

NEWSLETTER

Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 343 | Term 4 | Week 11

Contact

Redwood School

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Kiwi Syndicate

Vanessa Serci - Reception - Room 7

Fiona Boag - New Entrants - Room 6

Nic Wilkinson - Y1 - Room 5

Amy Tinker - Y1 - Room 4

Michelle Morpeth - Y 2/3 - Room 3
(Syndicate Leader)

Cassie George - Y2/3 - Room 2

Danielle Smith - Y2/3 - Room 1

Diane Young - Y2/3 - Room 9

Melanie Goonan - Y2/3 - Room 10

Kererū Syndicate

Caitlin Arlidge (Syndicate Leader) -
Y5/6 - Room 14

Hazel Handley - Y5/6 - Room 15

Erin Baker - Y5/6 - Room 16

Anna Truesdale - Y5/6 - Room 17

Marlene Schweizer - Y4 - Room 18

Kelsey Moore - Y4/5 - Room 19

Matoia Record - Y4 - Room 20

Anna Young - Junior Literacy Support

Nic Webb - Science Release Teacher

Carmel Wilson - SENCo

Mark Kyne - Release Teacher

Jo Montague - Release Teacher

Rachel Gargan - Deputy Principal

Principal's Post

Tēnā tatou katoa e te whānau

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini" - Success is not the work of one, but the work of many.

This is certainly the case at Redwood School where everyone in the team: students, teachers, teacher aides, support staff, caretaker and cleaners, Board of Trustees, Parent Fundraising Group, and whānau come to make this a real learning community. We have seen this in action more than once recently at our Kapa Haka Whānau Performance, our Fun Day and Disco. We cannot do these things without contributions from a variety of people who all want the best for the learners at Redwood School. On behalf of everyone here, thank you for your support this year.

In the world of education this year has been a bit of a blur with lots of announcements and lots of change. It has been easy to get consumed by this, become cynical, and lose sight of the learners right in front of us. My work New Year's resolution is to be a bit more positive and to focus on championing the awesome things happening in our kura, because there are many things worth celebrating.

This week, for instance, I received reports from the Curriculum Insights team, who were here at the end of Term 3 as part of an annual national study into academic performance across the curriculum. They 'tested' a random selection of our Year 3 and Year 6 students in the areas of Technology and The Arts. In early Term 4 I was asked to put the same students through a series of tests to judge their capability in reading, writing, and maths. Our students performed well above the average in all areas, with our Year 6s, in particular, standing out in the 3 core learning areas, being significantly above national norms and with a very tight performance band showing consistency across the group. This also corresponds with our Maths PAT in Years 4-6, which showed on average over double the expected progress at Year 6. Whilst we know that this isn't the experience for all our learners, we are hopeful that some new intervention programmes targeting our older students in 2026 will support all learners to make progress.

Dates for your diary

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- Thursday 18th December** -
Final assembly - 11:45
- Thursday 18th December** -
School finishes - 12:30
- Monday 2nd February** -
Term 1 2026 begins
- Friday 6th February** -
Waitangi Day
- Friday 13th February** -
Mihi Whakataū
- Wednesday 18th February** -
Meet the Teams
- Term 1 Week 4** -
Tawa Zone Rippa Rugby
- Friday 6th March** -
RED Day
- Term 1 Week 7** -
Year 5 & 6 Camp

School Bank Account

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For all online payments our school Internet banking details are:
ASB bank 12-3140-0316668-01
Please include your child's name, their room number and what the payment is for.

PFG

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The Redwood PFG are a group of volunteers who co-ordinate and support our fundraising efforts. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Anna Gandy:

pfg@redwood.school.nz

Compliments & Complaints

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If at anytime you have a compliment or a concern please do contact your child's teacher. Please appreciate that during the school day they are busy teaching and may not be able to respond to an email.

The Syndicate Leader, Deputy Principal or myself are always available if the concern cannot be resolved or if the compliment needs to be shared.

