



Rai Valley Area School

Newsletter



Rai Valley Area School
**Growing and Learning
Towards a Great Future**

Phone: 03 571 6016
Email: office@rai.school.nz
www.rai.school.nz

Rai Valley Area School

Newsletter

Issue No.4 | May 2025

Tumuaki's Report



Kia ora Kotou

There has been a very busy start to this term. It is a short term of 9 weeks with a lot happening in and out of the classroom.

I was fortunate to be in Rangiora and watch some of our students at the regional TOSI trails. I am incredibly proud of our students who gave a hundred percent. It was an early start on Sunday morning leaving at 6.30am and after a 5 hour drive straight into sport.

Congratulations to our students who are going to the Area Schools National Tournament in Invercargill in July. Also, congratulations to Eli Briasco who will be coaching Boys and Girls Volleyball for the Top of the South at Nationals. It is really pleasing to see our students selected for a range of sports. Basketball, volleyball, football, kai-o-rahi and rugby.

This week we held a Year 10 parent meeting to discuss the upcoming CAA's (Common Assessment Activity) in literacy and numeracy and to update parents on their child's progress. The literacy and numeracy assessments are scheduled for week 5, May 24th and 27th, and are over two hours long.

Our Details:

Rai Valley Area School

6700 SH6, RD 2 Rai Valley

Marlborough 7192

Telephone: (03) 571 6016

Email office: office@rai.school.nz

Web address: www.rai.school.nz

Our People:

Principal: Maree Furness

Deputy Principal: Dan Waldie

Assistant Principal: Karen Davies

Secondary Senco: Eli Briasco

Primary Senco: Amy Waldie

Learning Support Coordinator:
Theresa Shepherd

Executive Officer: Christine McDonald

Receptionist: Pauline Agnew

Caretaker: Shane Dearman

Secondary News

Gaining these credits is a requirement for students to achieve their overall NCEA qualifications. The assessments are held under formal examination conditions.

Applications are currently open to be one of the five students on a Spirit of Adventure voyage in October. This is open to year 10's and the places have been generously sponsored so students will only have to fund airfares. This is a wonderful opportunity.

Winter sport is underway with at least half our students participating in sport this winter either for school or clubs. It is exciting that we have been able to field 3 netball teams this winter. Thank you to all our parents who are supporting their child.

Last week a team of our year 8 students traveled with Mrs Waldie to Nelson to take part in the inter school quiz. They were placed 5th overall which is an amazing achievement. Well done!

We have recently received our Term 1 attendance report. It has been reported that 76% of our students are attending at or above 90% of the time. By comparison we had 64% in term 1 in 2024. We know that attendance will drop in term 2 due to inter ailments but it would be great if we stayed above the 70%.

Nga mihi nui
Maree



RVAS warmly invites community members to this year's Matariki celebration!

Join our students and staff for a day of connection and culture—learn to weave Harakeke flowers, enjoy a shared lunch at 1 PM, and take part in or cheer on a game of Ki-o-Rahi.

To help us plan catering, please email renee@rai.school.nz and let us know you're coming.

Matariki 2025

Wednesday 18th June

Haka-off

Weaving

Hot Chocolate and Star biscuits

House Kī-o-Rahi

Sausage sizzle with Māori bread

The Grudge Match
Kī-o-Rahi

Students vs Community/Teacher

Secondary News

We are over a quarter of the way through Term 2 (not that I'm counting!) and for our senior students in Years 11–13, things are really starting to come to fruition—especially around completing work for internal assessments. As a result, the majority of our senior students should now start seeing their number of credits rise. This is a great time for you to check in with them and see how they are progressing.

For our **Year 10s and some Year 11s**, the next few weeks are especially important as we approach the first round of the **Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)**. These assessments form part of the **Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisites**. Introduced in 2022, the CAAs are external assessments (exams) which test a student's reading, writing, and numeracy skills.

These will mark the first major educational milestone on their NCEA journey. Students who are successful in these assessments will gain their Literacy and Numeracy qualification at NCEA Level 1. There will be additional opportunities to sit these assessments in Term 3 this year, as well as in 2026 and beyond.

For more information, visit:



<https://ncea.education.govt.nz/supporting-akonga-and-whanau>

On the musical theatre front, a select group of Year 7 and 8 students are currently working with the Primary Syndicate on an exciting production—so keep an ear and eye out for that in future editions of the newsletter!

We've also had great success at the **Nelson Marlborough Regional “Lit Quiz”**—you'll find more information about this on the following pages. (It's pretty cool what they achieved!)

On the Enviro front, the school's Kaitiaki Club is going from strength to strength. They recently visited the **Ngāti Kuia Nursery** to see the outstanding mahi being done to regrow native forest.

