

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

25th May 2023



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

School is a full-on hive of activities. Lots of things have been happening. No wonder the vast majority of the children are eager to be at school. There's a reasonable amount of sickness (cold, the 'flu & Covid) around at present. Please keep your children home if they are unwell. Thank you.

CULTURAL DAY – WEDNESDAY 17th MAY

Last week we held 2 main events – a Cultural Day and a Pink Shirt day. To explain these a little more.

Our school-wide integrated unit this term is **Ahuareka (Arts and Celebration)**. Last Wednesday we held a cultural day. After morning tea the children assembled on the main hardcourt outside the library and then paraded around the court area. There were 21 different nationalities represented. Thank you parents for helping the children dress up in a way that depicted their nationalities. It was a great reminder that we are a multi-cultural school. The children enjoyed sharing their backgrounds and so did the staff. Two of our wonderful teacher-aides' (Sue Russ and Sheila Hunter) families originated from Scotland. They are descendants of the Wallace clan and proudly wore their clan's tartan. Other staff also wore their families tartan (caps or scarfs) and Gary Paterson (caretaker) and Torrey Gilchrist (Room 9 teacher) wore kilts that were representative of their ancestral backgrounds. The day was packed with other cultural activities and the children enjoyed learning about cultures other than their own. All part of what makes up our country – New Zealand/Aotearoa. We are all kiwis!

PINK SHIRT DAY – FRIDAY 19th MAY

Last week was Bully-free week (15th – 19th May). On Friday we held a Pink Shirt Day as another way to encourage our children to acknowledge that bullying is not okay.

AROHA is our main school value. We encourage respect, value opinions, celebrate difference and promote positive relationships in our endeavour to make it difficult for bullying behaviour to thrive or be tolerated.

We want children to feel it is okay to share their concerns with their peers, staff and parents. We also encourage parents to share with us concerns they may have or their children have, so we can sort out bullying issues. We endeavour to be proactive when we are aware bullying is happening and we most definitely encourage children to let us know of their concerns so these can be sorted immediately.

SKATEBOARD PARK ADVICE TO PARENTS

Recently we have been advised that some teenagers have been demanding money from some of our pupils at the Richmond skateboard park at Jubilee Park. Of course it is fine for our pupils to be there. However, I personally think parents should be there supervising their children. There is often a lot of bullying of younger children there when their parents aren't there and my other concern is that some of the teenagers are swearing, smoking and vaping which is far from ideal for our young ones to witness. Parents please be vigilant about this.

WILLOWBANK HERITAGE PARK

This week the Tui syndicate classes (Rooms 13, 14, 15 and 16) are visiting the Willow Bank Heritage Park out at Wakefield. The children have been learning about life in earlier times. It has been a wonderful experience for them to see how people lived in those times and what the buildings were like. There were lots of 'hands-on' activities for the children to be involved in. If you haven't visited the village you might like to view their website and/or visit the village in person: <https://www.willowbankwakefield.co.nz/>

Tracey Krammer (Room 13 teacher and syndicate leader) received the following message from a grandad at the end of Tuesday's visit:

"Thank you Miss K for choosing me to be a teacher help. It has been a pleasure to assist with the activities. The kids are amazing and are a credit to all your hard work. As parents and grandparents we just want to acknowledge all your hard work. Many thanks from all the oldies."

ADVICE TO PARENTS ABOUT THE GAME CALLED 'FORTNITE'

On Monday, management dealt with an unsavoury physical incident between two boys that took some time to sort out.

Over the weekend a number of our pupils were playing the on-line game called 'Fortnite'.

There were some harsh words exchanged on-line that led to the physical assault at morning tea time that was witnessed by two teachers and myself.

More and more children in the school are talking about playing the game 'Fortnite'. Whilst we understand the game is very popular, it is also highly addictive and unsafe if played without strict monitoring.

Before your child plays 'Fortnite' for the first time or goes back on-line, I urge you to take the time to learn more about it and the risks by viewing the suggested links below.

The game is rated for children aged 12 and over which means it is not recommended for any child at primary school. However, children as young as 5 are saying that they are playing the game and sometimes everyday. We are very aware of this and know children who, as 7 year olds, are playing the game unsupervised.

I personally don't think there are good reasons for children this young to be playing the game especially when the rating age is 12. Apart from the mild violence, the game is designed for on-line chat with other players, it is competitive and is highly addictive. It is the on-line chat aspect that led to the fighting here at school on Monday morning. I have informed the families of the children involved. It isn't good use of teachers and management time dealing with the emotional and physical fall-out of disagreements from this game. We would prefer to have teachers and children focussed on academic learning. We are aware some children at times are worried about coming to school as an outcome of the on-line chat abusive statements.

