



# NEWSLETTER

## Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 343 | Term 4 | Week 6

### Contact

#### Redwood School

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#### Office email:

office@redwood.school.nz

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#### Website:

www.redwood.school.nz

#### Facebook:

@RedwoodSchoolTawa

#### PFG:

pfg@redwood.school.nz

### 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

There is a lot happening in the world of education at the moment, which has huge implications for students, staff, parents and the Board of Trustees. It is almost too hard to keep up with the changes announcements at a time of the year which is already very busy for schools. Some of the key announcements over the past few weeks have been:

- New 'finalised' Maths and English curriculums, which are quite different from the versions released in 2023 and 2024
- The release of 'Draft' curriculum documents in all the other curriculum areas, that are very different from models previously proposed and that were worked on by local New Zealand curriculum advisors
- Significant amendments of the Education and Training Act 2021 including the removal of the obligation for schools to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi - (a discussion point for our Board of Trustees at our next meeting)
- A proposal to significantly reshape the Teaching Council, teachers' professional body, by replacing council members with Ministry of Education-appointed officials and the oversight of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) being shifted from the Teaching Council to the MoE

I won't comment on whether these changes and announcements are positive or not, but what I would say is that there is a phenomenal amount of work in reading and trying to understand what all these changes are and what they mean for Redwood School.

Two weeks ago, the Leadership team attended the Aotearoa Education Collective UpliftED conference in Wellington. The dominant theme from this was this myriad of change in New Zealand's education system, particularly the curriculum changes. Whilst, as a group, we left not particularly 'uplifted', we did come away thinking about what we believe education and school is all about and what we want our learners at Redwood School to experience. We have also asked our staff to ponder this as we think about next year's annual plan. With strategic consultation pushed back for another 12 months, we don't need to create a new strategic plan, but do need to develop our annual goals for 2026.

## Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 18 November** - Interzone Athletics
- Tuesday 18 November** - Student Council trip
- Wednesday 19 November** - KETE Leaders trip
- Thursday 20 November** - Ki o rahi Festival
- Tuesday 25 November** - BoT Meeting
- Wednesday 26 November** - Transition to school hui
- Friday 28 November** - Kapa Haka Festival

## 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

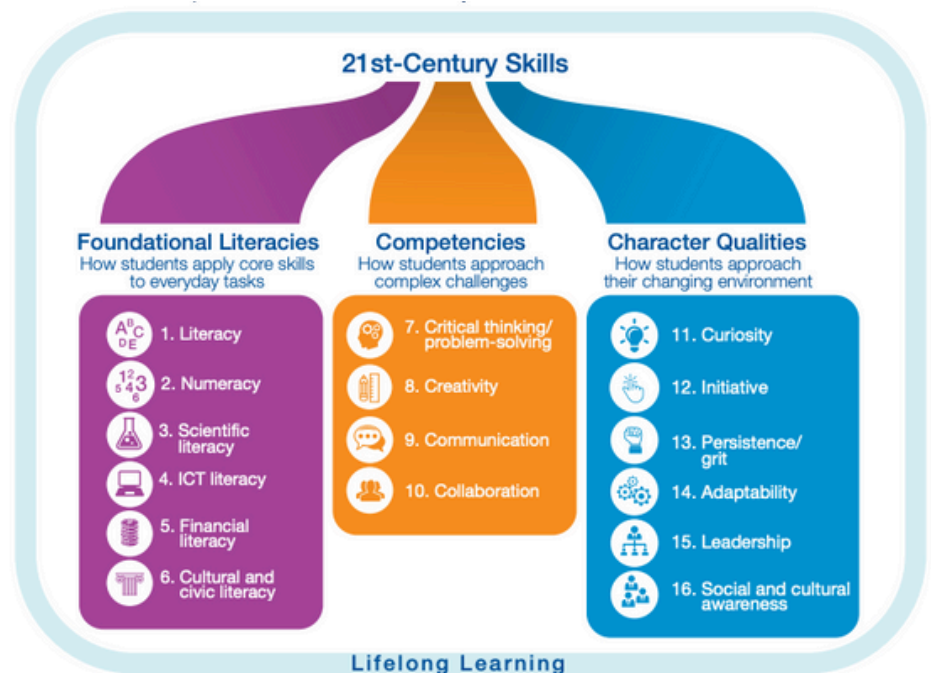
If at anytime you have a compliment or a concern please do contact your child's teacher. Please appreciate that during the school day they are busy teaching and may not be able to respond to an email.

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

In our last two strategic community consultations there has been a clear message that:

- Literacy and Numeracy learning is really important, as is Science
- Social and emotional learning is important
- We want students to have a wide range of learning and curriculum experiences
- We value creativity, curiosity, collaboration and students being confident and believing in themselves
- Students should enjoy school and learning
- We should have a school environment and resources that support our students to grow and develop

What I have reflected on are the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills identified by the World Economic Forum in 2015.



