

Rai Valley Area School

Newsletter - Week 2, Term 3, 2021

School Contacts

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Web address: www.rai.school.nz



Principal: Maree Furness

Deputy Principal: Mike Wilson

Junior 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.

When students are absent from school, need to leave school early or are off the bus, please write a note of permission in their boomerang books or give Pauline a ring/email at the office. Also, when students arrive late or leave early, please sign them in or out at the office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Principal's Report

Kia ora koutou,

The term has begun on a very sad note. As a school, we offer our deepest condolences to Pauline and her family at the sudden and devastating loss of Kevin during the holidays. We also extend our sincerest sympathy to the many friends and community members who have lost a special friend and colleague.

This term, we are fortunate to welcome Ms. Janine Sorenson who is replacing Ms. Bonnie Nightingale in Room 13 for the remainder of the year. Janine has worked for us as a reliever during this year. She has wide experience in teaching at various levels and has worked extensively in the area of learning support.

At the end of last term the secondary syndicate traveled to Wellington and had a great experience. Many thanks to the staff who helped make this happen. As a rural school, it is valuable to have a city experience.

Congratulations to the Leo's who raised \$1000 with the running of their fundraising quiz night on Saturday 24th July at the Millers Rest. This required a lot of organisation by the Leo club and was a really successful night.

Also during the holidays, Katie Roeske and Bryce Stuart traveled to Dunedin for the Area Schools national Tournament. As a result, Katie was selected for the South Island Football team. Congratulations Katie, this is a fantastic achievement!

School sport has started up this term. The year 4 to 6 hockey team still has a few weeks to play in the Blenheim competition on Tuesday night. A huge thanks to Antonio O'Donnell, who has been managing this team every Tuesday. Also, this week was the first week of secondary volleyball playing at Saxon park on Monday evenings. Mr. Biasco is coaching this team and Nadine Maisey has generously agreed to drive the van to Nelson each week. Giving our students the opportunity to experience competitive sport is really important.

Nationally, there are 4 days set aside for schools to work on the upcoming changes in NCEA this year. The dates for these days are outside the control of individual schools. Wednesday 11th August is the set date for Nelson Marlborough Schools. This will be a Teacher Only Day for Years 9 to 13 students. I would encourage senior students to use the day to work on assignments as we only have 13 school weeks left for seniors before examinations begin.

A heads up that towards the end of August, we will be holding our first meeting to begin organising the TOSI tournament in March 2022. If you are able to contribute we would love to hear from you.

Finally, you might notice a slightly different look to our newsletter. We are currently trialling some new software to produce our newsletters, one that will definitely make them much easier to view and read online.

Noho ora mai
Maree

Events Calendar

Wednesday 11th August - **TEACHER ONLY DAY - SECONDARY ONLY** - Secondary NCEA ACCORD Professional Development

Monday 20th September - **TEACHER ONLY DAY** - Wellbeing Professional Development

Board of Trustees Meetings

Welcome to attend.

Thursday 12th August

Thursday 23rd September

Thursday 11th November

Thursday 16th December

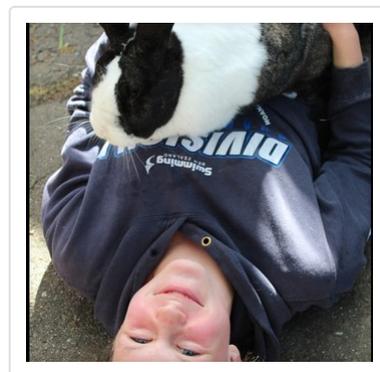
Pet Day 2021

Key Dates for 2021

Wednesday 27th of October Indoor Pet Day

Thursday 28th of October. Outdoor Pet Day

Tuesday 2nd November. Group Day (Wairau Valley).



Kia ora, all parents and caregivers

Despite the rain, floods and other interruptions, daffodils are blooming, lambs and calves are appearing, which can only mean it is Pet Day season.

First and foremost, please note the dates above.

Below are some general details around our Pet Day with further information, such as the Schedule to follow in the coming weeks.

