

Te Karere

Rai Valley Area School News



Wednesday 17th February 2021

School Contacts

Rai Valley Area School
6700 SH6, RD 2 Rai Valley
Marlborough 7192

Telephone: (03) 571 6016
Facsimile: (03) 571 6336
Email office: office@rai.school.nz
Web address: www.rai.school.nz

Principal: Maree Furness

Deputy Principal:
Mike Wilson

Primary Leader:
Karen Davies

Secondary Leader:
Siobhan Skinner

Executive Officer:
Selene Turner

Receptionist:
Pauline Agnew

**If you have questions,
concerns or compliments please let us
know - we value your feedback.**

Please note that all up to date
information on events etc. is
available on our school app and on
our website.

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the new school year. School has settled into this year's routine.

This week has been a short reminder that COVID still lurks for all of us. With the return to level 1 we are resuming whole school assemblies, as well as sports events.

This year we have welcomed two new teachers. Mr. Eli Briasco is teaching in the Years 7-8 area, as well as Years 9-10 PE and Year 11 NCEA English. Mrs Lisa Hooker who is teaching part-time has a background in Area School Teaching. She is teaching Year 12 Biology, Year 11 Social Science, Years 9-10 Social Studies, as well as some classes of Environmental Studies. We have been very fortunate to employ teachers of such a high standard.

Congratulations to our NCEA students from 2020. Every student has achieved their NCEA qualification at their level. A special congratulations to the Year 11 students who all achieved either subject or overall endorsements at merit or excellence level. Congratulations to Electra Maisey who gained an endorsement with Excellence at Level 1.

School was a busy place during the holidays. As part of our 5-year property plan, there was a lot of work done on rooves and the replacement of clear lite.

The new Learning Support Office and Principal's Office have been completed. These are amazing workspaces. It has also provided the school the opportunity to move the Deputy Principal's Office to the front of the school.

The most exciting event was the installment of Solar in the last week of the holidays.

The Board were successful in their application to the Ministry of Education for a grant of \$65,000 towards this project. The Board made the decision to top this up so that we should be self-sufficient for most of the year, as well as selling power back to the grid. We will be monitoring this closely throughout the year. Having solar panels installed provides a number of exciting learning opportunities for our students.



This year as a school, we are working actively to expand the student's co-curricular opportunities. For the next six weeks a group of Year 4 to 8 students are traveling to Nelson for a 6-week hockey programme. In March we have a drama/singing Tutor coming in on a weekly basis to work with Years 1-8. We are also exploring the possibility of her taking individuals or small groups for private guitar lessons while she is in Rai. This is in addition to class trips, fundamental skills and swimming sports, and Secondary tournament in Reefton.

A busy term!

Ngā mihi nui

Maree Furness
Tumuaki

TERM 1 – EVENTS Calendar

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 19th February | Kiwi Can - begin |
| Monday 22nd February to Friday 26th February | Fundamental Skills – all Primary |
| Thursday 25th February | Years 9 & 10 – Parents BBQ 6-7pm |
| Friday 26th February | Pelorus Years 0 -3 Swimming at Linkwater |
| Friday 26th February | NMIT Whakatau |
| Monday 1st March | Rai School Swimming Sports |
| Monday 1st March & Thursday 4th March | Goal Setting Interviews for Primary Syndicate |
| Thursday 4th March | Whole School Assembly |
| Friday 5th March | Pelorus Senior Swimming at Blenheim |
| Thursday 11th March | Seaweed Trip to Anakiwa – to be confirmed |
| Sunday 14th March | Weetbix Kids Triathlon - Nelson |
| Thursday 18th March | Whole School Assembly |
| Sunday 21st March to Friday 26th March | Area School Tournament - Reefton |
| Friday 26th March | SCHOOL CLOSED – Pelorus Teacher Only Day |
| Thursday 1st April | Whole School Assembly |
| Friday 2nd April | SCHOOL CLOSED – Easter Friday |
| Monday 5th April | SCHOOL CLOSED – Easter Monday |
| Tuesday 6th April | SCHOOL CLOSED – Easter Tuesday |
| Thursday 15th April | Whole School Assembly |
| Friday 16th April | END OF TERM 1 – then two weeks school holidays |
| Monday 3rd May | TERM 2 begins |
| | |
| Tuesday 6th July to Thursday 8th July | Secondary Wellington School Camp |

Playgroup – at Rai Valley Area School

Welcome to come along and join in with the activities.

