



RIVERSDALE SCHOOL
Inspiring Excellence

Our School Values:

We are:

Respectful - Whakaute

Responsible - Kawenga

Resilient – Manawaroa

Our Well-being – Hauora, supports these.

Principal: Kay Stevens

Chairperson: Sonia Dillon

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10 February 2022

Riversdale School Newsletter - Term 1 Week 1

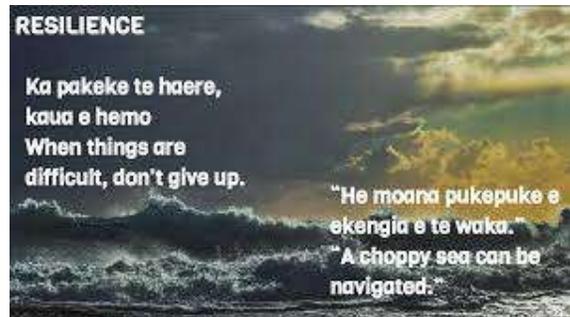
Welcome to: Serinity Jones, Elijah Sowman, Addison Sowman, Emma Howden, Matthew Howden, Bella Smith, and Kaiden O'Connor
Farewell: Sophie Cornish

*Resilience
Manawaroa*

Tena Koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whanau.
Hello everyone,
Kia ora e hoa mā.

It has been so lovely to welcome all our tamariki back to school, including our new whanau to the school and community. Our wonderful teachers, Kimberley, Georgia, Lynette, Marion, Tiffany, and Jessica have been doing some 'getting to know each other' activities this week and preparing for learning programmes to begin 'proper' next week.

It is really important to us that if you have any questions or concerns you get in touch with your child's teacher early in the year. We value the partnership with you and want to work together to make sure your tamariki/children are thriving at Riversdale School.



Contact Tracing

When we have Omicron in the community, we need to be able to contact trace to let you know as soon as possible if there has been a case at school. Therefore, we request that you must sign the paper contact register if you enter the school building anywhere, please. Scanning in gives you a record of where you have been, and our contact registers give us the same record. Thank you for your co-operation with this. So...

- **Masks must be worn if you are in Year 4 or older (including all parents/whanau) from our school boundaries.**
- **You should scan in on your phone.**
- **You must sign in on the contact tracing registers at entry doors**

Pause Breathe Smile

Starting next week, teachers are going to be delivering the 8 lessons that make up the Pause Breathe Smile programme. The key learning lesson will take place on Monday, with follow up lessons during the week. The 8 lessons cover coming home which is about breathing, Happiness here and now which is about inside happiness and treat happiness, Everything for the first time which is about how our breathing, feelings and body are all related, All things rising and falling which is about how our emotions

rise and fall and are found in our bodies, Neurons that fire together, wire together which is about how our brain works and that our thinking changes just like our emotions and breathing does, Kind Heart, happy heart which is understanding that kindness makes us healthier and happier, Everything is connected to everything else which is understanding how we are connected to the earth and to many other things, relationships, and the last lesson is on touching base touching stillness which is about expressing gratitude and describing our feelings.

This is such a valuable programme, especially in supporting our tamariki to self-regulate and being able to cope in changing and uncertain circumstances. If you want to know more about these lessons, please get in touch with your child's teacher.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Welcome Back!

Hats

Please contact Wendy Scully (0274440438) ASAP if you would like to order a Riversdale School branded hat for your child. These will be around \$20 (price can vary slightly depending on how many we order at a time so will confirm price once order is in).

Available in 2 sizes - 54cm & 58cm. Printed with students initial and last name.

School Vests

The Home & School supply all new students with a high vis vest. If a new or bigger size is required for existing students' parents will need to purchase these.

Meeting

We will have a meeting later in the term, date tbc - everyone is welcome. Please bring or pass on any fundraising ideas to the committee as we will plan our fundraising activities for the year at this meeting.

Facebook

Please join our Facebook page - Riversdale Home And School to keep up to date with all our latest info. Please make sure you answer the two questions when you request to join.

Thanks

The Committee - Wendy, Emily, Ronee, Jordan & Kelly-Anne.

Coming Up....

