

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17th August 2023



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

COVID RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

On Monday the government lifted all COVID pandemic restrictions.

This is another positive step back to normality, pre-Covid conditions. I guess things will never really be the same. However, it is important as adults, as a school and as a community we focus on showing our students/your children that we are very positive about the future, so they can relish the new opportunities that are available post-Covid.

I have seen in the last few weeks this positivity in relation to our school. Many ex-pupils, ex-parents, ex-Board members and ex-PTC (Parent-Teacher Committee) members have been back visiting. This is another sign that people are enjoying what was common-place prior to the pandemic (March 2020). In early March 2020 people may recall supermarkets being swamped by people buying toilet paper, hand sanitiser, masks and tinned food as we entered an unprecedented time in New Zealand and world-wide with lockdowns, Alert levels, traffic light conditions, vaccinations, home-learning, zoom meetings and uncertainty about the future. History shows that many major events in New Zealand and world-wide like earthquakes, floods and wars play havoc with people's ways of life and well-being. Like wars, one never knows when a pandemic will end and this has been incredibly unsettling for people, communities and nations.

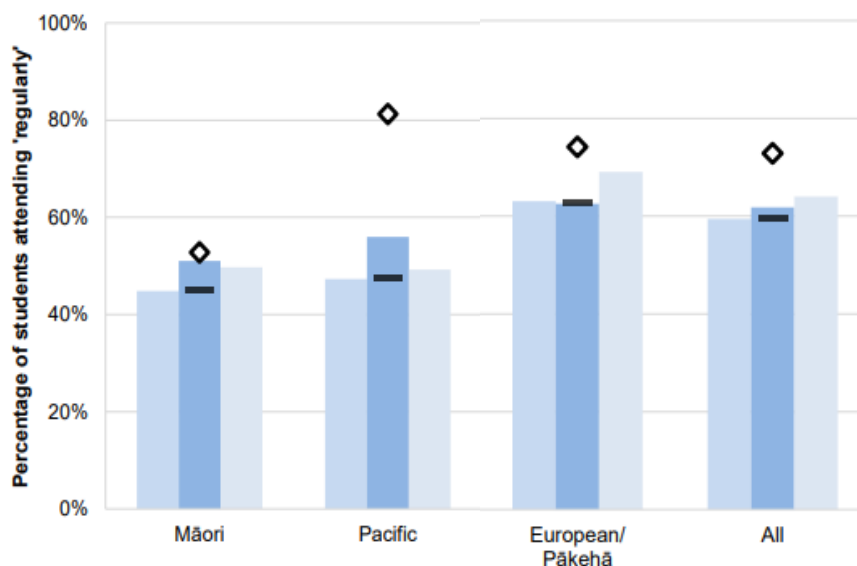
We endeavour to shield children from all the 'fall-out' of such times. History again shows us this isn't always possible and they do affect children's learning, social interactions and well-being. Some children struggle with anxiety and may struggle to attend school or perform as well academically, emotionally and socially as they did prior to the crisis. This was also evident after the Christchurch earthquakes 2011. Many politicians, social commentators, media commentators, financial experts etc are what I call doomsday merchants when in fact what children need in a time of crisis is positivity – that things will improve!

All the prior planning is only partially helpful and successful. Every school in NZ had to develop a pandemic plan in the early 2000s (most were like 50 pages long). Documents like that are only partially helpful when a crisis occurs and I suspect like us it was hardly viewed as we received significant advice from the government, the Health department and the Ministry of Education. It was very much a case of playing 'what was in front of us!'

What I have noticed recently is the vast majority of our children love being at school and can't wait to be here. Huge accolades to our staff for making it a fun place to be and a place where the children can socialise and learn once again. My philosophy being - school should be 'the best party in town'. This has been severely tested in the last few years but when one considers what we have all experienced.....we have done well.

Politicians are quick to point the finger at educationalists for poor academic performances and attendance rates and try to 'fix' it by introducing numerous, mandatory reforms - new programmes, curriculum changes, curriculum refreshes, demanding new Strategic Plan formats, more documentation, mandatory testing regimes, and on and on it goes. It is time we let staff get on with teaching and providing high quality experiences so children can progress and improve socially,

emotionally and academically. It is trying times for the Politicians and the Ministry of Education always want to provide quick fixes with an array of so called 'reforms'. Let teachers get on with the job of teaching and not bogged down in documentation and new programmes and curricula reforms. I have been impressed with the Richmond School Board's and management's attitude about how they have whole-heartedly back our staff. Our staff do an incredible job and deserve a multitude of accolades not brickbats like many politicians like to deliver in spade-loads. In fact, one of the outcomes of the pandemic is the levels of attainment at Richmond School showed the importance of children receiving daily instruction in the 3 Rs in the school setting. Home-learning was only partially successful. Our teachers are in turbo mode endeavouring to lift attainments now children are at school, achieving above the national attendance rates. There is a direct correlation between high attendance rates and levels of achievement.