Addictive games often lead to tiredness, extreme behaviour and a lack of interest in other things. Children can react badly if the parents ask them to stop playing a game part way through a game that can typically take 20-30 minutes to play.

Primary aged children (in my opinion) should not be playing this game. We are seeing children turning up at school very tired and some turning up late and then struggling to stay on-task. We are aware that some children are playing the game on devices when they should be asleep.

As a parent it can be difficult to make unpopular decisions for your children. Particularly when people in the media are promoting the game and other children/friends are playing the game. Having said that, it is really important that your children are kept safe and their well-being is protected.

Gaming can be good fun but needs to be appropriate and carefully monitored.

<https://netsafe.org.nz/forniteadvice/>

<https://childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fornite/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fornite-battle-royale>

CAR PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL AND STAFF CARPARK OFF OXFORD STREET

We have noticed a number of parents starting to park in our staff car-park (off Oxford Street opposite the fire station). This is not a public carpark and because the driveway entrance is only the width of a single vehicle we ask parents to refrain from parking in our **'staff only' car-park**. This is not a public car-park.

The TDC parking wardens have been patrolling areas outside schools in the Richmond area especially at the start and end of the school day. They are especially targeting people parking in disabled carparks without the appropriate parking permit.

A small number of parents are flouting the laws surrounding:

- **The P2 signs** (parking for 2 minutes only) outside the main office between 8:30 – 9:30am and 2:30 – 3:30pm. Please do not park and go into the school leaving your vehicle unattended (during these times). This is breaking the law.
- **Yellow lines** along Church Street, on the corner by the main office and on Cambridge Street by the RTLB building.

The P2 signs are there to aid traffic flow at peak times. The yellow lines are to make sure people do not park where it becomes a potential visibility hazard. At the end of the day our students' safety is PARAMOUNT.

The law is quite clear surrounding yellow lines. I quote directly from the 'NZ Road code' – relevant bullet point from a section entitled - Where not to park:

"For your own safety, and the safety and convenience of other road users, there are certain areas where you must not park. You risk being fined and/or having your vehicle towed away if you park in these areas."

Please be aware that the fine for parking on yellow lines is \$60 and parking in the disabled parks without a permit is \$150.

The parking wardens have told me about another issue they have noticed is parents driving down Church Street and then stopping in the middle of the road and beckoning their children to open the car door and jump in. One car was even moving slowly whilst a child was getting into the car!

Many thanks to all those who model good driving and parking practices.

My suggestion to ease the congestion is parents should:

Park on Waverley Street and enjoy the 50 metre stroll along Church Lane to the church and wander down hill to the school. A rather pleasant stress-free walk.

POSSIBLE TEACHERS' STRIKE

No doubt you will have heard via the media or social media that teachers and principals throughout NZ **MAY BE ON STRIKE** next Wednesday – 31st May 2023.

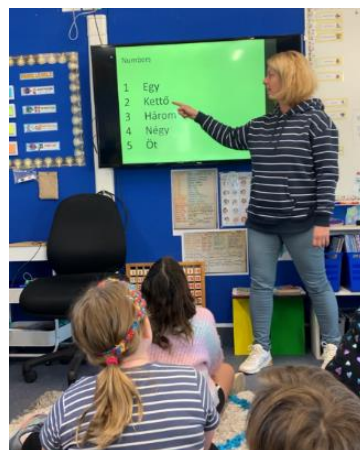
The teachers' and principals' union (the NZEI), has advised school Boards and managements nation-wide that their members voted 2 days ago to go ahead with a one-day strike on Wednesday 31st May and a ban on meetings outside of 8.30am-4.30pm from 1st - 30th June 2023.

Due to a process initiated by the Minister of Education (on Tuesday 22nd May 2023) with the NZEI Te Riu Roa to progress collective agreement negotiations, **any decision on moving forward with these industrial actions has been paused by the NZEI Te Riu Roa National Executive, for now.**

HOWEVER, strike action **may still take place** on 31st May 2023 if the NZEI National Executive and the negotiations team feel insufficient progress has been made over the next few days through the new process agreed with the Minister of Education.

If action does go ahead on Wednesday 31st May, strike notices and information about local community actions will go out on Sunday 28th May. We will have insufficient numbers of non-union teachers to keep the school open so the school **will need to close on the day.**

This is all very disappointing from my point-of-view as the CEO of the school and the impact this may have once again on children's learning. I will notify parents as soon as I receive an update from either or both parties involved in the negotiations.



