NEWSLETTER

Rākau Pai, Hua Pai

Roll: 314 | Term 3 | 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
Rachel Gargan / Karen Dessoulavy - Room 6
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

Welcome back to Term 3. It's been a bit of a cold and wet start to the term. A big thank you to our road patrollers and parent supervisers who have been braving the weather - hot Milo definitely seems to be popular after the morning shift. It has been nice to see the majority of drivers along Redwood Avenue respecting the new speed limit signs that came into operation over the holidays.

Students have leapt straight back into learning and classrooms have really felt busy and productive. A big focus for Maths for all learners this term is Rational Numbers: fractions, decimals, percentages, and ratios. This is a huge component of the new Maths curriculum, particularly for Years 4 - 6. It is also an area in Maths that students often lack confidence in and find really tricky to master. However, fortunately, it is a space where there are lots of practical applications at home to reinforce the learning. Things like cutting toast or sandwiches into halves or quarters (in different shapes), looking at how many pieces a pizza has been cut into (often 1/8s or 1/6s), measuring ½ cups or ¼ cups when baking, and emphasising the decimals when at the supermarket and looking at the cost of grocery items, can all really help make this rather abstract concept 'concrete' in students' minds. Often learners need to recognise why it is important to learn something and how they might use it in their daily lives and these practical applications can really help with that. Coming up in Week 4 we have the annual New Zealand Maths Week, which will put another spotlight on the importance of Maths and how it connects with everyday activities.

At the beginning of this term, we have had a new class open up in Room 6. This is a Year 1 / New Entrant class and is being taught by Rachel Gargan (our Deputy Principal) and Karen Dessoulavy, who is one of our regular relievers and someone who has taken this roll growth class previously over the last couple years. We do have some positive roll increase over the second half of this year; however, our in-zone enrolments for 2027 are very thin on the ground. If you do have a child turning 5 in 2027, please let us know as early as possible to help us plan.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 1st August
Rock'n Bingo Night
Tuesday 4th August
TIS Open Evening
Friday 7th August
Hui-a-kura
Term 3 Week 4
Maths Week
Thursday 13 August
Bee Healthy Dental Van arrives

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

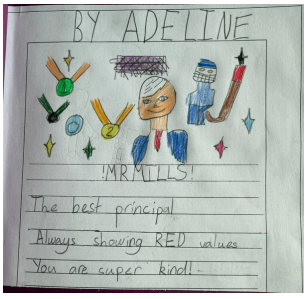
If at anytime you have a compliment or a concern please do contact your child's teacher. Please appreciate that during the school day they are busy teaching and may not be able to respond to an email.
The Syndicate Leader, Deputy Principal or myself are always available if the concern cannot be resolved or if the compliment needs to be shared.

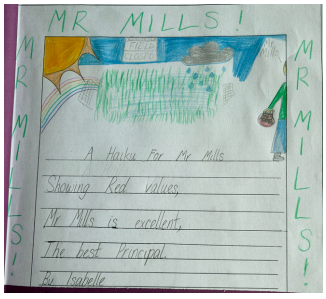
Last week, we celebrated Matariki with our annual whānau event. It was so good to see our hall packed and to see whānau and tamariki connecting with our activities and each other. A huge thank you to Anna Truesdale and the team for all their mahi in organising this awesome event. The following day, we held our Term 3 mihi whakatau to welcome new tamariki and their whānau to Redwood School. This is always such a lovely way to welcome people. A big thank you to Vanessa Serci and Anna Truesdale for getting our Kapa Haka group, speakers, and karanga girls ready to lead this ceremony. It is alway so good to see our young kaiarahi stepping up in this space.

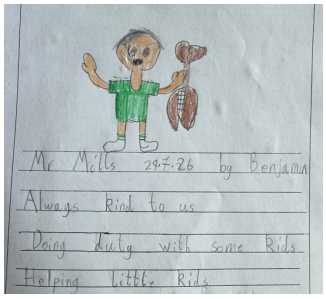
Kererū students have begun practices for the biennial Tawa Goes To Town musical extravaganza, with the performance scheduled for Monday 21st September in Week 10. Students who have chosen to participate will be walking down to Tawa College most Wednesdays to practice with other students from the Tawa schools. Whilst this does disrupt normal learning programmes, it is a great opportunity to champion the Performing Arts, which can be neglected in schools given the sheer volume of the new English and Mathematics curriculums. This is only one event in what is a busy term for our Kererū students and teachers, with the Titahi Bay Sports Exchange in Week 9 another highlight for many of our Year 4 - 6 learners.

On Wednesday this week it was Tumeke Tumuaki Day - a day to acknowledge principals for the work they do. Whilst it was lovely to be acknowledged by my colleagues and students, at Redwood School it is very much a case of 'you are only as good as the team behind you'. I am really lucky to have an extremely capable team around me who work incredibly hard for the students in our care. I would like to particularly acknowledge Rachel Gargan who, as well as doing her Deputy Principal role, is also teaching in Room 6 and doing a lot of work in our PFG space building towards Saturday's Rock'n Bingo night. Ngā mihi, Rachel.

I will leave you with a few of the Haiku poems sent to me by Room 9 for Tumeke Tumuaki Day.







It's these kinds of things that make being a principal the best job in the world!

Ka Kite!

Zac Mills - Tumuaki / Principal

zacmills@redwood.school.nz

Welcome to Redwood School

Anika Edwards Ruby Lyons Zac Bird Libby Elwell

Lara Howells Kiana Mote Jimi Rushton Ethan Tan

Sohara Kahawathta Arachchige Rayleigh Sanchez Reugene Sanchez

Board Shorts

Messages from our Board of Trustees

At our last meeting we discussed:

- Our Mid Year data and actions for the second half of the year based on the data
- Our very small number of In-zone enrolments for 2027 and the implications of this
- Our Mid Year budget review - our small roll is impacting our budget in the second half of 2026

Rōpū Whānau

Messages from our Rōpū Whānau

This term's daily karakia is:

PFG News

Messages from our Parent Fundraising Group

We are all looking forward to our Rock'n Bingo this Saturday.
Thank you to everyone for supporting our raffles.

Community News