Ages 5 and under.

Held in Room 14 on school grounds.

Tea and coffee provided. Bring a kids lunchbox and sunhat.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 9.00am to 12.00 noon.

Facebook Rai Valley Playgroup.

For further information please contact Kelsey Knight 03 5716353; Vicky Thompson 03 5716 212.



IMPORTANT

Please check your child's boomerang book for a large envelope containing EOTC Forms.
Please return the completed forms to the school office or classroom Teacher as soon as possible by Wednesday 24th February 2021.

**Steph Stuart
EOTC Coordinator**

— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

Kia ora, te whānau

Happy New Year to all parents, caregivers! Welcome to another school year. Below is some general information and reminders to help the year run as smoothly as possible.

Cyber-safety

Towards the end of last year we signalled that we were revisiting our cyber-safety agreement. Then of course, COVID happened. We are now ready to roll out a new version of this agreement. Due to the dynamic and every changing nature of the cyber world this is now something we will do every year, also as a reminder for our students about the care needed in all aspects of technology and cyber safety. To that end please find a copy of new agreement enclosed in this edition of the newsletter, read it, sign it and return to us at school. Many thanks in advance with this.

Buses

Please do contact us if your child is not on the bus in the afternoons. We like to get the buses away on time but are often chasing students who have made other arrangements without our knowledge.

Arriving at school

A reminder that we encourage all young ones travelling on buses to wear high vis vests. Please enquire at school if you are needing one for this year.

Contacting students at school

If you need to contact your child at school, a reminder to go through the front office. We are happy to pass messages on to your child. To minimise disruption, we ask that students are not contacted on cell phones while at school. Students are likewise asked to go through the front office if they need to contact home.

Collecting students during the day

A reminder that anyone collecting a student during the school day need to sign in at the office and your child needs to be signed out. We ask that you wait at the office while we arrange for the student to be brought to you.

Collecting students at the end of the day

It is lovely that some many parents and caregivers come down to collect their students at the end of the day. Please be aware that your presence can be a distraction for students and we ask you are no earlier than 2:45pm. If you are going to be earlier, please collect your child at that time or wait at the office until the end of the day.

Ordering lunches

On Fridays, students can order lunches from The Brick Oven. Parents can ring through their orders to The Brick and they will deliver them to school in time for the eating bell at 1:00pm. A reminder that we are a water only school and students can only order items from the menu set at The Brick.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on these matters.

Nga mihi
Mike Wilson
Deputy Principal.

COUNSELLING

Welcome back to a new school year. Counselling support is available to students and parents.

Adults can contact the School Counsellor – Richard Wilkins by email: Richard.Wilkins@rai.school.nz or by ringing Pauline at the School Office 03 5716016. All communication is confidential.

Students can contact Richard a number of ways – directly in person,
via another staff member or via email.

My usual work days this year will be every Tuesday and Thursday,
with an additional day on some weeks.

Richard Wilkins MNZAC

Learning Support News

Neuro-diversity and Fidgets

Neuro-diversity is a term we need to become familiar with. It is used to describe neurological differences in the human brain and has foundations in neuroscience, with studies of brain imaging showing differences between individuals' neural pathways. Put simply, this means that humans' brains are wired differently, and those differences can have a direct impact on an individual's thinking and learning. Neurodiversity includes conditions that are life-long such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder (ADD and ADHD), dyscalculia, dyslexia, dyspraxia, intellectual disability, and Tourette syndrome as well as those that can develop such as a result of brain infection, injury or mental illness.

Teachers are becoming increasingly aware of the need to develop different strategies to manage these differences in the classroom in order to optimise students' learning and social skills.

Fiddling and fidgeting behaviours used to be something teachers would try to stamp out but now we realise that these behaviours actually help some neurodiverse students focus on their learning. Some students may find that fiddling with a small item, maybe a koosh ball, some silly putty or maybe something to chew, will help them concentrate on listening or reading tasks. The important thing is that teachers and students need to have a conversation about this and reach an agreement about when it is helpful to use the 'fidget' and when it needs to be put away.