Calves

Unfortunately, it was decided to follow the lead of the Rai Show 2022, and the A&P Show not have calves or any bovine at this year's event. This continues to be frustrating but the decision still has the best interests of our local farms and farmers at heart.

Lambs

Lambs continue to be a big class and we expect this to continue. Please remember the lambs do need to be born after 1st of August to be eligible.

Goats

Goat entries also continue to grow. This is likely again to be in age group classes, depending on numbers.

Chickens

Emma Thame has kindly offered to look after chicken orders again this year. The cost this year of ordering the chicks (they come in groups of 4) is \$30. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. Orders will need to be in by 27th of August to avoid disappointment. If you want chickens, please order from Emma at: ethame13@gmail.com. For more information, see the article from Emma in this newsletter.

General

To help make the day as enjoyable and safe as possible for everyone (both human and non-human) we also ask that the following entry conditions are observed:

1. Any students entering dogs need to have someone supporting them that can control the dog.
2. All dogs need to be registered and inoculated against parvo virus.
3. No cats are entered

For those new to Pet Days, or Pet Days at our school the following is a brief overview.

The indoor crafts (that are created at home and at school) need to be in the hall by **12:40** on the first day. We invite the community members in after school to be the judges for the various activities. There are cups which the children can earn points towards. We have adult and pre-school sections as well as our school categories. A schedule will be given out soon showing what events your child can enter. In an upcoming newsletter there will also be information on which events primary students will be doing at school and which ones they may like to do at home. In the evening of the 27th of October (Wednesday) we will have an open night so that working parents and whānau can come and see the exhibits. The hall is also open for viewing the following day 21st – at the steward's discretion).

The second day, Thursday 28th of October, is devoted to the animals. We normally have animal sections in the following categories: lambs, goats, rabbits, chickens, horses, dogs, birds, and small pets. The Young Farmers Competition is also a highlight for many from years 7 and up.

The first four categories can go forward to the Marlborough Boys and Girls' Group Day and also the Marlborough A & P Show and are judged accordingly. The other animals are judged using our school criteria. There are sashes and cups to be won in all animal sections.

School students are encouraged to complete a Pet Diary to enter their pet. Diaries are compulsory for the Marlborough Group Day. Pet Diaries will be available to interested students soon. This will help to keep track of what is needed to make sure that your animal is on top form for show day! As always, pre-schoolers are welcome to join us with their pet.

If your child is keen to rear a lamb, or goat, but don't have a farm, then why not ask the local farmers to see if they can lend them an animal.

We would also love to also hear from any volunteers for judging, help with food, organisation, and we are always in need of any generous flower and/or vegetable donations for the 27th.

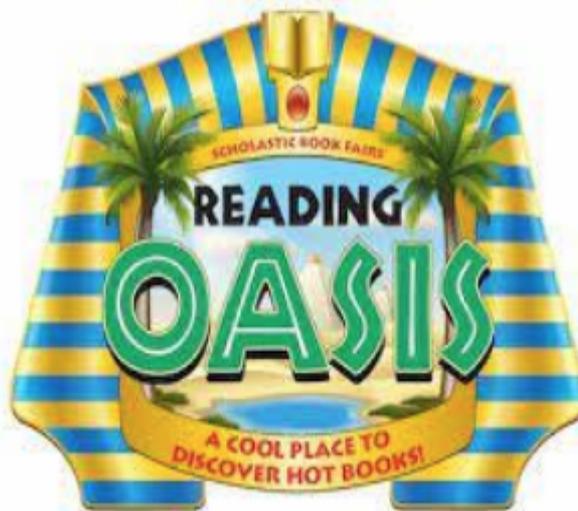
If you have any questions about our Pet Day, please *do* get in touch.

Michael Wilson

Pet Day Coordinator

michael.wilson@rai.school.nz

**The Book Fair is coming to your school library
Term 3 September 2021**



LIBRARY NEWS : DAMAGED and OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

Please can you make sure your children are looking after the books they loan out from the school library. I am getting a more than usual amount of damaged library books and even though I chase students about overdues they still aren't coming back.

