved this year, to acknowledge the challenges we have overcome, and to farewell our Year 8 students. There have certainly been plenty of challenges for us to face in our first year:

- The challenge of operating on two sites.
- The challenge of making new friends.
- The daily challenge of the buses between bases (a challenge we won't miss!)
- The challenge of continued improvement - this is no time for standing still.
- The challenge of finding a unique school uniform.
- The challenge of learning children's names.
- The challenge of managing change – change is not hard, it's just uncomfortable, and we have all had to get comfortable with discomfort.
- Challenging the concept of 1 teacher and 1 room.
- The challenge of ensuring that our new school buildings and grounds really are extraordinary.

It seems like such a long time since we started our '3-2-1- Rāwhiti' countdown, and we are so close now to truly being one that we can close our eyes and see ourselves in that playground, in our new uniforms, inside those beautiful buildings. However, it is always important to remember that schools are about people not about buildings.

I would like to thank all of you in our Rāwhiti School community for your on-going support of the school. You are an incredible part of what we do. There are programmes at school that we simply could not offer to our children without the hours of time donated to the school by parents and grandparents. I think in particular of the sports opportunities we are able to offer, the Choice and Challenge programme, the school camps and trips, Code Club, and learning support. However, by far the most important thing you have done this year is to stand by us, to stick with us, to believe in us, and to trust us with your precious children.

I would like to wish all our Rāwhiti whanau a very Merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, in our new home.

**Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa**  
**Liz Weir**

**Read on for:** January office hours, how to collect your new school uniform, starting dates and events, map of the new buildings and classes, and information on the names of our Learning Studios.

## School Office Opening Hours January 2016

---

The school office will be open for enrolments, enquiries and uniform collection on:

- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 9am – 3pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 9am – 3pm
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 9am - 3pm
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 9am – 3pm

## Collecting Your New School Uniform

---

The polo shirt and polar fleece being provided by the Board of Trustees will be available for collection from the school office on the above dates. Regulation school sunhats will also be available for purchase from the office on these days (\$12.50). A limited stock of additional polo shirts will also be available for sale from the school office at the beginning of the year.

Additional items of uniform can be ordered now from <http://rawhitiuniform.bigimpact.co.nz>

If you do not have a credit card then you can pay now at the school office for any additional items and they will order on your behalf. You can choose to have these additional items delivered to school (free of charge) or to your home address (which incurs a courier fee).

## Stationery Lists and 'Welcome Home' Meetings

---

Information about stationery lists and the 'Welcome Home' meetings on Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> was included with the school reports last week. This information will also be made available on our school website in January.

## Scooters and Skateboards on school grounds

---

While we know that children are keen to try out our new purpose built scooter track, we need time to establish safe scooter habits on our home base to ensure that everyone can get safely around the site.

When you are visiting the new site in January to collect uniform etc please note that scooters and skateboards are not to be ridden up the main access pathway (the avenue of trees), and do not come across the bridges onto the paved area outside the main building. There will be scooter stands on the court area adjacent to the pool.

Once all the children are back on site we will work together to ensure consistent 'wheel' behaviours. We appreciate your support in getting this message across to your children.

## 2016 dates for you to note

---

- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January Office Open 9am – 3pm
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January Office Open 9am – 3pm
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February Office Open 9am - 3pm
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February Office Open 9am – 3pm
- Tuesday February 2 'Welcome Home' meetings
- Wednesday February 3 First full school day and official welcome
- Monday February 8 School Closed – Waitangi Day observed
- Friday February 12 Official Opening of new building

## The Story of Us

As part of creating our very own 'Rāwhiti' story, it was important that our new school building reflected aspects of historical significance relating to the site and local area, as highlighted in our cultural narrative document written by Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

Our building colour scheme has been chosen to reflect the significance of the area as Mahinga Kai: food producing places or places where you could expect to obtain food;

- **Blue** at the eastern end to acknowledge our seaside location, Ihutai (the coastline that runs from Sumner to New Brighton) and Ōruapaeroa (New Brighton Beach) which was known as a significant area for catching shark, sole, flounder and collecting shellfish.
- **Green** to acknowledge the swamps and estuary which were a source of eels, whitebait, mānuka, edible ferns and roots, weka and other flora and fauna which provided clothing, building materials or medicinal uses.
- **Brown** at the western end of the building to acknowledge The Canterbury Plains (Ngā Pākihi Whakatekateka a Waitaha) which has historical significance as the area where the Ngāi Tūāhuriri tribe first settled and then spread, and also acknowledges the early trails from the Ashburton to Waimakariri rivers. The colour brown also links to the mudflats and sand dunes which were both areas of abundant food sources.

