

From The Principal

Kia ora koutou

Welcome back everyone. It has certainly been a warm start to the 'winter' term and, as always, there is no easing in to the new term. On Monday we welcomed 17 new children to Rāwhiti School, and on Wednesday afternoon we hosted 280 teachers from across the city for a Literacy Association workshop. The Year 8's are away on their leadership camp at Peel Forrest – so the place is a little quieter than usual.

Staff Changes

This week we welcome Jordan Shallcrass to our teaching staff. Jordan is going to be replacing Nicole Johnston who will be taking maternity leave from the beginning of Week 3. Jordan has already started working in Tāwhirimātea alongside the rest of the teaching team to ensure a smooth transition for everyone.

Some of you may be aware that Wayne McQueen's wife, Annette, is involved in a long term battle with cancer. Unfortunately her health has deteriorated over the holiday period; therefore Wayne will be taking some leave for a few weeks to support Annette through this next stage of her illness. I know you will all join with me in sending messages of support to Wayne, Annette and their three sons. We are really grateful to Jude Seeto who has agreed to step in and join the Tāne Mahuta team for the next few weeks. Jude will be known to some of you from her work at North New Brighton School.

Later this term Teresa Price will be leaving us to take up a new position at Thorrlington Primary School. The appointments process for a replacement teacher is underway and we will farewell Teresa later in the term.

Switching On

You probably haven't noticed that we are utilising solar power because our solar panels are on the roof on the north side of our building. The solar photovoltaic (PV) panels have been arrayed onto the school roof in a partnership between the school and Genesis Energy. The panels will generate up to 20 kilowatts of power, which over the course of the year is expected to contribute about 25,000 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy to the school. Much of this solar generated electricity will be consumed immediately within the school and will help ease our energy bills. You can visit www.schoolgen.co.nz at any time to see how much solar energy we are generating. So far in May we have generated 229kWh, and our total for April was 2163kWh.



The Schoolgen Programme helps students and teachers to understand more about electricity and ways in which it can be generated, as well as learning about global sustainability. Our learning focus for this term is 'Switching On' and is based in the Science and Technology Curriculum – watch throughout the term for opportunities for parents and whanau to get involved in this learning. If you are using our grounds this weekend please be aware that there will be some building work taking place outside the junior learning studios where we are increasing the height of the sand pit surround to help keep the sand contained and to provide a seat for children.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Liz Weir



Principal Awards



Rongo-mā-tāne: Annabella, C Taylor, Brooke W, Jordan, Xavier

Calendar of Events

May

- 12 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 13 Year 8 boys at Shirley Boys High School
School Assembly 9.15am
- 17 Year 5-8 Cross Country
ICAS: Digital Technology Exam
- 18 PTA Coffee Morning
- 19 School Disco
- 20 Basketball Zones
- 24 Cross Country Zones
- 27 School Assembly 9.15am



June

- 1 PTA Coffee Morning
- 6 Queens Birthday Weekend
- 15 PTA Coffee Morning
- 30 PTA Coffee Morning

School Events

Board of Trustee Elections

Board of Trustee elections are being held this month. Nominations close on the 20th May at 12.00pm. If the number of nominations does not exceed vacancies there will be no need to hold an election. Should nominations be more than the required number then a vote will be held. If this is the case voting papers will be posted to families. Voting closes on the 3rd June 2016 at 12.00pm. Results will be published following this date.

Our current Board of Trustees has written the following statement.

“Your current Board of Trustees is a very diverse team of people (two staff members and five parents). They are teachers (primary, secondary, tertiary); banker; lecturer; local business owner; HR specialist; IT specialist and principal who share one important passion - the children of Rāwhiti Primary School and their learning potential.

The current Board believe our very strength is this diversity and shared passion and we feel we have found a recipe that works in terms of making the critical decisions to set the vision and govern our school. Due to the merger process our current Board has been operating for one year and we want more time together. At this stage we think our school needs this continuity. Usually Board of Trustees’ commit to a three year term to ensure a sustained commitment to short and long term strategic planning goals, develop consistency in their approach, familiarity with one another, and to have the time to implement effective change.

We need more time together to actually focus on what it means to govern now that we are HOME. We have so much more we want to achieve together and we know that the current Board of Trustee team have the desire to see this through.

Please make sure you vote in the coming elections, touch base with any of us when you see us about the school, but most importantly:

Support the current Board of Trustee team in consolidating time and outcomes for your children by voting for Karen, Janet, Jonny, Jen and Tammi (parent representatives) – who along with Liz (principal) and Elizabeth (staff rep) have big dreams for the future of Rāwhiti Primary School.”

