

From the Principal

Kia ora koutou

A sincere thank you to the parents who came along to our first site Working Bee last Friday morning, we really appreciate the help. If you have time on your hands tomorrow morning, or next Friday (March 18th) between 9 and 10.30 then we can certainly give you a job!

Thank you to those who have called or made time to come in over the past two weeks to talk through your questions and concerns about our new place. We will always find time to talk with you and clarify what we can – so please don't hesitate to make an appointment if things are worrying you. I have some updates below regarding the most common questions.

Congratulations to Nabraska (Year 5) who has been selected to be part of the DigiAwards student panel this year. Students from a wide range of schools throughout Canterbury were nominated for this panel to work collaboratively in developing both the theme and categories for the 2016 DigiAwards. Nabraksa was part of the team that created the award winning 'Oh What A Night' music video last year, and has been chosen for her ability to think creatively, her willingness to lead and to accept a challenge.

Last week we held our first evacuation drill and I am pleased to report it ran very smoothly and our systems worked well. We were able to evacuate our buildings in less than two minutes, which is impressive for a first attempt. We will not always be able to tell the children when drills will be happening but will continue to do so until we know everyone is feeling at home on our site.

Congratulations to Nicole Johnston (teacher in Tāwhirimātea) and her partner Sam who are expecting our first Rāwhiti staff baby....make that babies! Their twins are due in July and Nicole will be working through into early term 2. We have already advertised this teaching position to ensure we have a suitable replacement in plenty of time.

Updates

Bag Storage: This continues to be our biggest challenge. Just to clarify for you all, as there are many stories out there, bag storage was not part of the design build contract and it is our job to source a solution to meet our needs. We have the funds to do this and we **are not** waiting on fundraising or grants for this purpose. There are two traditional options for bag storage – internal cubbyhole/locker type arrangements, and external hooks or lockers. Neither is the perfect solution – we don't want to fill up our great spaces with large locker units, and we don't want the front entrance to the studios to be cluttered. Our preference is to use the rear side of the building, however it doesn't have the weather protection we were expecting. We are currently seeking advice from various providers and designers, both here and in Australia, to ensure that we spend our money on the right thing. We know the current situation is not ideal, but it is temporary.

Grounds Development: As you are all aware we have a very large site to develop, which will require considerable funding over time. The BOT has planned a staged approach to developing our grounds and has committed funding in 2016 for the completion of the bike track (to alleviate pressure on the scooter track), the first 3 stages of the planting plan (designed in 2015 by Kamo Marsh Landscape Architects), and the further development of our play equipment to ensure that we have appropriate challenges for all levels of confidence. The estimated cost to the board is \$100,000. We have also asked the PTA for support in raising funds to allow for the provision of shade sails in the swimming pool complex, at an estimated cost of \$45,000.

Sport and Kapa haka Uniforms: We have this week secured funding to allow for the purchase of completely new sports kit for each of our teams, and also for the creation of new outfits for our kapa haka group. The teachers responsible for these areas will now work through the process for determining our needs, so that we don't have our representative groups wearing old kit.

Breakfast Club

The purpose of Breakfast Club is to ensure that students who require breakfast feel they have access to appropriate food without any questions being asked. KickStart Breakfast aims to help more children achieve their best by getting a kick start to their day to provide both strength and energy for maximum learning at school. This programme runs with support from the Government, Sanitarium and Fonterra.

The design of our new buildings means that in each learning studio we are able to offer Weetbix, milk and fruit every morning to any children who come to school hungry – no questions and no judgement. Each learning studio will supply bowls, spoons, a place to eat, and the resources required to wash the dishes and clean up.

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

Calendar of Events

March

11	School Assembly 9.15am
	Grounds Working Bee 9 -10.30
16	PTA Coffee Morning
17	Zone Swimming Sports Jellie Park
18	Grounds Working Bee 9 – 10.30
25	Good Friday – School Closed
28	Easter Monday – School Closed
29	Easter Tuesday – All Schools Closed
30	Whanau Hui

April

6	PTA Meeting 7.30
7	Canterbury Swimming Champs BOT Meeting 6.30pm
11 - 14	Learning Conversations
15	Term 1 ends

School Notices

2016 School Accounts

You will have received your child's current school account.

Funds from School donations are an important part of the school budget and allow us to provide superior resources for our students. Payment of the donation is voluntary.

