

RICHMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

15th September 2026



From the Tumuaki desk this week ...

PROJECT JONAH



Recently, Richmond School had the pleasure of welcoming Jenny McKinlay from Project Jonah's Walkthrough Whale programme. Students from across the school got the chance to step inside a life-sized humpback whale and learn more about these incredible marine mammals.

A big thank you to Shirley for helping organise this experience for our kura. It was a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to learn about our marine environment in such an engaging way.

The students learnt about humpback whales' remarkable migrations, their whale songs, and the important part they play in our oceans. Project Jonah's goal is to encourage young people to care for and protect marine mammals

and the marine environment, and our students certainly left with a deeper appreciation for both.



The highlight for many students was exploring the inside of the giant whale. The excitement around the school was contagious, with children eagerly sharing facts and stories from the experience long after the sessions had finished. As one student put it, *"It felt like we were really inside a whale!"* Another shared, *"I loved learning how far humpback whales can swim and seeing how big they really are."* Students were particularly fascinated by how much a humpback whale weighs, how far it can travel in a year, and hearing recordings of whale songs.

Thank you again to Project Jonah, Jenny, Shirley, and everyone who helped make this memorable learning experience possible



PARKING ON BROKEN YELLOW LINES – A reminder

Last week a parent, was seen to stop on broken yellow lines on Cambridge Street prior to the 8:30am bell. The child then crossed the road and was nearly hit by teenagers on bikes. I would like to remind parents that parking on broken yellow lines can be incredibly dangerous as this example showed.

LAST ACCORD DAY 2026

Erica Stanford (Minister of Education) decreed that schools were able to have two Accord Day in 2026. We had our first one earlier in the year. Our second day is on Friday 23rd October 2026 (end of Week 2, Term 4). This is the Friday prior to Labour Day weekend (Labour Day is Monday 26th October 2026).

This is a day that our staff will be attend professional development sessions. The focus is on the new Mathematics curriculum.

Please be aware that children do not attend school on Friday 23rd October 2026, nor Monday 26th October 2026. Thank you.

SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER.

This is an Accord Day (Staff Only Day).

This is the same weekend as Labour Weekend.

TERM 4 SPORTS REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN.

Term 4 Sports Registration 2026 – Fill out form

Registrations close Wednesday 23rd September

As a volcano erupts, molten lava pours down like honey as the world stays quiet. As the dawn comes, the volcano keeps pumping lava at high speed. The molten lava sinks into the river as it turns into rock-hard magma. At it looked like the end of the world, the volcano stopped....it had been very, very unexpected. Ash filled the air and it smelled very smoky. The temperature was hot like lava. As the sky cleared, the water cleared.

by Seojin Rm 12

The flaming volcano was bursting with lava. The volcano was super hot, looming over the land like a fleet of starships. The dark, smoky clouds darken the ash-filled earth with almost unbreathable air. The water shimmered with orange light and was frozen like a glacier of ice.

by Corran Rm 12



TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

(Māori Language Week 14-18 September)



The focus nationally is about building our own "town" where te reo is normal, visible and valued everywhere. Kia kaha te reo Māori.

How do you use te reo at home?

We would like to invite parents to watch a performance from the Kārearea and Takahē Kapahaka - Monday 21st September at 2.20pm in our school hall.

We will have a performance, which includes the Kura Kaupapa on Thursday this week, however this is just for our school children to watch.

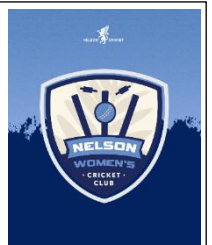
NELSON WOMENS CRICKET CLUB

All ages.

Information was in last week's newsletter

or

Contact the school office for a copy.



COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Earlier in the term parents were asked to complete a 'Parent Community Questionnaire' about many aspects of Richmond School.

We sincerely thank those who did so. The school Board at our next meeting will consider the responses and look at what can be considered in terms of our 2027 Strategic planning. In the meantime, here is a one-page summary of the responses.

