



14th December 2023  
Week 10, Term 4  
**"Better Together"**  
"Mahi Tahī"



With a day and a half left of school it is a great opportunity to wish you all the very best for the festive season and the new year.

It is also a chance for me to thank you all again for your engagement and support of all we do here at our kura. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community and I love that when we ask for help you make yourselves available. The Education Outside the Classroom programmes that we have started this year, and want to grow next year rely on having this commitment from you all.

I hope that you get to enjoy quality time with your family and friends over the holiday period and have the chance to create new memories.

**The raffle was drawn on Wednesday and the winners have been notified. Thank you to everyone who sold tickets, or bought them as this was a great fundraiser for the school.**



**You can order your stationery at any time by logging in and selecting our school and then the class.**

## Whānau/Kaiako Hui

These take place on the 30th January 2024.

Booking information for these will come out in January. It is a 15 minute time slot during the day for you to come in and share with the class teacher your goals and aspirations for your child for the year.

## Term Dates for 2023

**Term 4:** 9th October - 15th December

**Term 1 2024 Start Date:** 30th January for Whānau Hui and 31st January for Class Instruction  
2nd February Mihi Whakatau 9am to welcome new families

## Julie McDonald - Jump Jam, PB4L, Whānau Houses Term Round Up

### Jump Jam

What a big year it has been for our Year 5-6 Jump Jam team. This year we "jumped" back onto our Jump Jam journey after our amazing coach and Kaiako Chris Meehan retired from Ashley Rakahuri

School. With big shoes to fill, we decided to start with one Year 5-6 Strictly Team. As you already know we came away with a first-place title in the Jump Jam Strictly Freshman category. Because of our scores, we were then invited to compete in the Year 5-6 Challenge category at Nationals. For a lot of the team, this was their 2nd time ever performing at a Jump Jam competition- twice in one year! There was a lot of tough competition, who had been preparing all year for Nationals from around the South Island. We didn't get the win this time around but walked away with 3 Excellence Certificates including; Costuming, Presentation and, Technical Execution. We previously were awarded Merit for our technical execution and scored 3rd place in this marking area, which the team should be very proud of. I would like to thank the support from the whānau on the day and throughout the year and thank my awesome Rakahuri Rockstars! Well done on a great year of Jump Jam- Mahi Tahi Better Together.

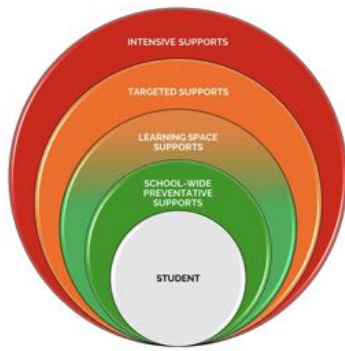


### **PB4L**

This year has been a big year of learning for myself and kaiako in regards to Positive Behaviour for Learning and Behaviour procedures within the school. Last year after a lot of work we were finally able to begin our Tier 2 training for PB4L. One piece of feedback was

If possible, consider co-opting a kaiako from the senior school so that there is across-school representation on the PB4L team. This will also ensure that if there are team changes in the future, the considerable amount of mahi that has gone into PB4L systems and supports is maintained. Therefore John Lynskey joined me on the course as a representative from the senior school. Our Tier 2 training continues next year and we have already presented what we have already learnt to staff. Tier 2 is about the behaviours which are bubbling up and recorded multiple times in etap as minor behaviours. It focuses on how we can support these students and their kaiako with new strategies which will allow them and those around them to learn, feel safe in their environment and be emotionally regulated. This is on top of what we are already doing in Tier 1 such as REACH assemblies, sharing our focuses with the community, meeting with whānau, class agreements, circle time, zones of regulation, restorative practice, REACH reflections, re-teaching expected behaviours and many more strategies in our kete. I look forward to continuing my PB4L journey in 2024 and sharing with you what is happening for PB4L at Ashley Rakahuri School.

