NEWSLETTER

Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 305 | Term 2 | Week 8

Contact

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Kiwi Syndicate

Vanessa Serci - Reception - Room 7
Nic Wilkinson - Y1 - Room 5
Amy Tinker - Y1 - Room 4
Michelle Morpeth - Y 2/3 - Room 3 (Syndicate Leader)
Nic Webb - Y3 - Room 2
Barry Clarke - Y2 - Room 1
Diane Young - Y3 - Room 9
Melanie Goonan - Y2 - Room 10

Kererū Syndicate

Anna Truesdale (Syndicate Leader) - Y5/6 - Room 17
Erin Baker - Y5/6 - Room 14
Hazel Handley - Y5/6 - Room 15
Lucy Smith - Y5/6 - Room 16
Marlene Schweizer - Y4 - Room 18
Colin Lambie - Y4/5 - Room 19
Grace O'Rourke - Y4 - Room 20

Anna Young - Junior Literacy Support
Carmel Wilson - LSC / 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 phenomenal amount of change happening in education at the moment that, even as a principal tasked with locating, reading, and digesting these Ministry updates, it is hard to keep up with. Since the beginning of the year there have been 25 separate (multi-page) documents just for explaining how we should assess and report student's achievement at mid year, with some of these documents being updated multiple times and without announcement. Unfortunately, this means that a lot of my time is spent reading Ministry documents and checking to see whether they've been altered. That is why it is always good to spend some time in classrooms when I can, and whenever I have done this year, I've really noticed how calm and focussed the classes are, with a really good learning culture within them. This doesn't happen by accident and is a testament to the way teachers have set up their classrooms and the culture they have fostered. Supporting this is the investment our Board of Trustees have made this year to keep our class sizes as low as possible. With a falling roll, we really should have started the year with one less classroom than we did and without our reception class model; however, we knew that this would result in much larger classes and a less supportive start for our 5 year olds, so we are all really grateful that the Board allocated operation funding for 2026 to ensure we could be set up the way we have done this year. Unfortunately, with a continued falling roll, this may be unsustainable. Two weeks ago, I attended a meeting with the MoE around roll projections for Wellington and, specifically, Tawa. Some of the stats they shared were concerning for all the schools in Tawa:

- Over the past 3 years Wellington City rolls have declined by 3000 students, with the majority moving to Upper Hutt, Otaki / Levin, and Australia
- 10,000 school-age students are expected to leave the Wellington City area in the next 3 years
- 600 school-age students leave Tawa for their schooling on a daily basis
- Redwood School has twice the number of places at the school for the number of students who currently live within our home zone
- Across Tawa we have been losing an average of 30 students per year group for the last 8 years
- There is no significant housing development within our school zones, apart from Eighteen Oxford, Te Toi Mahana (Lyndhurst Road), and Jamiaca Rise. Only Jamica Rise is in our zone.

This data suggests that our school roll will continue to shrink, meaning a smaller operational budget, fewer teachers, and larger class sizes.

Dates for your diary

Friday 12th June
PFG Family Movie Night
Tuesday 16th June
Regional Cross Country
Thursday 18th June
Curriculum & Reporting Drop-In session
Monday 22nd June
Reports go live on HERO
Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June
Parent / Teacher Interviews
Friday 3rd July
Hui-a-kura
Last day of Term 2

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 the PFG:

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.

As you will no doubt be aware, there is a strong push from the Ministry of Education around attendance and engagement this year. The Ministry has tightened up attendance codes and negated my discretion to code student absences with some understanding and empathy. As a result, when you look at your child's attendance via HERO, you may notice more 'Unjustifed' absences logged. Whilst we have very few children who we would consider truant or would even say that their attendance is a concern, this year we have noticed a growing trend in students consistently leaving school early. Some of the rationale for these early departures do not meet the threshold for a justified absence. We fully understand that medical appointments can be hard to get after school hours, but increasingly we are getting consistent early departures for things like the following:

- having a rest before an after-school activity
- having something to eat before an after-school activity
- having to leave early to get a car park near the college or intermediate for a sibling pick-up
- having to travel into the city for an after-school activity

Whilst we appreciate people's honesty and the fact that they are being officially signed out of school via VisTab (this is essential for any late arrivals or early departures), all of these reasons are unjustified. Our school day begins at 9:00 and ends at 3:00. If you are signing your child out early, they must be logged in the VisTab at the office in case of any sort of emergency. As a parent of three children, I understand the complexities of juggling work, after-school activities, and multi-school pickups; however, it is important that students are attending school for the whole day and are not consistently being collected (up to an hour) prior to the school day finishing. With more rigid timetabling due to all the curriculum changes, same-day early departures likely result in a student missing the same learning each week, which is detrimental to their progress, and often they miss important information shared with the class at the end of the day for the following day.