At last week's Board meeting I provided the Board members with our Term 2 2023 attendance figures. The Ministry of Education analyse attendance figures nationwide. This graph shows nationwide and our school's attendance rates – the first blue line being co-ed schools in NZ, the darker line being the rates of attendance in the Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast region and the third being rates of attendance in Contributing schools (Years 1-6). The diamond shape depicts our students and the black dash the nationwide attendance rates. Overall you can see the nationwide is 59%, a while ago it was as low as in the 40s. Our overall rate is 76%. This is significantly higher.

To explain the definition of 'Regular' attendance. 'Regular' attendance means a child is at school 90% of the time or higher. In a usual term of 10 weeks there will be like 95 – 100 school days. So, if a child with Covid was away isolating for 7 days (and possibly away from school for 5 days) plus say 5 or 6 days away due to having a cold or the flu then they can be below the 90% threshold.

Our children are doing really well but there is always room for improvement. I would like to thank parents for their help by endeavouring to have your children at school as often as possible, healthy, well fed and ready to learn. Onwards and upwards I say!

BOARD NEWS

At our Board meeting last week one of our long-serving board members resigned. Coral Smith's husband Nathan has begun in a new position in Blenheim so the family will be moving to Blenheim later in the year. Coral has been a very valuable member of the board since May 2017, has been the Parent-Teacher Committee for many years (including being the chairperson) and was our school librarian for a number of years. Coral and her family will be sorely missed around the school. Thanks Coral for all your wonderful efforts. We wish your family and you all the very best with your new adventures and endeavours across the Whangamoas!



Please keep your child home if they are unwell.

POSITIONS BEING ADVERTISED FOR 2024

In this week's Waimea Weekly the following advertisement has been placed:

NETBALL UNIFORMS

PLEASE RETURN ALL NETBALL UNIFORMS.
THANKS.

Teaching Positions 2023



A number of Scale A full-time and part-time teaching positions available for 2024. Possibly 3 permanent Scale A positions and a number of other long-term relieving positions. Positions to be confirmed in September once we have received our 2024 Provisional Staffing.

The positions will be throughout the school. Please indicate your preferred area(s) on your application.

Seeking vibrant, highly motivated teachers who are team players.

Applications close 11:00am Thursday 24th August 2023.

To obtain an application form email - principal@richmondprimary.school.nz

Please send completed application form to:

Tim Brenton, Principal, Richmond School, Cambridge St, Richmond, Nelson

Phone: (03) 544 8959 Email: principal@richmondprimary.school.nz

TERM 3 Home Learning (email sent Monday 7th August)

SPACE or FLIGHT TUARANGI or RANGINUI

Create a space or flight project together at home. It can be as little or big as you want.

Projects will be on display in the hall on Thursday 7th September.

Possible ideas:

Paper mache, mobile, poster, book, sculpture, art creation, playdough



Book Week is a FULL SCHOOL EVENT coming up in Week 7.

During this week there will be events as listed below:

- All classes will visit the **Tasman District Library** to get a tour and meet the new staff.
- Classes will all have a **book-related door design** - come in and see them!
- A **Book Fair** will be operating out of the Old Dental Clinic from Tuesday to Friday - the classes will all visit. You are also welcome to come in and buy a few books for those early Christmas presents.
- Multiple **competitions** including 'Get Snapped Reading" photographic competition and Guess the Character (Jane)
- **Book Character Parade** - on Friday the 1st of September - kids and teachers dress up as a book character and parade at school and through Richmond.
- **Guest readers** - each class will have people other than their class teachers reading at least twice that week.

Each syndicate/class will also be doing specific book-related activities related to their age groups.

Please note that two of these events - the TDL visit and Book Character Parade - will require your child leaving the school grounds. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you do not want you child to attend these events.

WAIMEA INTERMEDIATE PARENT EVENING

Waimea Intermediate invite and encourage Parents/Caregivers of Year 6 students to attend their information evening on **THURSDAY 14th SEPTEMBER, 7pm** in the Waimea Intermediate school hall.