Thank you to the parents and caregivers who took the time to complete our interim Community Questionnaire for 2026. As noted in the survey introduction, *"Usually we receive 70–100 replies to this triennial survey of parents' views."* This year we received 21 responses, which is significantly fewer than usual. While this still provides us with useful insights, it is important to recognise that the smaller sample means the results may not fully represent the views of our wider parent community.

Despite the low number of responses, the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Parents consistently described Richmond School as welcoming, supportive, and approachable. Every respondent indicated they feel comfortable coming into the school, with comments such as *"Yes 100% and it is because teachers are seen and smiling"* and *"Absolutely!!!"* Communication between home and school was also strongly affirmed, with many parents praising weekly updates, teacher accessibility, and the quality of newsletters. Parents expressed strong satisfaction with reporting systems, interview processes, and access to teachers. A few respondents felt interviews were rushed due to time constraints. A minority expressed concern about the new curriculum-aligned reporting format, noting: *"The old form of report seemed to be more informative."*

Behaviour management was viewed very positively. Parents described the school environment as safe, orderly, and fair. One parent commented: *"Kids aren't labelled bad, they're given new direction or extra support."*

Parents expressed high levels of satisfaction with classroom programmes. The swimming programme, camps, cultural activities, and educational trips received exceptionally strong endorsement, with comments such as *"The swimming programme has been amazing"* and *"My child has gone from completely terrified of water to enjoying the aquatic centre regularly now."*

As with any survey, a small number of respondents used the opportunity to raise individual concerns. These ranged from communication around specific extracurricular activities, to parking challenges, to isolated experiences of bullying. We take all concerns seriously and will consider whether any require further follow-up, particularly where themes appear more than once. However, many of these appear to be 'one-off' situations rather than widespread issues.

It is also clear from both the survey and daily interactions with whānau that the vast majority of parents are very happy with the learning, care, and opportunities provided at Richmond School. Several respondents commented on the strong relationships between staff and students, the supportive culture, and the sense of community. One parent wrote: *"Richmond School has been such an incredible source of support for our family... What Richmond School has given us has gone far beyond education."*

Parents expressed strong satisfaction with facilities, grounds, and class sizes. Students are generally reported to enjoy school, with one parent noting: *"All the extra activities make school not just about academics."*

Thank you again to all who contributed. We value your partnership and remain committed to providing a safe, engaging, and high-quality learning environment for every child at Richmond School.

The Kārearea Syndicate require newspaper for an activity in Week 10.

Are you able to help? Please send to Room 3, or drop at the office.

YEAR 6 STUDENTS TO WAIMEA INTERMEDIATE

Waimea Intermediate are holding their Parent Information Evening for Year 6 and any new families on Thursday 17 September, 7pm in their school hall. Parents and caregivers only please.

Out of zone applications close on **Friday 16 October** with the ballot on Wednesday 21 October.

We will be inviting all our contributing school students to come to WIS on **Friday 13 November** for an **Orientation** visit. These are organised with the school directly.

Waimea Intermediate School enrolments close this Friday - 18th September. Please have your child's enrolment form to Richmond School office by then. WIS are collecting from here.



OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS

The Richmond School Board of Trustees invites applications from parents who wish to enrol their children at Richmond School during 2027.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

Families who wish to apply should do so in writing addressed to Tim Brenton (Principal) stating your child's name, date of birth and current address.

The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-zone places is Friday 18th September 2026.

The Board has determined that 20 places are likely to be available predominantly in the Year 1, 2 and 3 year groups.

Parents of students (yet to be enrolled) who live within the home zone should also apply by this date to assist the school to plan for the remainder of 2026 and the 2027 school year.

The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone. If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot is required, it will be held on Friday 25th September 2026. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

Tim Brenton
Principal - Richmond School

Tickets: **\$20** per person

Richmond School PTC presents...

Quiz Night!

18+

Quiz, Laugh, Give Back.

A fun night with friends while raising funds for Richmond School's tamariki.

Friday 16 Oct 2026 7PM

Doors open at 6:30pm

Silent Auction | Eftpos available
Pizza & hot chips supplied

Richmond School Hall,
Cambridge Street, Richmond

Richmond School
Ākina kia kaha

For further info, contact:
richmondschoolptc@gmail.com
or ph: 03 544 8959

WEETBIX TRYATHLON – SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2027

Entries to our local Weetbix Tryathlon are now open.

