



Newsletter #2 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 27 February 2025

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou e te whanau

As February draws to a close we have much to celebrate.

Our swimming pool is operational once again and getting a very good work out. Lunchtime swimming is as popular as ever, and classes are preparing for the Year 4 to 8 Swimming Sports next Friday morning. We are grateful that the Board of Trustees prudent financial management over the past ten years meant that the filtration system could be replaced instantly.

Our Year 7&8 team had a very successful overnight camp at Spencer Park last week. After a long, hot walk through the forest, and a lengthy tent pitching exercise the expected 'showers' arrived in the form of an absolute downpour - just on dinner time. It didn't seem to bother the students who continued to cook their group meals 'al fresco'!



Our student Physical Activity Leaders (PALS) were offsite this week being trained to run lunch time activities for other children to enjoy - and we look forward to them getting underway with this.

Cycle Safety sessions and Korfbal are also proving popular with some of our middle school teams.



**Mark Your
Calendar**

FEBRUARY 2025

28 Assembly, 9.15am

MARCH 2025

- 3-7 Walk or Wheel To School Wk
- 3 Junior Try-athlon
- 7 Non-uniform Day
- 7 Swimming Sports
- 10 New Entrant Cohort #2 Starts
- 10 Y8 Caregiver Meeting about Dunedin trip, 6pm Tangaroa
- 11 Next Cohort Parent Morning Tea
- 21 Zones Swimming
- 31Mar-2Apr Y5 Waipara Camp

APRIL 2025

- 2-4 Y6 Waipara Camp
- 4 Assembly, 9.15am
- 7 Board of Trustees, 6pm
- 3 Canterbury Swimming Sports
- 10 Last Day For Students
- 11 SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Only Day**

12-27 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

28 Term 2 Starts



From The Principal continued ...



We are also celebrating the fact that one of our Year 7 students, Jeremiah, is now a published author. Jeremiah has written a series of novels and has kindly donated copies to our school library. I know these will be in hot demand once they have been processed and are on the shelves.

Attendance

In line with Government guidelines, one of the things that we are focusing on in 2025 is student attendance. You will hear us talking about this with you and with our students, and it remains a strong subject of conversation with staff. This year, the Ministry of Education extracts our attendance data on a daily basis, as opposed to the once a term data collection that happened in previous years.

The Term 4 attendance data for Rāwhiti School does not make for great reading - with just 54% of our children attending school regularly. I am sure that, as a community, we can do better than this. As a parent or caregiver, you, alongside the school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance.

Four **Student Attendance Categories** have been developed to help schools understand how frequently each student attends. These categories give you a way to monitor the progress you are making in supporting students to attend regularly.

	Student Categories	Student with	Equivalent to
	Regular attendance	over 90% attendance	missing fewer than 5 days across a term
	Irregular absence	more than 80% and up to 90% attendance	absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term
	Moderate absence	more than 70% and up to 80% attendance	absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term
	Chronic absence	70% attendance or less	absent for 15 days or more across a school term

A day off here and there does not sound like much, but if a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age!

All students are legally required to attend school every day and it is a shared responsibility to make sure students attend and engage in learning from when they first start school.

You must let the school know if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for whatever reason e.g. tangi or medical procedure. As per Ministry of Education guidelines, family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by the school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent and result in your child being recorded as an Unjustified Absence. If we do not know why a child is away from school then we must code their non-attendance as Truant.

Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school can be tricky. Health guidance to support you to decide is available [here](#). If you are finding it hard to get your children to school please talk with us so that we can work together. Our school staff are committed to supporting your child to attend school.

Rāwhiti Book of Records

In Week 3 the challenge was to see how many high-fives you could do with a buddy in 30 seconds.

Our record holders are:

- 7-9 years old = Maddie & Inka from Tāne Mahuta - 55 hi-fives!
- 10-13 years old = Harmony & Amrin from Tangaroa - 58 hi-fives!



Week 4's challenge was the most basketball passes between two people.

The Record holders are:

- Year 1-3 = Bella and Lexi from Papatūānuku - 113 passes (1m gap)
- Year 4-6 = Easton and Noah from Tāne Mahuta - 101 passes (2m gap)
- Year 7-8 = Josh and Max from Tangaroa - 100 passes (3m gap)



Student Council

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent their class on our new student council;

Rongo mā tāne: Johanna, Tom
 Papatūānuku: Bodhi, Iyla
 Haumia tiketike: Emelia, Finn, Jennifer
 Tāne Mahuta: Olive, Tegan
 Tāwhirimātea: Brenyn, Emilie-Vida
 Tangaroa: Eliza, Niko, Zita

The purpose of the student council is to provide a formal forum for student ideas and opinions to be heard. We want our students to be more involved in identifying challenges and solutions, plan celebrations and events, advocate for resources, gather their class members' voices on issues and communicate their ideas to staff and community.

