

# NEWSLETTER

## Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 332 | Term 2 | Week 2



### Contact

#### Redwood School

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#### Website:

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#### Facebook:

@RedwoodSchoolTawa

#### PFG:

pfg@redwood.school.nz

### Kiwi Syndicate

Nic Wilkinson - Y1 - Room 1

Nancy Manu - Y1 - Room 6

Vanessa Serci - Y1 - Room 7

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

Rachel Gargan (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

Emma Ashington - SENCO

Rachel Gargan - Deputy Principal

### Principal's Post

#### Tēnā tatou katoa e te whānau

We're well into Term 2 now, and it has been awesome to see the students take up from where they left at the end of Term 1; focussed and engaged in their learning. It is heartening to see the focus we have had on our Culture of Learning paying dividends. Thank you for your support and the role you play in supporting our learners.

As ever, there are plenty of things going on at Redwood School. This week we've had our school photos. Our photographers, who we've used for many years, were highly complimentary of how well the students behaved and organised themselves. Next week, Pūkeko Syndicate begin their 'Tawa Tours' as part of their Ko Tawa E! InSTEAD project. We also have students from Years 4-6 attending the Tawa Zone Cross Country. There are some amazing runners in this cohort, so we hope the weather is fine and everyone enjoys the chance to showcase their running skills. We also have our Hui a kura - School Assembly on Friday. Whānau are most welcome to attend. It usually starts at 9:15. Also next week, we have our school Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday and the Kāhui Ako Primary Science night at the college.

The following week (Week 4) we have our World Famous in Tawa Book Week. There will be lots of activities and events during the week, including:

- Tuesday 21st - visiting author, Gillian Candler
- Wednesday 22nd - Storylines show
- Friday 24th - Dress Up day

A big thank you in advance to the amazing library team for all their hard work in putting on this event.

### Dates for your diary

Tawa Cross Country - Tuesday 14th May  
 / Ppt Thursday 16th May  
 BoT Meeting - Tuesday 14th May  
 Taw College Science night -  
 Wednesday 15th May  
 Book Week - Term 2 Week 4  
 Enviro Group Planting trip - Monday  
 27th May  
 Staff Only Day - **School closed** - Friday  
 31st May  
 King's Birthday - **School closed** -  
 Monday 3 June

### 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.

You will all, no doubt, have seen that education is very much front of centre in the media as the government have made a series of announcements regarding teaching and learning, attendance, and lunches in schools.

Whilst we are not a school who qualifies for the School Lunch programme, we are fortunate to have the support of the Take 10 charity in providing fruit, bread, cheese, spread and other items that we support our students with if their lunchboxes are looking a little light.

On the whole our attendance is not too bad compared to other schools, but we still sit at 25% of our students not meeting the 90% attendance that the MOE constitutes as regular attendance. A large factor in this is overseas holidays or long weekends away. We expected this number to climb as seasonal illness kick in with the change of temperature.

The big announcement from last week was regarding the mandating of Structured Literacy as the teaching methodology for teaching literacy for Years 1-8. At Redwood, we have been utilising Structured Literacy Approaches for the last 18 months in our Junior School, building on the strong phonics programme already in place. We are continuing to build on this in other syndicates and are part of an RTLB Structured Literacy pilot, which is primarily focussing on supporting the implementation of this approach in Years 4-6. The Science of Learning pedagogy that sits behind this directive has been something we have been exploring and learning about for the last couple of years and We feel well placed to adopt any directives from the Ministry in this space.

Term 2 is a term where we share information with you about your child's progress at school. This year this will be continuing to use the HERO app to share learning information, as well as having face to face Parent / Teacher Conferences. At the end of Week 4 you will get a post in your child's Learner profile describing how they have settled into school, such as : information about their learning habits, friendships, attitude towards learning etc. much like a general comment. Later in the term we will update students' RED Values goals and provide learning levels in Reading, Writing and Maths, prior to the Parent / Teacher Conferences in Week 10. We hope you find all this information useful and informative about how your child is doing at school.

