



Newsletter #18 - Te Pānui o te kura o Rāwhiti: 5 December 2024

*E ara ake ana i te ūruhi*  
*Rising Above The Ordinary*

## **From The Principal - Te Pū kaea a te Tumuaki**

**Kia ora koutou,**

We are certainly missing our swimming pool on these very hot days. Fortunately, the pool repair is underway. It is a massive job, but it is looking good for a pool re-opening at the beginning of the new school year.



This week I was lucky enough to get down to Dunedin to spend a night with our Year 8 students who are there for the week on their end of year camp. They have a packed agenda for the week and I joined them at the bottom of Baldwin Street - the steepest street in the world - on a 30 degree day. Almost everyone made it to the top! We spent a lovely evening at Sandfly Bay on Tuesday, and then yesterday I accompanied a group on their visit to the Royal Albatross Colony at Tairoa Heads, where the birds are currently sitting on their nests, and then to the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre at Portobello. Their final activity for the afternoon was a Monarch Wildlife Cruise exploring the wildlife of the Otago Harbour. Other activities on the list for the week include the Art Gallery and Museum, Moana Pool, and the Science Department. A full-on week that our Year 8s will remember forever.



### **DECEMBER 2024**

- 2-6 Y8 Dunedin Trip
- 9 BOT Meeting, 5.30pm
- 11 Lights Camera Action Learning Celebration, 2pm
- 11 Lights Camera Action Movie Night, 5.30—6.30pm
- 13 Rumbustification Day
- 16 Showcase Assembly, 1pm
- 16 Y8 Dinner, 6pm
- 17 Leavers Assembly, 6pm
- 18 School Ends, 12pm

### **JANUARY 2025**

30&31 Goal Setting Meetings

### **FEBRUARY 2025**

- 1st First day of instruction and Mihi Whakatau
- 6th SCHOOL CLOSED—Waitangi Day
- 7th SCHOOL CLOSED



*From The Principal continued ...*

On November 24th our specialist Kapa Haka group took part in the annual Tūhono competition at the Town Hall. This is the first time we have been involved and the many after school hours of practice certainly paid off, with our group coming away with awards for 1st place in waiata tira, 2nd place in waiata a ringa, 2nd place in haka, 1st place for kotiro, and 1st place for student guitarist. All of this led to 2nd place overall for the entire competition. All credit for our amazing performance has to go to Matua Travis and his support team of Racheal, Emma, Jasmine and Koha. Through his skill and patience, Travis brings out the best in our tamariki, and their performances just get better and better.



Our Ta Ara Tūhura Cluster Kapa Haka festival last Thursday was a huge success and it was wonderful to see so many Rāwhiti whanau in attendance - thank you all for your support. The sun shone, the wind blew, and our Rāwhiti group was outstanding. It is hard not to be biased - but I thought they were the star performers of the evening!

Last Wednesday evening I joined dozens of proud Rāwhiti parents and whānau at the Town Hall for this years Children's University graduation. Once again, of all the schools represented on the night, Rāwhiti had by far the largest number of graduates, who had amassed a staggering number of learning hours outside of school across the year. Of particular significance, this year Mira from Tane Mahuta who received a Gold Post Grad Award for 500 hours, and Jennifer from Ata Hapara who received a Bronze Post Graduate Masters Degree for 730 hours of additional learning.

We extend special thanks to Helen Parata, our in-school coordinator, who goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone meets their targets.



I am very much looking forward to next Wednesday, December 11th, when we hold our 'Lights Camera Action!' film and movie Learning Celebration. This is the culmination of our years focus on understanding the concept of Action. There are two sessions: 2-3pm and 5.30-6.30pm.

Please bring your children to the Leavers Assembly on Tuesday Dec 17th at 6pm. This special assembly is a whole school event at which 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.

## 2025 Teaching Teams

The teaching teams for 2025 have been finalised:

- **Tangaroa:** Year 7-8  
Sharon Thompson (Team Leader), Andrew Redmond, Talei Cordes, Nicole Johnson (Mon-Thurs), and Matt Barnes (Fridays)
- **Tāwhirimātea:** Year 4-6  
Urmi Shah (Team Leader), Erica Viedma, Rachel Beaumont. (Mon-Thurs) and Sharon Robertson (Fridays)
- **Tāne Mahuta:** Year 4-6  
Eugene Becconsall (Team Leader), Fi Glasgow and Lou Nu'uali'itia
- **Haumia-tiketike** - Year 1-8  
Jasmine Stirling (Team Leader), Racheal Cooper, Travis Cooper and Koha Mason
- **Papatūānuku** - Year 1-3  
Emma Burgess, Lisa Handley and Kate Powell
- **Rongo-mā-tāne** - Year 1-3  
Amy Hurst, Nigel Stewart and Islay Harley
- **Aotahi** NE-Yr 1  
Brogan O'Neill and Louise Wynn

Our release teaching team will be made up of Elizabeth Kazmierczak, Caroline Briggs, Sharon Roberston, Kathy Lumley and Matt Barnes.

