



Newsletter #16 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 20th November 2025

E ara ake ana i te ūruhi
Rising Above The Ordinary

From The Principals - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

On Tuesday this week, we celebrated the culmination of the Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi Children's University Programme for the year, with 42 of our students graduating at the Christchurch Town Hall. The awards ranged from the Bronze Award for 30 hours right through to the top award, the Gold Fellowship, presented for 1,000 hours. Students gain hours for participating in exciting, engaging learning experiences outside the classroom. A huge effort was put in by all our students and whānau, and our congratulations go to all of our graduates.

A special mention goes to **Jennifer** who has worked tirelessly, sewing, knitting, crafting all manner of things, attending after school activities and clubs, visiting many Children's University locations to complete scavenger hunts, bush walks, bird spotting and more to gain over 1,000 hours! Well done Jennifer for an amazing effort and result. **Congratulations!**



As we 'wind up' towards the end of the year we saw many events take place over the last couple of weeks with our new cohort of New Entrants starting in Aotahi, the Junior Run, Jump, Throw demonstration on Tuesday afternoon and the Children's University Graduation ceremony on Tuesday evening. To add to that we had a Gate Activation event on Wednesday last week, which you can read about further on in the newsletter, and a group of senior students attended the Royal New Zealand Ballets performance of The Nutcracker at the Isaac Theatre Royal!



**Mark Your
Calendar**

NOVEMBER

- 21 Non-uniform day
- 26 Canterbury Athletics
- 26 PTA Meeting 7-8pm
- 27 Te Ara Tūhura Cultural Festival
5-7pm—St Francis of Assisi
School

DECEMBER

- 1 Board Meeting @ 6pm
- 1-5 Y8 Dunedin Camp
- 11 Y8 Formal
- 12 Rumbustification Day
(Festival of Celebration)
- 15 Showcase Assembly @ 1:30pm
- 16 Leaver's Assembly 6-7:30pm
- 17 **Last Day of Term**
School finishes at 12pm



From The Principals - Te Pū kāea a te Tumuaki cont...

It is well and truly performance season and we are looking forward to seeing our Kapahaka and Pasifika groups perform at our Te Ara Tūhura Cluster Cultural Festival next Thursday. This will be the third time we have had this festival and each time it has just got better. See the poster in this newsletter for more details.

Our Kapa haka group has another chance to shine in the annual Tuhono Performance next Sunday. This group has been practising nearly every Wednesday since May! They have worked very hard and we thank Matua Travis, Whaea Emma and all the team in Ata Hapara for all their hard work and commitment to prepare for this prestigious event. A special word of thanks to Whaea Jody who came and helped with te rōpū Kōtiro.

Next Wednesday we will send 20 of our elite athletes from Year 4-8 to the Canterbury Athletics Day. We wish them all the best for success in their events and look forward to hearing how they get on and will publish the results in our next newsletter.

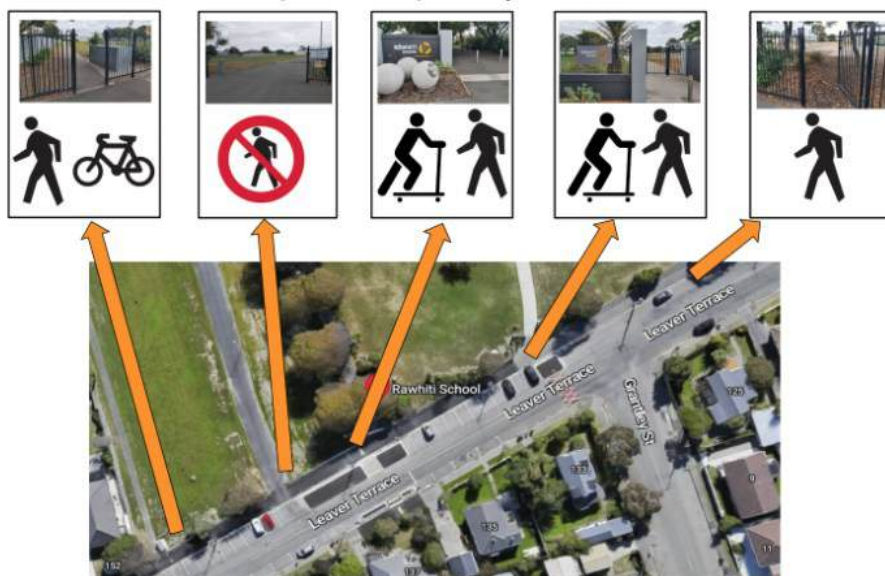
Please be sure to support our annual PTA Non-Uniform Day event this Friday (tomorrow) by sending along suitable hamper items for their annual Christmas raffle i.e. non-perishable food items, or a gold coin donation.

