

# NEWSLETTER

## Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 354 | Term 4 | Week 8

### Contact

#### Redwood School

Ph +64 4 232 7704

Office email:

office@redwood.school.nz

Finance email:

accounts@redwood.school.nz

Website:

www.redwood.school.nz

Facebook:

@RedwoodSchoolTawa

PFG:

pfg@redwood.school.nz

### Kiwi Syndicate

Nic Wilkinson - Y1 - Room 1

Melanie Goonan - Y1 - Room 6

Vanessa Serci - Y1 - Room 7

Karen Dessoulavy - NE - Room 8

Kelsey Moore - 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

Nic Webb - Science Release Teacher

Rachel Gargan - Deputy Principal /  
SENCo

## Principal's Post

### Tēnā tatou katoa e te whānau

We are almost at the end of the year! How did that happen? A friendly reminder that the school year finishes on Tuesday 17th December at 12:30. Our final assembly is at 12:00 on that day.

As ever, we have tried to jam pack a host of events in the last few weeks of the year, which have been rewarding and a great celebration of the learning students have done across 2024. A massive thank you for your support of these events.

Last week our amazing Senior Kapa Haka rōpū performed at the annual Tawa Cultural Festival. They did such a an awesome job. Huge thanks to Vanessa Serci, Te Rehia and Liz who work with this group. You can see their performance [here](#).

This week they were joined by our Kiwi and Pūkeko groups for our Kapa Haka Whānau performance, where the hall was packed to see our learners perform. What an amazing night. Yesterday, we had our Kāhui Ako Ki O Rahi Festival at Tawa College - another afternoon of friendly sporting competition between the Tawa primary schools. Tonight, we cap off the week with our PFG Disco.

Within school this week we have also had our Kererū Karnival; a celebration of learning about the Technological process and students' learning in science about simple machines. Today Kiwi Syndicate has been enjoying Pirate Day; they look like they have been having an 'oarsome' time with some 'aaarghmazing' costumes on show.

### Dates for your diary

.....  
 Tuesday 10th December - BoT Meeting  
 Wednesday 11th December - Year 6  
 Leavers' supper  
 Friday 13th December - End of Year Fun  
 Day  
 Friday 13th December - End of Year  
 Reports go live on HERO  
 Monday 16th December - Class  
 placements available on HERO / 2025  
 Class visits for students

**Tuesday 17th December - Final  
 assembly 12:00  
 School finishes at 12:30**

### 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

### 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.

On the page below, we have our staff structure for 2025. As you will see, there is a reasonable amount of change happening. Some of this structural change is to align with the new curriculum, as I outlined in my last newsletter. The new curriculum is divided into phases: Phase 1 - Years 1 to 3, Phase 2 - Years 4 - 6. For 2025 we will have two syndicates to match these phases: Kiwi - Year 1 to 3, Kererū - Year 4 to 6. This change also allows us greater flexibility with class compositions and, as a school whose roll is shrinking, this is extremely important to ensure we can keep our class sizes as small as possible.

We, also, have four new teachers joining us next year across the school: Danielle Smith, Marlene Schweizer, Hazel Handley and Erin Baker. We are looking forward to having these new teachers start their teaching careers with us. We also have Kelsey Moore joining us on a full time basis, after doing lots of relieving with us for the last few years. You will also notice a couple of our more experienced teachers exploring different rolls next year. Carmel Wilson will be stepping into the vacant SENCo role, Mark Kyne will be stepping out of the classroom to take on a part-time release teacher role, and Donna Glenn will be a Literacy Support teacher for Years 4-6 in Term 1 before going on maternity leave. Congratulations Donna!

For 2025, we have also brought back a reception class, which will be taught by Vanessa Serici. Many years ago we had a reception class that was a space to transition new students into the school and into Year 1 classes. With less enrolments, our new five year olds are starting school more spread out than in previous years. We are also noticing a wider range of school readiness in our five year olds. The reception class allows the teacher to focus on settling students into school, getting them ready for learning and, with our structured literacy programmes will be a great start to their school journey.

Change is always challenging, so feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our structure for 2025.

Ka Kite!

**Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal**

**zacmills@redwood.school.nz**



<b>Kiwi Syndicate - Years 1 to 3</b>		
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Year Level</b>
Cassie George	1	Year 2 / 3
Danielle Smith	2	Year 2 / 3
Michelle Morpeth	3	Year 2 / 3
Amy Tinker	4	Year 1
Nicola Wilkinson	5	Year 1
Vanessa Serci	7	Reception
Diane Young	9	Year 2 / 3
Melanie Goonan	10	Year 2 / 3
<b>Kererū Syndicate - Years 4 to 6</b>		
Caitlin Arlidge	14	Year 5 / 6
Hazel Handley	15	Year 5 / 6
Erin Baker	16	Year 5 / 6
Anna Truesdale	17	Year 5 / 6
Marlene Schweizer	18	Year 4
Kelsey Moore	19	Year 4 / 5
Grace O'Rourke	20	Year 4

# Welcome to Redwood School

Jieming Chen  
Leo Waikari

Zahana Naran

## Board Shorts

### Messages from our Board of Trustees

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10th December

## PFG News

### Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

Disco is on tonight!

Thank you so much for your support of our wine sales fundraiser!

## 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!

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