Debby Upsall

Learning Support Coordinator

Secondary News

Community Pantry

The Rai Kai community pantry is up and running and is full to the brim. This awesome project is helping us to share kai in the community.

Any excess produce, pop it into the pantry. Please come along and grab whatever you want / need. Do put a photo on the community Facebook page to alert people to your drop-off (if you can).

The Leo Club students will be making reusable T-shirt produce bags soon for the pantry.

The Menzshed are working on a shelter for a fridge freezer, which will be up and running as soon as the shelter is complete.

Thanks to the Board of Trustees, Leo Club members and all of those involved in this awesome project.

Katie and Alicia adding more nashi pears into the pantry.



A very warm welcome back to all secondary students. We welcome last year's Year 8 students into Year 9 and we extend a special welcome to Courtney and Lawrence who join us from Havelock School.

Years 9 & 10 BBQ

We invite all of the parents of Year 9 & 10 students to a class BBQ next Thursday 25th February from 6pm-7pm.

This event is a chance to meet other parents and to talk to teachers about how your son or daughter is going and to ask any questions you may have.



Tournament

Tournament will be going ahead this year in Reefton, all being well with Covid19 alert levels. The dates are 21st-26th March. Mrs Stuart will be sending out information to parents of those students who are attending,

Years 11-13 Parents' Evenings

At the start of Term 2 we will be holding 2 sessions of parent-teacher-student meetings for Year 11 to 13 students. This is to hopefully provide timings that are suitable for all families (you only need to attend one session). At the start of Term 2 we will be organising bookings. During the meetings we will be discussing students' goals, progress and providing NCEA information.

The two sessions in Term 2 are:

Week 2 Wednesday 12th May 1-4pm

Week 3 Thursday 20th May 3-6pm

If you would like to discuss how your son or daughter is going before then, please get in touch with me siobhan.skinner@rai.school.nz

Wellington School Camp

The Wellington Camp that was cancelled last year will take place in the last week of Term 2 (6th-8th July). More information will come out soon.

Ngā mihi ki a koe,
Siobhan

Primary School News

Well, school days are busy and we are in week 3 already. The Primary Syndicate are enjoying the influx of several new students here at Rai and every one of them has settled in really well. They all enjoyed a cooking session in the food tech room on Monday with Mrs Upsall and Mr Wilson as a welcome activity and a gauge of our RAI Way values.

We have a couple of exciting whole syndicate activities to enhance our curriculum learning coming up. This Friday we start our Kiwi Can values programmes. It is delivered by a couple of young leaders from Blenheim who have great social skills and teach us about respect and kindness in fun and different ways using games and activities.

In early March we are hopefully engaging a young woman from Blenheim also to help us with a music and drama programme across the syndicate. She will visit one day per week. Please look out for some further notices about this.

This Thursday our newly formed Junior Hockey team play their first game in Nelson at Saxton Hockey Turf. We wish them well and hope they have fun and do well.

Last year we had planned a day out at Anakiwa after the success of the one the year before. We were shut out last year by bad weather and then had no chance to delay because of COVID- 19. We have plans for another trip on 11 March, so fingers crossed it gets to go ahead. Watch out for notices.

All students will be having conversations with their teachers over the next couple of weeks to make three goals concerning their learning around reading, writing and maths. When these are written we will invite you to an interview with the teachers to discuss these. Throughout the remainder of Term 1, and all of Term 2, students will work hard to achieve these goals and then we will report to you at mid-year to advise how they are doing. All students have the same opportunities to achieve their goals when they use a positive growth mindset about their learning.

Stay healthy and safe in the Level 2 Covid world.
Kind regards,
Karen Davies

Kiwi Can

This year we are fortunate enough to have Kiwi Can Educators working with classes (and their teachers) once a week starting on Friday. Their sessions will focus on values and tie in with our school values here at RVAS. Here is the outline for Term 1. Please note the levels are curriculum levels not year levels.

Term 1 - Respect Modules



Respect for our school



Respect for our community



Respect for our environment

Your Kiwi Can Leaders will run a variety of activities using different teaching techniques to cover the term's learning intentions, such as:

Level 1 + 2 classes

- We are exploring ways to care for our school.
- We are learning how to show respect for people in our community.
- We are learning how we can take care of our native plants and animals.

