



# Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

[www.waikaretu.school.nz](http://www.waikaretu.school.nz) [admin@waikaretu.school.nz](mailto:admin@waikaretu.school.nz) 09 2333014

## Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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[WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ](http://WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ)

Kia ora e te whaanau,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a refreshing and relaxing term break with your tamariki. This term, our students are diving into the physical world through our Science unit on Forces and Motion. Expect to hear lots of talk about push, pull, friction, and gravity as they explore how things move. Our students are also 'traveling back in time' for Social Studies. We are exploring Ancient Civilizations, uncovering the mysteries of Ancient Egypt, the innovations of the Romans, and the philosophy and democracy of the Greeks. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to see how these ancient cultures have shaped the world we live in today.

We have an action-packed calendar this term with several trips and challenges:

- **William Pike Challenge:** Our participants will be heading out for their latest outdoor activities soon—stay tuned for updates!
- **The Tough Guy & Gal Challenge:** Get ready for some mud and grit! We know our year 3-8 students are up for the challenge. We will need parent drivers for this outing!
- **Winter Sports:** Our older students will also be representing our school on the field at the Huntly West Rural Schools Cluster in Te Akau.
- **Hamilton Zoo Trip:** To wrap up the term and prep for our next term, our Koowhai students will be heading to the Zoo for a day of discovery.

With the implementation of the new curriculum this year, you may notice some shifts in how we teach, assess, and report on progress. We are committed to making these transitions as smooth as possible. Later this term, you will receive mid-year reports, and students will be busy setting their learning goals for the remainder of the year. We will send home detailed information regarding the new reporting formats shortly. In the meantime, if you would like to read more about the national changes, you can find information on the Ministry of Education's [Parent Portal](#).

As we move further into Autumn, we've noticed the temperatures are truly plummeting at night! Please look after yourselves and your whaanau during these colder months. Keeping warm, eating well, and staying on top of those winter bugs!

Ngaa manaakitanga,

Bernie Denton-van Loon  
**Principal / Tumuaki**



**Happy Birthday to Mia who turned 5 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and started school at the start of term 2.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Technology Huntly Year 7/8

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
PhotoLife

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
BoT Meeting 5.30pm

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 4-8 caving @Nikau caves

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Senior Winter Sports @ Te Akau Community Complex

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 3-8 Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge

## Friday Pie Day

Every Friday we will heat up any food the children bring (pies, sausage rolls, toasted sandwiches etc) for lunch in the pie warmer. Please let them know to give their wrapped (not clingfilm) named food to a teacher in the morning.

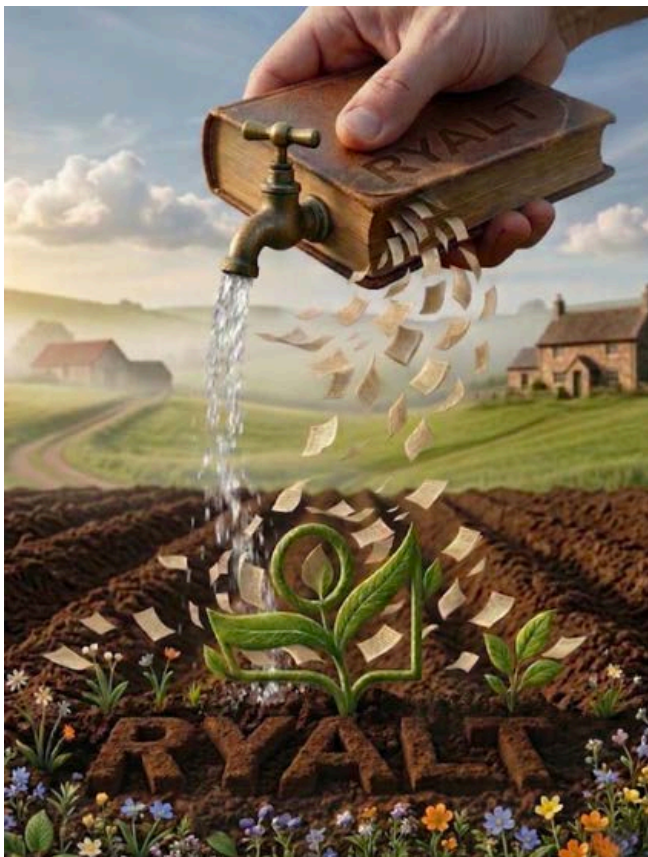


## WAIKARETU PLAYGROUP

Bring your Tamariki along for a play. Have a chat and coffee and make lasting connections with the other mothers/caregivers and the school. Please contact Catherine Hore 021 113 7770