Julie McDonald



## Whānau Houses

Whānau houses kicked off with a bang this term with our Whānau leaders organising some fantastic activities and events however, the weather did not decide to play ball and unfortunately, we have only been able to have 3/5 of our Whānau afternoons. I would like to say a big thank you to our Whānau Leaders for the leadership, organisation and inclusion they have shown this year. It has been wonderful to witness your growth as leaders and how you've built new relationships with students throughout the school from Mānuka to Totara.

By the time you read this newsletter our new Whānau Leaders would have been voted for and decided at prizegiving. Congratulations to our new leaders and candidates, it takes a lot of courage to stand up in front of your peers and put yourself out there with a speech asking them to select you as a leader. To those who missed out this time around a lot of you will have another opportunity next year, so please don't give up! I look forward to another awesome year of relationship building, fun and pride- Mahi Tahi, Better Together!

## Suzy Parker - Choir and Enviro Team Term 4 Round Up

### Choir

Ashley Rakahuri Kura Choir represented us with pride at the Christchurch Schools Music Festival at the start of November. It has been a few years since we have been to this festival and it was a true eye opener for all involved. It was lovely to see the awe in which the tamariki responded to the children's band, orchestra and the vibe of the evening. I was very impressed with how well they all conducted themselves and gave it their all as it was a full day of rehearsals and then the evening performance. The town hall proved to be an impressive venue to showcase Canterbury's singing talents with all the schools sounding absolutely brilliant together.

### Envirogroup

After the weather was not playing ball and our enviroschools hui to Tūhaitara Coastal Park at Woodend Beach was postponed until 2024. We decided to use this time to get stuck into the septic area. Our hardworking group proved that do mahi get the treats is true with their efforts helping to clean up the septic area near the gaga dodgeball pit after they had identified this as being bit of an eye sore. What an improvement - it is now clear and free of rubbish and ready for its revamping. Plans moving forward are for butterfly gardens with student designed self watering systems, a new insect hotel and working worm farm. The group is pumped and ready to roll up their sleeves with all systems go for 2024!

## Rochelle Standen - Culturally Responsive Practice Term 4 Round Up

Beginning in term 3 and continuing into Term 4 a number of staff and Board of Trustees members have taken on the task of working on their Te Reo knowledge and tikanga practice by enrolling in 'Te ahu o te Reo' - a course for anyone working within an education setting that provides instruction and support in learning te reo.

In Term 4 the junior school ( Manuka and Harakeke ) continued to participate in our Kapa Haka programme - learning a number of waiata including waiata-a-ringa ( action songs ) and a haka. The whole school will be performing at the End of Year Prizegiving.

In 2024 we are establishing two new leadership roles/opportunities for our seniors - that is the role of Kaitātaki. Kaitātaki a leader, usually associated with Kapa haka but for our context these tamariki will lead the Kapa haka group, assisting with organisation, discipline and leadership, they will also sit on the school council where they will keep a Te Aō/Te Reo lens on all things happening and assist with all sorts of activities in and around the school.

The Y4-8 Kapa haka group attended the Tūhono Kapa haka festival on 25 November. Our group made us very proud, they performed to their absolute best and they showed great mana and wairua by getting on the stage and performing in a very big venue in front of a very big audience. They were in the competition grade and their marks were very encouraging, the judges have given us some feedback to work on for next year so we are looking forward to going again in 2025.



## John Lynskey - PALs, Chess, Sport in School

### Athletics

On Wednesday the 18th October we held our annual athletics sports at Loburn Domain. We had a beautiful day and were fortunate to avoid the storm. On the 25th of October Ashley Rakahuri organised and ran the tri-school's athletics with Loburn and North Loburn. 58 of our Year 4 -8 students attended. On the 8th of November 28 students attended the Rakahuri Zone Athletics Champs held at Ashgrove Park. Of special note, Ammie Parkinson broke the Zone record in the shot put at 8.29m.