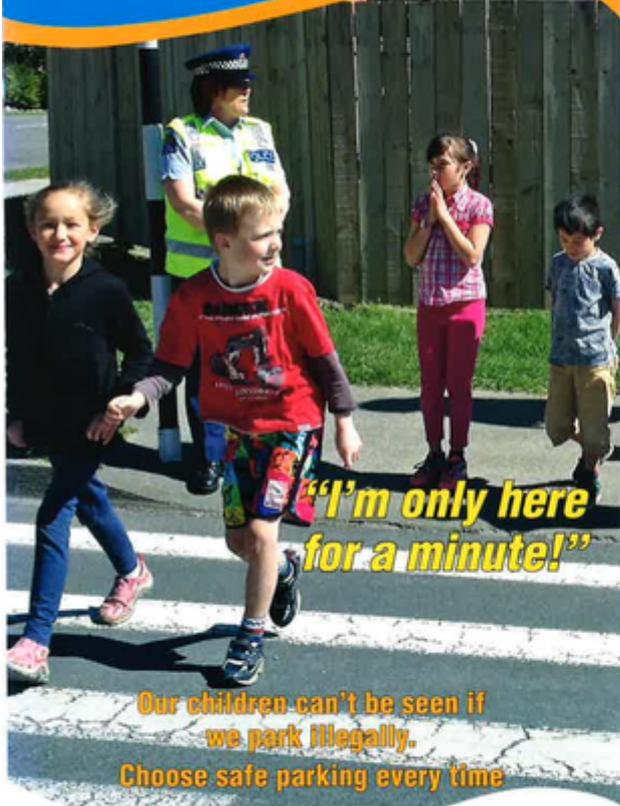
This makes it difficult when there are lists of students waiting to read these books.

Everyone loves a good book, everyone loves a new book. Please treat them with respect. I don't want to waste my library budget replacing them all the time.

RVAS Librarian

Renee Jope

Stopping and Parking near a school



520 7400

www.marlborough.govt.nz

Stopping and Parking near a school

When children arrive or leave school each day, your driving behaviour can either protect or endanger them.

Parking restrictions are in place near schools for a reason. They protect our children against possible injury.

Drivers and children need good visibility around schools to be able to see each other.

If you choose to stop or park illegally you are liable for the following fines:

Stopped/parked on broken yellow lines	\$60
Stopped/parked on or within 6 metres of a pedestrian crossing.....	\$60
Stopped/parked on the footpath	\$40
Stopped/parked over or within 1 metre of a vehicle entrance.....	\$40
Parked within 500mm of a fire hydrant with no one in a car legally capable of moving it.....	\$40
Stopped or parked closer than 6 metres to a bus stop marked only by a sign or on a marked bus stop	\$40
Double parked	\$60
Any stopping or parking that is inconsiderate to other road users, inclusive of pedestrians.....	\$60
Stopped or parked in or within 6 metres of an intersection.....	\$60



520 7400

www.marlborough.govt.nz

Head of Primary News

Fog, fog, fog! Or: rain, rain, rain! After some frost on Wednesday we had some sun. And then, oh dear, rain again!

Students who have moved classes have done so very well and primary classes are settling in again. On Monday while the students were at home, the teachers spent the whole day with a professional literacy advisor working on teaching writing. Writing is something that we all do at school but with not so much homework content. Watch out for some small pieces of 'fun' writing that might come home that you could help your child/ren with. Even just sharing something and talking about the writing at home is helpful.

This term, I have been tasked with the Bus Controller's duties. In this newsletter, above this article, there is a pamphlet regarding the safety of our students for getting off and on the bus. There is also information around the fines that you may incur if you are not following these rules. Our carpark and road is a very busy spot at the beginning and end of each day.

I will be attending a meeting, with other Pelorus Schools, concerning the changes that might happen at the end of the year with regards to the bus company that will transport our students. As soon as I have new information I will pass it on to you.

Just a reminder that all communication to our class teachers can come through the Boomerang Books, that we sight and sign each day. For more important notices an email or phone call is appreciated.