## Community Notices

Free Reading & Writing Help - Learn from Home. Do you (or someone you know) struggle with reading or writing? Rural Youth & Adult Literacy Trust offers free, 1:1 coaching that's from the comfort of your own home (by phone or Zoom), Private and confidential, learn at your own pace. We've helped hundreds of NZ teens and adults feel more confident with reading and writing. Contact us today on 0800 891 339 or email us: [admin@adultriteracy.ac.nz](mailto:admin@adultriteracy.ac.nz)



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# Franklin Schools' Career Expo

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A Community Event  
All Welcome  
Proudly supported by Franklin Local Board

Find us on facebook > @franklinschoolscareerexpo

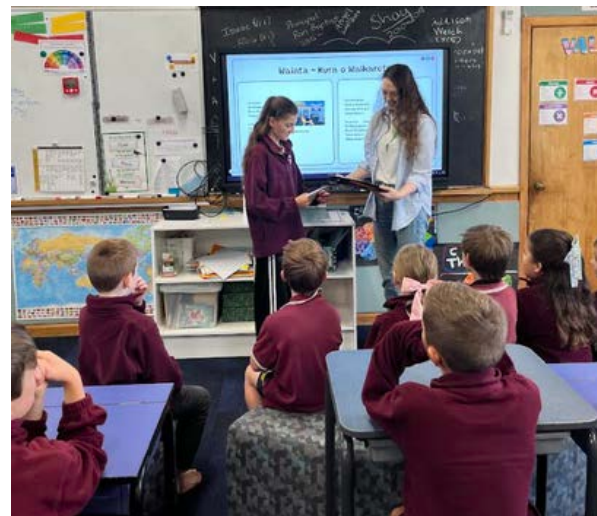
**PIA Events Centre**  
Ward Street, Pukekohe  
**Thursday 30 April, 2026**  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

**See the last page of our newsletter for our sponsors and their services.**

# Assembly & Awards 2<sup>nd</sup> April



**We farewelled Miss Whitehouse who taught at Waikaretu School during Term 1, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.**



**Caeley presented Miss Whitehouse with a card filled with messages from both students and staff.**



**Chip, Jack, Mac, Eli, Libby and Caeley received their Attendance certificates**

# Assembly & Awards 20<sup>th</sup> April



**Mac received the WAI Way band**



**The WAI Way prizes went to Jasmine and Lincoln**



**Ben, Mac, Ayla and Mia received the WAI Way assembly certificates**



**Kind  
Cooperative**

# Poohutukawa Room

**In Poohutukawa we are discovering fascinating facts about Ancient Greece and then using this new knowledge in our writing. Last week we were learning about adverbial phrases in writing, and how they add additional details to our sentence. We would love to share some of that writing with you.**

As I flew through the sky, I could see tall Ancient Temples made from sandstone. Standing there, with great power, was Mt Olympus. Greece is full of many small islands, scattered around the Aegean Sea. There are farms, abundant with grapes and olive trees. The farmers work long days, no matter the conditions of the weather. Ancient Greece is a harsh place.

**By Caeley Roberts**

I float about Ancient Greece and look down at the harsh terrain. On the outskirts of town, tall peeks stood their ground and grow olives and grapes. Men work hard, day and night, farming goats, sheep and chickens or catching fish. Life in Ancient Greece is tough.

**By Libby Lovegrove**

I flew over Ancient Greece. In boats, I saw some young fishermen. In the distance, I saw Mount Olympus, where I was headed to. I soared past great old buildings, seeing the Greeks spending the hot summer outdoors.

**By Will Marshall.**

# Garden to Table



**GARDEN**   
**TO TABLE** GROW,  
HARVEST,  
PREPARE,  
SHARE

**papadoms both “dry” and “fry”  
which was a new experience.**



**Sadly our brassicas leaves have been stripped  
by caterpillars but enough there to expect  
them to recover now the numbers of white  
butterflies have greatly reduced.  
With silverbeet the only vegetable ready in  
our garden we wilted some in a little butter  
and oil (both the chopped stems and the  
greenery) served with a simple potato curry I  
had pre prepared due to time constraints.  
Everyone had a turn at cooking.**

# Please support our newsletter sponsors

A BIG Thank You to Ngahuia Thompson, our rural mail contractor who support us with the delivery of our school newsletter and so much more.

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