10 February	Sports Activator Sarah at school working with all children.
28 February	Board of Trustees meeting 8pm. All welcome.
3 March	Sports Activator Sarah at school working with all children.
9 March	Northern Athletics has been postponed until Term 4..
14 March	REAP swimming instructor. All children swim every day this week.
16, 17, 18 March	Life Education Van – Teresa and Harold at school.
21 March	REAP swimming instructor. All children swim every day this week.
25 March	Northern Swimming. This will depend on Covid mandates – may be cancelled
2 April	Southland Athletics has been postponed until Term 4.
4-6 April	Year 5 and 6 Camp to Bannockburn.
10-14 April	Year 7 and 8 Camp to Deep Cove.
14 April	Last day of Term 1.
15 April	Easter Friday. School holidays commence.

Please keep an eye out for any changes to these dates as we are in uncertain times.

Reminder: please have a homework packet for your child. They are available at local stationery suppliers, and are made of sturdy plastic/fabric, with a dome closure.

School Buses:

Our four bus drivers are Jan Robertson (Kaweku Waimea), Michael Lobb (Wendon), Robin Skerrett (Wendonside/Waipounamu) and Paul Brown (Mandeville). They have done their best, especially Robin and Graeme, who were only informed of the Ministry contracted routes and Ritchies routes had varied from the MOE maps and looked a bit different from these. In the immediate future the buses will run current routes, but just a heads up that there are likely to be some changes to some routes as when speaking with the Go Bus manager, Alfred Hawtin in Gore yesterday, he was telling me that they were legally contracted to only drive the Ministry routes. It is a 'watch this space' situation, but I will keep you informed of any pending changes as soon as I know about them. If you want to discuss any bus matters, please make a time to meet with me.

The note below was in last week's newsletter, but in case you missed it I have left it in for this week:

Kia ora Koutou,

Please reiterate to your caregivers:

- It is their responsibility to get their children to pick-up locations and to collect them from drop-off locations.
- It is recommended they arrive at the bus stop locations at least 5 minutes prior to the time advised by the bus provider.
- They should stay with their children while they are waiting for their school transport in the morning and meet them in the afternoon as they get off the bus.

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is likely to have a significant impact on our communities over the coming months.

One of the groups that will be affected is our school transport drivers. It is highly likely that some school transport services will need to be cancelled at very short notice due to drivers being unavailable (either by having contracted Covid-19 or by being a close contact of a Covid-19 positive person) and it is unlikely that there will be replacement drivers readily available.

In the event that a driver is identified as a Covid-19 positive case, please work with the Ministry of Health on the appropriate next steps, including whether the students on that bus need to self-isolate.

Preparing for disruption – please alert your caregivers

It is important that your students' caregivers are prepared for the possibility that their school transport service is cancelled at some point over the next few months.

Please ensure that your caregivers are aware of the potential disruption and that they'll need to have their own plan in place for transporting their children to and from school in the event of their school transport not operating.

What happens when a school transport service is cancelled?

Your transport service provider has been instructed to let you know as early as they can if a service is going to be cancelled. They have also been instructed to let you know the duration that they expect the service to be cancelled for. You will then need to pass on this information to affected students and caregivers as soon as possible.

Help with costs of alternative travel arrangements

The Ministry is offering a Conveyance Allowance to support those eligible students whose school transport service has been cancelled for five days or more.

Your school can elect to either submit a claim on behalf of all your affected students (for example, if your school is able to source an alternative travel arrangement), or you can arrange for each affected student's caregiver to receive the payment.

Conveyance Allowance payments:

- Daily bus students: \$4.72 per school day, per student

Conveyance Allowance

Please note:

- The Conveyance Allowance will be paid quarterly to the nominated bank account/s
- This Conveyance Allowance arrangement is not contingent on attendance or enrolment reports

Thank you

We are very aware of the important role school transport plays in our communities, and in support of our rural economies. The cancellation of any school transport service is something that we, and our transport providers, try very hard to avoid, however the health and safety of our students, drivers and communities is of paramount importance.

Thank you for your assistance in getting prepared for the potential disruption in your school transport services. We greatly appreciate all that you do for your students and caregivers.

Ngā mihi

James

James Meffan

Group Manager, School Transport

What is School Transport Assistance?

School Transport Assistance is provided by the Ministry of Education to help parents overcome barriers to education and meet their responsibility to get their children to school. This assistance is provided when distance and/or accessibility may be a barrier for students attending the closest school that they can enrol at. Students must meet certain criteria to qualify for school transport assistance.