On a more serious note ... our shared pathways.

Yesterday after school one of our littlest learners got knocked down and then run over by a cyclist biking out of the school grounds. It was an accident and the rider did check on the injured person but this could have been avoided.

Please note the rules around cyclists at school. **All** cyclists need to use the **bike entrance** coming to and leaving from school. Riders need to dismount from their bike at the small gate then walk their bike to the bike racks. At the end of the day all cyclists need to walk their bikes from the bike rack to the small gate. If they need to go somewhere around the school with their bike, they must walk their bike to where they are going. There should be no wheels ridden past the swale in front of the studios during school hours 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - all wheels should either be walked (bikes, scooters) or carried (skateboards, skates).

Rāwhiti School has 5 gates into the school from Leaver Terrace.
The 4 pedestrian pathways are shared.



We still have all the regular end of year events to look forward to and you can see the details listed later in the newsletter along with the approved term dates for 2026.

Ngā mihi
Helen and Paul

On the 12th of November, we held another Gate Activation for the Wednesday challenge. It was wonderful to see so many wheels “dressed up”! Congratulations to the following prize winners -

Forest and Rosa in Ata Hāpara
 Shayla in Rongo mā tāne
 Elmore, Jett and Imogen in Paptūānuku
 Inka, Izzy and Noah in Tāne Mahuta
 Jaxon, Margaret and Caitlyn in Tawhirimātea

Keep up the good work of walking or wheeling to school on Wednesdays!



End of Year Events: Here are some key dates for you to note in your diary:

Nov 21st - Non-Uniform Day for PTA Raffle Donations
 Nov 27th - Kapa Haka Performance @ Te Ara Tūhura Cluster Cultural Festival
 Nov 30th - Tu hono Kapahaka Festival
 Dec 1st Board of Trustees Meeting 5.30pm
 Dec 1st - 5th Year 8 Dunedin Trip
 Dec 12th - Rāwhiti Rumbustification Day
 Dec 16th Showcase Assembly 1pm
 Dec 11th Year 8 Dinner
 Dec 16th Leavers Assembly 6pm
 Dec 17th Poroporoaki in each Studio 11am
 Dec 17th School Finishes for the Year 12pm

Term Dates for 2026

Term 1: Monday 2 February - Friday 2 April * Please note that school will be closed on Friday February 6, Waitangi Day.
Term 2: Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July * Please note that school will be closed on Monday April 27, Anzac Day observed.

Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4: Monday 12 October - Wed 16 December

Junior Athletics

After practising our athletic skills since the beginning of the term, we held our Run, Jump and Throw Demonstration on Tuesday afternoon. It was great to see so many parents turn up and cheer on the students and even join in the students vs teachers vs parents relay! We have had some wonderful feedback from many. A huge **THANK YOU** to Amy for all her hard work organising the event for us and we look forward to doing it again next year.



Last Thursday Christi came to our classroom to teach yr 5/6 how to weave plaits with Harakeke. She gave us a demonstration of how to weave and she passed around some examples of what we can make with harakeke like baskets, different types of plaits and our teacher Lou showed us a kete she made out of chip packets. Then Christi showed us her special shell which he uses to get the muka out of the harakeke which is the fine white stuff in the middle. That the experienced students would use to plait later on. Christi asked us some questions and we had a discussion about harakeke and safety about washing our hands afterwards. After that the experienced weavers were given fine harakeke and the beginners were given normal harakeke then we started weaving.