Activity donations go towards the costs of equipment, experiences, and services which are extra to the school's curriculum obligations. They also go towards curriculum based activities which involve a 'take home' component for the student to keep. Rāwhiti School's activity donation is paid per activity.

Parents are invoiced for costs relating to sport and class activities, cultural performances, and Technicraft fees for years 7 and 8. The cost of transport to Phillipstown for Technicraft is funded by the Ministry of Education.

We encourage you to make regular weekly payments to help with budgeting school expenses. Our bank account number is: 03 0814 0000333 25. Please put your child's name as a reference.

Eft-pos is available in the school office and if cash is been sent to school, please put in a sealed envelope with your child's name, room number and reason for payment . In all instances if payment for an event/trip is going to be difficult for you we encourage you to contact the school office as soon as possible to discuss options with you.

Tane Mahuta Trip

The cost of the above trip happening in Tane Mahuta is \$5.00 please talk to us if you have any concerns regarding this payment. This needs to be paid by Monday 14th. Please make the payment at the office or you can do this on line. The account number is 03 0814 0000333 25. Please make sure you put down your name.

Easter Break

School is closed for the Easter break on March 25th (Good Friday), March 28th (Easter Monday) and also on Easter Tuesday March 29th. All schools are closed on this Tuesday.



Rookwood Ave/Bowhill Road Roundabout

A number of our children have to negotiate this roundabout on the way too and from school each day. It's a very busy spot, and not all children judge traffic flow and speed accurately. We are wondering if there are parents who would be prepared to help out by being a presence at this roundabout and helping children cross safely – as there is no designated crossing point. Please contact helen@rawhiti.school.nz if you think you can help.

Board of Trustees Elections

Have you thought of standing, or know of someone you think should stand for the Board of Trustees at Rāwhiti? Trustee elections are in May of this year and nominations close at noon on Friday the 20th May. Please discuss the role with a Trustee you know (Karen Brandon, Jonny Langley, Jen Evans, Janet Carson, Tammi Martin or Elizabeth Kazmierczak) or make an appointment with me if you have any questions. Being on the BOT requires a time commitment of 5-8 hours a month – including meeting time, preparation for meetings and strategic actions or tasks allocated. If you are interested in standing for election, please come along and observe at our next meeting meeting on Thursday April 7th at 6.30pm.

Pta News

The PTA 's first coffee morning this term will be on next Wednesday 16th March from 9.00 am in the library area. This is a chance to catch up with other parents and caregivers and recharge before the rest of your day. All are welcome including pre-schoolers and drinks and food will be provided. Look forward to seeing you there!

The PTA held its AGM last week and we now have a committee of over 30 members and lots of projects to get stuck into. We'll be introducing PTA members to you all soon and there will also be PTA 'reps' in each learning space. If you're keen to be involved in the PTA or as an occasional helper, we welcome you. The next PTA meeting will be on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm. Any queries to pta@rawhiti.school.nz

We have earned 11 free movie passes from Reading Cinemas at the Palms thanks to parents handing in coupons when they bought their movie tickets. These passes are great for using as prizes or rewards for students. The scheme is still running at Reading and we'll leave some extra coupon sheets at the office if you're planning a movie trip anytime soon!

Community Notices

Agape Trust OSCAR After School Programme

Monday- Friday 3pm - 6pm school terms

Pick ups from school to our premises @ 118 Shortland Street

CYF approved

\$13.50 per session (3-6pm) WINZ subsidies may apply

To register please contact Emma on 022-697-7658

or email oscaragapetrust@gmail.com

You can also check us out on [www/facebook.com/AgapeTrustChristchurch](http://www.facebook.com/AgapeTrustChristchurch)

AIR FORCE MUSEUM Holiday Programme

We've got you covered. Don't stand out. Become truly invisible. We'll make it disappear. We're so good at this, you won't know we're there. Join us for the Air Force Museum's April OSCAR-endorsed school holiday programme.

'Hiding in Plain Sight' - 18-29 April 2016

Ages: 5 -12 years

Cost: \$38 per day, Full week: \$175

Hours: Half day 8.30am – 12.30 noon, Full day 8.30am – 3.00pm

Bookings Essential: Please contact the Public Programmes Team on 03 343 9504 or email programmes@airforcemuseum.co.nz



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Kids Linen - Rugs - Sheeting - Cushions - Gifts & more...

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Fri 18th - Sun 20th March 10am-4pm
3 days only Rangī Ruru School Prefab, Rossall St entrance (opposite Holmwood Shops)