More recently 8 students attended the Canterbury Primary School's Athletics Champs. This is the largest team we have sent to the Canterbury's for some time. To qualify you had to finish first or second at the Zone tournament. If third place had been included Chloe Laffey, Bre Coster and Millie Pomare-Edwards would have also attended, making it a team of 11. How exciting it was that we had the opportunity to have all our events this term. It was great to also have the long jump pit back at school. It was great to have a term of celebration in athletics and we are very proud of our results for a small country school. Our REACH values were on show yet again this term when representing the school.





## **PAL'S**

Our physical activity leaders kicked off their lunchtime sports coaching again this term. Bower and Jacob, Evangeline and Matthew, Ammie and Indi and Blake and Milan have teamed up to take Mānuka and Harakeke children for lunchtime games again from Monday to Friday. They have enjoyed the warmer weather in term four.

## **Chess Club**

The chess club has been well supported this term again. There is a regular group of 10-12 players who play every Friday and a wider group who pop in for a game or two. It is great to have Troy and Finn be our monitors and set the boards up each week. A big thank you to these guys for their year-long effort. Next year we will look at inter school options as there are a strong group of year 6-8 players.



Our REACH value focus for the week...remains the same as we didn't have assembly this week.

## **This Week's focus: Responsible Decision making**

### **Responsible Decision Making**

- ★ Responsible decision making is about making choices that have positive outcomes for ourselves and those around us.
- ★ When we make responsible decisions, it helps us grow, learn, and succeed.
- ★ Tips to help us make responsible decisions:
  1. Think before you act.
  2. Seek advice and support.
  3. Learn from mistakes, nobody is perfect and that's okay!

Use setbacks as stepping stones towards better decision making.

Responsible decision making is a skill we can all develop with practice.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

15th December	End of Term 4 - Closing Time is 12.40pm NB: CLOSING TIME
30th January 2024	Whānau/Kaiako hui
31st January	First Day of School
2nd February	Mihi Whakatau to welcome new families - 9am start
6th February	Waitangi Day holiday
13th February	Year 4 - 8 School Swimming Sports - Dudley Pool 12.30pm
25th March	Learning Conferences for Goal Setting
29th March	Good Friday Holiday
1st April	Easter Monday Holiday
2nd April	Easter Tuesday Holiday
12th April	End of Term 1
29th April	Term 2 Starts



## Community Notices

### Hen Rehoming

I have a few Hyline Brown hens to re-home in the mid-end of January. They are 18 months old, very friendly, and still great layers (about 260 eggs/year). Please call Emmy (Dallas' mum) at 021509106 for more details. Thanks.



**YEAR 1 & 2 NETBALL**  
 LEARN BASIC NETBALL SKILLS IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT

**TERM 2 - 2024**  
 Thursdays: 4 pm to 5 pm  
 MAINPOWER STADIUM

For more info & to register visit:  
[www.ncnc.org.nz/year1-2](http://www.ncnc.org.nz/year1-2)



RayWhite

*a little*  
**Ray of Giving**

Everybody deserves to smile this Christmas

Drop in a pound to go under our Christmas tree and we'll make sure it gets to a deserving member of our community.

We are supporting **Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust**, because everyone should receive a gift this Christmas.

**community wellbeing**  
 North Canterbury Trust

Ray White Rangiora: 2241 L. Colquhoun Building, 240 High Street, Rangiora  
 Ray White Pigeon: 1144 L. Street, Pigeon  
 Ray White Wilton: 211 Southdown Street, Wilton

Linda Horne 021 509 106  
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Pest Free Waimakariri

**WAIMAKARIRI NATURE PHOTO COMPETITION**

Enter for a chance to win a family pass to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve and more!

Explore our beautiful parks, reserves, or your own backyard this summer and enter your best photograph(s) of native birds, lizards, fish or insects from anywhere within the Waimakariri District.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in the Open and Youth (under 15) sections. Competition opens 9th December 2023 and closes 28th January 2024.

Enter and find out more at:  
[pestfreewaimakariri.org/photo-comp](http://pestfreewaimakariri.org/photo-comp)

Photo by Steve Atwood of Aukwood Birds

Willowbank CAMEO WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL Lotto