Eligibility criteria

Students must meet all three eligibility criteria to get school transport assistance.

Criteria 1	<p>The school must be the closest state or state-integrated school where the student can enrol.</p> <p>For students attending a state-integrated school, the school must be the closest school of its type. For example, the closest Catholic school if Catholic education is chosen.</p> <p>For students attending Māori-medium schools (MMS) (which must either deliver Te Reo at Level 1, or at Level 2 and 51% or more of the instruction is in Te Reo) whichever MMS is chosen will be considered the closest, in recognition of the importance of iwi and hapu affiliation to a Maori-medium education.</p>
Criteria 2	<p>Students must live more than a certain distance from the school.</p> <p>Years 1-8: At least 3.2 kilometres from the school, over the shortest public road or pedestrian route from home roadside gate to the school's front gate.</p> <p>Years 9-13: At least 4.8 kilometres from the school, over the shortest public road or pedestrian route from home roadside gate to the school's front gate.</p>
Criteria 3	<p>There must be no "suitable" public transport options.</p>

PRIMARY SCHOOL GOLF

Our "School Pupils" Golf Club will begin again on Thursday 10 February. For the benefit of any new players, I have outlined some of the details about this activity below.

This Club is open to all pupils from year 3 and above, and will meet at the Riversdale Golf Course each Thursday during the summer terms.

Sessions times will be 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm for primary school pupils and 4:45 – 6:00pm for older pupils. There is no cost for these Friday sessions and all gear is provided.

If your child is interested in being part of this activity, or if you have any questions about this club, please do not hesitate to phone me at 021 2037547.

**Kind regards
Stuart Riordan**

Riversdale Tennis Club - group tennis coaching available this term with Danny Baleson from Te Anau.

Lessons will be on Wednesday afterschool for 6 weeks starting on 16 Feb 2022. Local kids from 5 years up to year 8 are welcome.

If your children are interested in coaching this term please email Tori Tremaine on tremainefarming@hotmail.co.nz or text 0276326447 with their names, date of birth and your contact phone number. Interest needs to be confirmed asap but definitely by end of day Friday 11th Feb..

Cost will be determined once we know final numbers plus there is a \$10 charge for court fees on top of coaching for each child who DOESN'T play Saturday tennis.

Thanks

The year 7 and 8 children were focussed on their task....