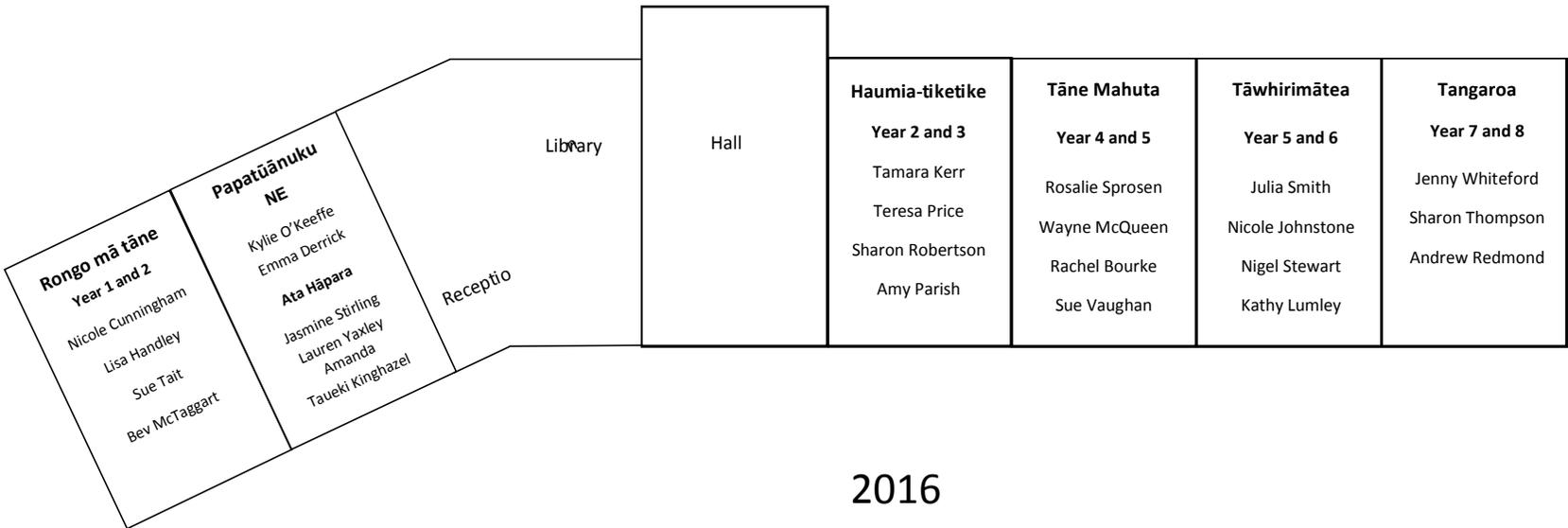
The 'sunrise' feature on the highest part of our Whare Tapere/Hall is indicative of our school name. Rāwhiti means one of the four principal compass points, specifically 90°, conventionally directed to the right on maps or the direction of the rising sun.

Images have been applied to each of the studio's front glass doors and windows. These images also reflect the areas represented by the colouring of the studios, and include many of the flora and fauna specified in the cultural narrative document as specifically relevant to our area. For example the toetoe, which features on one of our blue studios, was used for kai baskets, cooking, darts, arrows, kites, building, medicinal, torches and bedding; or the kerurū, which features on one of our brown studios, was captured as a source of food/kai and for its feathers.

When considering names for our studios we again tried to consider aspects presented to us in our cultural narrative. One of the Ngāi Tahu values is the concept of Kaitiakitanga - conservation and protection. The value is based on the premise that important natural resources should be identified, protected and enhanced as taonga (treasure) for current and future generations. From there we selected some kaitiaki/guardians within Te Ao Māori that fit best with our building, our own story we are creating and provide teaching and learning opportunities.

- Brown #1 - **Rongo-mā-tāne** - kaitiaki or guardian of cultivated food. Rongo is also the guardian of peace.
- Brown #2 - **Papatūānuku** - kaitiaki or guardian of the land. In Maori creation stories it is Papatūānuku, the earth mother who is separated from the Ranginui, the sky father to allow daylight, the first rays of sun to come streaming in. This fits well with our bilingual programme Ata Hapara meaning the time of dawn.
- Green #3 - **Haumia-tiketike** - kaitiaki or guardian of wild or uncultivated foods.
- Green #4 - **Tāne Mahuta** - kaitiaki or guardian of the forest and trees.
- Blue #5 - **Tāwhirimātea** - kaitiaki or guardian of the wind and weather.
- Blue #6 - **Tangaroa** - kaitiaki or guardian of the sea and rivers.

*The visibility of culture throughout the school is an important signal for conveying to students and whānau that their culture is acknowledged and valued by the school. This includes the design of the buildings themselves, the presence of cultural artwork throughout the school, and the incorporation of cultural symbols or patterns in multiple media. Artwork, along with names given to learning spaces and buildings, should link the school to the history of its community and the local environment. [Wall, G. (2014) Modern Learning Environments to support priority learners, Ministry of Education Wellington]*



**Rongo mā tāne**  
**Year 1 and 2**  
 Nicole Cunningham  
 Lisa Handley  
 Sue Tait  
 Bev McTaggart

**Papatūānuku**  
**NE**  
 Kyle O'Keeffe  
 Emma Derrick  
**Ata Hāpara**  
 Jasmine Stirling  
 Lauren Yaxley  
 Amanda  
 Taueki Kinghazel

Reception

Library

Hall

**Haumia-tiketike**  
**Year 2 and 3**  
 Tamara Kerr  
 Teresa Price  
 Sharon Robertson  
 Amy Parish

**Tāne Mahuta**  
**Year 4 and 5**  
 Rosalie Sprosen  
 Wayne McQueen  
 Rachel Bourke  
 Sue Vaughan

**Tāwhirimātea**  
**Year 5 and 6**  
 Julia Smith  
 Nicole Johnstone  
 Nigel Stewart  
 Kathy Lumley

**Tangaroa**  
**Year 7 and 8**  
 Jenny Whiteford  
 Sharon Thompson  
 Andrew Redmond

2016

Class Teacher Map