



Newsletter #13 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 18th August 2023

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou,

As of today we are half way through the term - and today there is a bit of a Spring feeling in the air. Our next cohort of new entrant children have been having their final visits this week in preparation for starting school on Monday morning.

Many of our Year 7&8 students have been up at Mt Hutt skiing today and they couldn't have asked for better weather. It was also fine on Tuesday meaning that the Winter Tournament could go ahead. This weeks inter-school Chess tournament went very well for our 4 representatives, and the ICAS exams have also been a focus for many.

Winter sport wraps up for the season today, and we want to thank all of the parents and friends of the school who have coached, managed and supported teams throughout the season. Our Rāwhiti children love sport, and we can only field the number of teams that we do when we have willing helpers prepared to brave the elements each Friday afternoon for 10 weeks.

It is only 2 weeks since our whole school movie afternoon reward, but the token box in the office is full to bursting again this week - meaning that we have been seeing lots of positive behaviour in the playground. I know that there is a treat in store for everyone next week.

There is a lot of information in todays newsletter so please do read on.

continues on next page ...



**Mark Your
Calendar**

AUGUST

- 19th Sau Ia Pasifika Festival,
- 25th Icy Slicey Day
- 29-30 Y4 Noho Marae, TM
- 30-31 Y4 Noho Marae, TWM/AH
- 31st PTA AGM, 7pm
- 31Aug- 1 Sep Y6 Noho Marae

SEPTEMBER

- 5-8 PTA Book Fair
- 5th PTA 2nd Hand Clothing Sale, 2pm—4pm
- 5-7 Learning Conversations
- 6th Strum Strike Blow, 5.30pm
- 8th Book Character Dress Up Day
- 11th Board of Trustees Meeting
- 14th Canterbury Winter Tournament
- 19-21 Koru Games
- 22nd Assembly, 9.15am
- 22nd Last Day of Term 3

OCTOBER

- 9th First Day of Term 4
- 18th School Photos
- 23rd SCHOOL CLOSED—Labour Day



*From The Principal continued ...***Learning Conversations**

Bookings are now open for the upcoming Learning Conversations on Sept 5th, 6th and 7th. Learning Conversations are one of the ways that we communicate with parents about their child's learning.

A Learning Conversation is a meeting run by the student for his or her parents/caregivers, entirely focused on the student's recent learning. During the Learning Conversation the student presents work in different curriculum areas, discussing the process of learning and the progress made to date.

The purpose of Learning Conversations is for students to display learner agency (ownership of their learning) and to help them take personal responsibility for their progress. It is a chance for them to share their learning journey with whanau (family) and friends. In the traditional parent-teacher conference, students were "third parties" to assessment, hearing about their progress through the grapevine of teachers and parents.

Developing students' ability to reflect on and talk about their learning and their progress makes a difference. We believe that student involvement in the conferences makes learning more active, provides better opportunities for students to evaluate their performance, and encourages students to accept greater responsibility for their learning. Having students take charge of the conference makes them more accountable for what they are learning. This principle is consistent with effective pedagogy and assessment within in the New Zealand Curriculum.

How do the Learning Conversations work? Learning Conversations are for 30 minutes. Multiple student lead conversations will be held at the same time in your child's studio. You will be involved in a variety of activities during the time — looking at samples of learning, doing an activity to support learning, talking about goals and what your child, you and the teacher might do to support these goals, looking at work around the classroom. During the Learning Conversation, your child's teacher/s will spend some time with you. This time will allow the teacher to expand on the information your child has shared or for you to clarify something if necessary.

Details on how to book your Learning Conversation can be found further on in this newsletter.

Covid 19

We have certainly had our share of winter illness over the last couple of weeks, with absence numbers back up at 2022 levels with over 100 away each day. Staff sickness has also been high, which is very challenging for us due to the lack of day relief teachers available to call on.

Since the beginning of August we have had 23 new Covid cases reported. You will no doubt be aware that the regulation requiring a 7 day isolation period for those who have tested positive for Covid, was lifted at 12.01am on Tuesday morning.

While the regulation has changed, the **recommendations** have not. It is recommended those who test positive for Covid do not attend work or school for a period of 5 days, or longer if they are still feeling symptomatic or unwell. This is in the interests of public health.

From The Principal continued ...

As always we would advise that if your child is unwell - with Covid or any other seasonal illness - that they stay at home until they are symptom free to help contain any spread.

Cellphones at School

The issue of cellphones at school hit the media last week, prompting several of you to ask what is the approach here at Rāwhiti. We understand that many of you send children to school with a personal cell phone to make communication easier in the event of an emergency. Children who bring cell phones to school do so at their own risk. The school does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage.

Phones are not to be used to communicate with others or connect to social media during the school day. Phones are to be away, out of sight - preferably in a school bag. Students are welcome to hand their cell-phone to their teachers for safe keeping during the day and we have lockable facilities in each learning studio.

If there is an urgent need for communication that cannot wait until the end of the school day, students and parents can make contact through the school office. Children must ask a teacher before contacting parents using their cellphone. We request that parents do not phone their children directly during the school day.