Use this link to register with our school group.

Link: <https://raceroster.com/registration/b2004cff-e528-44b7-813b-846331cc5ea1/entry?team=1050826>

Waimea Toi Toi United Cricket Club



Year 0, 1 & 2 Cricketers

SMASH PLAY - suitable for entry level young cricketers. Years 0, 1 & 2.

Skills and drills in a fun interactive format run at Jubilee Park South run by our senior Cricketers on a Saturday
8.30am -9.15am.

Cost - \$60 (includes a T-Shirt)

PLAY HQ Link:-

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/b35685>

Year 2, 3 & 4 Cricketers

MACHINE BALL CRICKET - MBC - Years 2, 3 & 4

Very exciting with 100% of deliveries in play for the batters to hit and therefore interaction and involvement for the whole team.

OR

DUAL PITCH SMASH - DPS - Years 3 & 4

This format will continue to develop the players in readiness for HardBall Cricket.

Cost - \$80

PLAY HQ Link:-

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/0381c8>

Both these formats will be played at Saxton Aerial Field

Saturdays 9am – 10 am

Year 5 & 6 Cricketers

HARD BALL CRICKET – Cost \$100

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/0381c8>

SEASON STARTS 31st OCTOBER 2026

For further information visit our website

<https://www.wttu.org.nz/>

Or contact:-

Gillian

WTTU Junior Coordinator

wwtujuniors@gmail.com

021-2860546

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

WILLOW BANK
UPCOMING
Events

 Monday + Tuesday 10am-3pm
Holiday Trail
September 28 + 29 2026
Make a day of it these holidays — step back in time at Willow Bank Heritage Village while the children enjoy our Holiday Treasure Trail!
Adults: \$5 Children: \$3

 Sunday 10am-3pm
Open Day
October 4 2026
at Willow Bank Heritage Village. A special day to explore the village, discover history and enjoy our café and activities.
Adults: \$7 Children: \$3

 Thursday + Friday 10am-3pm
Holiday Trail
October 8 + 9 2026
Make a day of it these holidays — step back in time at Willow Bank Heritage Village while the children enjoy our Holiday Treasure Trail!
Adults: \$5 Children: \$3

[@willowbankheritagevillage](https://www.willowbankwakefield.co.nz)
www.willowbankwakefield.co.nz

Pretty Smart Sale
Pre-loved clothing for adults, kids and babies
plus accessories, book, toys, homewares



Sat+Sun 26+27 Sept
9:00am - 2:00pm

Hope Recreational Hall
184 Main Road, Hope

Cash Only **\$2 Entry**


Book Fair



3rd & 4th OCTOBER 2026
HOPE HALL
184 MAIN ROAD
HOPE
OPEN 10AM TO 3 PM



Something for everyone!
Thank you for your support!
www.helpingfamiliesnelson.org.nz

ATHLETICS
Richmond


Athletics teaches you fundamental physical skills and is a fun and family friendly sport!





HAVE A GO NIGHT - TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER
SAXTON ATHLETICS TRACK 5:15-7:00PM
For children aged 5-14 years of age (as of 31/12/26)

 Athletics Richmond www.sporty.co.nz/athleticsrichmond

FILM SCREENING



Lighthouse Aotearoa invites all young people and their families to a classic screening of *The Lorax* during Nelson/Tasman's Climate Action Festival. [Lighthouse Aotearoa](https://www.lighthouseaotearoa.org.nz) support passionate rangatahi (aged 11-18 years) to build skills, confidence, and leadership in environmental action.

Come along to find out more about us,.

Saturday 26 September. Tickets [here](https://www.lighthouseaotearoa.org.nz)

School Holiday Programmes at Common Threads

Common Threads (Bridge Street, Nelson) is running hands-on School Holiday Programmes for ages 8-12 this holidays — Learn to Crochet, Weave a Wall Hanging, and Sew a Softie. Small groups, all materials included, and kids take home a handmade piece plus their own tool.

