

25th February 2016

**Kia ora koutou
From the Principal**

Thank you to all those who came along to be part of our official building opening. I think you will all agree that our children were the highlight of the day, and I would like to acknowledge our Kapa Haka group for the stunning way they opened proceedings and welcomed our official guests, Alex (Yr 8) for the confidence and dignity he demonstrated in leading the entire audience (of over 700) in karakia, and Stella and Petra for carrying out the cake cutting duties as our oldest and youngest pupils.



We live in exciting times, and our children's experiences of learning in this amazing new environment will most certainly prepare them for their future lives.



It is so good to have our swimming pool up and running – and heated! This has been a major project, and we owe huge thanks to the BOT and PTA for funding the \$150,000 required to get us to this point. We would also like to acknowledge Ian Coombes Ltd for all their advice and work, and our hard working caretaker Georgina Lloyd for the hours she has spent getting the water quality just right for swimming. Special thank you also to Andrew Stechman, a Rāwhiti parent, who has spent hours of his holiday time cleaning and waterblasting the changing sheds, repairing and staining the pool seating areas, and tackling anything that stood in the way of getting the pool open for business. Extraordinary effort team – and an extraordinary facility for our children.

'Open Home' at Rāwhiti Next Wednesday 5.30pm

We know that some of you have still not been able to get to school to have a look around our new place. Next Wednesday evening we will be holding an 'Open Home' from 5.30pm. You are all welcome to come along, bring a picnic tea to have in our grounds, and have a nosey around our new spaces. Our teachers will be on hand to show you around the learning studios and answer any questions you may have. Please come along to connect with new families, new teachers and our new surroundings.

Our senior students will be offering a Sausage Sizzle between 5.30 and 6.30pm. No orders, first in first served.

Our PTA is holding their AGM at 7.30pm that evening, I know lots of you will be staying on for that and getting involved in the PTA's activities for the year.

Bikes in School Project

I am delighted to be able to share with you all the amazing news that Rāwhiti School has received an anonymous donation of \$50,000 towards our planned Bikes in Schools project. This project includes a

package of bikes and helmets, purpose built bike storage, and the construction of a number of bike tracks within our grounds, each designed for a specific purpose - riding track, skills track, pump track. This package, combined with some cycle skills training, will allow all our students to be able to ride a bike safely and regularly at school, and will be an incredible resource for our wider community.

We are looking to get underway with this project as soon as possible, and this generous funding will make the dream come true. Thank you – whoever you are – for recognising a need in our community and making it happen. If biking is your passion, you have some skills to contribute and want to be part of this development then please contact Paul Wilkinson who is heading up this project for us. paul@rawhiti.school.nz

Helping Out – Friday morning Working Bees

Our incredible caretaker has been working overtime these past few weeks to get key areas of the school grounds up and running. You can all see, from the size of our site, what a big job she has on her hands! For the month of March we are going to hold Friday morning working bees to help Georgina get through a few more of the things on her list. If you are available between **9am and 10.30am** then we would love to have your help – gardening, grounds tidying, raking bark, mowing, shifting hoses around, unpacking and setting up the garage spaces etc. We will have a list of jobs each Friday morning. Please bring your own garden tools along.

If you are able to come along on either March 4th, 11th or 18th then please email admin@rawhiti.school.nz so we know how many savouries to get for morning tea.

Rāwhiti School Face Book Page

Parents have again made us aware of inappropriate comments being made online and to share their concern about the way the school, our teachers and our families are being criticised at times, often by people who are not involved in our school in any way.

We are aware that there are two Facebook pages that include Rāwhiti School in their name. Our official Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/RawhitiSchool or you can follow the direct link from our school website www.rawhiti.school.nz. We do not administer, view or contribute to any other page and therefore information shared on any other page is not endorsed by the school.

We always invite feedback, both positive and negative, on the performance of the school, as we are accountable for the learning and wellbeing of Rāwhiti students. We will not respond to issues via social media, however our door will continue to be open for Rāwhiti School families to ask questions and share any concerns.

