



Newsletter #12 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 14th August 2025

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principal - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou, Last week I informed the Board that this term would be my last at Rāwhiti School. With our 10th birthday celebrations behind us, my 40th year as an educator almost over, and an ERO review that reinforces everything we set out to achieve for the merger school, I believe the time is right for me to take a step in a different direction and let someone else lead this extraordinary school through its second decade.

Over the past eleven years, I have had the immense privilege of serving as the Foundation Principal of Rāwhiti School. Together, we have navigated complex change and built something truly special—an extraordinary school born out of a merger, shaped by community vision, and driven by a shared commitment to equity and excellence for every learner. I am enormously proud of what we have accomplished together.

While I am ready to make a move, I am not yet ready to stop working, and I have accepted a position with Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga | Education Review Office (ERO). The opportunity to now contribute to system-wide improvement through the mahi of ERO aligns closely with my values as a leader and educator. It feels like the right time to step into a new challenge—one where I can support schools across the motu to lift outcomes through thoughtful, evidence-based evaluation and support.

It goes without saying that I remain committed to supporting a smooth leadership transition over the coming weeks, and will do all I can to ensure continuity for our ākonga, staff and community. There is plenty more for me to say about Rāwhiti School - fortunately I still have a few weeks to do that!



AUGUST

- 15 Assembly, 9.15am
- 15 Book Character Dress Up Day
- 18 NE Cohort #2 starts
- 18 Zones Winter Tournament
- 19 Next NE cohort parent AM tea
- 20 Cantamath Y7 (4pm), Y8 (5pm)
- 22 SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Only Day**
- 25 Y4 Noho marae TM/AH
- 25 Closing 1pm (Union mtg)**
- 26 Y4 Noho marae TWM+6TM
- 27 Y6 Parent Evening
- 29 Ski Trip

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Strum Strike Blow, 7pm
- 8 Board Meeting, 6pm
- 10 Board Elections Close, 4pm
- 10 PTA Meeting, 7pm
- 11 Cant. Winter Tournament
- 12 School Photos
- 16-18 Koru Games
- 19 Assembly, 9.15am
- 19 Last day of Term 3
- 20Sep-5Oct SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

OCTOBER

- 6 First day of Term 4



From The Principal continued ...

Another Departure

At the end of August we will say farewell to the lovely Kim. As our much-loved Office Manager and PA to the Principal, Kim has been the friendly face and calm presence who has kept our school running smoothly for the past 7 years. Her dedication, care for our students and families, and her incredible ability to make everything work behind the scenes have been truly valued. While we will miss her greatly, we wish her every success as she takes on a new role in the health sector. You have two more weeks to pop in and say farewell to Kim.

Important Dates to Note



We want to make sure you have the following dates ringed on the calendar.

- **Friday, August 22nd Teacher Only Day:** This is second and last of our MoE allocated PD days relating to the new curriculum. School is closed for instruction and the teachers will be working off-site.
- **Monday, August 25th - Early Finish at 1pm.** Please see the notice below.
- **October 15th and 16th:** Advance notice that we have a whole school production scheduled for these two days. It has been three years since our last production and so excitement levels here are quite high! Once again, the talented Fi and Talei have been working on creating an original production, heavily influenced by our 2025 learning concept of Celebration.

