RIVERSDALE SCHOOL
Inspiring Excellence

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15 October 2026

Term 4 Week 1

Kia Ora, Kamusta, Āyubōvan, Sata srī akāla, Namaskāra,
Hallå, Dia dhuit, Kam na mauri, Mālō e Lelei, Hello

Kia Ora Parents and Whānau

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope everyone enjoyed a safe and refreshing holiday break with whānau. It is wonderful to see our tamariki back at school full of energy and ready for a busy and fulfilling final term as spring work picks up across our rural community.

Today, our Room 5 and Room 6 ākonga had the exciting opportunity to visit the Science Roadshow. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience where students explored interactive exhibits, tested scientific ideas, and deepened their classroom learning through practical experiments.

Good luck to all of our students competing in the Northern Tennis Tournament next week! We know you will represent Riversdale School with pride and demonstrate our core values of respect (whakaute), responsibility (takohanga), and resilience (manawaroa) both on and off the court. Go well!

Our annual Riversdale School Pet Day is coming up on Friday, 6 November 2026. Now is the time for students to start training and preparing their lambs, calves, goats, or household pets! Further details, schedules, and entry requirements are below.

Keeping our ākonga and whānau safe on their daily journeys to and from school is a top priority for our entire community. With important national road rule changes taking effect on **1 October 2026**, we wanted to share a clear summary of what these updates mean when driving around school buses. See below for details about the changes that have come in.

A quick reminder that order forms for the Home & School Baking Mixes fundraiser are due in on **Friday (tomorrow)**. Thank you to everyone supporting this initiative to help raise funds for our school.

The Riversdale School & Community Pool is officially open for the season! Key fobs can be purchased directly from Austin Electrical. We look forward to seeing our families making the most of the pool over the warmer months ahead.

Nga mihi,
Bronwyn, and the Riversdale Staff

He kuaka mārangaranga, kotahi manu e tau ki te tāhuna, tau atu, tau atu, tau atu

The godwits have swooped up into the air, one lands on the sandbank and the others follow (leaders and followers work together).

Important Road Safety Update: Bus Rules & Traffic Changes

1. The New "Give Way to Buses" Rule

- **The Requirement:** Drivers are formally required to give way to a public bus (this includes school buses) signalling to leave a bus stop, roadside, or bus lane to merge back into traffic.
- **Speed Zone Limit:** This rule applies on all roads with a speed limit of 60 km/h or less (typical urban and town roads).
- **Bus Driver Duties:** Bus drivers must actively indicate in advance, check mirrors and blind spots, and only pull out when oncoming traffic begins to yield.

2. Key Existing Rules for School Buses (Unchanged)

- **20 km/h Passing Speed:** You **must slow down to a maximum of 20 km/h** when passing a stopped school bus displaying a "School" sign, regardless of which direction you are travelling. This remains vital for protecting our tamariki as they cross rural roads.
- **Bus Lanes:** Non-bus drivers cannot drive in designated bus lanes during operational hours, except to turn left within 50 metres of an intersection or driveway.

3. Related Road Safety Rules

- **1.5m Overtaking Gap:** Drivers must leave a minimum gap of 1.5 metres when passing cyclists, e-scooter riders, or pedestrians travelling in the same direction.
- **Kids on Footpaths:** Children aged 12 and under are officially permitted to ride bicycles on footpaths—a great safety option for our younger ākonga riding through the township.

Coming Up….

Term 4 (keep an eye on the Hero Calendar)

21st October	Northern Tennis at Te Anau
28th October	Golf Tournament at Mossburn
22nd October	Touch starts in Gore
26th October	Labour Day - school is closed
28th October	Golf Tournament
30th October	School Photos
2 November	Riversdale School Board meeting
6 November	Riversdale School Pet Day
7 December	Riversdale School Board meeting
14 December	Year 8 Graduation
18 December	Last day of school for 2026

SchoolDocs
Policies and Procedures

Parents, Caregivers and Whanau are invited to visit the SchoolDocs site to review our school policies for Term 4 2026. This term we are reviewing topics in *Curriculum & Student Achievement; Reporting Student Progress; Learning Support; Māori Educational Achievement; Health Curriculum; and Privacy.*

Reviews are open to the Board, staff and school community (parents/caregivers/whanau)

To review policy documents:

1. Visit the website link: *https://riversdale.schooldocs.co.nz*
2. Enter the Username: *riversdale*
3. Enter the Password: *excellence*
4. Go to *Current Reviews* and click the links to read the policies currently under review
5. Click the *Policy Review* button at the top right hand of the page
6. Select reviewer type - "Parent"
7. Enter your name (Optional)
8. Submit your ratings and comments

These policies will be reviewed by the Board during their meeting on the 7th of December.