Pelorus Speeches are one of the first events that students are working towards. Also the Pelorus Cluster Cross Country is scheduled towards the end of the term. Hopefully the ground will be dry enough then, Fingers crossed.

Stay safe everyone.

Karen Davies
Head of Primary
SENCO
Bus Controller.

Primary News

Be Safe, Be Seen!

How about those foggy Rai mornings?!

'Be safe be seen' was the message on the high-vis vests kindly donated to students in the Primary School at the end of last term by the team from the forestry in schools programme *Wood is Good*.



We are the ideal recipients of such a kind gesture, with our young students out daily in the fog on busy, high-speed rural roads with heavy-duty traffic. In fact, in the last four years the junior end of the school have received three separate donations of high-vis vests; from Fonterra, our local Farm Source and Wood is Good.

They are wasted brightening up bedroom floors and wardrobes - let's get them out so our tamariki can be safe and be seen on their journey to and from school.

Ms McKinlay

Secondary News

Secondary Reports Are Out!

Year 9 - 13 reports

Mid-Year reports have just gone out with all Year 9 to 13 students. Please make appointments to see teachers if there are any areas that require attention.

I will continue to report on attendance rates as this is a key contributing factor to student success. Students should aim for at least 95% attendance. Anything under 90% is of concern. Congratulations to students who are maintaining a high rate of attendance.

Mrs Skinner

Wellington Camp

The Secondary School Camp to Wellington, took place in the last week of Term 2. An early start was needed to get us onto the 7.45am ferry. The ferry crossing was reasonably smooth and we reached Wellington in good time. Covid masks were put on and we boarded the train out to the Top10 holiday park in Lower Hutt. They allowed us early access to our cabins and the rest of the day was spent using the giant trampoline, games room and hiring the go-karts for races around the campsite.

On Wednesday morning a small group took the train and bus to the Weta Workshop. While the rest of the students went to Weltech. It was a lovely day as we wandered down to the Weltech campus. Our students were treated to an in depth tour of a variety of courses that Weltech offered students. This included a tour of their well resourced workshops, looking in particular at a paint shop and a variety of motor workshops. Our students did us proud as our tour guide made a point of coming back to us over lunch and commending us on our school group being the best behaved school group they had ever had on a tour!

The Weta workshop tour took us into an exhibition area where the actual film props were stored. The guide explained how various props were made and we watched a video of how Weta came into being and how many projects it is involved in.

Everyone met up to explore Cuba Street and after choosing dinner at Capital Market stalls it was the Cable Car and a pleasant walk to Zealandia Ecosanctuary. The Zealandia Night Tour was an adventure in small groups using red light torches to seek out nocturnal, native wildlife. All the groups saw Kiwi, Tuatara, Weta, Maud Island Frogs and the Takahe. The latter seemed rather tame! We also heard plenty of Ruru and Kaka calling out, as well as the ghostly shriek of the Pied Shags.

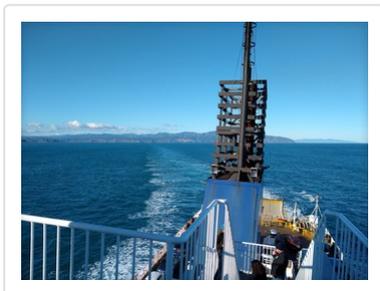
Thursday morning was spent in Te Papa. Most went to the Gallipoli exhibition whilst the senior Art students went to the visiting Surrealist exhibition. There were numerous Salvador Dali paintings to view and an audio-visual display that took you 'into' a Dali painting. There were also Man Ray 'sculptures' to view and a lot of information about the Surrealist movement. Both displays are full of information and stunning visual displays and more than a morning is needed to do them justice.

Victoria University was the destination in the afternoon with a comprehensive tour, question and answer session and a Kahoot with prizes. This was followed by dinner, which involved a banquet at the Safron Haveli Indian restaurant. A vast array of traditional dishes were sampled and the restaurant did a great job catering to our needs.