Our students must not use the Internet, email, mobile phones or any ICT equipment to be mean, rude, offensive, or to bully, harass, or in any way harm anyone else connected to our school, or the school itself, even if it is meant as a 'joke.'

If your child has been misusing their cellphone at school you will be notified and asked to work with us on a reasonable solution.

Board of Trustees Strategic Planning

In the past it's been the board's responsibility to create annual school charters. These were key documents that informed the school's leadership of where we were headed as a kura, and the values we hoped to instil in our students along the way. There are new planning and reporting requirements that came into effect in January 2023 and schools are required to create new strategic plans under the new framework by 1 January 2024. This year we are beginning the work to create our new strategic plan, with an annual implementation plan flowing directly from this in 2024.

Over the next year, the Board is going to be asking you all some questions to help them set the schools direction.

To get the ball rolling throughout the week of September 4th-8th - which happens to coincide with the Learning Conversations and the PTA Book Fair. we are going to be asking you to rate our current goals to see if they are still relevant to you, if any major change is needed, or if they are even understandable. Those goals are:

From The Principal continued ...

Our Learners: The RISE values and dispositions are the focus of our curriculum. We will know we have been successful when our learners are engaged and supported in learning that is relevant, challenging, and accessible to all.

Our Staff: Enhanced hauora for our staff. We will know we have been successful when our staff are well equipped to respond positively to workplace challenges and opportunities in ways that maintain and promote wellbeing.

Our Community: Strong partnerships with our community. We will know we have been successful when our community contributes to, understands, and supports the learning and culture of Rāwhiti School.

Mindfulness

We are going to start sharing with you the content of the Mindfulness sessions that happen here at school in each Learning Studio, led by Erica from Mindful Schools. You'll find this info in the School Notices section of the newsletter, along with some suggestions from Erica for reinforcing this learning at home. From time to time we seek feedback from the children about what impact, if any, these sessions are having. Here are some recent comments from Year 3-6 students:

- "I have learnt ways to take deep breaths and I have also learnt how to control my stress so I don't freak out."
- "Something that I have always struggled on is thinking before doing and this really helped. I still am not the best at it but baby steps!"
- "I have learnt to ask for help from a teacher when I think an argument is going to happen."
- "I learnt to breathe in and out and I have learnt that when you are annoyed that you can do mindfulness."
- "There are no bad feelings and even if things don't go your way it's ok."

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Liz Weir
Principal

Visit to Art Gallery & Tūranga

Last week the group working with Lisa Harding, the weaver working with us through Creatives in Schools, went into the city to get design inspiration for their project. The group looked at the woven tile mats Ngā Whāriki Maanaaki that are positioned along the river and at Victoria Square, and at the tukutuku panels on display at Tūranga. The group also visited the Art Gallery to view Te Rā, the 200-year-old Māori sail that is on loan from the British

museum. The group was fascinated with the very fine weaving and how it was constructed. They were also interested in the kāhu and kererū feathers and dog-skin, which were integrated into the design and are seen as highly prized materials in te ao Māori and symbols of status.

Principal's Award

Well done to Seth who got a Principal's Award for his good writing.



Mindfulness: Riding the Waves of Emotions

This week in our mindfulness lessons we learned how our emotions are like waves throughout our day. We may be calm one moment, but the next moment something happens and we're into a big emotion.



We learned that this is normal and that we can learn how to surf those waves. When we stop and notice our emotions, we learn that we don't have to get stuck in them. Mindfulness helps us pay attention to what is happening right now with kindness and curiosity, not judging, berating, or condemning.

You can reinforce this lesson at home by practicing with your child and asking these questions:

- How are emotions like a wave?
- What emotions are like the top part of a wave, and what emotions are on the bottom?

Bed time: Perhaps talk with your child about all the emotions they experienced that day--not judging them, just noticing them.

In the community: Riding on the bus or in a car with your child, help them look for emotions in other people--just noticing, not judging--and see if they have ever felt that way.

2024 Term Dates

The Board of Trustees has set the school dates for the 2024 year. The first day of school will be Wednesday, January 31st and the last day for 2024 will be Tuesday, December 17th.

Ciena Jump for Students Fund

If you don't have an in-home internet connection, or cost is a barrier, the Ciena Jump for Students Fund can now be accessed through select local libraries. To be eligible, there needs to be cell tower capacity at your home address. This can be checked online <https://www.skinny.co.nz/jump/home/#checkmyaddress> or you can text your home address to 0204 0234 222 and they can check your address.

You will find a flier with all of the details further on in this newsletter.

Icy Slicey Fundraiser

Next Friday 25th August will be an icy slicey day.

Students will be given an icy slicey to eat in their studio if they have handed in their form and money to the office no later than 3pm Wednesday 23rd August. The cost is \$1.50 per icy slicey.

Your child should bring home an order form in the next few days.