We are also finalising the selection process for a group of five Year 10 students who will be chosen to go on the **Spirit of Adventure** voyage—an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to sail on a tall ship out of Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland. We're very fortunate to have secured space on a voyage like this. Keep an eye out for **fundraising activities** that will support our students on this journey.

As you'll also see in this newsletter, **our students have been tearing it up on the sporting field**, with hugely successful tournament trials in Christchurch and promising results on the netball courts.

This is just a **snapshot** of what has been happening recently at RVAS, and it's important to highlight that none of the above would be possible without your support. It shows once again that the **Rai Valley community**, despite its small size, goes above and beyond to provide its ākonga with **big opportunities**.

As always, stay safe.

Ngā mihi

Dan Waldie

Deputy Principal



Secondary News

Kids Lit Quiz

In Week One of this term, a team of four Year 8 students travelled to Nelson to compete in the **Nelson/Marlborough heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz**—a challenging competition that tests literary knowledge across a wide range of genres.

Over the course of the event, the team tackled **100 literary questions**, covering everything from **myths and legends** to **Shakespeare and classic literature**. They rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and teamwork, achieving some impressive results!

The team came **first in two of the rounds**, earning a **\$20 prize** for their efforts and finishing **5th overall**—a fantastic achievement in a competitive field. **Well done, team!** You represented our school with pride and did an awesome job!



Hard
Tech

Year 11s,
2025



PIC•COLLAGE



Year 9's

This term, the year 9s have been finding out about Mycelium in Enviro and have been painting it in Art. They have also been observing mushrooms for human consumption in Social Studies and enjoyed growing pink oyster mushrooms which will be used in food technology next week, for the purpose of cross curricular, authentic learning. A big thank you to Mrs. O'Donnell and Hunter, who looked after our growbag over the term break.



Art by Cooper Knight Year 11



Art by Amy Ready Year 8

Leonardo da Vinci: Head of the woman

Secondary News

South Island Trials

A huge congratulations to the following students who travelled south to Rangiora last Sunday and gained selection in the Top of the South Island team to compete at this year's Area Schools' National Sports Tournament in Invercargill:

Tessa Zillwood (girls' football, kī-o-rahi, girls' volleyball)

Keegan Quirk (boys' basketball, boys' volleyball)

Bella Hickson (girls' rugby, girls' volleyball)

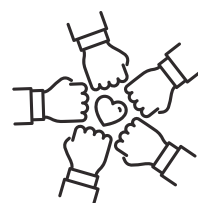
Amy Billingsley (girls' football)

Elin Kiddey (girls' football)

Ka rawe, team! We are incredibly proud of you all, as well as Jackson, Oliver and Kaya who missed selection despite their best efforts.



**GREAT
EFFORT**



Primary News

Greetings everyone,

Primary syndicate has been very busy over the last couple of weeks. Settling back into school, new students in Room 14, a great start to winter sports and singing and auditions for our up-coming production.

This week is also Road Safety Week and teachers will be including safe activities into their learning programmes for the week. Further in this newsletter is an article about Child Car restraint information. It may be different from what you know or remember.

Speed limits around school buses when students are getting off or on should also be reviewed. Helmets on every time bikes are being ridden and also for scooters, just makes all children that little bit safer.

Production for Term 3... **Pirates vs Mermaids**. Auditions have been undertaken and Sam Baxter has selected her main cast. Lots of singing required by remaining pirate crews and mermaids. Mrs Waldie will be in charge of the whole group singing. Other staff will support me with music and lighting, costumes and set construction, of which hopefully some older students will help with this aspect also. Sam will be here every second Friday to direct and encourage all youngsters on stage. I have overall production responsibility and support for Sam with anything she needs.

Dates for the rest of the term for primary students and teachers are:

- Whole school celebration of Matariki will be held on Wednesday 18th June - Friday is the holiday day.
- Pelorus Cluster Cross Country at Canvastown will be on Thursday 26th June
- Parent and Teacher Learning Conversations will take place on Tuesday 17th June, just before Matariki. Progress reports will be given out this week also. Watch out for appointment-booking with 'Skool loop' in a couple of weeks to book your time-slot with your child's teacher.
- Hopefully we will be able to fit in a visit from Life Education also. Watch this space to confirm the date.

Have a great weekend, as we are ready to head into week 4 next week. This term is just 9 weeks so we will soon be halfway through!

Regards,
Karen Davies
Head of Primary Syndicate and AP.



Primary News



Kia ora e te whānau,

Room 13 really enjoyed working on this collaborative masterpiece. A combination of writing and artwork based around one of our BSLA quality children's picture books called "Things In The Sea Are Touching ME!"

The students worked together on the title, and also the sea creatures. Some students drew, some went around the outlines, and others coloured-in - making sure to switch up tasks for each object. This displayed excellent teamwork and encouraged all classmates to participate.

