



# Wadestown School

## Rimu Team

### Newsletter

### Term 1 2022



**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau,**

Kia ora and welcome to the new school year for the Rimu Team. We are enjoying being back at school with your children, and finding out what they got up to over the summer holidays. A warm welcome to our new students who have joined the Rimu Team and Wadestown School.

This year we welcome to both Rimu and Wadestown School: Milli Kiechle-Kane in Room 7 and Declan Mendis in Room 6.

#### The Rimu Teaching Team

At the bottom of this newsletter, there are the Rimu Team Teacher introductions for you to read so that you can put a face to your child's teacher. Some of you may have taken the opportunity to get to meet your child's teacher at our recent Stationery Drop Off afternoon.

The Rimu Team is a new one for 2022, and we are excited that the team all have different strengths and interests to draw on.

Also included in our team is Pip Honore who many of you will know. Pip has a long connection to Wadestown School and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team with a particular passion for literacy. Pip is working two days a week in Rimu this year; as the Rimu CRT teacher and also in Room 5 on Thursdays as Cole's Teacher release. As a beginning teacher, Cole has a day a week out of the classroom.

#### Curriculum

**Numeracy:** we begin our mathematics teaching with a unit on Statistics. The students will conduct investigations where they gather and record analysis of their posed questions. They will learn how to display their own data and interpret data from reading various graphs. Components of this unit will be integrated into our Inquiry Unit for Term 1.

Following this, we will be revisiting and extending students' Place Value knowledge of whole numbers and decimals and continuing to ensure that their basic facts knowledge can be accurately recalled. In order to extend the students' mathematical thinking at Level 3 and beyond, it is important that the students have a strong mathematical knowledge base to draw on. The students will be grouped within their classes according to their individual stages and needs.



Students will also take part in mixed ability and whole class problem-solving challenges where they will have an opportunity to apply their mathematical knowledge and understanding; often using real life situations.

#### **Literacy:**

**Reading** commences with a teacher directed shared novel study using the book 'A Kind of Spark' by Elle McNicoll. This book looks closely at family, neurodiversity, courage and overcoming challenges. The children will be analysing the use of vocabulary, characters, and key messages within the story.

Later on in the term, we will start small group and individual instructional reading. The focus being on finding key ideas and evidence to support thematic messages, and finding answers to inferential questions.

Students are also encouraged to read for pleasure and enjoyment both at school and at home. Each class will have weekly scheduled Library visits where they can issue books. Students can also listen to audiobooks as another way

of enjoying more advanced books, independently. Please speak to your teacher or our Librarian if you are looking for new titles to read.

**Writing:**



will be across all areas of the curriculum with a particular focus on reflective writing, re-crafting and editing. Students will draw on their personal experiences when they write; beginning this term with writing based on their summer holidays.

The work that was begun last year around student self assessment in writing will continue into this year. Students will continue to recraft their writing in response to written and verbal feedback. Using success criteria, the students will provide feedback on both their own writing and the writing of their peers. This approach encourages students to think critically about their writing and to craft their texts in response to a given audience and purpose.

Strong links between reading and writing will be taught and students will continue to look at texts from both the perspective of the author and the audience.

**Social Sciences/Inquiry:**

Our school wide inquiry for 2022 is ‘Growth - Looking backwards to Move Forwards’. This theme will form the basis of cross-curricular units throughout the year. The overarching idea being explored this term is ‘Personal Growth’ and this will include: having a positive mindset, taking on small challenges and stepping outside of our comfort zone, being resilient and showing empathetic behaviours that foster growth in others.



This work will support our students both academically and socially.

**Science:**

A variety of practical hands-on experiments from across the science curriculum will be carried out. These are designed to engage the students and encourage scientific questioning and skills based learning.

**Te Reo:**

The focus for term one is ‘Ko Au’. This will include phrases, sentence structures, questions and answers that can be used for simple conversations about ourselves. (e.g. pepeha, states of being, tikanga, age, greetings, whānau, and farewells)



**Kapa Haka:**

Hemi Prime will once again be teaching all Rimu students Kapa Haka on Thursday mornings from 9.10 am—9.55 am. We are all looking forward to having Hemi working with us again in 2022.