The advertisement features a yellow background with the Skinny Jump logo at the top left. The main headline reads "Free broadband for the school year" in large, bold, orange letters, with the subtext "Supporting students to learn from home" below it. In the center, there is an illustration of a woman and a child looking at a laptop. A speech bubble from the laptop contains the word "ciena" and a diagram of a network. Below the illustration, there are four orange boxes with white icons and text: "Free 210GB of data every month" (with a Wi-Fi icon), "No cost No contract*" (with a "FREE" icon), "Free modem" (with a modem icon), and "Until the end of the 2023 school year" (with a calendar icon).

To check if Skinny Jump and Ciena Fund is available for your home

Text your Address to 0204 0234 222

**if you already have a prepaid Skinny Jump wireless modem, please text to transfer to free broadband. You'll need your Broadband Number (E.g. 0204 ### ####) written on your modem.*

GCSN coordinates The Ciena Jump for Student Fund project in partnership with Christchurch City Libraries.



Chess

On Tuesday 15th August our very first Rāwhiti School Year 7&8 chess team competed in the Canterbury Regional Tournament held at Avonhead School. Although most of the competition had played tournaments before, our team were excited to attend and played extremely well. Each team member played seven games in total. Angus and Jed both won four of their seven games, only narrowly missing out on third place by one point. Jack played hard, winning two and holding two opponents to a draw. Mason also had some very long and challenging games holding opponents to draws and he, like all the team, showed great resilience on the day. They all now have official chess ratings and are already plotting new strategies for the next tournament.



Book Learning Conversations Here!



[CLICK HERE](#) to book learnings conversations from 5-7th September, or you can head to:

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the code:

v27sj

**Rawhiti School PTA
AGM 2023**

Would you like to share your skillset and time with the Rawhiti School PTA ?

Nominations are OPEN for Executive Committee Positions:
Co-Chairpeople (2), Co-Treasurers (2) & Co-Secretaries (2)
Please register your interest for these positions
via email before Friday 25th August 2023

or simply come along and join our supportive PTA Committee

**Thursday 31st August
at 7:00pm
School Staff Room**

Open for all
No experience required

Registrations require name, email, phone # and detail of school connection. PTA@rawhiti.school.nz

PTA AGM - Thurs 31st August, 7:00pm in Staff room

SOME VALID REASONS TO...
join our PTA

- #1 Your Child Benefits**
The PTA is an important part of the school and it helps to enrich your Child's school experience. Our 'FUN-RAISING' has provided extras to the school including contributions to the bike track, pool, playground & much more
- #2 To Make A Difference**
Alongside raising funds, the PTA organises events & works as a volunteer hub. The PTA actively organises recycling incentives, community fitness offerings & has in the past hosted Parent info evenings.
- #3 We Have Fun**
Being a valued member of the PTA is a fun and rewarding experience. We collaborate to deliver fantastic events where Parents/Caregivers can make new connections and build relationships with the school staff and teaching teams.
- #4 Make Friends**
Many friendships develop from being part of the PTA. Volunteering your time, sharing your skillset and working towards a common goal is a really rewarding experience. Many long lasting friendships are formed under the PTA umbrella.
- HELLO #5 Feel Involved**
Every Parent/Caregiver is welcome to attend our meetings and we love to see new members. Please consider coming along to our meetings or volunteer a few hours of your time at an event. It is a great way to get involved and feel part of the school community.

- #6 Give A Helping Hand**
We realise that everyone is busy, so we encourage job sharing roles within the PTA. Many hands make light work, so if more people come forward we can share the work making it fun for everyone.
- #7 Keep Our PTA Going**
As families move on from the school, there is a real danger that there will no longer be a PTA to carry on providing this valued resource. Please do consider helping - you won't regret it!

Rawhiti School PTA - 150 Leaver Terrace, Christchurch
PTA@Rawhiti.School.NZ



Rawhiti School

Scholastic Book Fair Hours

Tuesday 5th Sept 8:30am – 9:30am
 2:45pm – 4:45pm

Wednesday 6th Sept 2:45pm – 4:45pm

Thursday 7th Sept 2:45pm – 7:30pm
 "Night in the Library"

Coincide your learning conversation with a visit!

NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

WHEN: THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
 TIME: 3.30 TO 7.30 PM
 WHERE: RĀWHITI SCHOOL LIBRARY

In 2021 our Scholastic Book Fair was very popular - sadly that book fair was disrupted by a snap nationwide lock down - so we missed the chance to see the whole fair through 😞 - the PTA are thrilled to have another opportunity to bring this to the Rawhiti community - running the fair alongside the learning conversations and a second-hand uniform stall ... lots happening!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open to the community at Rāwhiti School from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th September. It is effectively a mobile bookshop which allows you the chance to browse and purchase some great bargains for your whanau - proceeds from the profits enable Elizabeth & her team to stock up our school library shelves - making the already incredible library resources even better! Books make great Christmas presents; we'd love to see you pop in!

We simply cannot run these events without volunteer support.

Can you spare some time to help run the Scholastic Book Fair in September? Specifically, setting up the fair, finding books, selling books and packing down the fair when it's all over. 10 different time slots available.

Please complete the form link below or email us PTA@rawhiti.school.nz

No experience necessary. <https://volunteersignup.org/HJ07X>