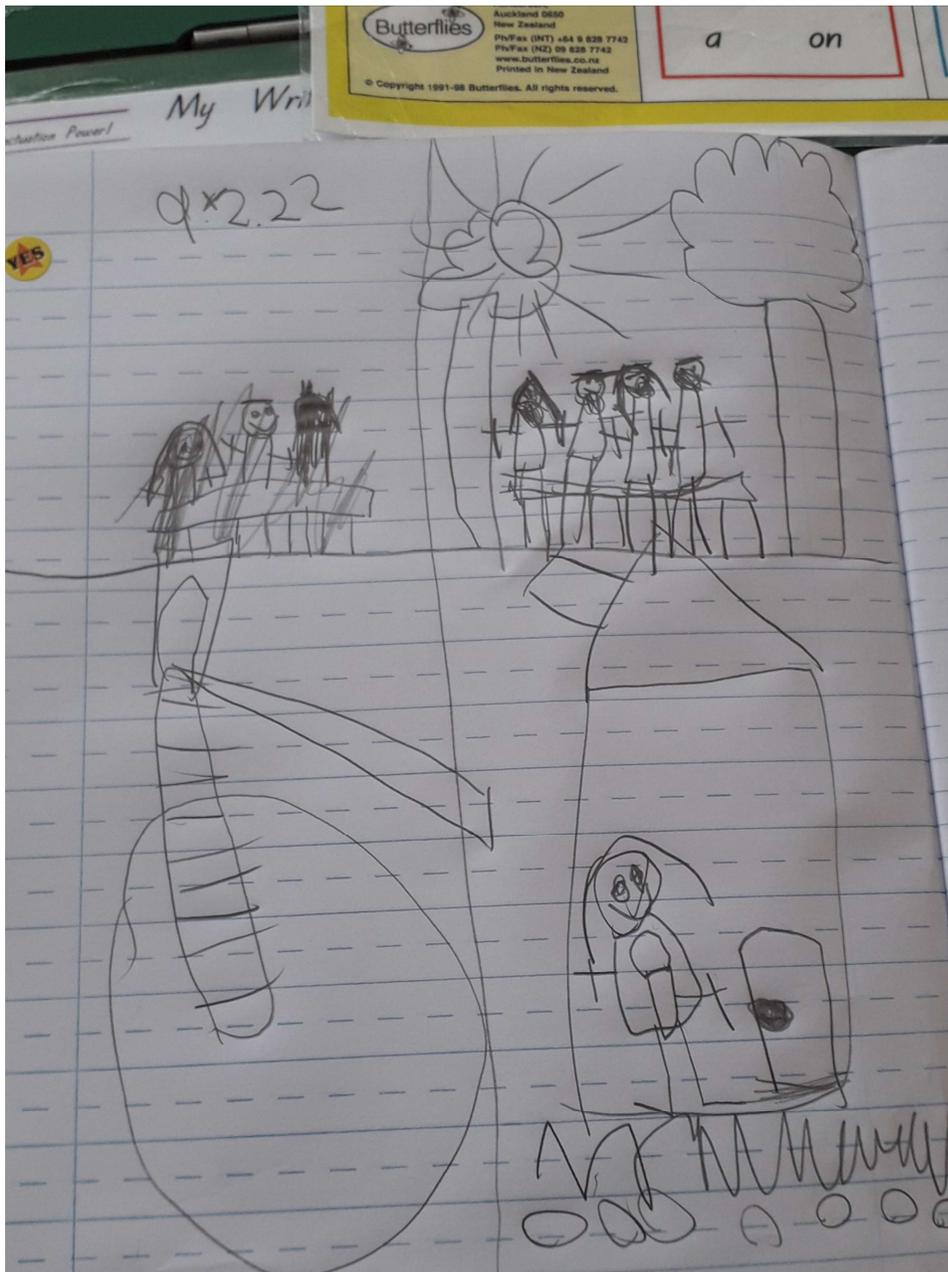
Some gorgeous classroom displays are making our learning environments attractive....

smokefree
At all times

we are as
diverse
and unique
as all the
creatures
in the
ocean.

All of Room 4 were planning for their writing... with Miss Callander's and Mrs Roy's support....





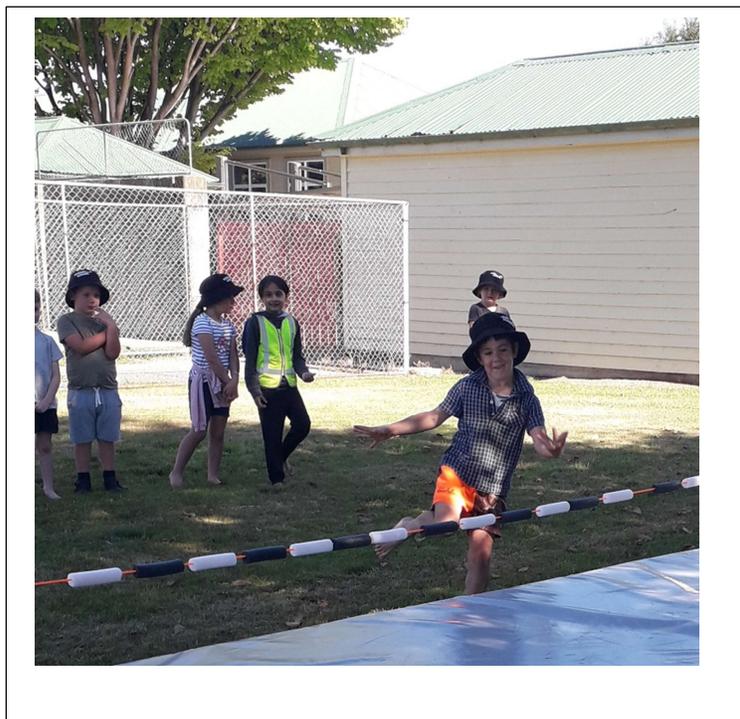
Aroha was planning for her writing today...

Miss Harper had her class mesmerised with a picture book...





We were thinking about what leg had to lift to go over the bar first when high jumping. Sarah was coaching us.





Room 3 had high jump practice with Sarah the sports activator today. All the other classes did too.