Level 3

- We are learning what it means to respect our school.
- We are learning what it means to contribute to our community.
- We are identifying why it is important to protect our environment.

Level 4

- We are identifying appropriate ways to demonstrate that we are proud of our school.
- We are understanding our responsibilities in contributing to the wellbeing of our community.
- We are learning about the impact that individuals and a collective group have on the environment.

Music and Drama

We also have music and drama teacher Sam Baxter taking lessons from March 3rd.

Events

We have a lot of events coming up in the Primary School. Please make a note of these (listed with all term dates in this newsletter) and keep an eye out for more information in boomerang books.

For Pelorus Cluster and other out-of-school events, students are encouraged to wear their RVAS t-shirt. For new families, these can be purchased from Pauline in the office at a cost of \$20.

Music and Drama

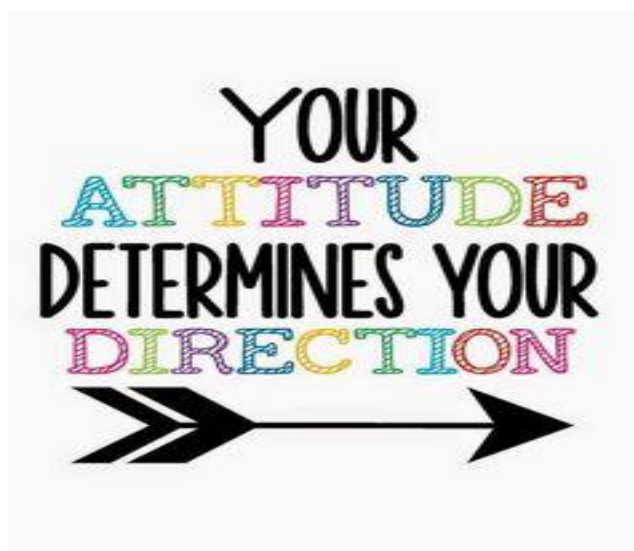
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Leigh McKinley
Year 1 & 2 Teacher





**Family route 20 km with A Grade Bypasses
Additional 2km beginner route (FREE)
Food, Hot and Cold Drinks on Site**

TĀKAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL Fundraiser Trail Ride 2021

Sunday 21 February 2021

**HARWOODS PROPERTY
Waitui Road, Upper Tākaka**

Track open 10am-3pm

**\$50 per adult (16+)
\$25 per child/youth**

Postponement Date: Sun 28 Feb

Phone: Jenny Bennett 03 525 9035, or 021 024 72498

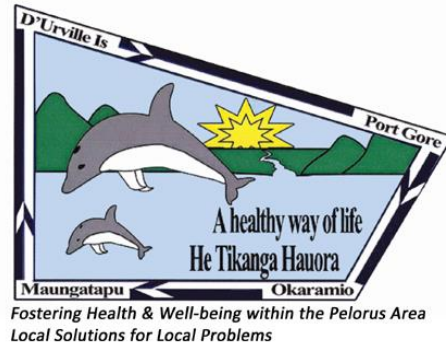
ROAD CLOSURE – SH6 Whangamoas

From Sunday 21st February to Thursday 25th February, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency will be resurfacing sections of State Highway 6, between Rai Valley Saddle and Hira and this section of the road will be closed.

The road will be closed overnight, between 9.00pm and 5.30am on the evening of Sunday 21st February, and between 7.00pm and 5.30am from the evening of Monday 22nd February until the morning of Friday 26th February.

The road will be opened at midnight each night for traffic:
that is queued at the two road closure points - Rai Valley township and Hira.
For road users who wish to travel over the Whangamoas at the midnight opening:
vehicles need to be at the Rai Valley road closure point by 11.30pm,
or at the Hira road closure point by midnight.

Pelorus Area Health Trust



A reminder of what PAHT does:

- ✚ Partially funds AED units and First Aid kits for Sounds communities
 - ✚ Provides annual Health Education Grants - for people undertaking a course in the health and wellness field
 - ✚ Provides annual donations to local community organisations such as Rescue Helicopters, Fare-well Trust, St Johns, Hospice etc – over \$18,000 donated in 2020
 - ✚ Has medical aids for people to borrow to help with their recovery- at no cost
 - ✚ Volunteers at the Blood bank services
 - ✚ Works with Springlands Healthcare, NMDHB and the MPHO to ensure good primary health care services are available for our community
 - ✚ Funds one-off health and wellbeing community projects
 - ✚ Has a Charity Shop in Havelock providing reasonably priced products, clothes and plants as well as a place for community information. Money raised at the Charity Shop is given back to the community through the grants and donations. The Shop is staffed by volunteers and all goods are donated.
- Thank you to those who have donated good quality products.



