

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1st May 2025



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

ADVICE FOR PARENTS, AND SEEKING YOUR ASSISTANCE, WITH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATES AND BOOSTING RESILIENCY

This statement is about our efforts to boost our school attendance rates and also to boost our students' resiliency abilities.

The government has set a target of students 'regularly' attending school 80% of time. The definition of 'regularly' being at school over 90% of the time. As an example this means, over a 10 week term (usually 50 school days) then the student is here at least 45 days out of 50. Our school average in Term 4 2024 was 71% and Term 1 2025 72%. Both are significantly higher than the national average of being in the 50 percents. If a child is sick for say 3 days and parents take 3 days to go on holiday early or come back late after a weekend away somewhere then the child becomes an 'Irregular absence' attendee. Children who are away as 'Moderate absence' or 'chronic absence' attendees we work closely with the family and when necessary, get the Ministry of Education's Attendance Service involved.

Student Categories	Student with	Equivalent to
Regular attendance	over 90% attendance	missing fewer than 5 days across a term
Irregular absence	more than 80% and up to 90% attendance	absent for between 5 and 9 days across a term
Moderate absence	more than 70% and up to 80% attendance	absent for between 10 and 14.5 days across a term
Chronic absence	70% attendance or less	absent for 15 days or more across a school term

How many students regularly attended school this term?

Regular Attendance

72%

Compared to 74% in Term 1, 2024

Irregular Absence 20%

Compared to 20% in Term 1, 2024

Moderate Absence 4%

Compared to 4% in Term 1, 2024

Chronic Absence 4%

Compared to 3% in Term 1, 2024

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1. (M) Illness / Medical Absence 56%
2. (G) Holiday 20%
3. (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 19%
4. (T) Unexplained / Trivial 3%
5. (J) Explained and Approved 3%

Our Term 4 2024 figures were similar – 71% ‘regular’ attendance, 19% ‘Irregular absence’, 6% ‘Moderate Absence’ and 4% ‘Chronic Absence’.

My parents taught me that we all have hassles in our lives from time to time and we need to learn to deal with them in appropriate ways.

During the Covid pandemic, people were rightly concerned about their own and their family’s wellness and wellbeing. These remain, and as a school we recognize this and continue to foster these. However, this year one of our main foci is on Resiliency. Occasionally, I reflect on my own upbringing. My dad was born during the first World War (1917), he was a teenager during the Great Depression (1930s) and then fought during the second World War (1939-1945). Whilst serving overseas he received the news that his fiancé at the time had run-off with an American soldier. Infrequently, he would talk to me about how he wouldn’t dwell on these events but rather would endeavour to be very positive, be industrious and do his very best for his family and community. It wasn’t until years later, I really understand how he never worried about the small things nor complained how unfortunate he was to grow up in such times. He just got on and enjoyed life and dealt with whatever was in front of him. The word resiliency was never mentioned but he made sure as children we were challenged (in sport, education and life generally) and supported us when there was a need. He let us make our own decisions (within reason) and learn from our mistakes/errors of judgement (and we made some, many at times). He didn’t intervene in our school or social issues unless we sought advice and guidance. My mum was a highly committed community-minded person who would often provide quiet, sensible advice and perhaps the best advice was - ‘Don’t worry about a situation at night-time because often in the morning you will know a way forward, thinking time will provide clarity’. Advice, I concur with. One needs to learn to cope with poor decisions, upsets and then move forward. My parents would talk about the need to be at school (even using words like ‘toughen up you’ll be fine’) and I would want to be at school to be with my friends, if I wasn’t feeling 100%. It is a fine balance between health and wellbeing, and the need to be at school to progress academically and socially.

As a child I hardly ever had a day off school. It was the norm to be at school even if you weren’t feeling well or you had had a busy weekend. During Covid times and post-Covid there has been a tendency for some children not to attend school if they have a slight sniffle or are feeling tired. Not only is this disruptive to a child’s daily learning but it is very frustrating for teachers who have been teaching a specific skill or procedure (say in Maths) and then have to re-visit/re-teach that the next day when a child returns to school. As adults we need to model good habits. In 45 years of teaching I’ve only have something like 28 days off work due to sickness.

When I was a student in the 1960s and 1970s or when I taught in the 1980s and 1990s, families seemed to only go on holidays during school holidays. Now with flights and overseas holiday packages being cheaper during school time, some parents occasionally make the choice to go during school weeks. This is something I can’t condone as children are legally meant to be at school when the school is open for instruction. As one can see from the chart on page 1 – 20% of non-attendance is due to students being away on ‘holiday’. In recent years, at the start of the school year there has been an increase in the number of families away on holiday when school has just begun. This is very disruptive to the class programmes as teachers endeavour to establish their class programmes and behaviour management systems.

I’m also aware that some children turn up tired at school due to playing games on devices late at night. I would like parents to make sure children don’t access devices long into the evening and certainly make sure they are not on them at least 30 minutes before their usual sleep time. Sleep is a vital wellness ingredient. It is also important parents monitor their children’s access to devices and what programs they are accessing. If children turn up at school tired then it is a recipe for poor performance, upsets, off-task behaviour and even mis-behaviour during the day. Many thanks.

