



Newsletter #3 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 14th March 2024

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou, We are into the second half of the term, which means that our second cohort of new entrants for the year has started. They had a very active start, arriving just in time to take part in the Walk or Wheel to school activities and the junior Try-athlon.



There has been plenty of other action over the past two weeks. Everyone enjoyed the Strike performance - and we could see that you certainly have to be very fit and active to play percussion instruments. Events like this are free for Rāwhiti students due to our involvement in the School Donation scheme.



We have had the St Johns educators here working with some of the children in the middle and senior school. While the bandaging sessions looked like a lot of fun the overall message was a serious one - how to take action and be safe in an emergency situation.



Best of luck to those who are representing our school at the zone swimming sports tomorrow, and a big thank you to Jane and Briar who have been taking extra swimming sessions before school so that our swimmers are well prepared. It has been a bit chilly some mornings, which shows the dedication of the team.



MARCH

- 15th Zone Swimming
- 18th PCT Cowles Stadium (Y7/8)
- 18-25 Y6 Cycle Safety
- 19th 1pm School Closing—
Teacher Union Meeting**
- 21st Kapa Haka Duke Festival,
Carnaby Lane
- 22nd Icy Slicey Day
- 22nd Book Club Closes
- 22 Mar—11 April
Life Education
- 25th Board Meeting, 6pm
- 27th Canterbury Swimming
- 29th SCHOOL CLOSED—Good
Friday**

APRIL

- 1&2 SCHOOL CLOSED—Easter**
- 12th Whole School Assembly
- 12th Last Day of Term 1

- 29th First Day of Term 2



From The Principal continued ...

We are all taking this years learning concept of Action very seriously - and on Sunday we have 17 staff taking part in the annual City to Surf event. I hope I don't have to find too many relievers for Monday!

**Ka Ora, Ka Ako - Healthy School Lunches**

The free school lunch programme, Ka Ora, Ka Ako – Healthy School Lunches, was launched by the Labour government in 2019 with the aim of reducing food insecurity, and “putting students in a good place to learn”. Since 2021 students attending Rāwhiti School have had access to this scheme and we have worked effectively with our provider, Compass Group, to create a menu that seems to suit our children, which has in turn reduced waste.

The Associate Education Minister is now reviewing the free school lunches programme ahead of Budget 2024 in May and has stated he wants to cut the programme by up to 50 per cent.

This causes me - and I am sure many of you - great concern. None of us here at school like the idea of offering a free lunch programme that is only available to those who can somehow prove they are poor.

Can I link the free school lunches programme to increased attendance or achievement? Of course I can't. Attendance and engagement are influenced by a broad range of factors, not just free lunches.

However, since 2020 there have been a number of evaluations conducted in different regions and each has concluded that free lunches have contributed to happier and healthier students. We know that here at Rāwhiti, the first thing we noticed was a significant drop-off in the numbers of children presenting at the office in the early afternoons saying that they 'felt sick'. What we frequently found was that these children were hungry, having not had anything to eat since breakfast time.

Yesterday the MP for Christchurch East, Reuben Davidson, visited us at school at lunch time to see the lunches programme in action. He commented on the lovely sense of community that was evident in each learning studio, with the children sitting together, socialising over food. What also stands out here is that there are no children missing out on lunch.

If you can see the benefits of providing a free lunch to Rāwhiti children and would like to show your support you can sign one of the following petitions.

[Sign the 'Save our lunches' petition](#) and
[Labour's Save School Lunches petition](#)



Learning Conversations - Term 2

We would normally have a round of Learning Conversations (aka parent-teacher interviews) at the end of Term 1. In response to some feedback that we gathered last year, we are going to make some changes to our Learning Conversations, and in order to work on that we are going to postpone these until later in the year. You will get more information early in Term 2.

The mornings are definitely feeling more like Autumn than Summer and so we would like to remind parents that children are not allowed into the school grounds any earlier than 8.30am. We would prefer that children walk, bike or use their scooters to get to school and time their arrival for after 8.30am. There is no need for them to wait outside the gate unless they come to school too early. If you are dropping your children at school before 8.30am they are required to wait outside the school gate, and will not be actively supervised.

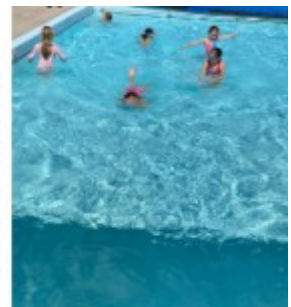


Liz Weir
Principal

Early Finish Tuesday March 19th—1pm

A reminder that teachers will be attending a union meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 19th and we are asking that children are collected from school no later than 1pm to allow teachers to travel to this meeting. If you are not able to make an alternative arrangement for your child on that day, please notify the school office as soon as possible so that we can arrange supervision on site for the afternoon. There will be no teaching programmes taking place that afternoon.

We thank you in advance for your support.



Walk Or Wheel To School Week

Well done to all students who participated in the Walk or Wheel to School activities and filled in their passport card. It was great to see the scooter and bike stands so full each day.



Congratulations to Tāwera who won a prize from the Christchurch City Council for entering one of their Facebook prize draws last week.

Thanks to the Christchurch City Council for the prizes for our lucky dip passport draws, which were delivered to students earlier this week. Prize winners included:

- **Helmet & Drink Bottle** = Harry PTN, Leon PTN, Alex TM
- **Jibbits & Spokey Dokeys** = Aura RMT, Azalea-Rose TM, Niya TNG
- **Jibbits & Shoelaces** = Charlotte TM, Hunter PTN
- **Jibbits & Puncture Repair kits** = Daetyn TWM, Jack TM
- **Scavenger Hunt draw - High Vis vest & Spokey Dokeys or Shoelaces** = Dakota, Theo, Zander, Maisey & Arlo - Aotahi

'Walk or Wheel To School' Survey for parents and whānau (From the Council)

We had an awesome time participating in Walk or Wheel to School Week this year. Christchurch City Council are currently running a survey to gather feedback on the event, and suggestions on improving future events.

All parents and whānau who respond by Friday 24 March will go in the draw to win one of eight \$50 supermarket vouchers.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE WALK OR WHEEL TO SCHOOL SURVEY](#)

Due to the high demand and great feedback we continue to receive, we are expanding and launching another Walk or Wheel to School event in term four, **from 21 - 25 October!**



Icy Slicey Day - Friday 22nd March

Our junior school are fundraising for their wholemeal bread each morning and are selling Icy Slicey's to the whole school. Forms will be coming home on Monday, and money is to be paid at the office before 3pm Wednesday 20th March, so the order can be placed.

This is for children to eat at school on the day—not to buy to take home for others.



Order your Icy Slicey

Icy Slicey Day - Friday 22 March

Order a YUMMIE ice cream slice.

Get your money and order to the office by Wednesday 20 March

Name: _____

Studio: _____

How many slices: _____ @ \$2 each

FORMS COMING HOME MONDAY

Road Patrol Training

Our senior student road patrollers have now completed their training with Constable Jeff and you will see them operating our crossing at the end of each day. Thank you for your support and patience as they undertake this important role to keep our students safe.

Reminder: the red speed hump is not a crossing and cars are not obliged to stop for pedestrians.