Early Closing for Paid Union Meetings

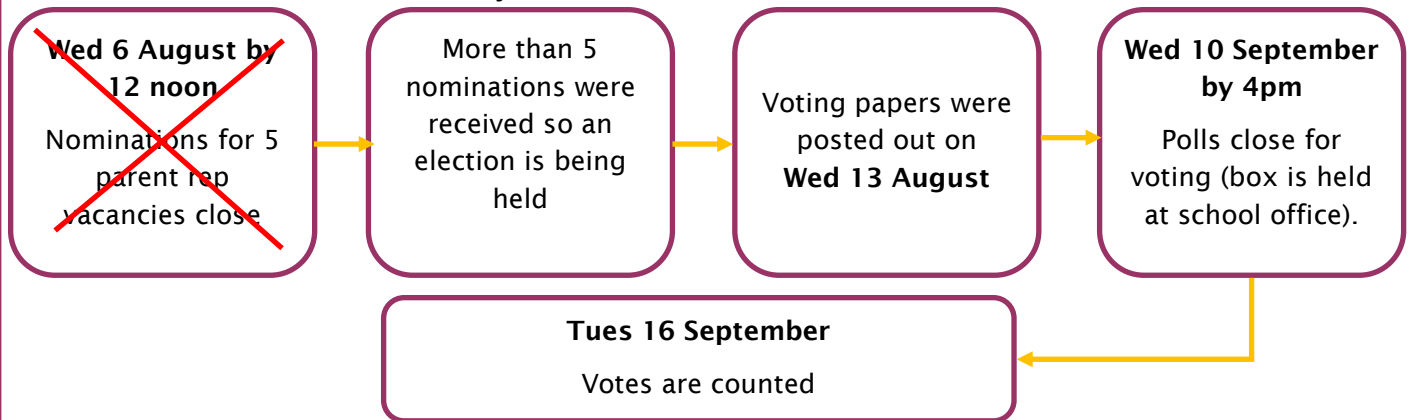
On Monday, August 25th teachers, support staff and myself will be attending a 2pm meeting, facilitated by our union NZEI Te Riu Roa. These meetings are an entitlement for all union members and can take place up to twice a year, and they are only called by our union when there is an urgent or important update. School staff will be discussing how to keep and attract skilled people in education and what conditions and staffing levels we need to make sure education works for all our tamariki. Our staff's working conditions are your children's learning conditions. Like you, we want the best for them at school.

What does this mean? If at all possible we would appreciate children being **collected early at 1pm**. If you are unable to manage this, the school will be open, but our teaching program and classroom arrangements will differ for a couple of hours. Please let the office know if your child will be remaining at school for the whole of Monday afternoon so that arrangements can be made.

Board Elections

We have eleven candidates standing for election to the Board, so keep an eye out for your voting papers. These will be delivered by mail to the address that is recorded for you in Hero. Our school Board plays a vital role in shaping the future of our tamariki and our community. The upcoming elections are an important opportunity for you to have your voice heard. By voting, you help ensure that our Board reflects the diversity, perspectives, and values of our whole community. Every vote counts – so please vote to create a Board that truly represents us all.

Ngā mihi, Liz Weir

Board Election Timeline Summary

[If you would like to view the candidate statements CLICK HERE](#)

MANA AKE & YOUTH ALIVE TRUST PRESENT:

PARENTING ANXIOUS KIDS

A practical evening discussing anxiety and bravery.

WITH KEY SPEAKER
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST –
CATHERINE GALLAGHER

THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST
7– 8:30PM
111 SEAVIEW ROAD, NEW
BRIGHTON, CHRISTCHURCH

FREE EVENT!
Register now via
Humanatix





Week 8 and Week 9 Rawhiti Talent Show

We need your talent!

Any type of talent, singing, music, magic, dancing



Just anything as long as you can fit it into 2 minutes!

Or - come and watch, support and cheer for your favourite acts!

Sign up sheets will be available from your teachers

Fill them in and return to the box in the office

by Wednesday 20th of August.

Once entries are confirmed you will get a slip with your performance date and time.

Where: Lunchtimes in the hall, 1st - 3rd of September and 8th - 10th of September

Any questions? Email us at

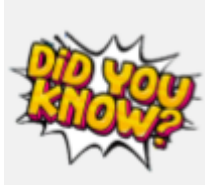
- eliza7c2s@rawhiti.school.nz
- paige77vt@rawhiti.school.nz



PTA News

Welcome to the PTA corner, here we'll post any pānui (notices) and let you know how you can join, get in touch or help out.

Nau mai haere mai, welcome to any new members and friends of the Rāwhiti PTA! Anyone wishing to join or just curious, please come along to our **next PTA hui** on **Wednesday 10th September 7pm** at **Southpaw** (34 Brighton Mall, New Brighton) all welcome.



Riddle - I have a tail and head but no body, what am I?

Any questions, suggestions or feedback for the PTA, we'd love to hear your whakaaro (thoughts)! So please email us at pta@rawhiti.school.nz. Our Executive Team members are Co-Chairs Brooke Frew and Bonne Beconsall, Treasurer Geoff Walker and Secretary Jess Brown. A copy of the PTA constitution and previous meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.rawhiti.school.nz/pta>

Riddle answer: A coin