The reason Christie visited is because we were reading a story for our literacy called Matakite and the Mokai. The story was about a blind girl telling a slaved hard working boy about how he could be a Mokai. The girl sees visions while she weaves and gives him the rope she weaved and later on he uses it to save his chief's son. This action earns respect from him.

Weaving was a challenge but it turned out to be neat. This was a great experience and I'm very grateful that we could have someone in our community who could do this with us thank you Christi!

By Millicent and Paloma.





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. Our **next PTA hui is this Wednesday 26th November, 7pm** in the staff room, please come join us for some kai and kōrero, all welcome.



Riddle - What has a neck but no head and wears a cap...?

The great Rāwhiti PTA Christmas raffle is upon us! A named ticket sheet will be sent home with each child on Friday.

There is a **non-uniform day this Friday 21st November** in support to this fundraiser, so please send your child in with either a **non-perishable food item or a gold coin donation**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Each raffle sheet contains 10 tickets at \$1 per ticket and we usually have 20+ hampers up for grabs, with first prize being the mega hamper of a ham and Christmas cake! Completed ticket sheets can be returned to the office or otherwise a PTA representative will be at the gate each morning from Thursday 27th November to Friday 5th December. **EXTRA ticket sheets** can be collected from either the team at the gate or the office. There will be a reward for the top selling studio and possibly other prizes too. **The raffle will be drawn Wednesday 10th December**. Winners will be contacted by phone and results will also be announced here – good luck!



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 bottle)

Join our schools to celebrate the **TE ARA TŪHURA CULTURAL FESTIVAL**



27th November 2025
5:00PM - 7:00PM

Although Kapa Haka is our focus some of our schools have some other dances to share this year as well!



St Francis of Assisi School
370 Innes Road

Schedule

- Welcome begins at 5:00
- Te Rito Harakeke Marshland
- Te Maire St Francis of Assisi
- Pūtahi Belfast
- Mairehau High School
- New Brighton Catholic
- Mairehau Primary
- Rāwhiti
- Te Ara Tūhura (all of us!)

Kai will be available to buy or bring a picnic from home! Chairs and rugs are a great idea too. All whānau welcome



Term 4, 2025 & 2026 - Rāwhiti School - Optional Chromebook Purchase



Uru Manuka Education Trust
c/- 35 Amys Road
Hornby
Christchurch
8042

Purchase Bundle includes

1. Acer C736 Chromebook
2. 3 year manufacturer's warranty
3. Bag - Targus Education Work-in Clamshell with 3 year manufacturer's warranty.
4. Your Chromebook comes with cover for the costs of up to 3 repairs and/or 1 replacement of devices, accidentally lost and damaged - associated to an Acer Device Care Programme. This is not an insurance product, it is an incident repair service offered with Acer Chromebooks devices for the Manaiakalani Education Trust.

Amount

\$555.00 GST inc

Payment Required Before Order Processed

Please select payment type when ordering: full payment through internet banking or WINZ support.

Please complete the form and make a payment through internet banking

<https://www.urumanuka.org.nz/buy-a-chromebook>

For delivery before Christmas, orders must be placed and payment made by Thursday, 4th December. All chromebooks are delivered directly to schools.
Any orders received after this date, will be delivered at the end of January 2026.

Payment details :

Uru Mānuka Education Trust: ASB 12-3441-0091909-00

Please include the following details with your payment

Particulars (Student First Name)

Reference (School Name)

Code (Student Surname)

If you have trouble, contact your school office who will help you through the process.

Schools whose learners can access this Bundle: Hornby Primary, Gilberthorpe, Hornby High School,

Wigram, South Hornby, Yaldhurst, Mairehau High, New Brighton Catholic, Pūtahi Belfast, Rawhiti,

Marshland, St Francis of Assisi, Linwood College.

