



Newsletter #3 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 13 March 2025

*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 gymnastics programme that started this week.



This week we have been celebrating the arrival of a new portable sound system which we have been able to purchase thanks to funds raised by our amazing PTA.



Thank you to all of the parents and caregivers who have given up their time this week to assist with the Year 7&8 Fox II sailing trips and the junior school gymnastics sessions at QE2. Trips like these would simply not be possible without you.

At the end of next week we say good bye to our amazing DP, Helen Parata, who is going to be on Study Leave for rest of the school year finishing her Masters in Education. We look forward to celebrating Helen's academic achievements once all her hard work has been completed. In Helen's absence our Junior School Team Leader, Helen Hogarth, will be taking up the role of Acting DP.



## Mark Your Calendar

### MARCH 2025

- 19 PTA AGM & Meeting, 7pm
- 21 Zones Swimming
- 21 Scholastic Book Club Closes
- 31Mar-2Apr Y5 Waipara Camp

### APRIL 2025

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

### 12-27 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- 28 Term 2 Starts
- 29 Cohort #2 Parent Morning Tea



## From The Principal continued ...

Last week we hosted a number of teacher trainees from the University of Canterbury who spent their Primary Observation Week with us. We were delighted to receive this message at the end of the week, celebrating the skills, professionalism and dedication of our teaching staff.



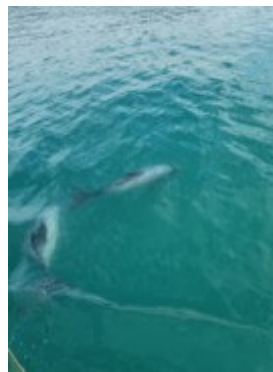
*"I just wanted to personally saying a massive thank you for the opportunity that you guys provided me in being able to observe at your school! It was such an amazing, insightful experience that has taught me so much more than I could have ever imagined. I got a chance to immerse myself in the collaborative style of learning with some incredible, caring teachers which is something that I have never had the chance to do, and I have largely benefited from this. I gained so much wisdom and perspective into teaching from your kaiako, who truly work so hard to serve their kids and give them every opportunity that they can to succeed in more than just academics. Thank you so so much for this past week!"*

Now that we are half way through the term it is a good time to check that:

- you have **Hero** (our key communication portal) set up. If you are needing support please don't hesitate to drop in and chat to Kim in the office. If you hear anyone you know saying 'we didn't know that was happening' check with them to see if they have Hero up and running. Further on in this newsletter you will see what Hero posts are being made this term about your child's learning and their standardised testing result (Years 3-8 only).
- your child has the correct school uniform and items are named clearly. A reminder that our uniform policy says that students must wear footwear appropriate for school and physical activities e.g. leather school shoes, sandals, sneakers, or sports shoes. NB: Jandals, boots, or shoes with high heels are not permitted. If your child is in Year 7 or 8 they must wear closed toe shoes on a Thursday when they go off-site to technology.
- you know the name of your child's teacher and have their contact email address. Again, if you are unsure please contact the school office.



I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of our Parent and Community Code of Conduct. A strong and respectful partnership between home and school is crucial for learner success. I encourage all parents and caregivers to familiarise themselves with this code so that we can maintain a positive and collaborative environment for all. Please find a copy of the code further on in this newsletter.



## *From The Principal continued ...*

### **Attendance Services**

In our last newsletter I shared the Student Attendance Categories defined by the Ministry of Education. As at today, 49% of the children on our school roll have 'regular attendance', that is, they have been at school for more than 90% of this school year. Almost 10% of our children are considered to have Chronic Absence, which means they have attended less than 70% this term.

If you're struggling at home with getting your child to school, please talk to us. It may be that Attendance Services are able to support you. Attendance Services partner with whānau to identify and address barriers impacting student attendance, ensuring culturally responsive solutions. They can:

- Partner with whānau to identify and address barriers impacting student attendance, ensuring culturally responsive solutions.
- Facilitate communication between home and school, supporting positive and productive relationships.
- Refer families to appropriate services (health, social, or community-based), with family consent.
- Provide practical strategies to help families establish effective attendance routines at home.
- Collaborate with schools, agencies, and community services to develop coordinated, strengths-based attendance plans.