All students wrote 'senses sentences' about things that they can 'see, smell, taste, and hear' at the beach. These have been displayed in no particular order, and do not necessarily correlate to the student that they are under. I often say 'teamwork makes the dreamwork' and 'we can do hard things', which rang true (over the two weeks it took to create this) and we now see the results of this collaboration.

Well done tamariki mā you can feel really proud of your efforts.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe,
Aimee Ballantyne.

Safety for Students is important

Please be aware of vehicles at school and especially at these busy times of before and after school.

At the end of school, students need to wait within the school gate for the parent / caregiver to collect them.

If it is raining, the students can stand on the veranda by the office or be inside the office.



Student Absence / Buses / After School Arrangements / Students arrive late / Parent deliver or collect students

Could you please notify Pauline, when required as soon as possible, at the school office regarding above issues with a reason, either by phone (03 5716 016) and leave a message or by email (office@rai.school.nz) or personally to the office.

This allows up-to-date recorded information for emergencies. If students are late at school or leaving during school hours: Parents need to sign in or out at the school office.

Thank you in advance. Pauline



Up & Coming Key School Dates for 2025

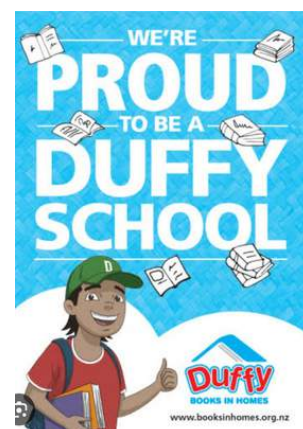
26th - 30th May	T2 W5	Literacy, Numeracy & Writing CAA's
Monday 2nd June KING'S BIRTHDAY	T2 W6	NO SCHOOL
Wednesday 11th June	T2 W7	Future of Work - Blenheim
Thursday 12th June	T2 W7	Jumping June - SKIPPING event
Wednesday 18th June	T2 W8	Whole School MATARIKI
Thursday 19th June	T2 W8	Hospital Visit
Friday 20th June MATARIKI	T2 W8	NO SCHOOL
Thursday 26th June	T2 W9	Voices of Hope
Thursday 26th June	T2 W9	Pelorus Cluster Cross Country - Canvastown
Friday 27th June	T2 W9	End of Term 2
Monday 14th July	T3 W1	Start of Term 3



DUFFY CAUGHT BEING GOOD



Scarlett Denize Year 1
Jack Massey Year 1
Tommy Massey Year 3
Anna Alvarez Year 2
Imagen Knight Year 6
Khloe Dunbar Year 4
Bjorn Prattley Year 4
Marshall Haven Year 1





Resilience *Taikaha*

Means coping
with challenges
and bouncing back.

THE KIWI CAN CORNER

Resilience / Taikaha

Coming up this term in Kiwi Can it's all about resilience / taikaha. We'll be explaining resilience as "**coping with challenges and bouncing back**".

Our Kiwi Can kids will be learning about three main aspects of resilience this time around: **goal setting**, **problem solving** and **perseverance**. We will be role modelling and practicing to 'try, try again'!

Want to carry on the learning at home?

- Why not have a chat about what "resilience" might mean to you in your family right now?
- Why might trying something new or challenging feel uncomfortable? Why is it important to keep on trying anyway?
- When something gets tough in class, what can we do to overcome that challenge? (It might be things we *think*, *say* or *do*, for example).
- Who is someone you have seen showing resilience lately? What did you notice them doing?



Follow [@GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough](https://www.facebook.com/GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough) to stay up to date



Resilience *Taikaha*

Means coping
with challenges
and bouncing back.

THE KIWI CAN CORNER

This week in Kiwi Can we are beginning on our module about **goal setting**. We are discovering more about what a goal is, and how setting goals can help us challenge ourselves and enhance our resilience. We'll also practice by setting a goal we can achieve together.

Going through life we may face challenges along the way - and these challenges may cause us to become discouraged and want to give up. It's really important we can bounce back from 'failure' or disappointments and 'try, try again'! Having a goal can keep us focused on continuing to try ☺

Ideas to carry on the learning at home:

- What does it mean to have a "goal"?
- What is a goal you have set for yourself at the moment? What do you need to do to get there? How do you think you will feel when you have accomplished it?
- Who is someone in your life who is a role model and encourages you to do your best? Why?



Follow [@GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough](https://www.facebook.com/GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough) to stay up to date



Community News



Register with REAP Marlborough
Limited spaces - contact us now

Location: Queen Charlotte College - Whare Ako

Date: Saturday 24th May

Time: 8.30am - 2.00pm

Cost: \$96.10 EFTPOS will be available on the day

Email ace@reapmarlborough.co.nz to register

*An Original Birth Certificate and Photo ID is
Required or Passport*

Phone 03 578 7848
Enquiries: ace@reapmarlborough.co.nz
www.reapmarlborough.co.nz



Available to anyone who is aged 16 and ready to sit their test - do not have to live in Picton

Reader / writer available - please advise when registering if this support is required.