Terms & Conditions: Offer is not available in store.

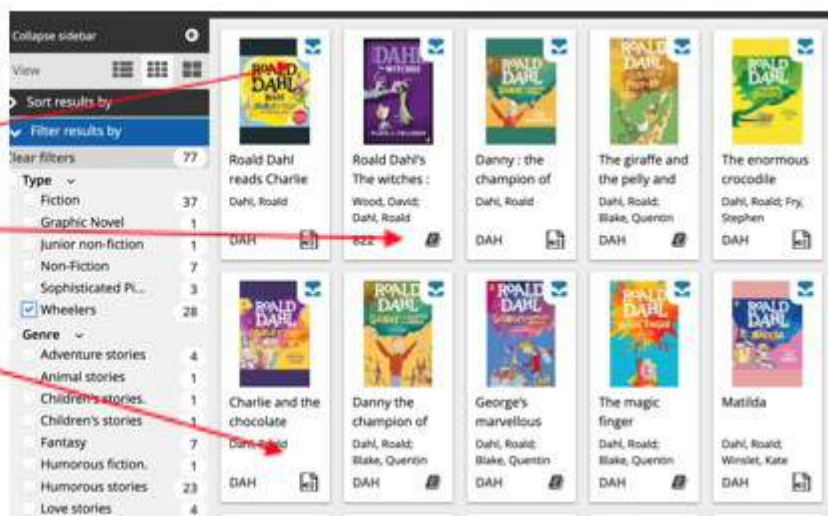
Rāwhiti School's eBook & Audiobooks (Wheelers ePlatform):

We have renewed our Audiobook subscription! Want to keep children reading over the holidays or listening to stories? Why not access our ePlatform...it's free!

All eBooks and Audiobooks will be display when searching for books on the Web OPAC at:

library.rawhiti.school.nz

Look for the Wheelers icon and the 'e' and sound icon



Look for the Wheelers icon and the 'e' and

sound icon or you can go to the direct link: <https://rawhitischool.wheelers.co/>

eBooks and Audiobooks can be issued for two weeks and there is a limit of two issues per user.

Students will need to use their library number and password to login and download eBooks or Audiobooks. This is the same password used for our Web OPAC.

If you have a device, you can download the Wheelers ePlatform app!

Download ePlatform App - <https://goo.gl/SIC6ft>

Any questions or you need your child's login details please contact Elizabeth or Sue at library@rawhiti.school.nz

Download the ePlatform App



iOS devices

Android devices

Windows devices



Spring Blog Fest @ Rāwhiti School

We have collated a collection of blog posts for our 'Spring Blog Fest.' Check out what some students have been blogging about from Ata Hāpara, Tangaroa, Tāne Mahuta and Tāwhirimātea.

If you have access to Google Slides you can view the slide deck here - <https://bit.ly/SpringBlogFest>

AKO/Learn:

Jude - [explanation blog post](#)

Mahalia - [Explanation reflection](#)

Luca C - [Football quiz](#)

Micah - [environment](#)

Papatūānuku Studio Blog - [Money and Patterns](#)

HANGA/Create:

Isla-Jade - [CRT](#)

Jesse K - [The missing socks](#)

Kaumudi - [My Kensuke's Kingdom Diorama](#)

Rosalie - [Digging for Kauri gum](#)

Tilda - [The best Poem OH NO](#)

Papatūānuku - [Who Am I?](#)

Rongo mā tāne - [Measuring Expedition](#)

TOHATOHA/Share:

Brenyn - [Holes](#)

Lacey - [Rapaki Marae Trip](#) □ **Lulu** - [My novel study review](#)

Abigail - [This Weeks Learning](#)

Celebration:

Jake - [2025 School Production](#)

Amrin - [Production Reflection](#)

Papatūānuku Studio Blog - [Lights, Camera, Action!!!](#)