



Newsletter 1: 11th February 2016

From the Principal
Kia ora koutou

Welcome home!

It is overwhelmingly satisfying to welcome you all to a new year of inquiry and discovery at Rāwhiti School. Every year we work towards another opening day – and each school year begins with lots of new things - a new start, a new year level, new teachers, and many new school initiatives to enjoy.

However, this year is 'newer' than normal!

Preparing for this new year has been a bit like preparing for a major Hollywood production. This amazing site is our stage, our learning studios are the sets, and just like set designers our teachers have all worked with enthusiasm, flair and creativity to design colourful and carefully thought out learning spaces to inspire and motivate our students. The planning process for delivering learning is like writing the script for a play – determining what themes, concepts, contexts and learning activities will captivate the imagination and inspire and engage our learners. I'm sure there will be a bit of improvisation involved as well - as things are adjusted and reworked to meet the needs of the students as the term unfolds

All of you - students, teachers and whanau – are now the players on this stage, engaging fully in the opportunities our place will offer.

As I said at the powhiri last Wednesday, schools are about people – and so for me this place is all about you. It is about finally being here after a year of talking about it, imagining it, looking forward to it, and sometime being anxious about it. It is about finally arriving, it is about becoming part of this place, the guardians of this place. It is about putting our feet in the right place and standing firm - knowing that we don't have to pack up and leave again until our age dictates that we must.

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank all of you who have helped out over the past few weeks with moving in, watering the grass, mowing the lawns, weeding, making us morning tea, and sending us flowers and kind wishes.

Our place is not finished yet – we are still waiting on some key components, such as bag storage and new furniture to come, so we very much appreciate your patience. Landscaping will be a work in progress for some time to come.

Official Building Opening

Tomorrow morning our new school buildings will be officially opened by the Minister of Education. This is an opportunity for us to acknowledge all of those involved in the building process, and what our school represents as part of the Christchurch rebuild.

All parents are welcome to attend this short assembly in the Whare Tapere (hall) at 10 am. Those attending are asked to be in place by 9.45 am ahead of the Ministers arrival. There will be reserved seating in the hall for our invited guests and dignitaries. Other limited seating will be available, and you are also welcome to gather on the area outside the front of the hall, provided the exits are kept clear.

Leaver Terrace Traffic

Over the holiday period the City Council completed some of their planned street works. We are all aware that parking is at a premium outside the school – and this is something that is out of our control. However, we can all now work together to ensure that our children are able to get to and from the school gate safely.

There will be a Kea Crossing outside the main pedestrian access – the road markings are in place, but the barrier arm controls are still to come. However, we are supervising this crossing morning and afternoon to ensure children have a safe place to cross in the meantime.

The raised speed bump with the white crosses is not a pedestrian crossing – but many of you are choosing to cross your children at this point. This is causing concern because of its location right on the corner of Grantley Street and Leaver Terrace.

Please also note that the angle parking outside the school has a 3 minute time limit and is designed for drop off and pick up only.

You will see a message about Walk or Wheel to School day further on in this newsletter.

School Uniform

Our children look vibrant in their new school uniforms and it is wonderful to see all 510 children in the correct uniform. We do have an issue with the quality of the printing on the senior jackets that we are working through with the supplier, and we will keep our Year 7 & 8 parents informed as it is likely that the jackets will need to be returned.

Please note that school sun hats are a mandatory part of the school uniform in terms 1 and 4. If you have still not purchased a sunhat for your child don't hesitate to contact Cheryl or Jan in the office. They can issue your child with a sunhat and charge it to your school account. We also have fabric pens in the office to name sun hats. Children not wearing sunhats have to spend break times in a restricted shade area.

There are a number of students wearing bright coloured, striped or patterned socks. Our uniform specifies that plain black or white are the only acceptable socks. Hair accessories should also be in school colours only.

Children wearing non-regulation items of uniform will be asked to remove them.

Music – Not Bells

I am sure you will have heard - one way or another - that we are using music instead of bells to alert children to the fact that it is time to return to class after a break. As with any new system there have been teething problems, but we are working with the installers to balance the sound levels to ensure the music can be heard around the grounds without being deafening in places. We also now know that we can turn the system off on public holidays, as we understand that the neighbourhood was woken to the sounds of Mission Impossible on Monday morning. One local tells me that she nearly got up and ran to school!

We will experiment with various pieces of music and it is our intention to let the children have a say as to what is played.