Please let us know if you think you would benefit from this support.

Best of luck to everyone taking part in the City to Surf this Sunday.

**Ngā mihi**  
**Liz**



### **Rāwhiti Record—Balance a spoon on your nose the longest**



Well done to the following record holders:

- Years 1-3: Ruby S, Shayla, Austin R—joint 1st with 8 minutes 20 seconds + ... the bell rang so they had to stop
- Years 4-6: Ashlea C—7 minutes 4 seconds  
Mateo—2 minutes 57 seconds  
Cadi—1 minute 10 minutes

### **Walk or Wheel to School Week**

Well done to all our students and families who made an effort to leave the car at home last week, and support this annual Christchurch City Council event. The scooter stands and bike racks were much fuller than usual and it was great to see so many students walking even on the colder days.

Congratulations to Philippa (Ata Hapara) & Rosalie (Tāne Mahuta) for being randomly drawn to win a bike helmet, drink bottle and holder.

There were also several spot prizes given out in studios throughout the week.



## *What's Happening In Our Studios?*

### **Junior School Events**

It has been a busy time for the Junior School over the last few weeks with swimming, the TRY-athlon, leading assembly for the first time, and starting our Gymnastics lessons!

It was a celebration to have the pool open and our swimming lessons underway. The excitement has carried on over the last few weeks and the students have set some goals to try and achieve before the pool closes for the term.

Skills such as safely entering the pool, putting our faces in, kicking with strong, long legs, blowing bubbles, and floating like a starfish have made up our lessons - not to mention learning our pool safety procedures - lining up at the gate, walking around the pool, changing quietly and putting all our belongings in our swimming bags.

We will be having some pool parties to celebrate our swimming achievements and bid farewell to the swimming season.



Our annual TRY-athlon was another event we were training for, setting goals to achieve, and practising right up to the event held on Monday the 3rd of March.

Running, biking, and swimming made up the event, and every time we practised we tried to keep running that little bit further, get a little bit faster, and swim the length of the pool. It was an exciting build-up to the event and lots of parents came to watch and support those competing.

A special thanks to Amy for her organisation - the event ran smoothly and we look forward to making it even better next year!



### *What's Happening In Our Studios?*

**Rongo-ma-tane** was the first junior studio to run assembly. It was a real celebration of our people, our place and our efforts. After our welcome, we sang Happy Birthday to all those who have had a birthday so far this year. We congratulated all those who had won the Rāwhiti World Records and encouraged everyone to have a go with the next ones - this week it is: how fast can you tie your shoelace! We also met our student councillors, another first for the school, and look forward to seeing what they can achieve this year.

We were really proud of our presenters who stood up in front of the whole school and many parents who had come to see all the things that have been going on at school so far.



And there is more ... this week we start our series of three gymnastic lessons at the Christchurch School of Gymnastics. After our first lesson, it will be time to think about the goals we would like to set for something to achieve over the next two lessons. We are really looking forward to it.

All these events, Swimming, the TRY-athlon, and Gymnastics are all part of this term's focus on the Health and PE Curriculum. We also wove learning how to set goals into these lessons. Each student thought about what they would like to improve, set their goal, reflected how they had progressed and celebrated their progress.

### Hero Posts

Across this term your child's teachers will make a learning post about Literacy and a post relating to our Term 1 Health and Physical Education focus. Students in Years 4-8 will also make their own post about an aspect of their learning this term.

Our Year 3-8 students have also now completed their standardised assessments for the beginning of the year - PAT Mathematics (Y3-8), PAT Reading Comprehension (Y4-8) and STAR (Y3). Over the next couple of weeks, you will be able to see the results of this testing on your child's curriculum pages.



You can find all the posts within the menu on the top left of your Hero app.

### Student Council

Our student council have been meeting each week to talk about things of importance to the students. It is great to work with a group of caring kids who want to make a difference.



### Visit from NZ Opera

Rāwhiti was fortunate to have a performance from the NZ Opera last week. The musical work called Mataïo was a 40-minute show inspired by the story of Hinewhaititiri and the Weather Gods. It included waiata, movement and puppetry, and through the arts spread the message of being resilient in the face of challenges. It was performed in a mix of both te reo Māori mē te reo Pākehā.



