



Newsletter #17 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: Thursday 4th 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,

Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed the Te Ara Tūhura Cultural Festival at St Francis of Assisi and the Tūhono Competitions. You can read about both of these fantastic celebrations later in the newsletter.

On Monday, we farewelled our Year 8's who are off to Dunedin for the week. It is always an exciting event and the feedback from last years trip from staff, students and helpers was positive and the new experiences were a huge success. We look forward to hearing all about it and we will put some feedback from their adventure in the next school newsletter.

Safety First!

Thank you to everyone who has taken to walking their bike within the school grounds. It has made a big difference to the safety of all our students. We are awaiting the arrival and installation of some permanent signs to help us remember that message - safety first!

Staffing 2026 News

We wish to extend our congratulations to Eugene Beconsall who has been offered and has accepted the role of Manaiaakalani Education Programme Facilitator for the Te Ara Tūhura cluster of schools in East Christchurch for 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity for Eugene and we know the whole cluster will benefit from his expertise in this area. He will be supporting the staff across the cluster, including us, in the 'Learn, Create, Share' approach to teaching and learning, as well as working 1:1 with some of our new staff over the year. Luckily we will still get to see him around the place.

Welcome to new staff

A warm welcome to Liz Robinson and Marissa Lightfoot who both step into fixed term teaching roles in Tāwhirimātea; Liz is a recent graduate of the University of Canterbury and Marissa is joining us after teaching at Waiau School. Another warm welcome to Becky Prior and Harry Taylor who step into fixed term teaching roles in Tāne Māhuta. Becky is a recent graduate from Laidlaw College and Harry joins us after travelling the world teaching in Northern Ireland and Thailand. We are delighted to have you all on our staff for 2026.



**Mark Your
Calendar**

DECEMBER

- 1-5 Y8 Dunedin Camp
- 11 Dinner/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

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...

Farewells

We sadly farewell Rachel Beamont who is currently in her ninth year teaching of at Rāwhiti. We want to warmly thank her for her contributions to the school over this time and wish her all the very best in her new teaching role at Wharenu School. We also farewell Erica Viedma at the end of this year and thank her for all her work in Tāwhirimātea. Erica has worked in a fixed term teaching role and has accepted a teaching position at Wigram Primary School - Te Piki Kahu. We will acknowledge all staff leaving at our final assembly on Tuesday 16th December, 6pm.

2026 Teaching Teams

We are pleased to share with you our staffing for 2026. There are a couple of changes of staffing across our kāinga. We have aimed for consistency across the school as much as possible.

The teaching teams for 2026 have now been finalised:

Tangaroa: Year 7-8 **Sharon Thompson (Team Leader)**, Andrew Redmond, Talei Cordes, Nicole Johnston (Mon-Thurs), and Matt Barnes (Fridays)

Tāwhirimātea: Year 4-6 **Umi Shah (Team Leader)**, Liz Robinson, Marissa Lightfoot.

Tāne Mahuta: Year 4-6 **Lou Nu'uali'itia (Team Leader)**, Fi Glasgow, Harry Taylor, and Becky Prior

Haumia-tiketike - Year 1-8 **Jasmine Stirling (Team Leader)**, Travis Cooper, Emma Burgess, and Koha Mason

Papatūānuku - Year 1-3 **Helen Hogarth (Team leader of the Junior School)**, Lisa Handley and Kate Powell

Rongo-mā-tāne - Year 1-3 Louise Wynn, Amy Hurst, and Nigel Stewart

Aotahi NE-Yr 1 Aisling Cronin

Our release teaching team will be made up of **Elizabeth Kazmierczak (Team Leader)**, Caroline Briggs, Sharon Roberston, Kathy Lumley, Matt Barnes, Islay Harley and Kimberly Savage.

End of Year Events

Things only get busier from here on in and we know that the next 2 weeks will fly by. Please note some of the key dates in our Mark Your Calendar section and add them to your (already busy) diary.