Ngā mihi nui, Liz Weir

Walk or Wheel To School Week

Next week, our school is joining Walk or Wheel to School Week, a fun-filled event from Christchurch City Council that encourages students to walk, bike, or scoot to school!

With daily themes, exciting prizes, and awesome giveaways, there's plenty to get involved in. Check out the Council's [Facebook event](#) for all the latest updates— click 'Going' to stay in the loop!

We can't wait to kick things off next week—let's get moving!



Parking

Please could drivers be considerate when dropping off and picking up children from outside school.

The school carpark entrance is not a drop off zone.

The two mobility parks are only for vehicles displaying the appropriate mobility parking permit.

The yellow lines indicate **no parking zones**.



Year 8 trip to Dunedin

At the end of the year we are taking the Year 8 students to Dunedin for a week. We did this for the first time last year and had such a fabulous time.

There will be a meeting for caregivers (students do not need to attend) on Monday 10th March at 6pm in Tangaroa.



We would really love it if as many parents/caregivers of Year 8 students as possible could make it to that meeting.

What's Happening In Our Studios?

Tāne Mahuta's Class Treaty

This term, Tāne Mahuta has learned about Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our studio received a very unfair treaty, so we decided not to sign it. We then discussed ways to make our studio fairer for everyone. Once we got our new treaty, everyone, including all the adults, agreed to the changes and signed it.

The Supreme Demands of Tāne Mahuta

Studio Desecration: We are allowed to trash the studio and all the cool stuff in it. If it breaks, blame someone else. Glitter explosions are encouraged daily.

Disrespectful Utterances and Actions: Insults, name-calling, and general unpleasantness are mandatory. Sarcasm is our primary language. Kindness is for losers.

Possession Pilfering: All belongings are now community property. If you see something you like, take it. Sharing is NOT caring.

Chronic Tardiness and Absence: Being late is the new fashion. Don't bother showing up on time, or at all, really. Learning is optional.

Quit at the First Hurdle: If something is hard, immediately give up and complain loudly. Effort is for suckers. Struggle is unacceptable.

Do Before Thinking, Listening, or Questioning: Act impulsively and without consideration. Thinking is overrated. Questions are annoying. Listening is for the weak. Just do whatever you want, whenever you want.

TANE MAHUTA CLASS TREATY

Studio Super Savers: We treat our studio and all the amazing stuff inside with care. If something breaks by accident, we tell a teacher so we can fix it together. Glitter explosions are saved for special occasions (and we clean up afterwards!).

Respectful Rockstars: We speak to and treat each other with kindness. We use our words to build each other up, not bring each other down. Being kind is super cool!

Possession Protectors: We respect each other's belongings. We ask before borrowing anything and return it promptly and in good condition. Sharing is caring!

Punctual Pioneers: We aim to be on time and ready to learn. We understand that being present helps us make the most of our learning adventures.

Growth Groupies: We embrace challenges and keep trying, even when things get tough. We know that mistakes help us learn and grow stronger. Effort is awesome!

Thinkers, Listeners, Questioners, and Doers: We think before we act. We listen to understand, not just to reply. We ask questions to learn and grow. We try our best in everything we do!



What's Happening In Our Studios?

Tangaroa

Last week the Year 7&8 students headed out on their Challenge Camp to Spencer Park. This camp offers opportunities for students to push themselves in a variety of ways. They are required to organise their own tents - and put them up - and organise and cook their own tea on the Tuesday night - all after an 8 km walk or run out there. We had the added wero of a rain/thunderstorm which hit around 5pm, meaning they were under pressure to get everything in the tents and ship-shape in time. Our tuakana rose to the challenge, and encouraged each other so everyone experienced success.

Evening activities and Wednesday morning challenge activities meant students returned safely to school, tired but happy. We were lucky to have amazing support from parents, making this camp possible— Thank you. As one student said to me on the way home, "This camp was a really good chance to bond with everybody."

Haiku poem - Spencer Park, by Amrin

Walking by the beach
The scorching sun in the sky
As the waves strike sand

Rain falls from the sky
As the thunder roars above
Lightning strikes ahead

Whispers fill the air
The silence getting louder
All are now awake

Trudging through the sand
The ocean roars beside me
The strong winds blowing

It's now time to leave
The van speeding through the roads
Back to school we go