### Non-Uniform Day

Thank you for supporting our non-uniform day celebrating Cholmondeley Children's Centre 100th anniversary.

Together our donation of \$ 532 will continue to support Cholmondeley and the work they do offering respite care for tamariki, family support and activities that foster wellbeing for tamariki aged 5-12.

## Rāwhiti School

### Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians and Visitors

Rāwhiti School is committed through its Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy to provide a safe and healthy physical and emotional environment for students, staff and visitors. Our Code of Conduct Policy enables us to remind all parents, guardians and visitors to Rāwhiti School about conduct expected from them.

Our Code of Conduct Policy applies:

- To all conduct whether in speech or in action or delivered through emails, texts, phone calls, social media or other communication; and
- While at Rāwhiti School or at another venue where students and/or staff are assembled for school purposes (such as a camp or sports match).

Rāwhiti School expects parents, guardians and visitors to:

- Treat all people with respect;
- Work together in partnership with staff for the benefit of their child;
- Respect and demonstrate Rāwhiti School's values;
- Set a good example to students at all times;
- Follow appropriate and proper procedures to handle any complaints; and
- Adhere to other Rāwhiti School policies and procedures (such as Visitors, Smokefree, and Alcohol/Drugs and Other Harmful Substances policies) and any legal requirements.

Examples of conduct that contravenes these expectations include:

- Insulting, abusing, or intimidating;
- Physical aggression;
- Harassment;
- Deception/fraud;
- Discrimination (for example based on ethnicity, religion);
- Smoking or possessing or using alcohol/drugs/other harmful substances on school premises or at another venue where students and/or staff are assembled for school purposes (except possession or use of alcohol strictly in accordance with Rāwhiti School policy);
- Threats;
- Bullying;
- Profanity/offensive language;
- Damaging or destroying school property;
- Consistently placing unreasonable and excessive expectations on staff time or resources;
- Pursuing a complaint or campaign, or making defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments, regarding the school, its board or any staff or students on social media or other public forums.

There are a number of different ways that contravening behaviour can be dealt with, and each situation depends on the nature of the behaviour and its seriousness and the process any witness or victim of the behaviour feels most comfortable with. Examples of processes for dealing with such behaviour include the following:



- Documenting each instance of behaviour including the date, time, place, who was present, what was said (verbatim if possible), how any witness or victim felt and/or responded.
- Conversation between the Principal and/or Board chair (or their delegate) or appropriate staff member is held with the relevant person detailing the problem and required resolution.
- Warning letter detailing the problem and required resolution and reminding of the possible outcomes of repeated conduct.
- A meeting may be arranged as an alternative or in addition to the above steps. This may include restorative practices.

Outcomes of conduct contravening this Code of Conduct Policy may include the following:

- The school's board is the occupier of the school premises under lease from the Crown. There is no automatic right of entry to state school grounds. The school's board has set this Code of Conduct as a condition of entry. The school through the Board may ask a person to leave the school premises by revoking their permission to be on the school grounds then asking them to leave under section 3 of the Trespass Act 1980.
- Unacceptable behaviour of a criminal nature may result in the Police being informed. For example, under section 139C of the Education Act 1989 it is a criminal offence to assault, abuse, or intimidate a staff member within the presence or hearing of any student while on school premises or in any other place where students are assembled for school purposes. Other instances of criminal offending may occur where drugs are involved, an assault has occurred, or a person persists after being trespassed off school grounds.
- In the case of behaviour amounting to harassment, a restraining order may be sought.
- In some instances, it may be appropriate to refer behaviour to a third party for resolution. For example, a Facebook comment that contravenes this policy may result in a report to Facebook. If unacceptable behaviour occurs at a sports event or sports venue, then it may be appropriate to involve the governing body of that sport, event or venue.

#### Legislation

- Education Act 1989, section 139C
- Trespass Act 1980, section 3
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#### Supporting Policies and Procedures

- Smokefree Schools;
- Visitors;
- Harassment;
- Alcohol/Drugs and Other Harmful Substances