NEWSLETTER

Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 338 | Term 4 | Week 2

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

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

Term 4 is always a busy term with lots of events happening. I'll try to keep you as up to date as possible through the newsletter, but please do keep your eye on the Community Posts in HERO, and on our school calendar in HERO and on our website. Already in the first week we have had cricket lessons, our Mihi Whakatau, Curriculum Insights and Progress (CIPs) testing for some Year 3 and 6 students, Interzone swimming, and a very busy field with construction of our new playground happening. This week, the CIP tests continued, we had school photographs for our Year 6 cohort and New Entrants, and swimming began for the Kererū Syndicate, as well as our first hui-a-kura for Term 4. We also had the first Board meeting for the new school board and our Rōpū Whānau Hui as well, and ended the week with our Reunification Drill! Phew! I certainly hope that everyone had a good 2 week break in the holidays!

As mentioned, progress on the new playground has been good, despite the inclement weather turning the site into a mud pit! A highlight for many students was the concrete truck parking on the top block and decanting concrete via a long tube down onto the playground, whilst staff have marvelled at the skill of the truck drivers navigating the tight entrance via the office gate. The students have really enjoyed the construction process and have been commenting on the pieces of equipment as they have been assembled. We had hoped that the majority of the landscaping would be completed by the middle of next week and students would have access to the playground shortly after. However, an unfortunate digger accident has resulted in some damage to the playground, and we are now waiting for repairs and a safety assessment!

Whilst on the subject of building work, we are quietly working behind the scenes to get two more property projects underway. The MOE are currently considering funding requests to fund some of the repair and maintenance requirements of the hall, and a supplementary funding request to renovate some of our toilets. Anyone who has had the misfortune to stand outside some of the boys toilets will know that this is a project long overdue. Fingers crossed we get approval for both projects to go ahead as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

Monday 6 October -

Tuesday 21 October -
Tawa Zone Athletics
Thursday 23 October -
Strike Day
Friday 24 October -
Staff Only Day
Monday 27 October -
Labour Day
Tuesday 28th October -
Handball-athon
Wednesday 5th November -
Kiwi Swimming begins
Friday 7th November -
Kererū Swimming make up day
Friday 7th November -
Enviro groups trip - KaiCycle
Friday 7th November -
Gumboot Friday

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.

One of the first challenges the BoT has had to navigate is closing the school due to industrial strike action. NZEI members have voted to reject collective agreement offers from the MoE and have voted to strike as their next course of action. The strike day is Thursday 23rd October (Thursday of Week 3), and hopefully everyone saw this week's Community Post about organisation for the strike. This has resulted in the postponement date of the Tawa Zone athletics being changed; this is now on Tuesday 11th November. The strike day is also the day before our Curriculum Staff Only Day, which is attached to the long Labour Weekend, so there may be a 5 day break for students. This is far from ideal, and we all hope that a swift resolution to these contract negotiations can be found for everyone's sake.

The Board also reviewed our Cohort Entry consultation feedback and how this would work for next year. We received 15 pieces of feedback, with 12 in favour, and 3 in disagreement. After reviewing our enrolments for 2026, we have seen that we currently have 10/23 starting school over 6 weeks after they have turned 5 due to the MOE Cohort Entry dates. This is not ideal, and so the BoT have decided to defer Cohort Entry for 2026. Due to overall an absence of enrolments during next year, we do not feel that Cohort Entry will achieve the aims it sets out to do. Instead we will focus on seeing how we can make our transitions and visits work, so that new students and whānau feel connected and have a sense of whānaungatanga.

Today we did our Reunification Drill. This is an important exercise to ensure that both school and whānau are prepared in the event of the school suddenly closing for an emergency. Whilst we immediately think of a natural disaster event such as earthquake, there are other reasons why we might have to close the school suddenly, such as a loss of water like Tawa School had in Term 2. Whilst we appreciate that it is a disruption to working life, especially at a time when teachers are striking, it is a really important process to go through to make sure everyone is prepared. For whānau, it is important to consider who the primary contact would be who would receive a text informing them that the school is closing. It is also important to think about who may be available to collect your child from school in an emergency, especially in the event of a natural disaster, where you may be unable to get to Tawa if you work in the city, Hutt Valley, or even further afield. In the event of a real emergency, we would not release students at 3:00 or have Kelly Club operating, so a real question for you to consider is what would you do to best support your child in the event of the school closing. The 2010 Christchurch earthquake and 2011 aftershock event showed that schools that had well-established systems and had practised reunification were better placed to manage these events than schools that hadn't. We have tried to make this process as clear as possible with up to eleven pieces of communication dating back to May of this year; hopefully this has prompted people to get organised. For our Kererū learners, whose current InSTEAD unit is all around emergency preparedness, this is a great example of how thinking about what we might do in an emergency can help us to be better prepared. Thank you for supporting us with this event.

Ka Kite!

Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal

zacmills@redwood.school.nz

Welcome to Redwood School

Freyja Clay	Kiara Toor
Tajriyan Khan.	Klara van der Merwe
Willow Kyne.	Nadia Clark
Ivy Sellars-Bell.	Rory Gubb
Eli O'Rourke	

Board Shorts

Messages from our Board of Trustees

At our last Board of Trustees meeting we:

- Welcomed our new BoT members
- Elected Kirsty Wallace as Chair and Alecia Salvador as Deputy Chair
- Discussed:
  - Strike Action
  - Cohort Entry
  - Implications of new Tawa School Zone
  - Property Upgrades (Playground, Hall, Toilets)

PFG News

Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

Rotis - thank you to everyone who ordered roti and sauce! We have been given an additional box of sauce by accident so if you missed out or would like an additional punnet please email pfg@redwood.school.nz to purchase

Disco - The school disco will be held on Friday, 5th December. Details are still being finalised, but tickets are available to purchase now via this link: https://forms.gle/eih56hrmsYRYWmAX6

Kids' Artwork Sales (KAW) - The artwork sales will open in the first week of Term 4 and run for two weeks.
You'll be able to purchase your child's artwork through our online portal. Each student (who was at school during the art sessions) has created a unique piece that can be transformed into calendars, cards, diaries, mouse mats, and sketch pads. These make wonderful keepsakes and thoughtful Christmas gifts for family and friends. You will receive a handout like the one on the right on the 13th October.

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 Word 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
Friends and family are welcome to link their cards too.

NEW WORLD
Tawa

Emergency Services Expo

Saturday 25 October
10am - 2pm
Te Rauparaha Arena

Join us for an action-packed day celebrating the incredible work of our emergency services!
This free, family-friendly event will include:
🚒Emergency vehicle and equipment tours
👷 Meet-and-greet with our crews
🎨 Fun activities
🍔 Food trucks & refreshments
Whether you're curious about what goes on behind the sirens or looking for a fun day out, the expo has something for everyone!
✅ Free entry
✅ All ages welcome
Mark your calendars, bring the whole family, and come show your support for the amazing people who keep our communities safe.