



Newsletter #13 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 28th 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, We would like to thank you all very much for your support on Monday in collecting your children at lunch time so that the teachers and support staff could attend their union meeting at the Town Hall. These meetings are currently happening around the country as teachers engage with the Ministry of Education about their pay and working conditions. As I have written in this newsletter before, while I absolutely agree that everybody could do with a little more in their pay packet I think that what teachers really need is a reduction in the amount of administration that the system currently requires them to do. We want our teachers to be spending their working time creating extraordinary learning experiences for your children. Experiences that involve opening doorways so that children can enter a world of passion and excitement that engages them, and ensures they take responsibility for their own learning beyond the end of the school day. These things together are necessary to ensure that children are prepared to meet the demands of life in the 21st Century.

Kim's Last Day

It is with both sadness and deep gratitude that tomorrow we farewell Kim, our much-loved Office Manager and my Personal Assistant. Kim has been at the very heart of our school – the first friendly face for families, the calm problem-solver for staff, and my trusted right hand. She has quietly kept everything running smoothly, always with good humour, loyalty, and professionalism.

I want to sincerely thank Kim for the enormous contribution she has made to our school and to me personally. While we will miss her enormously, we know she'll shine at Te Whatu Ora.. Thank you Kim - for everything.



AUGUST

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
7 New entrant parent morn. tea
15 Out of zone ballot closes
15,16 School Production
20 BOT Meeting
22 PTA Meeting
27 NO SCHOOL—Labour Day



From The Principal continued ...

Winter Illness

We have certainly had our share of winter illness over the last few weeks, with absence numbers regularly getting into the 100's. Staff sickness has also been high, which is very challenging for us due to the lack of day relief teachers available to call on. 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.

Planning for 2026

It may only be August but we are already planning for the 2026 school year.

If you live in the Rāwhiti School zone and have a child who will be starting school in 2026 then now is the time to enrol. You will find all of the enrolment details on our website, or you can contact the school office for more information or for assistance with the enrolment process.

If you have applied for one of the 2026 places in our Level 2 Bilingual Programme, Ata Hapara, you will receive a letter at the beginning of Term 4 advising you of the outcome of your application. If this is still on your 'to do' list then you have until Friday September 12th to get your application to the school office.

If you know that there are changes ahead for you in 2026 and that you will no longer be part of the Rāwhiti whanau, please inform the school office sooner, rather than later.

Gaga Pit

We are all very excited that our PTA has agreed to fund a Gaga Pit for our playground. This is probably the most requested piece of playground equipment - and also possibly something that many of you will never have heard of!

A Gaga Pit is an enclosed, octagonal play area designed for Gaga Ball, a fast-paced, low-impact game similar to dodgeball. The game is played with a soft ball and emphasizes agility, strategy, and sportsmanship. Players use their hands to hit the ball, attempting to strike their opponents below the knees to eliminate them from the round. The game continues until only one player remains.

We are wondering if there are any Rāwhiti parents who have the building or DIY skills to build a Gaga Pit for us? We have an excellent contact who has built a pit for another school and he is happy to provide advice and support. If you think you could be part of the building team then please let the PTA know by emailing pta@rawhiti.school.nz.

Ngā mihi, Liz Weir





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 **Wed 10th September 7pm** at **Southpaw** (34 Brighton Mall, New Brighton) all welcome.



Riddle - What can you catch but not throw...?



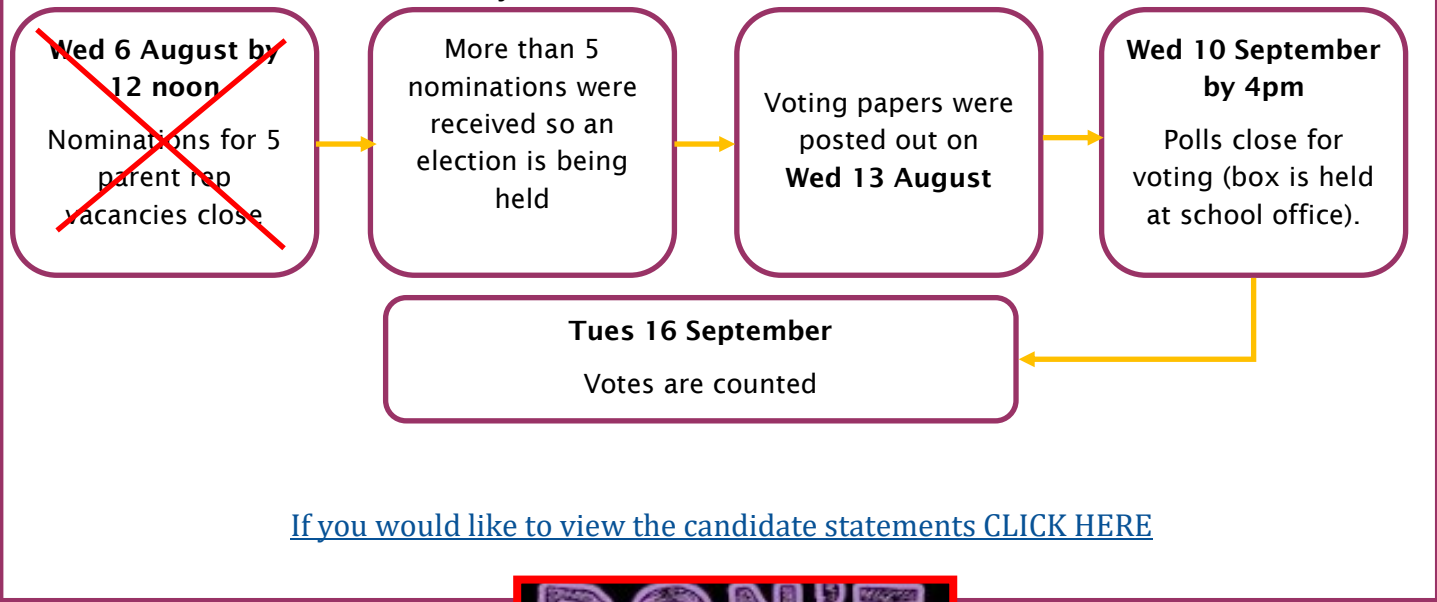
As mentioned in Liz's blurb, we are wondering if there are any Rāwhiti parents who have the building or DIY skills to build a Gaga Pit for us? We have an excellent contact who has built a pit for another school and he is happy to provide advice and support. If you think you could be part of the building team then please let the PTA know by emailing pta@rawhiti.school.nz.

A huge thank to Liz and Paul for the time and energy you put into researching and planning this awesome addition to our amazing school grounds. Liz you'll need to come back and try it out sometime! Below is a special shout out to some of our generous sponsors from 2024! We can't thank you enough, without your support this wouldn't be possible, so a huge thank you!! from the PTA and the Rāwhiti School community.



Riddle answer: A cold

Board Election Timeline Summary



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