Ka Kite!

**Zac Mills - Tumuaiki / Principal**

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



## Welcome to Redwood School

Anugraha Anil  
Jayansh Pallapu  
Isabella Wheeler

Bella Patterson Hawkins  
Jeremiah Van Greuning

## Board Shorts

### Messages from our Board of Trustees

BoT Meeting Tuesday 14th May 6pm Redwood School staffroom

## PFG News

### Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

We held our pizza party last week for the Batten Rōpu Whānau, as they were our colour run fundraiser winners.

A big thank you to Hell Pizza Porirua for supplying the delicious pizzas; they went down a treat!

We have updated our wishlist and would love your support.

Specifically we would love some Resene paint to help paint our school benches. We can let you know the colours we are after so they match our new beautiful rainbow fence! If you can help please get in touch.

We are also starting to create our raffle baskets for our Quiz night. If you are a local business and would like to donate vouchers or goods we'd love to hear from you.

We have the following coming up in in Term 2 and 3

- Book Week Sausage sizzle (Friday 24th)
- Year Group Tea Towels
- Centa Pies
- Quiz Night (August 17th)

Cheers,  
Anna - PFG Chair

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



### Redwood School 2024 Wishlist



We've curated a list of items and needs for our school, the PFG is currently engaged in fundraising efforts to fulfill them. If you, someone in your network, or a business can assist with any of the items mentioned below, kindly reach out to us.







Your contribution will not only address immediate needs but also maximize the impact of PFG funds for upcoming items on our list.





Contact Anna at [pfg@redwood.school.nz](mailto:pfg@redwood.school.nz) or connect with us on Facebook at [@RedwoodPFG](https://www.facebook.com/RedwoodPFG).

Your support makes a significant difference!

Item	✓	Sponsor/s
Board Games for Each Class	✓	Ongoing support required but we've had some great donations so far thank you!
New Couches for Classrooms (x8)		
Sandpit equipment		
Childrens Gardening gloves (x30) <a href="#">Lynn River Ultra Happy Veges Kids Gardening Gloves - Bunnings New Zealand</a>	✓	Zapdog Photography
Paint for school benches We would love a donation of paint (we can let you know what colours we require so they match our beautiful new fence)		
Weed and update gardens across the school	✓	Twiglands have generously donated plants
New Fence across top block	✓	Bespoke Wooden Solutions  'The Ace Painting Solution' helped to paint the existing structure black
New/High quality second hand Oven x1 (for the Office)	✓	Allan from Stone Contractors
New/High quality second hand Oven x1 (for the Hall)		