We are no longer ringing a bell to release children for breaks. This is a very old habit that stems from the industrial age when bells or alarms were used to inform factory employees it was time to stop working. We don't need a bell to tell children it is time to stop or start learning! Teachers will release children for their breaks at the most appropriate time, and the music is a reminder that it is time to start heading back to class. Plus it's fun – it is lovely to see children running back to class with smiles on their faces.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Liz Weir

Calendar of Events



February

- 12 Feb: 10 am Official opening of school
- 17 Feb: Year 8 Camp
- 25 Feb: 6.30 pm BOT Meeting

School Notices

Technicraft 2016

Year 7 and 8 Technicraft starts on Monday 15th February. The cost this year is \$45.00 per student. A form was sent home yesterday with your child. Payment can be made online, 03 0814 0000333 25 (please put your child's name as a reference), in the office with cash or Eft Pos. You may also like to pay this cost off on a regular basis. If payment is causing you concern please come and talk to Cheryl or Jan and we can discuss options with you.

Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day

The city council is supporting our school by sponsoring a Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day next Wednesday February 17th.

To participate your child will need to walk, cycle or scoot the last 10 minutes of their journey to school (approx 700 meters if walking).

By enabling your child or children to take part in Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day, your family goes in the draw for a \$20 Warehouse voucher.

An entry form is available from your child's studio.

PTA News

The PTA's Sausage Sizzle is starting again from next **Friday 19th February**. We will be taking orders and students will be picking up their sausage on Fridays from the same place – the small kitchen at the front of the hall.

Thank you to all the parents who have offered to help us out with the sausage sizzle this year, that's fantastic, we appreciate it!

You can 'pre-pay' your sausage for the term. There are 8 Fridays this term so you it is \$12 for one sausage per child per week.

Here's how to do it:

1. Deposit the money in the PTA Bank Account: **03-0814-0000317-00**
2. Use this reference: SausageX?/Name/Room
Eg 'SausageX1/JohnnyB/TaneMahuta'
3. Email us at pta@rawhiti.school.nz to say you've made the payment.
We'll then write your child's name in the order book for the whole term. Easy!

Finally, if you are interested in joining the PTA this year or becoming a 'friend' of the PTA please email us at pta@rawhiti.school.nz or text Steph on 021-136-5391. We'd love to have you on-board. The more the merrier!



Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day

17 February 2016 Family Entry Form

Dear Parent/Carer

The Christchurch City Council is sponsoring our school to hold a Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day on Wednesday 17 February 2016.

One of the easiest ways of ensuring that children are fit and healthy is for them to travel actively to and from school each day.

Children who walk supervised to school also learn how to keep themselves safe when crossing roads and streets.

To participate in the Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day your child or children will need to walk, cycle or scooter the last ten minutes of their journey to school (approximately 700 metres if walking).

By enabling your child or children to take part in the Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day, your family goes in for a draw for a \$20 Warehouse voucher.

Please fill the form below and have it returned to school with your walking, cycling or scooting child or children on 17 February 2016, the Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day.

Thank you.

This is to certify that (my child/children's name/s)

walked, cycled or scooted at least ten minutes to school today (or all the way if they live within ten minutes' walk of the school).

Name of parent/carer:

Contact phone number:

I understand that the winning entry will be drawn by our school principal (or a person they delegate) after the conclusion of the Walk or Wheel Safely to School Day activities on the morning of 17 February 2016. The school will advise the Christchurch City Council of the number of entries received and arrange for the prize to be presented to the winner.

Travel Choice



Christchurch City Council

Road Safety Tips for Families

Here are some important things to do to help keep your children safe when walking and cycling to and from school.



Walking

- Be a good role model for your children. Children learn by watching others, especially parents and carers.
- As much as possible walk with your children to and from school. This is the best way for them to learn how to keep themselves safe on our streets.
- Cross at the school patrol when it is operating, and never cross downstream of a patrolled crossing. Drivers will be focussing upon the school crossing point and won't expect you to be elsewhere on the road. Your children will follow your example. If you always cross with the school patrol so will they. If you don't, they may not when you are not present, and they will not have your ability to judge when it is safe to cross.
- Listen and look for vehicles exiting driveways. Be aware that the vision of drivers may be restricted. They may not see you and your children on the footpath.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars. You may be able to see on-coming traffic but your children can't, and they may not be seen by drivers.
- When collecting a child, go to where they are. Never call a child across the road to you. They may run across, heedless of traffic.

Cycling

- Make sure your child's cycle helmet fits and is being worn correctly, so it will protect your child's head should they come off their bike.
- Keep your child's cycle in good working order, ensuring that the brakes work, the tyres are pumped up, and all levers and bolts are tight.
- Teach your child the road rules. They must obey the same rules as drivers.
- Teach your child to signal their intentions clearly, and to make eye contact with others, especially at intersections. This way they can be sure they have been seen.
- Teach your child to be courteous on shared pathways, especially to people walking or those in wheelchairs.