Dec 11th Year 8 Dinner

Dec 12th Rāwhiti Festival of Celebration (AKA Rumbustification) Day

Dec 15th Showcase Assembly 1:30 pm

Dec 16th Leavers Assembly 6 pm

Dec 17th Poroporoaki in each Learning Studio 11 am

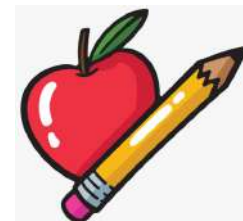
Dec 17th School Finishes for the Year 12 pm

The Rāwhiti 'Festival of Celebration - a.k.a Rumbustification is taking place on Friday December 12th. This is our annual whole school fun-day event to help our children celebrate the end of the school year. All the fun takes place here at school. Children head to their Learning Studio as usual in the morning and for the first time in its history it is a non-school uniform day. They are to bring: sunblock, morning tea, lunch, and a sunhat. There will be some water activities - slip and slide and water fights and each studio will get a chance to spend some time in the pool so togs are a must have for this day! We are looking forward to a fun-filled day.

Please bring your children to the **Leavers Assembly on Tuesday Dec 16th at 6pm**. This special assembly is a whole school event where we recognise a range of achievements, celebrate our year, and farewell our Year 8 students. It's a chance for everyone at Rāwhiti School to acknowledge our senior students and wrap up the year in a collaborative way. The usual running time is 1 hour.

Our final newsletter for the Year will be published on Monday, December 15th.

Ngā mihi
Helen and Paul



Tuhono Kapa Haka Competition & Celebration

Last weekend, our competing Rāwhiti kapa haka rōpū performed with excellence at the Christchurch Town Hall. This rōpū has been working tirelessly, practising every week for the last couple of terms. They had to learn three performance pieces, including actions and transitions.

The performance items included a waiata tira, a choral song called Tēnā Rā Koutou. It was about welcoming everyone to the performance. Next was the waiata-a-ringa, an action song. This waiata tells the whakapapa of our mana whenua here in Ōtautahi and the story of how our school came to be. Our haka also acknowledges this history and how the three kura came to be following the earthquakes.

Our rōpū were amazing on the day and successfully won a number of awards, including third place in the haka. A special mention goes out to TK Mead from Ata Hāpara, who won first place as kaitātaki tāne, the top male leader. Another special mention goes out to Ihaia Smith Willaims from Tangaroa who won the award for top student guitarist. The group looked absolutely stunning, and we also took away the award for the best-dressed rōpū. A special acknowledgement, mihi and thank you must be made to Sam Scrivens and Christy Coll who created and gifted a number of headpieces, huruhuru, and handmade paki to our rōpū and tau 8 to wear. This certainly contributed to winning best dressed.

Finally a special mihi to our tutor, Matua Travis for the waiata and haka he wrote, and to Whaea Mezza and Whaea Emma for their tautoko and support in helping the group improve their performance ability.



Te Ara Tuhura Cultural Festival

On Thursday 27th of November, the Pasifika and the kapa haka groups from Rawhiti school performed at the Te Ara Tuhura Cultural Festival. We showed all our skills with pride and joy. The dance that we performed was a siva and the kapa haka group performed four waiata directly after us. There were over 100 people at St Francis of Assisi watching and enjoying the warm weather. We were excited to show what we had been working on for the last few weeks.

By: Mahalia, Brooke and Maddie



Unlock the Magic of a Book-Filled Holiday!

The holidays are almost here—make sure your child's break is packed with more than just tinsel and treats! Give them the joy of discovering a new world on every page!

Join us on **Tuesday, December 16th** for our special **Holiday Borrowing Day!**

Our Whare Maturanga – Rāwhiti School Library is open from **8:30 AM to 3:30 PM:**

Pop in before school starts and grab a selection of books or visit after school.

Don't miss this one-day opportunity to ensure a book-tastic holiday!

Remember students can access our Wheelers ePlatform filled with eBooks and Audiobooks!

Visit - <https://rawhitischool.wheelers.co/browse>

If you don't know your child's login email
library@rawhiti.school.nz



Mānuka Stories we Reached our Goal!

A massive well done to everyone who filled in blossoms to contribute to the Mānuka Stories tree!
We set a goal to Read to 5 K and with three days to go we did it!
What a great team effort!





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 will now be in 2026! So, watch this space...

Riddle

What is the best Christmas gift you can give someone...?

The PTA Christmas Raffle is in full swing. We have had a fantastic response so far! So, a huge thank you to those who have already returned their completed ticket sheet, and an extra thanks to those who have sold even more!!