Term 4 policies	Review open 12 October–13 November
• **Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy**	Board review
• **Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement**	Board review
• **Learning Support**	
• **Māori Educational Achievement**	
• **Religious Instruction***/Religious Observances*	
• **Health Curriculum**	Board review
• **Privacy Policy**	Board review

To view any of our policies go to the above site and search for the appropriate policy

Pinecones For Sale

We still have heaps of bags of pineconces for sale. Winter is coming! If you would like to purchase pinecones, come on down and grab them from school. **They are 1x bag for $5 and 4x bags for $15.**

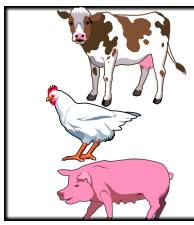
School Buses

Our four bus drivers are Jan Robertson, Michael Lobb, Craig Hamilton and Susanne Davis

Please inform the driver if your child is off the bus in the morning.

Jan Robertson – 027 6088203 (Waipounamu - Blue Bus)
Michael Lobb – 027 3725785 (Wendon - Green Bus)
Craig Hamilton - 027 6372583 (Kaweku - Yellow Bus)
Susanne Davis - 022 1363509 (Mandeville - Red Bus)

Please do not make any alternative arrangements with your child's bus driver without first checking with the school as our bus routes are set by the Ministry of Education and we are unable to go outside of our transport zone to drop students in different places. We are aware that some of our buses do travel past houses on the driver's way home, unfortunately this does not mean they are able to drop off students. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to be in touch with the school.



RIVERSDALE SCHOOL PET SHOW
TO BE HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON
Friday 6th November, 2026



Buses run as normal. Please advise your bus driver if your child is off the bus.

Be aware that times are approximate and you may need to be flexible with these on the day.

9.00–9.20am	- children take entries to the hall and display them.
9.20 am	**All pets must be at school by this time.**
9.30 am	- **Hall closed for judging.** No children allowed in until 11am.
9.30 am	- Grand Parade – on the soccer field in front of the hall.
9.45 am	- Lamb Drinking race
9.50 am	- Pet/Human look alike competition (Pet & Human dressed up the same)
10 am	- All children go with pets for judging. Those without pets, please go and support a friend with a pet.
11am	- Hall open. Children do not remove certificates or any items please, or touch any of the displayed items.
11.30 am	- Cake auction

Short lunch break (BBQ available on the day, coffee car available from 10am)

12.30pm	- Bike events on the soccer field.
1.00pm	- Remote controlled car race.
1.30pm	- Ag Sports Teams event.

End of day – please collect up all your belongings and you may go home.

Schedule of Events – Students must enter at least two Hall events.

If the weather is wet, all Hall events will continue in the morning, but pet events will not occur.

Event Groups:

Years 0 – 2 Years 5-6
Years 3 – 4 Years 7-8

Note – Please complete the entry slip that will be in the hall. One slip to go with each entry. Attach to your entry face down and place that entry in the correct section in the school hall before 9.30am.

Event Groups:

Years 0 – 2 Years 5-6
Years 3 – 4 Years 7-8

Pony Events

⬜ Event 1 **Pony sack race** – please bring your own sack. Ride pony quarter way down the rugby field to the cones, dismount and get into the sack, and hop/jump while leading pony back to the finish line.

Pony Barrel race – ride pony halfway down the rugby field, around a desk, and back to the finish line.

☐ Event 2 Best presented pony.

Pets - Children to be able to answer questions orally and must be able to explain how they look after it.

Dogs must bring doggy-doo-doo bags

☐ Event 3 Best presented pet lamb.
☐ Event 4 Best presented calf.
☐ Event 5 Best presented dog.
☐ Event 6 Best presented for any other animal (rabbits, guinea pigs, rats, fish, crocodiles etc.) other than the above, in or large animals e.g. goats behind the play shed.

Best Trained Pets The pets in this section need to show that they follow their owner's commands.

☐ Event 7 Best trained lamb – follows its owner.
☐ Event 8 Best trained calf – on a lead.
☐ Event 9 Best trained dog. Responds to 'sit' command. Walks with on lead for short distance. Other commands as shown to judges.

☐ Event 10 Lamb drinking race – 300ml milk in own bottle.
☐ Event 11 Pet Human Look Alike (Pet & Human dress the same)

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Hall Events (Children must enter at least two of these events)

The following sections will be judged in age groups. All entries are completed at home. All items below go into the hall.