This is for parents/caregivers only as they do not have the capacity to accommodate children as well.

Year 6 students will visit WIS in term 4.

Enrolment forms can be brought to the school office for forwarding to WIS.

RICHMOND SCHOOL

CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK 28/8 – 1/9/23

Visits to
Richmond
Library

Book
character
parade

BUDDY
CLASS
READING

Scholastic
book fair

Get snapped
reading
competition

plus lots
more



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES
SUPPORTING OUR PTC QUIZ**



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

COMMUNITY NOTICES



VT VOLLEYBALL TASMAN presents TE TOTARA CAMP

SEPTEMBER 26 27 28 2023

REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW

Setters
Years 4-6

Spikers
Years 7-8

Juniors
Years 9-10

CHECK REGISTRATION FOR SESSION TIMES

QR code



GLOW PARTY WAVE RAVE

FRIDAY, 25TH AUGUST | \$8 PER CHILD

GET YOUR GLOW SUPPLIES BEFORE THE EVENT: 6:30-7PM
WAVE RAVE: 7-9PM

BOMB COMPS, GAMES, PRIZES, AQUA RUN, MUSIC AND FUN!

Richmond Aquatic Centre
801 Selwyn Road Richmond
Ph 03 543 5150 | E enquiries@richmond.aqtc.co.nz
www.richmond.aqtc.co.nz

RICHMOND AQUATIC CENTRE

tasman
te tai o Aorere



FREE

Compost workshop for beginners
with Prashanti Lovegrove

Wednesday 30 August, 10.00am-11.00am
Richmond Library, Constance Barnicoat Room
Light refreshments will be provided
Great spot prizes up for grabs on the day

Nature's way of recycling
Composting at home is an easy and environmentally friendly way to manage your garden waste. It also provides a free, nutrient rich compost you can use in your garden. Whether you're just getting started, or need a little help trouble shooting, there's something for you. Plus, there's some great giveaways and prizes to be won.

To learn more, visit tasman.getstamped.com

RETHINK WASTE
Whakatara

tasman
te tai o Aorere



EVERYONE WELCOME

AT RICHMOND TENNIS CLUB & PARTICIPATING CLUBS NATIONWIDE
10 SEPT 10AM-4PM

FREE EVENT

Find a club near you
Come give tennis a go!
All equipment provided.
Prizes, giveaways, BBQ & more.

love tennis
www.lovetennis.kiwi

REBEL AO TRAVEL



HIRA SCHOOL PRESENTS

10TH SEPT 2023 10AM-3PM

VALLEY TO VIEW FAIR

Hira School

Cable Bay ADVENTURE PARK
NELSON - NEW ZEALAND

BOUNCY CASTLES - FACE-PAINTING - FAIR GAMES - PONY RIDES - LIVE MUSIC - BBQ - MARKET STALLS - WHITE ELEPHANT STALL - RAFFLES - SILENT AUCTIONS - BIKE TRAILS - QUAD BIKES - SKYWIRE AND MUCH MORE...

COIN DONATION

Hi, my name is Brianna. I am a year 10 at Garin College and this year I will be taking part in a charity called **Shave for a Cure**. I am trying to get as many donations as possible to try and help people with leukemia and blood cancer. If you can help by donating, no matter how big or small, it would be much appreciated, however if not that is okay too. I will be shaving all my hair off in support of people with this type of cancer.

Instruction of how to donate: If you are willing to donate, go to the **Shave for a Cure** website. Got to the menu bar, click who's donating, go to schools, and then scroll down until you find team Garin. Once you are in team Garin, find Brianna McKay and go into it. From there you will be able to donate as much or as little as you please.



YOUTH YARNS

What does peace mean to our youngsters?

Young artists are invited to join this year's Mayors for Peace art competition and share their vision for peace.

Last year, local students Aria Robertson and Lucy Gauntlett took out two of the top placings in the international Mayors for Peace Children's Art Competition and entries are now open for this year's event.

As a member of the international Mayors for Peace network, Tasman Mayor Tim King is encouraging our young people to join this global art competition to explore and promote peace in our communities.

We're looking for drawings or paintings created by youngsters aged between 6 and 15 who live or study in Tasman.

A panel of judges will select the five best artworks in each of the two age categories and the winners will be announced in September. Selected works will then be sent to the Mayors for Peace Secretariat in Japan.

This year's theme is 'what peace means to me' and the deadline for entries is 31 August.

Find out more at tasman.govt.nz, search 'art competition'.

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