On leaving the camp the staff complimented the students on how tidy they'd left their rooms, wishing all guests did as well. The students are to be complimented on their positive attitude throughout the camp as they all participated with positive attitudes. They even seemed to enjoy wearing the face masks on public transport. We covered a lot of distance by train, bus and foot and they all worked as a team making getting around relatively easy.

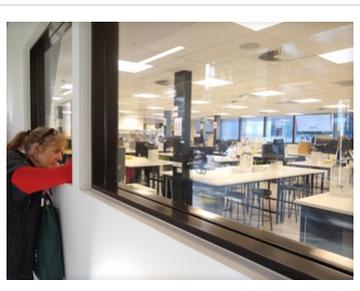
Thanks to the drivers who helped transport us all between school and the Bluebridge Ferry terminal.

A big "thanks" too, to Siobhan Skinner and Lisa Hooker for all their organising which help ensure such a successful camp.



Setting Sail

Goodbye, Waiponamu!



Victoria University Tour

Now that's a lab, Mr Mac!



In Wellington CBD

Students on the loose



Weta Workshop

Some of the props on display in the shop. Unfortunately, we weren't allowed to take photos in the workshop itself.



Weta Workshop

Lily wonders what it might be like to have a brother.



Weta Workshop

Fraser checks out the price of some goodies in the Weta Shop



Camp Ground Fun

Giant trampolines means spring must be near!



Indian Banquet

Yes, I will have Naan with that!



Wellington CBD

Finding alternatives to public transport

Paper for Trees

As an environmentally aware school we are keen to follow the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle philosophy. One of our regular activities is to recycle paper. The Year 9 & 10 Environmental Studies class are responsible for collecting waste paper from the classrooms and other areas in the school before handing it onto Ben to take for recycling. We keep a record of the volume of paper we recycle and through the Paper 4 Trees initiative we are awarded trees based on our recycling. This week we were able to pick up our trees which will be planted in the school grounds to enhance the environment and reduce our carbon footprint.



Mrs Hooker

Senior Science Tutorials

It was great to see 7 students attend the first years 11-13 Science tutorial at lunchtime last Tuesday. Students can attend these to complete homework, get help with specific problems and study in preparation for their NCEA externals. These will occur over each lunchtime on a Tuesday from now until the end of the year.



Mr Macdonald.

Leos Quiz Night Thank You!

Thank You to our Quiz Night Sponsors:

Brick Oven

REM

New World Nelson

Pak n save Richmond

Life Pharmacy Nelson

Pelorus Cafe

Farm Source

Farmlands

Stadium 2000

Hunting and Fishing

McDonalds Nelson

Roeske Family wood Raffle

You helped us raise \$1,000

Thank you from the Rai Valley Leos

MCAT Exam

The Year 11s have their first external NCEA exam on Thursday, 16th September in week 8 of this term. Tutorials are running after school every Wednesday to help students prepare for this exam.

Mrs Skinner

Year 11, 12 & 13 Students

This is the business end of the year for our senior students and they have only 12 weeks of school before they head off on leave for their external exams. It is crucial that they attend every day to finish off internal standards and prepare for external exams.

Tutorials will be held during exam leave, more details later in the term.

Mrs Skinner

COUNSELLING

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 workdays this year will be every Tuesday and Thursday, with an additional day on some weeks.

Richard Wilkins MNZAC

Learning Support News

What's a day or two away from school matter?

Again and again research shows that attendance at school is strongly linked to achievement at school. This means that if students have good attendance they are much more likely to achieve good results. It also means that students that miss a lot of school generally don't meet their learning goals.

The Ministry of Education's latest research ([He Whakaaro](#)) shows that absences that are not due to good reasons (such as illness) are particularly damaging on student attainment, at all age levels. Even justified absences can have a strong negative effect on a student's achievement of their learning goals, once there are more than two days away a term. The research showed that this was particularly important for students in Years 10-13, in fact for NCEA students the figures suggest that missing just one day each fortnight could cost a student 13 to 15 credits.