The structure of our learning teams across the school supports the new curriculum refresh in Mathematics and Literacy being rolled out by the government next year. From 2025 onwards you will start to hear about 'Phases of Learning'. The Phases of Learning give clear outcomes for learning and teaching that are underpinned by the science of learning, explicit teaching practice, structured literacy approaches, and positive relationships in learning. The phases for all primary and intermediate schools across New Zealand are defined as; Year NE-Year 3 (Phase 1), Years 4-6 (Phase 2) and Years 7 - 8 (Phase 3).

Our final newsletter for the Year will be published on Monday, December 16th.



## End of Year Events

Things only get busier from here on in and we know that the next 3 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 9th Board of Trustees Meeting 5pm
- Dec 11th Lights Camera Action Learning Celebration
- Dec 12th Parent Helpers Morning Tea
- Dec 13th Rāwhiti Rumbustification Day
- Dec 16th Showcase Assembly 1pm
- Dec 16th Year 8 Dinner
- Dec 17th Leavers Assembly 6pm
- Dec 18th Poroporoaki in each Learning Studio 11am
- Dec 18th School Finishes for the Year 12pm



## Rāwhiti 'Rumbustification - Friday December 13th

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 are to wear their school uniform for the day. They are also to bring: sunblock, morning tea and lunch, school sunhat.

Our final newsletter for the year will be published on Monday, December 16th.

**Ngā mihi nui,  
Liz Weir**

## Return Sports Uniforms

There are a number of sports uniforms that are yet to be handed back in. Could you please check with your child if they have bought them back and if not can they please come in asap.

## School Uniform Ordering Website

Impact have launched a new website for parents to use to order our school uniform. You can click on the link below for the website:

<https://bigimpact.co.nz/collections/rawhiti-primary-school>

## Canterbury Athletics

Congratulations to Noah, Millicent, Nate, Jesse, Ailia, Chelsea, James, Georgia, Daisy-Jaye, Vinny, Archie, Max, Joel, Jessica, Noah and Anika who competed at the 2024 Canterbury Primary School Athletics held at Ngā Puna Wai last Wednesday.

This is an event that attracted 1800 participants from across 200 schools. All of the students competed fantastically with some outstanding sportsmanship shown from all. A special mention goes out to the following tamariki for top 10 finishes:

- Georgia 2nd 80m Yr6
- Jesse 4th 60m Yr5
- Noah B 5th shotput Yr8
- Archie 6th long jump Yr7
- James 5th long jump Yr6
- Ailia 10th high jump Yr 5
- Nate 8th 80m Yr 5
- Vinny 7th 60m Yr7



### The Terrific Trek

To make up for the pool being closed, the Tāwhirimātea children have been taking part in The Terrific Trek (a bit like The Amazing Race). They work in groups to solve different tasks, such as bottle flips, Boggle, tallest towers, puzzles, an Oreo challenge, an adventure course, and lots more. There are 15 challenges in total.

The focus has been to embrace the school's RISE values (Resilience, Integrity, Success, and Empathy) to earn points. Bonus points are also given out for those groups who are being super awesome!

The children are having great fun and the teachers are noticing some heart warming moments!





**Manaiakalani**  
Summer Learning Journey

9th December - 17th January  
Te Moana Mīharo...  
The Marvellous Sea

Register from 25th November  
[slj.manaiakalani.org](http://slj.manaiakalani.org)

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

## Summer Learning Journey

The programme runs from the 9th of December to the 17th of January with two activities being posted a day.

The children can choose from “Kick Start” or “Step it Up” activities, or do both! A minimum of 3 posts a week is enough to stop the summer slump.

Note: children do not need to do activities every day, but the more they do the more points they earn.

Your child should have bookmarked the [Summer Learning Journey blog](#).

This is where the daily activities are posted.

[Here is a link for further information.](#)

We have collated a collection of blog posts to celebrate the first day of Summer. This year, our students have truly embraced the theme *Hohenga - Action through their thoughtful and creative blogging*.

If you have access to Google Slides you can view the slide deck here - <https://bit.ly/RSblogfest> or visit the direct links below...

### AKO/LEARN:

Maniya - [Māori string games](#)

Mayan - [Kei Hea te Ngeru?](#)

Kelsi - [Sphero Maths](#)

George - [Cafe Tangaroa](#)

Dante - [Mau Rakau](#)

Arihana - [Keeping Ourselves Safe](#)

### HANGA/Create:

Mia H - [Film Festival Storyboard](#)

Kepa - [neurographic art](#)

Max - [Book Covers](#)

Isla - [Short film](#)

Rongo mā tāne Studio blog - [Look at our hats!](#)

Papatūānuku Studio blog - [Reusing and Recycling Library books](#)

Papatūānuku Studio blog - [I made a boat!](#)

### TOHATOHA/Share:

Carys - [Earthquake Data Handling Maths](#)

Leo - [lights! camera! Action!](#)

Lexie - [Year 8 Girls Self Defence](#)

Jovaan - [my online video](#)

### Hohenga/Action:

Eva - [Photo Research](#)

Ben - [Minecraft Maze for CRT Me, Jaxon and Kobe](#)

Harper - [Hohenga - Action Minecraft maze](#)

Abigail - [Athletics Day 2024](#)

Aotahi Studio Blog - [Fire Song!](#)

Rongo mā tāne Studio Blog - [Visit from the Emergency Services](#)





### Tough Kids Photos From Today