Visit our website for more information
www.PelorusAreaHealthTrust.co.nz

Graeme Dingle Foundation - *When we invest in our children, we change the future*
brown.laird@dinglefoundation.org.nz

Nelson Rugby Football Club Junior Rugby Registration

This will be held March 6th at the Nelson RFC Clubrooms from 9.00am till Midday .
All wishing to play this year are invited to attend and register for upcoming season.
Apparel for upcoming season will be available to purchase . Come and play rugby for NZ's oldest club.
All inquiries to Quentin Harwood JAB Captain 027 302 3508

Marlborough Youth Trust – *actively supporting the Youth of Marlborough – MySpace on Kinross Street, Blenheim*

For more information www.myt.org.nz

Meet this Friday 19th February at 3.30pm, at Myspace, for afternoon tea

1st – 5th April - Easter Camp 2: www.eastercamp.org.nz

19th February – Friday night youth group for 12 -18 years old.

February 21st - Sea Kayak Adventure in the Marlborough Sounds – Ages 12-24 years, 7.00am – 5.30pm, \$15.

Neighbourhood Support: Monday 3.30pm - Gardening initiative - making planter boxes for the elderly.

Friday 26th February – Marlborough Youth Hui – 12.45pm – 3.30pm

Starts 3rd March - First Wednesday of the Month – Climbing Night 6-8pm - \$15 per person

Warning from Marlborough Rural Police

A burglary of rifles, (bolts and ammunition stored separately) scopes, hammer drill and cash occurred on Sunday 14th February on SH 63 at Wairau Valley. The vehicle was described as a noisy white or silver sedan.

Please be aware of this activity – the offender/s had no compunction about entering onto a farm property in broad day light – people were also around the farm at the time but some distance away.



AOTEAROA BIKE CHALLENGE

 **1-28 February 2021** aotearoa.bike

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Join our Conservation Kids NZ group in the
Aotearoa Bike Challenge

Have fun on your bikes as a family during the month of February and help us collect points towards our goal.

Email us at: conservationkids@envirohub.co.nz
and we will send you a link to join our team.
Alternatively join via our website under the
– 50 Kiwi Kid Adventures page

 Complete a ride and check off the
"explore by wheels" icon on your
50 Kiwi Kid Adventures Poster



Conservation Kids NZ

Good afternoon to all our wonderful Marlborough schools,

Firstly I wanted to introduce myself, I am Antonia O'Donnell the Youth and Family Coordinator for Conservation Kids NZ, If you have not already heard of us you can read a bit about who we are on the link below to our website -

[Conservation Kids NZ | Envirohub](#)

We are trying to get the word out a bit more this year about our events and the different things we do, I wanted to make contact with the schools and hopefully start sending you information on our events.

If you feel these are applicable or interesting to your students we would love it if you could please share in your newsletters or whatever other means best suits your school.

Please do not ever feel any pressure to share these, we are just hoping to keep the wider community informed of conservation activities happening around the Marlborough area.

Please see attached out flyer on a Children's Day Cruise we are hosting, If you know of any wonderful youth who could benefit from this please feel free to nominate them to come along.

If you want to share this flyer around also please feel free to do so.

Any questions, I am only an email away so feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank you so much.

Antonia O'Donnell

Youth and Family Coordinator

Conservation Kids NZ



Ocean Adventure Cruise with

NZ Children's Day
7th March 2021
10am-2pm

CKNZ are on a mission to ensure every child in Marlborough has experienced our amazing marine environment!

Proudly Sponsored by..



If you know a child aged 5-12 years who hasn't yet had a chance to experience the Marlborough Sounds via boat, then we want to hear from you! Nominate them + one accompanying adult to join us on a FREE Ocean Adventure Cruise!

Email us @ conservationkids@envirohub.co.nz with your nominations or for more details.