In newsletters every fortnight for the next two terms, our school ‘Resiliency’ lead teachers (Pip Scott, Morgan Eggers and Georgia Waters) will be providing snippets of information and activities for parents to consider.



'SHOUT-OUT' AFTER RECENT SENIOR SYNDICATE CAMPS

I would like to acknowledge four businesses in Golden Bay who have gone out of their way to accommodate us when we had our 5 senior syndicate camps in Golden Bay last term.

They were awesome and deserve a massive 'shout-out'.

Please support them when you are holidaying over in Golden Bay. Please make sure you let them know it is because of how well they look after Richmond School.

The four businesses being:

- Ngarua Caves (at the top of the Takaka Hill) – our first stop on each camp.
- Tukurua camping ground – known as the Golden Bay Holiday Park. This is where each class stayed in the cabins and tents.
- Farewell Spit tours – they transported us by bus out the Farewell Spit lighthouse and back.
- Collingwood Tavern - where the classes had an evening meal after the Farewell Spit lighthouse trips.



Ngarua Caves

1147 Takaka Hill Hwy, Kairuru · 03 528 8093



Farewell Spit Tours
6 Tasman Street
Collingwood, Golden Bay,
New Zealand

Phone: +64 3 524 8257
Call Toll Free: 0800 808 257
E-mail: enquiries@farewellspit.co.nz



Collingwood Tavern

Reece & Renae Swan
Phone: 03 524 8160
Email: collingwoodtavern@gmail.com

Bar • Bottle Store • Bistro • Takeaways

Golden Bay Holiday Park

goldenbay.holiday@gmail.com
www.goldenbayholidaypark.co.nz

Pete and Donna Hartley
Managers

99 Tukurua Road
Parapara 7182
03 5259742



10% off your nights stay with this card

HELPFUL PHRASES IN TE REO MĀORI

Each week we will add to the newsletter a 'Helpful Phrase' we are promoting at school. These can also be used at home.



In-i-a-neigh tore-nu

STAFF WEARING GREEN TODAY



Today, many of the staff are wearing green in support of our wonderful Support Staff who are presently in negotiations with the Ministry of Education regarding their pay and conditions.

We are asking the school community to please support our Support Staff by signing an open letter to the Ministry of Education, showing support for better investment in a quality public education system.

Scan this QR code to support, or sign the form at the school office. If you would like to take a form to your work-place, we would really appreciate it.

TWO NEW TEACHER AIDES

Recently, we appointed 2 new teacher-aides who have started working mornings from the start of Term 2.

Welcome to Amy Barnett and Cherie Llewellyn. It is wonderful to have you as part of our team.



Amy & Cherie

PTC MEETING

Our next meeting is
MONDAY 5th May

7pm

In our school staffroom
ALL WELCOME



LUCKY BOOK CLUB
DUE 15th MAY

JUNIOR SYDNDICATES' CROSS-COUNTRY

Friday 16th May.

(Weather dependent)

Richmond School back field.

Races 2pm – 2.40pm

Starting with 5 year old girls, then 5 year old boys



SENIOR & MIDDLE SYDNDICATES' CROSS-COUNTRY

Thursday 22nd May.

(Postponement date Friday 23rd May)

Rabbit Island

Races start approx 10 am

Starting with year 3 girls, then year 3 boys

**Junior syndicates (excluding Room21) join
us at mid-day for bbq lunch and beach
afternoon.**

KĀREAREA SYNDICATE PRODUCTION TERM 2

Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th June

Hope Community Church

Pirates of the Curry Bean

Each week we will include a list of props we need to ... if you are happy to lend us (or donate) any of these items, please send to school and hand them into the office. Make sure you name your item with your child's name and room number if you would like them returned.

We will also keep a record so at the end of the term we can return to the right people.

- x2 toy telescopes
- Union Jack flag
- Plastic bananas
- Any old pirate hats or costumes you do not want

HELP – We will also send a notice out to the Kārearea Syndicate asking for helpers to make, sew, paint and organise things. If you are keen to help, you don't have to have children in that syndicate – just come and talk to us or let the office know.

Thanks

Glenna Armstrong & Grant Irvine – Production 2025

ACCORD DAY

Our next Accord Professional Development day is Friday 30th May. This is an extension of King's Birthday Weekend (Saturday 31st May – Monday 2nd June).

Richmond School will closed for instruction that day as all staff (teachers and teacher-aides) will be involved in Professional Development.

The Minister of Education has approved two Professional Development days for 2025 for schools to upskill and implement the government's new Structured Mathematics approach. There will be a second day later in the year.