## Meet our Support Staff

<p>Emma SENCo</p> 	<p>Hi, my name is Emma Ashington and I am the Special Educational Needs Co - ordinator (SENCo) at Redwood. I have been a member of staff at Redwood School for nearly 5 years and the SENCo for 1 ½ years. I live in Johnsonville with my husband Keith, 3 children aged 13-18, and our pet cats Kiwi and Tūi.</p> <p>Originally from Liverpool in the UK (the accent always gives me away, and for any EPL fans, I am a LFC supporter). In my teaching career I have had the pleasure of teaching in England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand and have enjoyed exploring all the different cultures and sights these countries have to offer.</p> <p>Outside of work, I love spending time with my family, attending the theatre and travelling.</p>
<p>Christine Executive Officer</p> 	<p>Hi, my name is Christine McMeekin. My association with Redwood School started back in 1996 when my daughter Cherie started here. I was a parent helper on the PFG, managed my daughter's hockey team and was reliever Teacher Aide in the classroom. I returned to Redwood School in 2016 to take up my new role as Executive Officer.</p> <p>My husband Shaun and I live locally and have our own business. We have two children Cherie and Karl who both attended Redwood School.</p> <p>Outside of school I love to spend time with family and friends. I love all sports and most of all love to travel. I am always adding trips to my bucket list. Both of our children now live in Sydney and I have recently become a nana so my school holidays are now taken up spending time with my Grandson in Sydney.</p>
<p>Bernie Office Manager</p> 	<p>Hi I'm Bernie Woodgate &amp; I am the Office Manager. I have worked at Redwood School for the past 8 years but my first association with the school was as a parent when my eldest son started here in 2006.</p> <p>Originally from the South Island, Wellington has been my home for the past 30 years. I am married to Ian &amp; we have two adult sons, Jamie &amp; Jared who are both pursuing careers in the trades.</p> <p>Outside of school I love to travel, go for walks &amp; I have a love/hate relationship with Rangitūhi/Colonial Knob which I try to do each weekend.</p>
<p>Jan Librarian</p> 	<p>Hi. My name is Jan Loader and I'm the librarian here at Redwood. My association with the school started way back in 1997 when my eldest son, Ryan started here on his 5th birthday. After volunteering around the school in various roles, I started working as a teacher aide in 2001 and joined the library team in 2006. In 2011 I became the sole librarian.</p> <p>Reading is an absolute passion of mine and I love sharing that passion with the students</p>
	<p>(and staff!) here at Redwood. Trust me when I say nothing makes my heart warm more than when a child comes up to me and says "...I loved that book you gave me...have you got any more like it?!" Yes, I'm a true librarian nerd 😊</p> <p>Outside of school I enjoy keeping fit with yoga, walking, biking and coaching hockey. Now that my three children have all grown up and flown the nest, my hubby Steve and I love to travel. We have a campervan for our NZ adventures and have been lucky enough to travel overseas a few times either side of the 'Covid Years'...mostly to visit our children as they have spent time living in different countries around the world!</p>
<p>Damian Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>Hi, my name is Damian Trewern and I love my role as a Teacher Aide working over the last eight years here at Redwood school.</p> <p>My family &amp; I moved back to NZ from Malaysia in 2013 for my daughters Briana &amp; Paige to start at Redwood school and four years later my son Oscar started. At this time with my kids at Redwood I was involved as a parent in the PFG, coaching hockey and making the most of the cool school trips.</p> <p>Outside of school I enjoy getting out for family walks with our two dogs, Molly &amp; Diesel. The family loves being outdoors, especially on the water with us belonging to Titahi Bay Surf Life Saving Club and Mana Kayaking Club. One of my favourite activities is to get out on one of my many bikes and to go for date runs with my wife Vicky.</p>
<p>Deb Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>I'm Deb Williams, a Teacher Aide who has been working at Redwood School for nearly 10 years. My journey with the school began in 1993 as a parent/volunteer, supporting in the classroom, library and coaching netball.</p> <p>My husband Derek and I have called Tawa home for 35 years. We have three wonderful children - George who works locally, Anna and Megan are both happily married, with children who are currently enrolled at Redwood School. Family is at the heart of my interests, I enjoy the outdoors, gardening, engaging in crafts and find joy in the simple pleasures of life. Being close to our grandchildren and taking an active part in their world is just the best!</p> <p>I am passionate about making learning fun, engaging and inclusive, while sharing in gains whether they be big or small.</p>