Essentially, these align with the feedback received from our community and align with what I want our learners at Redwood to develop. They very much correlate with our RED Values and Learner Outcomes. Whilst the curriculum is in such a state of flux, we believe that a focus on these skills and dispositions will support our learners to thrive and enjoy their learning.

One thing students have been enjoying is our new playground. It has been so awesome to see a range of students using the playground; at break times, before and after school, and at weekends too! It is lovely to see students challenging themselves but also supporting each other to navigate the obstacles. We can't wait to have it fully repaired so that students can traverse the entirety of it without touching the ground! A massive thanks to our PFG and parent community for the fundraising effort to make this happen.

Ka Kite!

**Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal**

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



## End of Year Reporting

As previously communicated, we have done a lot of work this year familiarising ourselves with the 2024 Mathematics and Writing Curriculums. These were going to be the basis for our End of Year reporting in these two areas. The release of new reformatted and recalibrated documents took us completely by surprise and as a result all of our hard work in preparing detailed reports against these objectives has been made null and void. We have not had the time or opportunity to unpack the new 2025 Mathematics and Writing curricula sufficiently to be able to make End of Year OTJs (Overall Teacher Judgements) using these new curricula. Therefore, for 2025, we have decided to report learning and achievement in a different way to previous years. In Week 9, on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of December, there will be Parent / Teacher Conferences for parents to connect with their child's teacher and to discuss their progress in the key learning areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. These discussions will focus on what students can currently do and what their next steps in learning are for them to make progress. On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Week 11), a General Comment summarising your child's development overall will be shared on their Learner Profile in HERO. Bookings for Parent / Teacher Conferences will be open from next week.

## 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  
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.

## Welcome to Redwood School

Elleena Abeywickrama

Finn Stein

Jesse Weight

Annvita Cheerla

## Board Shorts

### Messages from our Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are proud to announce that the school has secured \$550,000 from the MoE to renovate and refurbish all our student toilets. We have also had the MoE's funding contribution to our hall renovations confirmed, and the tender for drainage work has gone out! Lots happening on the property front in the next 12 months!

We are having ongoing problems with discourteous parking and driving behaviour. Please can we make a concerted effort to respect our neighbours' driveways and the rules of the road.

Our next BoT meeting is Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6:00

## PFG News

### Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

**Disco** - The school disco will be held on Friday, 5th December.

Tickets are available to purchase now via this link:  
<https://forms.gle/eih56hrmsYRYWmAX6>



REDWOOD SCHOOL

DISCO

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER  
IN THE REDWOOD SCHOOL HALL

JUNIOR SCHOOL (YEARS 0-3) 6.00PM - 7.00PM  
SENIOR SCHOOL (YEARS 4-6) 7.15PM - 8.15PM

FOR MORE INFO AND  
TO BOOK TICKETS  
SCAN HERE



## Community News

### NEW WORLD CLUB CARD PARTNERSHIP

An easy way to help us raise funds.

Have you registered your New World Club Card yet? Fundraise for Redwood School simply by linking your New World Club Card to the school and shopping at New World Tawa. For every \$100 you spend \$1 will be donated to Redwood School. Linking your card does not impact any of your card benefits. Simply email your 16 digit card details to [office@redwood.school.nz](mailto:office@redwood.school.nz) Friends and family are welcome to link their cards too.



**NEW WORLD**  
Tawa

**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)

### Redwood School End of Year Whānau Events

Monday 8th Dec	Tuesday 9th Dec	Wednesday 10th Dec	Thursday 11th Dec	Friday 12th Dec
<p>Kiwi - 12:30pm Whānau Invited Teddy Bears Picnic Field/Classrooms if wet</p> 	<p>Kiwi - 2:15 Whānau Invited Christmas Concert Hall - Bring a cushion</p> 	<p>Kapa Haka Community performance 5:15 arrive 6pm performance Whānau Invited Hall</p>	<p>Y2-5 All Day Summer Reading Book Selection</p>	<p>FUN DAY - Everyone Wear Whānau Rōpū colours 12:30 Whānau invited Field - Tug of War Preordered BBQ lunch</p>  
<p>Kererū 1:40- 2:45 Whānau Invited InSTEAD Sharing Hall</p> 	<p>Kererū Christmas Shared Lunch Pls bring a plate to share</p> 		<p>Kererū Water Fight Pls remember togs towel, water guns</p> 	
Monday 15th Dec	Tuesday 16th Dec	Wednesday 17th Dec	Thursday 18th Dec	
	<p>Y6 - 6pm Y6 Whānau Invited Leavers Supper Hall</p> 		<p>12:00 Final Assembly Hall Whānau Invited</p>	