Thank you for the Hungarian lesson Dora.





In conjunction with the Art Exhibition, the PTC are holding a bake sale. If you are able to help with baking, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the office on 544 8959, or Jess on 027 348 3279.

JUNIOR SYDNINDICATES' CROSS-COUNTRY

Friday 26th May.

(Weather dependent)

Richmond School back field.

Races 2pm – 2.40pm

TOMORROW

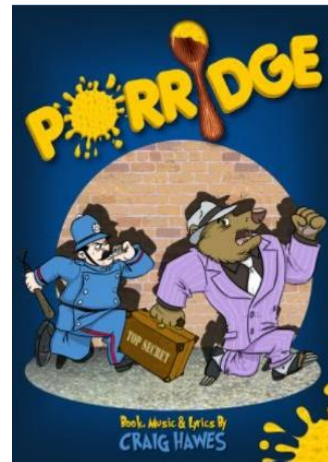
SENIOR SYNDICATE PRODUCTION TERM 2

Wednesday 21st June & Thursday 22nd June

Hope Community Church

We require the following props/costumes if anyone at all can help us. Please name your item so we can return it to you. We will also keep a record.

- Sheep staff for Little Bo Peep
- Airhorn
- Kids toy catapult
- Small suitcases/carry on x3
- Green single sheet
- stethoscope
- Police hats
- Large soft toy pig – 30cm long
- Metal retro stools
- Small outdoor tables – circular/plastic



REMEMBER: Costumes are due to school by Friday 26th May. Even if you haven't got everything yet, please bring what you already have. Main police don't panic, yours are on their way.

Tickets will be available next week. We will advise more as soon as possible.

Thanks

Glenna and Grant, Senior Production 2023

PTC MEETING

Our next meeting is Monday 29th May.
7pm in the school staffroom.
Everyone Welcome

DISCLAIMER These are notices we include on request of organisations and individuals.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Think. Create. Innovate.

Open to all students from Years 1-13 to enter Science Experiments, Research, Technology or Art projects. Specialist judges review entries, interview students and provide individual feedback. Cash prizes of up to \$500 to be won!

Register your entry before Wednesday 2 August for the Scitec Expo on 22-23 August.

Follow @CawthronScitec on Instagram.

Scan the QR code to sign up for Scitec updates.

Or get more info at: cawthron.org/Scitec



become a FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ Ball Kid



Calling all young athletes! If you are aged 14 to 17 years and have some football experience, your team or club can enter for their chance to become FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ Ball Kids. Tell us why you think your team or club should win the trophy.

For full details of the experience and prizes, see T&Cs on the website.



1. Scan the QR code
2. Or use the link below:
<https://www.fifa.com/en/usa/2023/01/2023-womens-world-cup-ball-kids>
3. Enter to WIN



Register now at bridgevalley.co.nz

BRIDGE VALLEY DAY CAMPS

Children and youth aged 7-13 years are invited to our Farmyard Olympics Day Camp in July! The camp will be filled with fun outdoor activities, farm-style challenges like gumboot throwing and sheep herding, and great people. There will be a bus with stops from Nelson each day and lunch will be provided.

See more information or register at bridgevalley.co.nz/holiday-camps or email holidaycamps@bridgevalley.co.nz

HOLY TRINITY RICHMOND
Welcomes you to the
NELSON CATHEDRAL

MAY 27TH 2.30PM

Renowned
**CONCERT PIANIST
&
NELSON BAYS
HARMONY CHORUS**

\$20 A TICKET

Available From:
Jean McConachie 021 978 5818
Dawn Martin 021 777 3312
office@richmondparish.nz (03) 544 8844

FUND RAISING FOR HOLY TRINITY BUILDING

CARE
the Children's Anti-inflammatory REliever Study



CHILDREN'S ASTHMA STUDY CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for children with asthma to take part in a study comparing two different asthma inhalers

To take part in this study you must:

- ✓ Have been diagnosed with asthma by a doctor
- ✓ Be aged between 5 and 15 years
- ✓ Only use a reliever inhaler

For more information contact either:

MRINZ Motueka
Name: Dr Richard Fuller
Email: richard.fuller@mrinz.ac.nz
Phone: (03) 528 8866

SCT Tasman (Nelson)
Name: Stephanie Skophane
Email: sct.tasman@nectra.co.nz
Phone: (021) 027 23271

What does it involve?

- 1 year
- 3 in person + 2 phone calls
- Inhalers provided free of charge
- Asthma education
- Reimbursement for travel expenses



SCAN ME



The study has been approved by Northern U Health and Disability Ethics Committee (20/11/2021)