Details and bookings:
<https://www.commonthreadsnz.com/pages/workshops>


LEGO CLUB HOLIDAY FUN
TUE 29, WED 30 SEPT
MON 5, TUE 6 OCT
FOUNDERS, NELSON
WED 7 OCT
HEADINGLY CENTRE, RICHMOND
9AM-3PM
6-11YR OLDS
bricksincludedplay@gmail.com
<https://bricksincluded.nz>
bookings essential, numbers limited
engineer, build, explore

POWER ZONE

Elim

LIFE QUEST

5-9 OCTOBER

Holiday Programme

Scan to **book now** or find out more info.

WWW.ELIMNELSON.NZ/POWERZONENELSON
03 547 2533 | POWERZONE@ELIMNELSON.NZ
625 MAIN ROAD STOKE

POWER ZONE

MONDAY
THE AMAZING PZ RACE
An afternoon trip down to Stoke School to go on a quest for clues, complete challenges and beat the other teams.
**Bring shoes, hat & jacket*

TUESDAY
GIANT BOARD GAMES!
All your favourite games on a "Life-sized" scale. Battleships, Hungry Hippos, Connect 4, Jenga, Chess, Bowling & more.

WEDNESDAY
TIMEZONE
A quest to TIMEZONE for an hour of free play on the Arcade machines! Plus an afternoon of fun, games & activities.
**BRING Shoes & a jacket- NO ADDED COST*

THURSDAY
BINGO & BACK IN TIME
DRESS-UP as a grandparent or as someone from a different decade (1950's, 80's, 90's ext). Compete in a classic game of BINGO, and enjoy a "Soda Float" drink for afternoon tea.
**DRESS-UP DAY!*

FRIDAY
EPIC GAMES DAY
5X POINTS FRIDAY. Let's see which team will take out the competition and the Crunchies. An epic battle of games like; Tug o' War, Capture the Flag, Twister & more!

Holiday Programme

Scan to **book now** or find out more info.

WWW.ELIMNELSON.NZ/POWERZONENELSON
03 547 2533 | POWERZONE@ELIMNELSON.NZ
625 MAIN ROAD STOKE

ElimChristianCentre

Word Whizz

Parents, help your child read and write with confidence

Word Whizz makes it easy for Kiwi parents to boost their child's early literacy skills, helping them catch up or excel in reading and spelling.

Free Workshop - wordwhizz.co.nz

★ Structured Literacy Approach ★ Unlimited Sessions

McGlashen Pharmacy

Young Achiever Scholarship 2026

Are you 16 years of age or under as of 30/09/26?
Do you live in the Nelson/Tasman district?
Showing a promising future in your chosen field?
(Sports, Arts, Academia etc)

Entry forms available at:
McGlashen Pharmacy 42 Oxford St, Richmond
Applications due by 5pm Friday 25/09/26

\$1,000

AIKIDO NELSON est. 1988
www.aikidonelson.nz

Want to learn self defence and become more confident?
New students can enrol in the first three weeks of each Term
Check out our [facebook](#), [www.aikidonelson.nz](#) or call Callum 021 0694211

5-7 year olds
Mondays 5-5.45pm
Wednesdays 4.15-5pm

8-13 year olds
Wednesdays and Fridays 5-6pm

14+ year olds
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 6-7.30pm

TRAMPOLINE PARK

JUMPIN'

NELSON

FUNDRAISER FOR Richmond Scouts

Saturday 3rd October 2026 | 5-8pm

\$20

For tickets phone 027 205 4121

Richmond NZRDA **Fundraiser** **Nelson Vintage Car Club**

VINTAGE CAR CLUB Display

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2026
10AM - 2PM

RICHMOND RDA GROUNDS
169 CHAMPION ROAD, RICHMOND

ENTRY \$5 FOR ADULTS **CHILDREN FREE**

WALK AROUND SILVAN GARDEN

Come along and support Richmond RDA
Enjoy a great day out for the whole family!

TEA AND COFFEE **SAUSAGE SIZZLE** **RAFFLES**

CASH ONLY - NO EFTPOS **Thank you for your support!**

BANK ACCOUNT **Riding for the Disabled Richmond**
06 0705 0442722 00