Pet Diaries Without Pets

☐ Event 12 Diary/scrapbook kept by the child about their pet that is not at the show. (Great for cats rather than bringing them on the day).

Flowers

☐ Event 13 Y0 to Y2 and Y3 to Y4 – Sand Saucer. (Flowers arranged in a sand saucer)
☐ Event 14 Flowers in an unusual container.
☐ Event 15 Vase arrangement of flowers.
☐ Event 16 Environment/scene in sand (e.g. plastic dinosaurs in pre-historic times, farm scenes, barbie scene, beach scene, motocross etc).

Crafts and Novelty

☐ Event 17 Vegetable Animal.
☐ Event 18 An item made from recycled material.
☐ Event 19 Lego type (i.e. Duplo, Lego, Lego Technics, K'nex or similar construction equipment).
☐ Event 20 Best dressed doll.
☐ Event 21 Best dressed bear.
☐ Event 22 Best handcraft by child e.g. Sewing, knitting, cross-stitch
☐ Event 23 Colouring Competition - given out at school and coloured in at school.

Baking

- ⬜ Event 24 Best Chocolate Cake (to be auctioned on the day)
- ⬜ Event 25 Chocolate chippie biscuits (3 on a plate)
- ⬜ Event 26 Best Decorated Cake (to be auctioned on the day.)
- ⬜ Event 27 Best other baked goods e.g. carrot cake, loaf (to be auctioned on the day.)
- ⬜ Event 28 Best decorated cupcakes (3 on a plate)

Wearable Art – Recycled Materials

- ⬜ Event 29 Wearable Art – display on a coat hanger or free standing.

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Bikes and remote controlled cars.

- ⬜ Event 30 Best decorated bike. (These are displayed around the elm tree on the front lawn).
- ⬜ Event 31 Slow bike race. (After lunch on back field) Children must have a helmet.
- ⬜ Event 32 Fastest bike races. (After lunch on back field) Children must have a helmet.
- ⬜ Event 33 Remote control car race.

Ag Sports Team of 3 - mixed ages – Years 4 - 8

- ⬜ Event 34 Put up an electric fence – 3 standards – and take it down

RIVERSDALE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY POOL

The Riversdale School and Community Pool is running a battery collection fundraiser. Collecting use car and machinery batteries. These will be on sold to be recycled. Helps clear the yard, while raising much needed funds for our pool. Please get in touch with Jo Russell 0273635768 for more info or collection.





RIVERSDALE SCHOOL
Home & School Association

Riversdale Beanies - $35

To order email riversdalehas@gmail.com

Facebook Page

Please join our Facebook page 'Riversdale Home and School' to keep up to date with all our latest info.

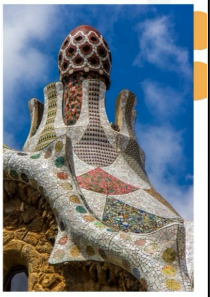
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Home & School Committee

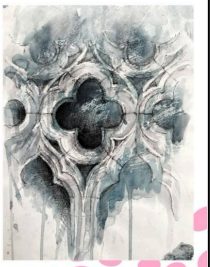
Community Notices

WEEKLY *Art classes with*
DAB ART DO at Waikaia School TERM 4

EXPLORING ARCHITECTURE
A 7-week creative journey inspired by Antoni Gaudí and Ian Murphy.



Explore the wonderfully imaginative architecture of Antoni Gaudí and study his bold colours, organic shapes, intricate patterns and colourful mosaics. Experiment with colour, pattern and collage to bring your own Gaudí-inspired building to life. From there, explore the atmospheric architectural artworks of Ian Murphy. Use drawing, texture, light, shadow and mixed media to develop and transform your art.