Whilst mentioning attendance, we are really aware that there is a lot of sickness around in local communities at the moment. We have had quite a few students who have really suffered with Covid, glandular fever, flu, and serious colds and coughs. One of the noticeable things this term has been how hard it is for students to fully recover, resulting in them being off sick, returning for a few days, and then being off sick again. Despite the relatively settled and 'warm for this time of year' weather, we are only just into June! With much of Winter still to come, please do look after yourselves.

We are approaching the time in Term 2 when teachers are furiously writing your child's mid-year report. With all the changes, with a new curriculum, new assessment standards, and reporting terminology and formats, this process is a little more complicated than usual. We understand that the current context in education may be even more difficult for our parent community to understand so we have put together this 'explainer' package, in various formats (written, video, graphic), to help you to understand some of the changes and how we, at Redwood School, have responded to these changes. You can find the link to this document here:
Curriculum, Assessment, and Reporting Update

We are also looking forward to connecting with you to discuss your child's achievement at our Parent / Teacher Conferences on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th June (Week 10).

Ka Kite!

Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal
zacmills@redwood.school.nz

Welcome to Redwood School

Ren Jackson **Seroyi Kim**

Angus Smith **Kaea Roberts**

Board Shorts

Messages from our Board of Trustees

At our last meeting we discussed:

- Growing number of students leaving school early or arriving late without justified reasons
- Some positive early data from our 3 month testing with our IDL Literacy Intervention in Years 4-6
- Our new 10 Year Property Plan proposal - sadly, very little classroom refurbishment, with the emphasis on roofing
- Audit processes from this year's audit

Rōpū Whānau

Messages from our Rōpū Whānau

Our Matariki celebration date is Thursday 23rd July.

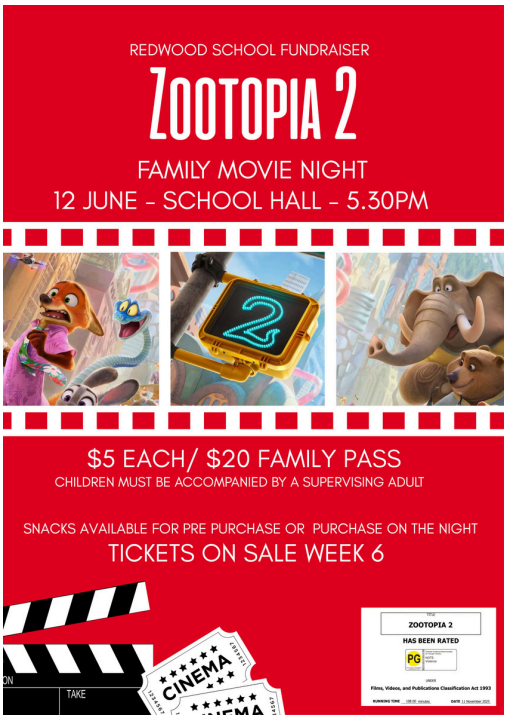
PFG News

Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

Thank you for your support of our pie sales fundraiser. Sales continue to the 19th June. Orders can be made here: https://redwoodschool.nzd.app/pie-fundraiser
Pies will be delivered on Thursday 2nd July.

We are looking forward to seeing you tonight at our Family Movie Night.

Bingo Night 1st August donations



Community News

New Brownie Unit Opening

Exciting news! A new Brownie unit is opening in Churton Park in Term Three to create capacity for more 7 - 9 ½ year old girls to be part of Girl Guiding.

- Ohariu Brownies will meet on Wednesdays, 6.15pm - 7.45pm at the Churton Park School Hall, 90 Churton Drive, Churton Park.
- Tawa Brownies still meet on Thursdays, 3.45pm - 5.15pm at the Nan Worgan Guide Hall, 21A Oxford Street, Tawa.

If you know a girl who would love to get outdoors, learn new skills, be active in the community, challenge themselves, and make new friends, then get in touch!

Fill out the enquiry form on the GGNZ website (scroll down to the form) and indicate which unit you'd like to try. We'll invite you along to an Open Night or a free visit to see what you think.

GUITAR LESSONS

Eileen Brown offers weekly Guitar lessons during school times. If your child is interested in learning starting Term 1 2024, registration is now ongoing. Please contact Eileen on Mob. 027 3396943 or Email: eileenvbrown11@gmail.com . Student should be at least 7 years old to start learning the instrument. ALL STYLES taught including Pop, Rock, Traditional, Classical and Theory. Lessons are fun and enjoyable
Visit us on www.drumorguitar.com or on our Facebook page : Bill and Eileen Brown Music Tuition