Many of the schools in the Waimea Cluster will be closed for instruction on the same day – Friday 30th May.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Charlie's Kitchen

Gluten Free Treats

Mothers Day Treat Box One \$36

- 6 Vanilla bean cupcakes beautifully decorated with swiss meringue buttercream

Mothers Day Treat Box Two \$50

- 1 Mini chocolate cake with 'Happy Mother's Day' on the top
- 6 Vanilla bean cupcakes beautifully decorated

Mothers Day Treat Box Three \$55

- 1 Mini chocolate cake with 'Happy Mother's Day' on the top
- 2 Vanilla bean cupcakes
- 4 Large chocolate chip cookies

Contact Information:

Jasmin Gaskin

0275256863

Email: Charlieskitchennelson@gmail.com



Last orders 5th of May
Collection 5pm Saturday
10th of May
8 Poukiri Place,
Richmond

OPEN DAY MAY 4

WILLOW BANK
HERITAGE VILLAGE

ENTRY FEE:
\$7 PER ADULT (AGES 16+)
\$3 PER CHILD

APPLE HARVEST

VISIT A FUN AND INTERACTIVE LIVING MUSEUM 1KM SOUTH OF WAKEFIELD, NELSON. WE HAVE 20+ SHOP DISPLAYS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, FOOD AND DRINK AND LOTS MORE.

SUNDAY 10AM - 3PM MAY 4

APPLE + PEAR HARVEST OPEN DAY. BRING YOUR FRUIT TO JUICE. JUICE BAGS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.

info@wbankwakefield.co.nz | www.wbankwakefield.co.nz
AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS
WWW.WILLOWBANKWAKEFIELD.CO.NZ
79 WAKEFIELD HIGHWAY, WAKEFIELD

ROLLER DISCO

Friday 2nd MAY

6.30 - 8.30
\$10 (includes Skates)

TAHUNA SKATING RINK
Music * Snacks * Drinks
Fundraising for Nelson Whalers Inline Hockey

Raising Resilient Children with Kathryn Berkett

Nelson College for Girls and the Parents and Friends Association are proud to host Kathryn Berkett on Wednesday 21st May at 7pm



WE USE THE WORD RESILIENCE ALL THE TIME, WE WANT IT FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OUR CHILDREN. BUT WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE? AND HOW DO WE DEVELOP IT?

Come along to this unique, local opportunity to hear what might be the most useful information of your life!

Tickets are - \$20 adults
\$10 students
\$35 for 2
(plus booking fee)
Available at eventbrite.co.nz



2025 HOCKEY OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 3rd MAY at Saxton Field Hockey turfs
9:00 am - 10:30 pm

2025 HOCKEY OPEN DAY

We welcome everyone for a fun day!

Sticks/balls/bibs will be provided

FREE OPEN HOCKEY DAY
Free sausages & drinks

Fun games/basics skills

For information
Please contact Lauren Huston - info@nelsonhockey.org.nz
www.nelsonhockey.org.nz - PH: 03-5479888

MOI MINISTRY OF INSPIRATION

STEAMS SCHOOLS **STEAMS COURSES**

AQUABOTS **INSPIRE**

www.ministryofinspiration.org

MOI STEAMS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

STEAMS Holiday programmes by Ministry of Inspiration are designed for 7-13 year olds (up to year 8) at Nelson Intermediate- 14/15 April and 16/17 April

Art and Engineering 14/15
Participants will spend their time learning about friction, propulsion, and inertia as they build and test various CARS (wind powered and motor powered) using simple materials. In addition, they will be participating in several short engineering challenges.

Art and Engineering 16/17
Participants will spend their time building robotic DINOSAURS! These will also have LED lights! In addition, they will be participating in several short engineering challenges.

Cooking and Science 14/15 and 16/17
Cooking participants in both classes will be creating an entrée, main, and dessert each day. These will be different for each 2-day programme set. Science topics covered are: acid/base indicators, micro-organisms, Maillard reaction, and more!

To sign up for the programme go here:
<https://events.humanitix.com/april-holiday-programme-nelson-intermediate>
https://mcusercontent.com/a24661e5495609e4f0357f331/files/09e70cb2-bf0a-1f94-e2a1-e61d77b98505/April_Holiday_Programme.pdf

Travelling overseas soon?

You must do a New Zealand Traveller Declaration when you come back

TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

New Zealand
Traveller
Declaration

Whakapukanga
Tangata Haere ki
Aotearoa

Wallace Shield Cross Country Series



- Free, fun, family event
- Good training for School League series
- 1, 2 or 3 laps of 1.7km
- All ages



Moturoa/Rabbit Island, Saturdays 29 Mar, 5 Apr, 12 Apr

2:30 pm race start

More info: www.waimeaharriers.nz

AIKIDO NELSON

est. 1988
www.aikidonelson.nz

NEW Little Samurai classes for 5-7 year olds
Wednesdays 4.15-5pm
Junior classes for 8-14 year olds on
Wednesdays + Fridays 5-6pm

New students can enrol in the first three weeks of each Term
Check out our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aikidonelsonnz) www.aikidonelsonnz
or call Callum 021 0694211



LEGO CLUB

Building social competence & emotional well-being through LEGO enrolements open for term 2



explore, build, play

email bricksincludedplay@gmail.com