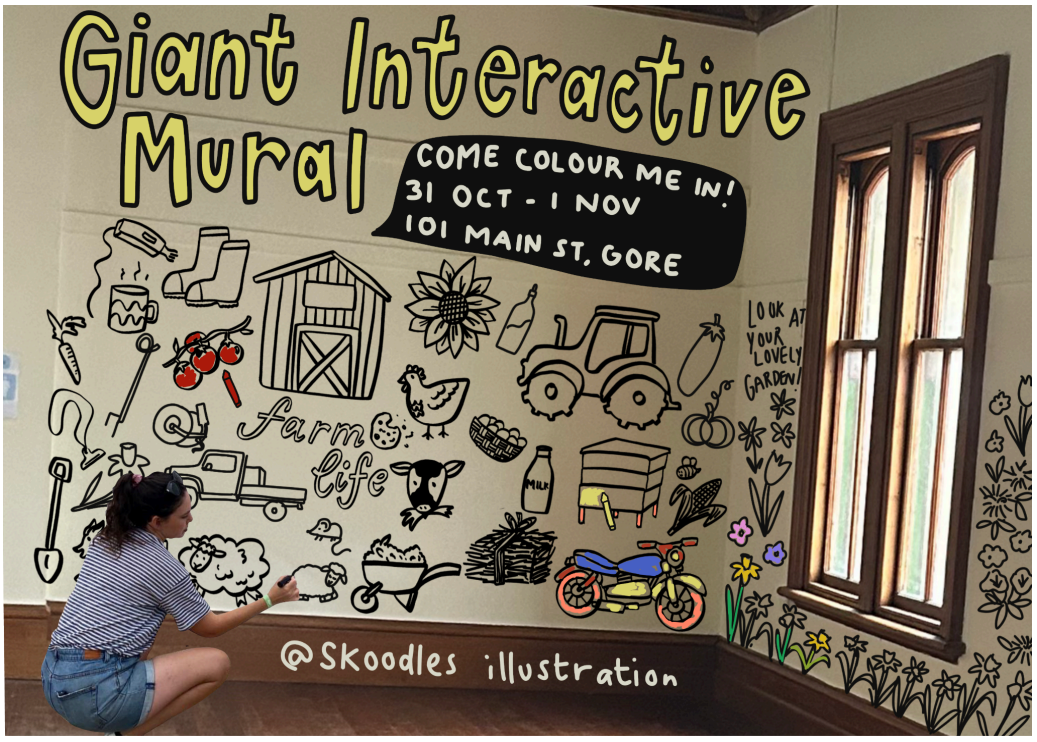


A creative journey that moves from colour and pattern to texture and atmosphere, encouraging children to experiment, develop their own ideas and create something uniquely their own. **Ages 5 - 12**

Cost: $190 for all 7 weeks. All materials included.

Starts Wednesday, 21 October 2026
From 15:30 - 16:45
At Waikaia School Artroom

To book your place: Message Reanda Gerber 0210 655 067 or email dabartdo@gmail.com



Southland Rugby League is helping establish junior teams based in Gore and Eastern Southland, with local training and travel into Invercargill on Friday nights to take part in our summer competition.

We're seeking players for the following grades:

- Under 8s
- Under 10s
- Under 12s
- Under 14 Girls
- Under 14 Boys

Players of all experience levels are welcome, including children who haven't played rugby league before. We already have some interested families and keen coaches, and we're now working to build enough numbers across each grade to establish teams.

Parents and caregivers interested in coaching are also encouraged to get involved. Southland Rugby League will provide coaching development, practical session ideas and support to help them feel confident leading their teams. Previous rugby league coaching experience isn't necessary.

Player and coaching expression-of-interest form: https://forms.gle/UbPSguzP1RWwPYEi6

Please complete the form as soon as possible, even if you couldn't attend the recent muster. It helps us identify player numbers, age groups and available coaches so we can coordinate the next steps.

Our aim is to support local coaches to begin running sessions from next week, once numbers and coaching arrangements are confirmed. Training details and information about travelling to the competition will be shared directly with interested families.

Thanks for helping us build this opportunity for children across Gore and Eastern Southland. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

For more information or to speak with someone directly about joining a team or getting involved in coaching, please contact Justine at Pioneer Rugby Club or Steve Kelly at Albion Rugby Club. You're also welcome to contact me, and I can put you in touch.

Dominic Bradley
Southland Rugby League Development Officer
Email: dominic@nzrl.co.nz
Phone: 021 491 625
Website: Southland District Rugby League - Home



Arts on Tour – Tempestuous coming to Waikaia | Friday 23 October

What a treat we have for you this month!

We've managed to secure a date for *Tempestuous*, the latest Arts on Tour travelling show by Penny Ashton.

Penny has been to Waikaia a couple of times before and has never disappointed with her one-woman shows. We're really looking forward to having her back for what promises to be another great night out.



Friday 23 October
7.30pm
Waikaia
Tickets: $25 per person

As always, all funds raised from our shows and movies go towards our sculpture fund — and we're getting very close to our next target!

So come along, bring a few friends, come early and enjoy dinner at the pub, then settle in for a world-class act to top the night off.

We'd love to see you there. https://www.thelodge223.co.nz/







RIVERSDALE TENNIS CLUB
AGM

Tuesday 27th October 2026
5pm

Hammond Davidson
69 Newcastle Street
Riversdale

All Welcome

Apologies to clarkeandmegan@huntlyfarm.co.nz