There has been some fantastic learning happening across the school this year. Science has been a big focus this year, with our whole school unit around butterflies engaging all our learners in the natural world. Latterly, students in Kiwi Syndicate have been exploring the science of weather, whilst Kererū Syndicate looked at the scientific principles between natural disasters. Both these foci were really enjoyed by our learners and translated into some excellent writing, art, and technological outcomes. I particularly enjoyed the Emergency Preparedness Expo Kererū put on to showcase their inventive designs and advertising.

Sport has always been a huge part of Redwood School, and this year has been no exception. We have had a number of excellent results individually at the various zone competitions, with many students going on to take part at Regional events. We have also had great numbers participating in our Miniball and Netball teams, as well as events such as Rippa Rugby. As well as the annual events such as the Titahi Bay Sports Exchange and Ki o Rahi Festival, we also added a Greenacres football challenge to the mix, which we hope to make an annual game. For 2026, we are also exploring the possibility of a futsal team joining the Porirua competition in Term 1. Keep your eyes peeled for further information about this in the new year.

Student leadership is an area we have specifically targeted over the past couple of years. Our Rōpū Whānau Captains, Road Patrollers, Enviro/KETE Leaders, and Librarians are well established, but this year we added new roles such as our Sports Captains and PALs (Physical Activity Leaders). These have been a big success, as has the rejuvenation of our Student Council. We are excited for new leaders to step into this space in 2026.

Our Kapa Haka rōpū continues to thrive. Over the three performance groups we have about two-thirds of our school regularly participating in Kapa Haka. This is, in large part, due to the enthusiasm and passion of Vanessa Serci, who continues to champion and lead our Kapa Haka at Redwood School. Ka rawe, Vanessa! What has given me most pride this year is our students' ability to launch into waiata or haka without preparation – something inconceivable a couple of years ago.

Finally, we have our new playground. This project was first identified when I arrived at Redwood seven years ago. Through the hard work of our PFG and BoT we managed to get to a financial position where we could afford to replace the old playground and I think, judging by the popularity at break times, after-school, and at the weekends, it has been a huge success. I look forward to the renovation of our hall and student bathrooms in 2026.

On behalf of everyone at Redwood School I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a fantastic Summer break. We'll see many of you back at Redwood on Monday 2nd February.

Ka Kite!

Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal

zacmills@redwood.school.nz



2026 School Structure

We will be keeping our two syndicate structure for 2026: Kiwi (Year 1 - 3), Kererū (Year 4 - 6)

Kiwi Syndicate

Room 1 - Year 2 - Barry Clarke
Room 2 - Year 3 - Nic Webb
Room 3 - Year 2/3 - Michelle Morpeth
Room 4 - Year 1 - Amy Tinker
Room 5 - Year 1 - Nicola Wilkinson
Room 7 - Reception / Year 1 - Vanessa Serci
Room 9 - Year 3 - Diane Young
Room 10 - Year 2 - Melanie Goonan

Kererū Syndicate

Room 14 - Year 5/6 - Caitlin Arlidge / Erin Baker
(Caitlin will be on maternity leave from the end of Term 1)
Room 15 - Year 5/6 - Hazel Handley
Room 16 - Year 5/6 - Lucy Smith
Room 17 - Year 5/6 - Anna Truesdale
Room 18 - Year 4 - Marlene Schweitzer
Room 19 - Year 4/5 - Colin Lambie
Room 20 - Year 4 - Grace O'Rourke

Additional Teaching Staff

Learning Support Coordinator / SENCo - Carmel Wilson
Literacy Support Specialist - Anna Young
Release Teacher - Jo Montague
Release Teacher - Mark Kyne
Deputy Principal - Rachel Gargan
Principal - Zac Mills

Congratulations to Danielle Smith, Fiona Boag, Kelsey Moore, and Donna Glenn who have all secured positions in other schools for 2026. We wish them well in their new kura.

Term 1 2026 begins on Monday 2nd February