From the donations collected on the non-uniform day and some generous sponsors we have been able to put together 25 hampers to be raffled this year. Up for grabs with **1st prize is a \$250 Mitre10 voucher, food hamper and a Christmas ham! & 2nd prize \$250 Mitre10 voucher, hamper and a Christmas cake!** So, keep calm and keep selling as there still another 23 hampers and other sponsor prizes to be won. A huge thanks to Rāwhiti whānau and the wider community for your support, this wouldn't be possible without you.



There will be a reward for the top selling studio, along with top seller and spot prizes. 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. **All sold raffle tickets to be returned by 3pm Wednesday 10th December**, the raffle will be drawn at 7pm that evening. 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 broken drum because it can't be beaten!)

Congratulations!

We send heart felt congratulations to Miriam R, a past-pupil, who was announced as Head Girl for 2026 at Avonside Girls .High School at senior prize giving on Tuesday night.

Best wishes to her as she moves into this role for next year.



Kōrero mai | Let's talk

Brighton Mall upgrade

We want your feedback on our
plan to improve the mall.

The plans include new paving, street furniture, lighting,
bins, signage and planting.



Tell us what you think by **1 February 2026**.

Find out more

letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/brightonmall



Christchurch
City Council



Surveys

Thank you to all those who filled out survey's over the year. Your feedback is important to us and helps us tailor teaching and learning programmes, behaviour strategies and inform us on little things that can make a big difference. Even a chat at the gate is helpful and informative.

In this newsletter we have included the results from the Manaiakalani Survey which help inform our reading programme targets for next year.

MANAIAKALANI QUESTIONNAIRE RĀWHITI SCHOOL DATA 2025

Thank you for your participation. Here is a snapshot of the responses:



Who took part?

ākonga



247

whānau



153

teachers



10

What participants said about:

Learners know how much progress they are making in reading.



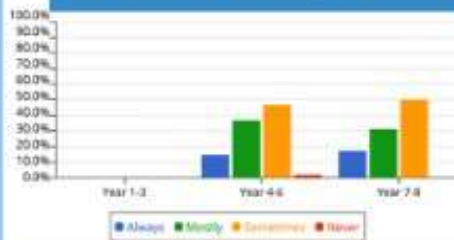
Learners know what they are learning to do when reading.



The 'Create' activities learners do make them think really hard.



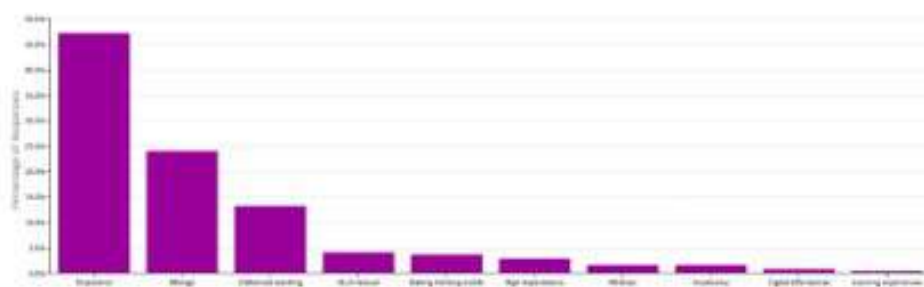
Learners read texts that include a range of different cultures.



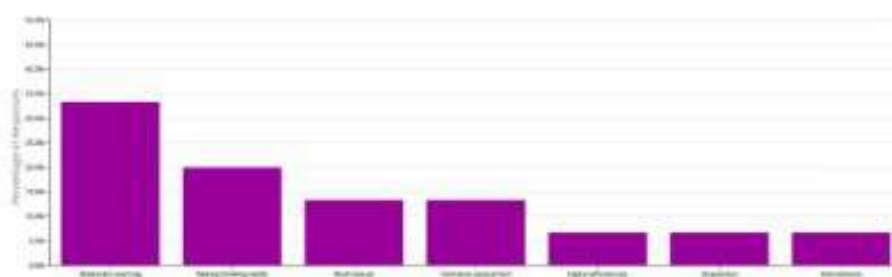
MANAIAKALANI QUESTIONNAIRE RĀWHITI SCHOOL DATA 2025



What ākonga said makes them become better readers:



What teachers said gets good progress shifts for ākonga :



What whānau said gets good progress shifts for ākonga :