Coffee Cart at School

The Naked Baker will be operating a coffee cart here at school on Wednesday mornings (8.30 – 9.00am) and on Friday afternoons (2.45-3.15). They will have limited supply of fresh foods available, and specialty breads for sale on a Friday.

Car Park Safety

Our school car park poses a health and safety risk to children and that is why we ask parents to use the main gates when walking children in to and out of the school. Unfortunately many parents are using our car park as a handy drop off and pick up space, which poses an unnecessary risk to our students. As health and safety is everyone’s responsibility we ask that parents do not enter the school car park before and after school unless your vehicle displays a valid disability parking permit.

Canterbury Zones

Tom	9 yr old freestyle	placed 27 th	time 43.20
Asha	9 yr old backstroke	placed 23 rd	time 53.31
Sean	10 yr old backstroke	placed 22 nd ,	time 48.46
Sean	10yr old freestyle	placed 23 rd	time 40.98
Josh	10 yr old backstroke	placed 16 th	time 46.97
Josh	10yr old freestyle	placed 16 th	time 38.10
Ciaran	10 yr old breaststroke	placed 29 th	time 1.02
Relay team		placed 11 th	time 2.55.41



Weekly Winter Sport 2016

Winter Sport enrolments have been emailed out to you in the holidays. If you have not received a form please complete the form below and return it to Andrew or Jenny in Tangaroa.

The cost for sport is \$35.00 per child and must be paid either in full before Winter Sport begins or arrangements need to have been made with the office with regards to regular payments. Internet banking is available – 03 0814 0000333 25. Please put your child’s name as a reference.

WINTER SPORT 2016

I would like my child to participate in weekly winter sport.

Students name _____ Year: _____ Room: _____

1st and 2nd preferences (out of soccer, hockey, netball, table tennis or rugbv).


1. _____

2. _____

Parents name: _____

Parents phone number _____

I am able to assist with team management and coaching. Yes/No



Community Notices

Teens & Tweens Parenting Toolbox

Parenting Teens and Tweens is one of the hardest jobs in the world! It doesn't come with a manual but there are a few hints and tips you can pick up, which may make the job a bit easier for everyone.

Consider joining a six week Parenting Toolbox Course with other local parents starting in Term 2 in New Brighton on Tuesday Nights.

Courses are FREE for residents in Greater New Brighton.

Register by emailing: lynley.garratt@theparentingplace.com or phone: 03 355 2680 or visit <http://www.theparentingplace.com/toolbox-parenting-courses/>

East Christchurch Parenting Roadshow Seminar

Petra Bagust & John Cowen are travelling the country with The Parenting Place Roadshow. Together they are delivering a Parenting Seminar for East Christchurch in New Brighton on 9th May around the general topic of "Raising Happy, Confident and Resilient Children". Some brilliant techniques to help your kids get the most from life. Real happiness actually comes from secure love, emotional strength and the grit to push through life's challenges.

Tickets can be bought for just \$5 from www.theparentingplace.com

Basketball Coaching in New Brighton

Limited spaces are available for Basketball coaching on Thursdays after school from Years 3 – 13 in New Brighton starting week two. Just \$50 for the whole term. Visit: www.yat.org.nz to register online.

Mental Health Study

The Mental Health and Nutrition Research Group at the University of Canterbury is currently recruiting participants for exciting world-leading research into the effect of vitamins and nutrients on mental health. We have three Christchurch-based trials running:

Child ADHD Study: 7-12 year old boys and girls with ADHD symptoms

ADHD Control Study: Typically-developing 7-12 year old boys without ADHD

PMS Study: Females aged 18+ with premenstrual symptoms

To find out more, please visit bit.ly.com/UCnutritionresearch, email mhanrg@gmail.com or call the lab on (03) 364 2987 ext 7705. We're also on <https://facebook.com/mentalhealthandnutrition/>

FerryMead Heritage Park

Queen's Birthday Weekend Sunday 5th & 6th June 10.00am – 4.30pm Daily.

Join us as we celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. There will be a flag hunt, food and craft stands, old time movies, a working blacksmith, bouncy castle, plus unlimited steam train and tram rides. A great day out for the whole family.

Adults \$20.00, Seniors \$15.00, Children \$10.00, Under 5 years FREE.

Family Pass \$50.00 (2 Adults & 4 Children)