



# NEWSLETTER

## Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 350 | Term 4 | Week 2

### Contact

#### Redwood School

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### Kiwi Syndicate

Nic Wilkinson - Y1 - Room 1

Melanie Goonan - Y1 - Room 6

Vanessa Serci - Y1 - Room 7

Karen Dessoulavy - NE - Room 8

Kate Collins - Y2 - Room 2

Michelle Morpeth - Y1/2 - Room 3  
(Syndicate Leader)

### Pūkeko Syndicate

Diane Young - Y3 - Room 12

Amy Tinker - Y3 - Room 13

Cassie George - Y3 - Room 18

Anna Truesdale - Y4 - Room 19  
(Syndicate Leader)

Grace O'Rourke - Y4 - Room 20

### Kererū Syndicate

Caitlin Arlidge (Syndicate Leader)/

Emma Ashington - Y5/6 - Room 14

Carmel Wilson - Y5/6 - Room 15

Donna Glenn - Y5/6 - Room 16

Mark Kyne - Y5/6 - Room 17

Rachel Gargan - Deputy Principal /  
SENCo

### Principal's Post

#### Tēnā tatou katoa e te whānau

Welcome to Term 4! It's always a busy one for students, staff and for whānau, so we are committed to trying to keep you as well informed as possible. Following on from the feedback gathered at our Open Afternoon around our use of HERO we have implemented some changes that we hope you find useful. One of the pieces of feedback was that many of you looked for events on our HERO calendar, but they weren't there! We apologise for that. We had thought that the calendar on the website and HERO were synched, but this was not the case. It is now! Another piece of feedback was that searching for events on the Community Feed was hard due to incorrect naming of posts. Many parents were unaware of the search feature, which is really useful to use when you're looking for a specific piece of information or an event. All posts will have a title saying what it is about e.g. 'Room 20 Swimming Information'. This should make finding information easier to do. We are looking to implement changes based on some of the other feedback at the beginning of 2025.

The rest of this newsletter is, I'm afraid, unashamedly political. Over the past 24 hours I have been given information that is barely believable and anger-inducing. This information is indicative of the serious lack of planning and thought being given to teachers, students, and schools as the government tries to hastily bring in changes and the Ministry of Education tries to implement them. Today, we had a Curriculum Day provided to us by the Ministry of Education to unpack the new English and Maths Curriculum documents ready for their implementation in 2025. The window of when we could take the day was provided to us by the Ministry last year. Early this week I spoke to my Ministry team asking if we would actually be provided with the final versions of the curriculum documents prior to these days, as the only copies we had were Drafts for Consultation.

### Dates for your diary

Monday 28th October - Labour Day  
 Tuesday 29th October - New Entrant /  
 Year 6 photos  
 Wednesday 30th October PFG Meeting  
 Friday 1st November - Hui-a-kura  
 Thursday 7th November - Rōpū Whānau  
 Hui  
 Friday 15th November - Interzone  
 Swimming

### School Bank Account

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

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](mailto:pfg@redwood.school.nz)

### Compliments & Complaints

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.

I finally received the updated documents at just after 7pm last night. At a Ministry meeting I attended last week, we were told that there were only minor changes from the drafts we had already seen. You can imagine my surprise when I flicked through them last night to see that the pedagogy (the philosophy of teaching) section at the front has significantly changed and in a way that completely diminishes the approach espoused by the Minister for Education for the last 3 years (both in opposition and as Minister). As a result, much of what we had planned to do today was superfluous and irrelevant and therefore we had to 'make up' our professional learning on the spot. This is symbolic of the challenges and changes we are facing, which I do not think serve our students, staff, or communities well.

More disappointing, yesterday, was the news that we have been refused Literacy Support Funding for Years 0-2. This staffing allocation is a redistribution of the Reading Recovery funding that we have used to employ Anna Young and, previously, Bev Wong. If any of your children have been fortunate to work with these highly capable staff members on individual or group reading interventions, you will know the impact these teachers can have. Sadly, the Ministry have determined that our Equity Index is too low to warrant any staffing support to fund this role.

Thank you for your application for Staffing Resource for Structured Literacy Support in Years 0-2.

Unfortunately, we are not able to allocate this resource to your school for next year.

There has been a large number of applications for the new staffing resource, and applications exceeded the staffing available for 2025. The staffing has been prioritised for high equity index schools.

This essentially means that we have no funding mechanisms to support our most vulnerable literacy learners who need extra support. This comes hot on the heels of this year's 75% reduction in 'In Class Support (ICS) Places; funding for support of students a whole curriculum level below their expected level. The clear message to our struggling learners and their whānau, is that your needs are not worth supporting, and I expect there is an assumption that our community can fund outside tuition to support their struggling students. If, like me, you feel this is grossly unfair, feel free to email [SLA.staffing@education.govt.nz](mailto:SLA.staffing@education.govt.nz) or the current Minister of Education, [E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Stanford@ministers.govt.nz) with your thoughts.

There are some great, passionate people working at the Ministry, some of whom are parents of students at the school; sadly, it is rare that they are in charge of making decisions, such as these, that directly impact our learners.  
 Ka Kite!

**Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal**

[zacmills@redwood.school.nz](mailto:zacmills@redwood.school.nz)



## Welcome to Redwood School

Hunter Thompson  
Gia Reay  
Te Manawa Green

Hridhan Desai  
Annie Liu

## Board Shorts

### Messages from our Board of Trustees

Our our meeting last week we discussed:

- Curriculum changes
- Property updates, including our Playground Upgrade
- Fundraising

## PFG News

### Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

In Term 4 we have 2 upcoming fundraisers:

- A wine fundraiser
- Student disco in early December

## Community Notices



**Does your child like to sing, dance, act and perform?**

**Would you like your child to build more confidence and make more friends?**

Performing arts classes led by a London West End performer!

After school and weekend classes in Aotea, Johnsonville, Karori, Newtown, Lower Hutt, and Upper Hutt!

Two-week trials available.

For more information, please visit [www.spotlightperformingarts.co.nz](http://www.spotlightperformingarts.co.nz)

**SPOTLIGHT**  
PERFORMING ARTS