If parents permit their child to be absent from school because they 'don't want to go', the learning they miss is likely to make it difficult for them to later catch up, as well as making it harder for them to maintain strong connections to their teachers or other students.

The influence of parents who are positive about school and interested in their children's learning is huge. If a parent makes comments like "I hated school too", or "I was never good at school", this undermines their child's chances of achieving to their potential at school. By

teaching them good habits early, you are setting them up for success as an adult in the workplace, too.

So please, make school attendance a priority for your child.

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day so your child knows this is your expectation.
- Encourage your child to maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Avoid scheduling non-urgent dental and medical appointments during term.
- Post your child's class schedule somewhere central and refer to it often.
- Encourage them to talk about their day and their learning.

Mrs Upsall

Vaping in Schools

In comparison to smoking, vaping is a relatively new phenomenon. Its popularity was reinforced recently as I noted how two formerly vacant spaces in the Blenheim CBD had quickly been filled by shops selling all manner of vape products. This sudden popularity has not been lost on young people. Many of the flavours, packaging and marketing is designed to catch the eye and lure our young people in. While the jury is still out on the harm of vaping in comparison to cigarettes, two things are really clear.

The first is that workplaces and public institutions such as hospitals and schools are smoke and vape free by law. Most of these places, like our school, also have a policy that clearly reinforces this. Ours has been written by our Board of Trustees who have responsibility to uphold a smoke and vape free environment for all.

The second, and perhaps most significant thing about vaping is that it is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy or use vaping products.

It comes as no surprise then, given these two facts, that our school takes vaping seriously and our ultimate concern is for the health and well-being of students and staff alike.

We are lucky enough to have the services of both a health nurse and counsellor on site and these people can provide good support for any students who are vaping or smoking. The goal is always to help them stop.

For those that choose not to use the supports on offer, and choose instead to continually break NZ laws, one of our remaining options is the police. Of course, this is a last resort, but it does signal how seriously we do need take this issue.

Mr Wilson

Chicken Orders for Pet Day 2021

Orders are now being taken for this year's one day old Brown Shaver chicks. When grown these will be laying machines!

A wonderful way to get the kids out of the house and teach the importance of compassion and dedication, with the added benefit of eggs in the future. Chicks are sold in units-each unit contains 4 chicks @\$30 per unit. The approximate date for hatching is September 6th and would be delivered to Rai School like last year.

A care book will be provided, and children will be expected to complete a booklet on raising their chickens. Children will be able to compete at our school Pets Day, Group Day (Wairau Valley school this year) and the Marlborough A+P with their chickens if they wish.

Orders need to be in by midday Friday 27th August to Emma Thame, 0211643500 or ethame13@gmail.com

Please note, that as these are very young day old chicks, there is a risk some may not survive. Unfortunately, we are unable to refund or replace them if this happens.

GUMBOOT KIDS RAI VALLEY PLAYGROUP

PLAYGROUP is held at Rai Valley Area School in ROOM 14

All parents/caregivers of little people are WELCOME to come along and join in with the activities.

Ages 5 and under.

Tea and coffee provided.

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

Facebook: Rai Valley Playgroup.

Bring a kids lunchbox and sunhat.

For further information please contact Kelsey Knight 027 315 7969 Vicky Thompson 027 370 9097

Rai Valley A & P Show Secretary Vacancy

The Rai Valley A & P Show are advertising for an organised, dedicated, energetic, community minded person to fill the role of Show Secretary. This role increases in its demands the closer to Show day comes.

The Show is the first Saturday of March annually.

Role requires a knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Xero and sound computer and communication skills. You will have an interest in the Show and local community with a view of keeping this event going strong into the future. You will liaise with committee and the community to put on Rai Valley's day of the year.

Role is a paid position by Honorarium. To apply, please send a paragraph to half page summary, outlining your background, who you are, skill experience, why you want the role, and details of 1 reference to raivalleyshow@live.com

Applications Close August 15th, 2021

Andrea Pilcher, Rai Valley A & P Show, Secretary/Treasurer, 027 357 8211, 03 318 5108.