**Health:**

This term the students will be looking into our Wadestown School Values included in the ‘GROW’ acronym.

<b>G</b> RATITUDE	<b>R</b> ESILIENCE	<b>O</b> THERS	<b>W</b> ONDER
(Whakawhetai)	(Pakari)	(Whānaungatanga)	(Mīharo)



Our students will look at each value and related examples, and then unpack these as to what they ‘look, sound and feel like’ from a Rimu student perspective.

Following on from these sessions, we will devise a new set of RIMUITE values for 2022 which tie in nicely to our school GROW values.



### **Physical Education:**

The Rimu Team will begin the year exploring a range of team building and cooperative activities. This instils the concepts at the heart of all learning in Physical Education and sets the standard for the attitudes and values expected. Rimu Team Physical Education lessons will take place on a Tuesday afternoon. We aim to have fitness lessons each day, with a combined Rimu Fitness session on a Thursday morning.

Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear for these activities.

### **Arts Curriculum:**

Students will examine the techniques of a well-known artist and produce their own self-portraits using their varying styles. Informal drama activities and games aim to explore the elements of drama and develop confidence.



### **Digital Technology:**

Gmail accounts: All students have their own email address that is linked to their class teacher. These accounts are only to be used for school purposes and are monitored regularly.

To develop their computational thinking the students will begin the year using Google Classroom. The Year 6 students are familiar with this platform. They will be working alongside the Year 5 students to help familiarise them with Google Classroom features, firstly for in class use and then for homework, next term. Rimu students will be introduced to Minecraft Education which is part of our school wide professional development for 2022.

### **Financial Literacy:**

The Rimu classes will once again be using Banqer, an online educational tool that supports the teaching of financial literacy. This platform transforms the classroom into a virtual economy. Students have their own mock online bank account. This is in a safe, controlled environment where they learn about important financial concepts, including wages, paying for expenses, savings and calculating interest. At the end of each term, students have a 'Banqer Day' where they spend their hard earned money to buy fun items that the Banqer organising team have created.

### **Homework:**

This will be given out on Monday and the students work their way through the tasks and complete these by Friday. It will consist of teacher set Mathematics tasks, 15-20 minutes of daily reading, individual spelling lists, and basic facts. Book Bingo awards are available for children to work towards and gain valuable house points for each challenge they achieve. The homework is designed to be flexible and allows each student to manage and organise their time around after school commitments. Homework guidelines will come home on Monday 14 February in your child's homework book.

**Movin March** is coming soon. It is a Wellington Regional Council themed promotion to **encourage active travel to school**. The students have a 10 sticker passport held by the teachers at school and if they walk to school each day (x 10), then they earn a 'Movin March' reward.

### **On-Line Learning**

In light of students needing to be at home due to Covid-19 illness or if they are required to self-isolate, the Rimu students will be given out individual packages that contain work that can last for 10 days. This will consist of Mathematics, Reading, Writing activities, and additional home-based learning tasks from the wider curriculum. They will have their Dragon Maths book in their bag, so it is available if they need to be at home with little notice. These books will also be needed for in-class activities, so they will need to find a home in their daily school bags.

## Student Behaviour and Well-being

In the Rimu Team, we aim to encourage an environment where mistakes are viewed as a natural part of the learning process and students take the lead in solving and taking responsibility for problems. We will support students in this learning and they should come to teachers for advice in the first instance. Dealing with issues straight away ensures a resolution for all parties can be reached.

## Communication with Teachers

If you have anything you wish to discuss with your child's classroom teacher, please feel free to make contact via email and we can arrange to meet or chat on the phone. To ensure an urgent message gets to your child please do this through the school office, not the class teacher's email, as there is very little opportunity to clear emails during the school day.