ALSO:

On 22nd May we are partnering to bring an additional day of Restricted & Full Licence Driving Tests to Blenheim

If you have any students who would like to take this opportunity the only cost is the actual VTNZ fee Registrations are through my email address;
sharon@reapmarlborough.co.nz

Sharon Blount
CEO
REAP Marlborough

Child car restraints information to Whanau

International best practice recommends the use of an appropriate child restraint (or booster seat) until your child reaches 148 cm tall.

Under New Zealand law, all children under seven years of age must use an approved child restraint appropriate for their age and size. Children aged seven must be secured in a restraint if one is available in the vehicle.

If you are unsure of the child restraint rules, or if your car seat complies, or if you are unsure about how any child restraint should be fitted in your car you can contact Emma on 027 390 0767 to make an appointment for advice.

This is a free service offered in our community by the Marlborough Car Seat Safety group and the Marlborough District Council.



Contact Emma on
027 390 0767 to book

Tuesdays, 9.00am - 12.00pm
(Time slots are allocated when booking)

Redwoodtown Plunket Rooms
Oliver Park, Byfield St, Blenheim



EXPRESS HOME KILL

Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Deer etc



Contact Bruce Anderson
Ph 021 894 411
Listed Operator

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struggle!

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www.justliteracy.org



RIDE TO THRIVE FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY 25 MAY 10am-6pm ATHLETIC PARK

COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR COMMONWEALTH MEDALIST AND OLYMPIC CYCLIST CALLUM SAUNDERS AS HE RIDES 1000 LAPS IN UNDER 24 HOURS!
HELP HIM FUNDRAISE FOR OUR CHARITY BY WATCHING AND RIDING WITH HIM THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

Public riding times are 10am-5pm
Recommended donations of \$5 per child and \$10 per adult to ride alongside Callum
Register to ride on the day - Cash and Eftpos available
Age and safety restrictions apply

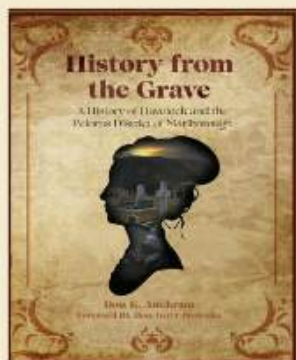
THERE WILL BE A KIDS ZONE WITH BOUNCY CASTLE AND BIKE TRACK, A COFFEE & FOOD CART AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE, PLUS AWESOME RAFFLES AND SPOT PRIZES TO BE WON!

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US, THE EVENT OR TO MAKE A DONATION GO TO:

www.ssfimarlborough.nz

History from the Grave

A Special Tour
of the
Havelock Cemetery
with
Don Auckram,
Author of:



SATURDAY 17 MAY

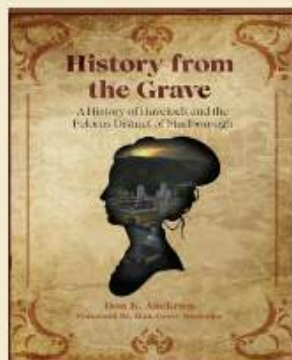
10 AM & 2PM

HAVELOCK CEMETERY
1 SLOGAN STREET
HAVELOCK

History from the Grave

Author Talk +Q&A

with
Don Auckram,
Author of:



SATURDAY 17 MAY

12:00PM

HAVELOCK PAVILLION
6 NEIL STREET
HAVELOCK

MARLBOROUGH
Heritage
Festival

15-18 MAY
2025

MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL

OUR PAST, OUR PEOPLE

Register for events



www.eventfinda.co.nz/userheritagel8x/events

MARLBOROUGH
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6 Whangamoia Saddle resilience work

Stage Two of the State Highway 6 Whangamoia Saddle resilience programme will be undertaken from Monday 19 May until late July.

Stop/go and a reduced temporary speed limit will be in place 24/7. Expect delays of up to 10 minutes at each site.





Spring INTO WINTER

FLU CLINIC

14 June 2025 from 1pm to 4pm

SHINGRIX
Aged 65 years ONLY (2 doses) *health criteria may apply for vaccines

Māori **FLU**
Aged 4 years+

COVID **Pasifika**
Aged 12 years+ (6 months gap)

Whānau **MMR**
Aged 12 months to 54 years

BOOSTRIX Location:
Aged 45 years+ My Space, Youth Centre
(entrance off Redwood St)

"it's about whānau"

  **Marlborough Primary Health**
KIMI HAUORA WAIRAU | SEEKING WELLBEING IN MARLBOROUGH

 **Ngāti Toa Rangatira
KI WAIRAU TRUST**

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