<p>Jann Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>Hi, I'm Jann Freitas and I've been a Teacher Aide at Redwood School since 2017. I work across the school, mainly with our wonderful, diverse group of English language learners. Having taught English in Japan for four years, I love seeing our students' growing ability and confidence as bilingual speakers.</p> <p>My husband is Brazilian and swept me off my feet at Ceroc dance class almost 25 years ago, and our daughter is in her final year at Onslow College. We live in Johnsonville with our two dogs.</p> <p>I've always enjoyed reading and handcrafts, and these days my passion is felting - turning our lovely NZ wool into felted objects using water or a sharp, barbed needle! I also love introducing children to the magic of wet-felting, both here at Redwood and at school holiday workshops.</p>
<p>Kim Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>Hi my name is Kim Hearsps.</p> <p>I have been working at Redwood School for the last 15 or so years as a Teacher Aide. Before my job at Redwood, I had worked at Porirua East School and Ngalo School. Generally I work with children who have learning difficulties across the school, making it easier for them in the classroom and being inclusive throughout the school environment.</p> <p>I organise and run the Attention Autism programme, PMP/Movement and Sensory room.</p> <p>Prior to studying for my qualification to be a T/A, I did an apprenticeship in hairdressing, working for other people until I owned my own business for a few years. Hairdressing was my dream job, thinking that no other job would take my passion...Boy, was I wrong!</p> <p>I love what I do and enjoy seeing what the students can achieve with guidance.</p> <p>My husband Craig and I, with our two children, have lived in Tawa for 25 years. Both our children went to Redwood School, the Intermediate and College in Tawa.</p> <p>Outside of school I love catching up with family, friends, the theatre and going for walks.</p>
<p>Sandra Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>Hi, my name is Sandra Anderson. I am one of the Teacher Aides here at Redwood school. I am married with 3 beautiful children who have all attended this school since about 2012, which is where I became involved in the school by being a parent help on school trips, events and library duty. I've now been working at the school as a teacher aide for nearly 2 years, which I thoroughly enjoy; especially making the connections with the children I work alongside, and watching them develop, grow and build confidence in themselves in a fun, positive way.</p> <p>In my spare time, I love making family memories on holidays, outdoors and events. I enjoy the gym, socialising and eating out with family and friends.</p> <p>I wish you all a great 2024 along with meeting my new students and Redwood families this year.</p>
<p>Sonia Teacher Aide</p> 	<p>Hi, my name is Sonia Clark.</p> <p>I have had a very long-standing relationship with Redwood School - firstly as a student and then as a parent volunteering in classes. And now, for the past two years, I have been enjoying my role as a Teacher Aide.</p> <p>I live in Redwood with my husband Tim, and we have two teenage daughters. I am passionate about supporting children to enjoy their time at school while they are gaining the knowledge to help them flourish.</p> <p>In the past I have worked in both public and private sector roles which have included the positions of Team Leader, Quality Analyst, Disability Services and Support Management.</p> <p>Outside of school I love spending time with my family and friends, going for walks and travelling. I also enjoy attending a good rock concert now and then!</p>

## Community Notices

### Grandparent Reading - The Bookworm Club

We are seeking grandparents or senior citizens to give their time to come to school and listen to our Year 3-6 students read to them. This will involve about an hour and a half of their time a week, preferably in the afternoon but we can be flexible with times and days. You will listen to three/four students read for about half an hour each. To ensure we are following our child protection guidelines, those interested will need to be police vetted.

If you have a family member, neighbour or wonderful friend who would be interested in being part of The Bookworm Club, please contact Donna Glenn, Room 16 Teacher and Assistant Literacy Leader.

[donnaglenn@redwood.school.nz](mailto:donnaglenn@redwood.school.nz)  
04 232 7704

**TERM 2**  
**SPRING INTO WINTER SPORTS**  
EVERY Thursday, 3:05pm - 4:05pm  
Starts Week 2 of term 2 for 8 weeks!  
**BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!**  
[www.kellysports.co.nz](http://www.kellysports.co.nz)

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- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Rippa Rugby

Contact Information  
[adminwgtm@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:adminwgtm@kellysports.co.nz)

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**Tawa Community Patrol**

**Join us as a Volunteer Patroller**  
Are you wanting to give back to your community? We are currently recruiting for more volunteer patrollers. We have shift options that include both day and night patrols, across all 7 days of the week.

If you:

- Live in the Tawa area
- Are at least 18 years of age
- Can patrol at least two x 3 hour shifts per month
- Can attend bi-monthly training meetings throughout the year
- Are computer & smartphone literate
- Can pass a Police vetting check

Full training is provided - you will be buddied up with an experienced patroller to teach you everything you need to know, and patrollers always patrol in pairs using our distinctively marked patrol car.

Want to know more? Complete our join form at [www.tawacp.org.nz](http://www.tawacp.org.nz) and one of our recruitment coordinators will get back to you to discuss further.