



Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

www.waikaretu.school.nz admin@waikaretu.school.nz 09 2333014

Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

1448 WAIKARETU VALLEY ROAD

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WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ

Kia ora whaanau,

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see our tamariki returning to school with such big smiles and stories of their summer adventures. There is a fantastic energy in the air as we kick off the 2026 school year here at our special corner of the world.

Before we dive into the new term, I want to share some incredible news from our 2025 final assessments. Our end of year achievement results of students achieving where they should be or beyond were noteworthy with our maths achievement even at 87%.

Our students have truly outdone themselves, and these results are a testament to their and our teachers' hard work. Thank you so much for supporting your child(ren) at home as well. We are still navigating the challenges of a refreshed curriculum but we are incredibly proud of the progress our learners are making.

To ensure we have a smooth and safe start to the term, please keep the following in mind:

Swimming Gear: Please ensure your child brings their togs and towel every single day in a waterproof bag. Swimming is a vital part of our curriculum, especially in these warmer months.

Sun Safety: Students must have their sun hats for all outdoor activities. No hat, no play! We also encourage applying sunscreen before school and bringing their own named lotion to school for in the afternoons, especially after swimming. We do keep spare sun lotion at school and remind student to use it when needed but it helps for our whaanau to encourage their tamariki as well.

School Guide: Our 2026 school guide will be published soon. Make sure you have a read of this to familiarise yourself with practical processes and contact information as there are some small changes to last year.

Fees: If you haven't had a chance to settle camp or uniform fees yet, please pop into the office and see us or email us to set up a payment plan—we're happy to help.

I'm looking forward to another brilliant year of growth, learning, and community spirit.

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



Swimming.

Please remember to bring togs and a towel every day in a waterproof bag.

Our School News In Full Bloom



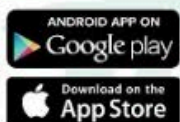
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IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday 15th February
School Working Bee
9am-1pm

Thursday 19th February
BOT Meeting 5.30pm

Friday 20th February
School Picnic 5-7pm

Tuesday 24th February
Technology Huntly Year 7/8

25th-27th February
Senior Leadership Camp

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.



Community Notices

Mr Motorcycles trail bike ride

1st March 9am at the hall.

This is a major fundraiser for our community and school.

Volunteers required.

Please contact Tom Whitford for more details on 027 2707773

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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

WAIKARETU SCHOOL

We are a full primary school, catering for students years 1-8.

Our dedicated team of teachers is passionate about helping your child grow and thrive. We can offer all the benefits of small classroom sizes in a beautiful, rural setting.

Enrol Now for 2026

[www.https://www.waikaretu.school.nz](https://www.waikaretu.school.nz)

1448 Waikaretu Valley Road

09 2333014

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

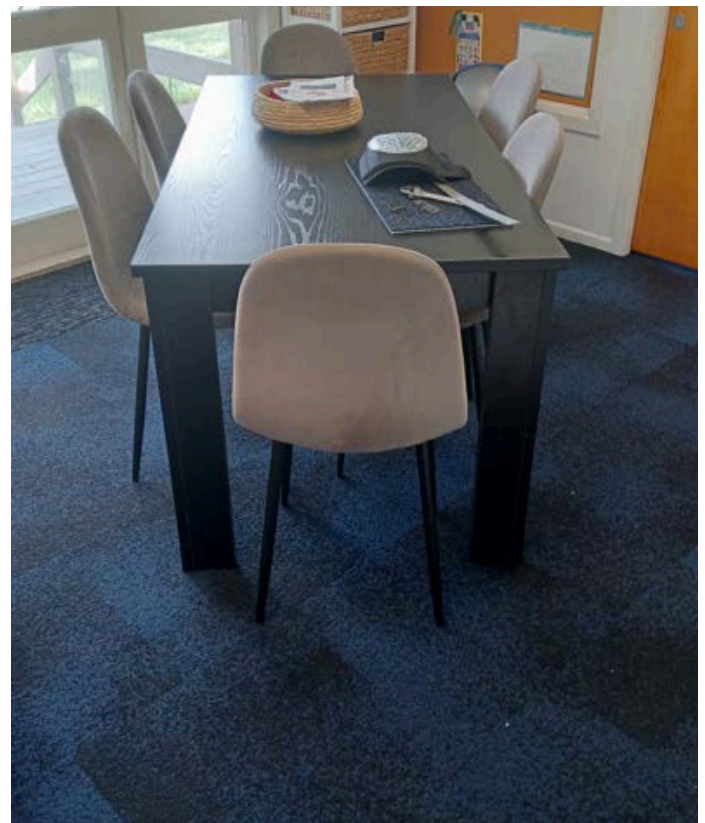
School Upgrade and Working Bee

The Board was very busy last year organising plans to upgrade our school. The builders have been very busy over the summer holidays so that the outdoor flow would be completed with roofs over the deck. We now have an outdoor learning and lunch eating space extension that also provides shade and shelter.

On top of that, the classrooms and cloakbay have fresh new vinyl plus the library, staffroom and office spaces now have new carpet. Last but not least, the classrooms enjoy the air conditioning of two newly installed units to keep our students fresh of mind during their learning.

What else is coming? Well, we are excited to have a clean and functional space to store our PE gear soon. It will be well placed logistically, right next to the courts. Thanks to our volunteers for pouring the concrete and installing this. The kids will be so thrilled with it!

There are a few smaller items around the school that need some yearly maintenance so, if you have some time, please join us for a fun working bee on Sunday 15th February from 9am to 1pm.



SUMMER FUN



Miss Wren Cassidy Gerrand

We're delighted to share that our daughter, Wren Cassidy Gerrand, arrived safe and well on the 17th of December. We're completely smitten and soaking up life as a very happy family of three. Thank you to everyone who has dropped in, waved us down, or stopped on the road to say hello. It's been nice seeing all your faces again. - Miss Cassidy

it's a girl



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

'Young at Art Term 1 children, teen and adult art classes are now open for. Our regular after school and home school art classes run for 9 weeks for 6-8yrs, 9-12yrs and 13yrs+ in Pukekohe. This term we also have our specialist Dynamic drawing 4x week course on Thursdays. Adult classes run regularly on Wednesday evenings (6.30pm-8.00pm for 6x weeks) & we also offer workshops in painting, resin and face painting. For more information or to book, please check out:

**www.youngatart.co.nz or email:
admin@youngatart.co.nz**



ART CLASSES

CHILDREN - TWEENS - TEENS - ADULTS

Inspire your budding Picasso!

Explore different art techniques with exciting and vibrant projects using a variety of mediums.

After school - Holidays - Arty Parties

www.youngatart.co.nz

admin@youngatart.co.nz

Please support our newsletter sponsors

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

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Open Wednesday to Sunday

Thank you

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Community Association Inc.

for your continuing support of
Waikaretu School



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