Our primary goal is to create the best learning environment for the students of our school. We encourage open communication and prefer that parents come to us to talk through a problem rather than discuss it in the community. If you need to meet with someone to discuss an important issue and the matter requires their undivided attention please make an appointment so they can prepare for the meeting. We usually find that constructive discussion resolves most issues.

Car Park

Please be aware that our onsite car park is for staff and emergency parking only, not for parents dropping off or picking up children. Parking in the driveway is not permitted. There are two designated mobility parking spaces in the car park that can only be used by vehicles displaying valid mobility parking permits. Parents with the correct permits are welcome to use these spaces at any time. A reminder also not to bike through the car park. We are teaching our children who bike to school to use the eastern pathway as their entrance, and have placed the bike stands at the end of this pathway. Thank you for respecting our request and for helping keep our whanau safe.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa
Liz Weir

Calendar of Events

February

- 26 Assembly 9.15am
Tāne Mahuta Triathlon 2.00pm

March

- 2 'Open Home' Picnic at school 5.30pm
PTA AGM 7.00pm
3 Tawhitimātea Triathlon
8 Duffy Theatre performance 11.00am
9 N/E afternoon tea and parent meeting 2.00- 3.00pm
10 Rāwhiti School Swimming Sports
17 Zone Swimming Sports Jellie Park



These children have shared fantastic work with Liz, Paul or Helen this week.

Rongo-mā-tāne: Jakob.

School Notices

2016 School Accounts

Along with today's newsletter you will have received your child's current school account, either via email or given to your child

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.

Snapshot from Tangaroa

It's Friday 12th of February. There is a big assembly involving the Ministry of Education. As I walk down past the big glass studios that tower over me, I see guests flooding in through the school's entrances. I quickly run to the main drive and stand there with a big welcoming smile on my face, my cheeks are burning with pain because of the stiff position they're in. I see important men and women in suits tapping at their iPhone. It's almost like you can pick out who the most important people are. They're prim and proper and groomed nicely. I welcome them, stumbling upon the words that come out of my mouth as I direct them towards the hall.

Hollie

PTA News

Thank you to all those who came along to the PTA's meet and greet event last week. It was great to see new faces and our medium size team looks set to turn into a happy army of helpers! There is always space for more members and friends of the PTA who can help out on an occasional basis (Dads welcome too), so if you would like to be involved in some way, please drop an email to pta@rawhiti.school.nz or come along to the PTA annual general meeting next Wednesday 2 March at 7.30pm in the meeting room next to the school office.

Our first sausage sizzle this term went off with a pop and a bang. Orders are taken each Friday before school at the hall kitchen window. Deliveries are made to Papatuanuku and Rongo mā tāne, and other classes collect from the kitchen window. With two or more queues operating last Friday none of the children had to wait long to be served.

We are collecting the old temporary Rāwhiti T-shirts to send on a container to children in Fiji. Please place shirts in (good washed condition only please) in the box in the hall by 3pm next Monday 29 Feb.

Holiday Camp

There are positions available for our students at the April school Holidays Camp. Students who have attended these camps in the past have really enjoyed them. If you are interested in your child /ren attending please call into the school office for an application form. Applications close 21st March.

Year 7 & 8 students - 20-24 April 2016 at Woodend Camp.

Year 5 & 6 students - 18-22 April 2016 at Waipara Adventure Centre.

Community Notices

North Beach Scout Group

Keas/Cubs/Scouts

Adventure Plus; come and make new friends and take part in some fun and exciting activities, games and crafts.

Contact Terry for more information on 0211735606.

Kiwi Tennis Coaching

Tuition for 5 – 8 yr olds.

Commencing 16th March 2016, this a once-a-week (Wednesdays) 6 week after school programme from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

CONTACT: Varinia 352-5202 or [email: nbtc@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:nbtc@hotmail.co.nz)

North Beach coffee shed

North Beach Coffee Shed is at the end of Leaver Terrace

Open from 7am to 3.30pm .

Family Free Movie Night

Saturday 27th February

Come along and enjoy a FREE Family Friendly Movie.

@ 180 Queenspark Drive, Parklands Baptist Community Church.

Movie starts at 6.30pm

Can you help

We have a school family looking for a house to rent from 1st April.

If you have any suggestions please contact the school office and we can pass on contact details.