Amy Maddock (Room 4, Team Leader)  
Cole Hanfling (Room 5)  
Ashleigh Kulwant (Room 6)  
Claudia Squire (Room 7)

[amy@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:amy@wadestown.school.nz)  
[cole@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:cole@wadestown.school.nz)  
[ashleigh@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:ashleigh@wadestown.school.nz)  
[claudia@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:claudia@wadestown.school.nz)

## Useful Reminders

- **Classrooms are open from 8:30 am.** Children should not be at school before 8:30 am. Arrival time between 8:30 am and 8:45 am, ensures they have enough time to organise their belongings and be ready for the 8:55 am bell. Students who arrive later than this bell must sign in at the office.
- Students are to bring a **water bottle** to school **every day**. This is so they can keep hydrated in class during the day.
- **Mobile phones** are the students' responsibility and remain in their school bag throughout the day unless specific permission has been given by a teacher.
- Please make sure all items of **school uniform are clearly named**. Without this lost items are unlikely to be returned to the owner. The children are responsible for all their items of clothing and stationery, including the retrieval of lost pieces.
- Every student is required to have a clean face mask **everyday** of the school week.
- Students bringing **scooters** to school need to **remember their helmets and licence**. New licences can be obtained through the office.
- Year 6 students doing **Road Patrol** are expected to arrive at school at 8:15 am to set up for their duty. If your child is unable to be there for their duty, please ensure that the school is informed ahead of time so we can arrange a replacement.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead with the enthusiastic children from the Rimu Team. The teachers look forward to alongside you throughout the year.

Ngā mihi nui

Amy Maddock (Team Leader), Cole Hanfling, Ashleigh Kulwant  
(Rimu Team Teachers)

Rimu Classroom Activity Donation - Term 1	
<b>Amount charged to Student Statement for 2022</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Dragon Maths Workbook	\$19.00
Mathletics subscription	\$22.00
<b>Classroom Activity Donation Total Sent (to-date)</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>



# Rimu Team Introductions

## Amy Maddock - Room 4



Kia ora whanau,

My name is Amy Maddock and I am the team leader of the Rimu Team for 2022. This is my seventh year at Wadestown school and five of those years have been in the Year 5 and 6 area.

I am married and I have a son, Max who is in Year 4. He keeps us very busy! Over the summer holidays, I took up Stand Up Paddleboarding which I absolutely love. I try to get out on it as much as I can - weather permitting of course!

I am really looking forward to working with the lovely Rimu team students and teachers this year. A year full of fun and exciting learning!

## Cole Hanfling - Room 5



Kia ora whanau,

My name is Cole Hanfling and this is my first year at Wadestown School and I'm looking forward to starting my teaching career with the amazing Wadestown School. I finished my studies last year working at Pomare School, Thorndon Primary School and Avalon Intermediate. Before that, I worked in Environmental Management after completing my degree in Geology.

I live in an apartment with my partner and two flatmates in Thorndon. I'm thrilled to be working in the fantastic Rimu team in Room 5 after a refreshing summer break.

## Ashleigh Kulwant - Room 6



Kia ora, te whānau,

My name is Ashleigh, and I teach the wonderful students of Room 6. I am one of the new staff members at Wadestown School this year, and I am so excited to be a part of this community.

I am originally from Auckland, but I moved to Wellington five years ago with my husband, and we have never looked back. Wellington has quickly become our home. I have spent my summer doing a few DIY projects - from planting a vegetable garden to building a retaining wall. I also love to get outdoors, the highlight of my summer was visiting Kapiti Island for the first time.

I am really looking forward to this year and working with all of the lovely Rimu students and staff.

## Claudia Squire - Room 7



Kia ora whanau,

My name is Claudia Squire and I am the kaiako in Room 7 this year.

I have just recently moved up from Nelson to join my partner who moved for his job. I lived in the sunny Nelson for the past two years but I am originally from Whangarei where all of my whānau live. I spent a few weeks up there over the holidays reconnecting with friends and family, surfing, beach hopping and relaxing!

I am really excited for a fun year, full of opportunities in the Rimu team for 2022.