



Newsletter #18 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: Tuesday 16th December 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

Unbelievably, Wednesday brings us to the end of the school year! So much has happened throughout the year; from our 10th birthday celebrations and our fantastic school cultural evening, through to our whole-school production *Te Haerenga Whakanui - The Celebration Voyage*. Alongside these major events, we have enjoyed kapa haka, Pasifika, music lessons, athletics and so much more, all of which we celebrated at our Showcase Assembly yesterday. We even appointed a new principal—Welcome to Jody!

We still have a few important events to come, which are listed below:

Tuesday 16th December

- School Leavers Assembly starting at 6.00 pm

Wednesday 17th December

- Poroporoaki beginning at 11.00 am
- School finishes at 12.00 pm

It would be wonderful to see you at our Leavers Assembly tonight at 6.00pm. This special assembly usually runs for approximately one hour and is an opportunity to recognise a wide range of achievements, celebrate our year, and farewell our Year 8 students. It has been a privilege to watch them grow into fine young people, well prepared for their next step into high school.

Our staffing arrangements for 2026 have been announced, and end-of-year envelopes were sent home yesterday afternoon. These contain all the information you will need for the start of 2026. Please ensure you have seen this information, as the beginning of the year will be slightly different than usual. The first day for all students on site is the 2nd of February with an option to book in a 'Connect' meeting on the 30th of January if you feel you need to.

We have some farewells at the end of this year. Emma Williams will be finishing her Teacher Aide role in Rongo-mā-tāne as she prepares to begin her studies in 2026. We thank Emma for the care and support she has given our learners and wish her every success in this next chapter.



Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER

15 Leaver's Assembly 6-7:30pm

17 Last Day of Term
Poroporoaki at 11am
School finishes at 12pm

25 CHRISTMAS DAY!

JANUARY

30 Whānau Connect Meetings

FEBRUARY

2 First Day of Term 1

6 Waitangi Day—SCHOOL CLOSED



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

We also farewell Willie Mous, who has supported and moved into a full-time teaching role in Ata Hapara. We are grateful for Willie's commitment and contribution, wish her all the best in the future and hope to see her around the place in 2026.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our amazing release team, and our regular relievers who have stepped into any studio whenever needed throughout the year: We are incredibly fortunate to have such a reliable and adaptable group of teachers who all know our students so well.

Thank you to our new Board for the work they do behind the scenes, supporting the school and ensuring all legislative and regulatory requirements are met. Thank you also to our PTA, who tirelessly bring the fun into **FUN**draising for all our school projects, we truly appreciate all the time and effort you give.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers who have supported us throughout the year in so many ways. From helping with trips, camps, sporting events, and extra learning in the studios, to providing financial support; many hands truly make light work and help our school run smoothly. Your contribution is deeply appreciated and never goes unnoticed.

We also want to acknowledge our staff for their energy, care, professionalism, and unwavering support of our school whānau. We are a strong team who work together to make Rāwhiti School a special place to be.

Lastly, we wish you all a safe, relaxing, and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.

Ngā mihi
Helen and Paul



Cool Rise Team (CRT) Classroom Release

The Cool Rise Team (CRT), comprising of: Elizabeth, Caroline, Jude, Kathy, Sharon R, Matt, Kimberly, and Kim, has been busy providing an exciting array of teaching and learning opportunities for our students this year! The CRT's diverse programmes aim to engage all learners, ranging from movement and ball skills, co-operative games, and badminton. Students have been exploring digital art, mixed media, and artist-based activities, with junior students engaging in Te Reo Māori and Literacy lessons that reinforced our RISE values. Some students have used a range of technology and STEM activities, including Beebots, Sphero robots, Indi Sphero robots, Lego Essentials, developed their Cyberskills, and experienced EPro8 challenges.



Canterbury Athletics

Wednesday November 26th started very early for some of our top athletes, needing to be at school at 7.30am to head to Ngā Puna Wai for the Canterbury Primary Athletics. 20 Rāwhiti students between Year 5-8 qualified to attend after fantastic performances at our Zones competition. There were around 1500 participants from 196 schools at the event so it was an absolutely awesome achievement for all involved. All those that attended did really well and should be very proud of themselves.





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.

Riddle

Who says "Oh Oh Oh"...?

Thank you to the whole Rāwhiti School community! Your support has been amazing for this year's Christmas raffle. The PTA are pleased to announce that we have banked a whopping **\$5330!! And counting** with sales through the office, still to come. We'd love to hear ideas of how our community would like to see this money spent, so please send any suggestions to pta@rawhiti.school.nz or better yet, come along to the next PTA meeting in Term 1 2026.



The winners were....

- 1st – Louis H** a \$250 Mitre10 voucher **courtesy of Home Foundation**, food hamper and a Christmas ham
- 2nd – Hemi** a \$250 Mitre10 voucher **courtesy of Home Foundation**, food hamper and a Christmas cake
- +23** more food hamper and sponsor prize winners!

CONGRATULATIONS! to all our raffle winners.

A shout out to all our generous business sponsors, who help to make this raffle such a remarkable success, we are so grateful. Thank you from the PTA and Rāwhiti School community.



**Home
Foundation**



We also had some student prizes, so a big congratulations to **Lucas F** (Tangaroa) **our top seller** with **over 400 tickets** sold! **Ruby Z** (Tangaroa) second place and the **Coleman Family** (Tāne Mahuta/Tāwhirimātea) our third top seller. Well done! What an amazing effort. No surprise then that the **top selling studio was TANGAROA!** We hope you enjoy your well earned juicyies. Our spot prizes (randomly drawn from all students who returned any sold tickets) went to Alakai H, Gregson O, Brooke L, Isla J, Micha W, Bodie F, Zoe W, Tilda M, Chrissy W, Abigail H, Toby T and Jai M – thank you to all our sellers!



You can also support our second hand uniform PTA fundraiser if your child is moving on or had a growth spurt, by either donating unwanted uniform items (including black shorts, pants or skorts) to the office or purchasing (prices from \$5, supply and condition will vary).

The PTA would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and relaxing summer. Keep safe and see you back in about 6 -7 weeks!



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 – Santa walking backwards)

Summer Learning Journey

Introducing **'The Summer Learning Journey'**, a free digital literacy programme for school students. Each day over the summer holiday tasks are posted on the Summer Learning Journey blog that the children can complete. The activities are fun and engaging, and should only take between 10 minutes and half an hour. They then share this learning on their blog. There will be trained teachers who will comment on the children's blogs and encourage them along the way.

[Registration Link](#) - [Summer Learning Journey blog](#)



15th December - 23rd January
Critters and Creatures

A new topic to explore each week including activities in Te Reo Māori every Tuesday.
PLUS - Experiments with Eleanor live every Wednesday!



Register from 28th November
slj.manaiakalani.org



New activities every day to
Learn Create and Share
on your blog.
Track+Earn points for
badges and prizes!

Year 8 Leaver's Dinner

Congratulations to our Year 8's on a successful year. Here are a few snaps from the Leaver's Dinner last Thursday night.

