



# Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

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## Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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

Kia ora koutou,

A reminder that our Three-Way Interviews are coming up next week. These conversations are a fantastic opportunity for our tamariki to lead the way, sharing their progress and taking ownership of their education.

This term, our discussions are strongly aligned with the Ministry of Education's national priorities. We are focusing heavily on three key pillars that require a true partnership between school and home:

- **Setting Clear Learning Goals:** During the interviews, students, teachers, and parents will collectively lock in specific learning goals for next term. Knowing exactly what they are aiming for helps our kids stay motivated and tracking forward.
- **Prioritising Attendance:** Every day counts. The Ministry has a clear focus on improving attendance nationwide, and for good reason—even missing just a few days a term can create gaps in a child's foundational learning. We want to see all our tamariki here every single day they are healthy and well.
- **Helping at Home:** Learning doesn't stop at the school gate. Simple habits at home—like reading together, chatting about daily maths in life, or checking in on their weekly learning—make a massive difference in your child's academic confidence.

Mid-Year reports will go out this Friday, in time for you to have a chat before the Three Way Interviews with your child about what they may want to choose as learning goals in each of the curriculum areas in the near future. Please see the Ministry of Education [parent portal](#) for more information about how you can support your child at home with their learning.

Please make sure you have booked your interview slot through the school office or our Skoolloop app. Your presence means the world to your children and their success at school!

Ngaa manaakitanga,

Bernie Denton-van Loon  
Principal / Tumuaki





## **PHOTOLIFE**

**Student photos are now live and ready to view and order.**

**Keycodes will be sent via email. As this is a new system, please check your junk, spam, or promotions folders, in case the message was filtered.**

**Free delivery applies to orders placed before midnight on Sunday, 14 June 2026.**

**Happy Birthday Margo who turns 8 on the 13th of June**



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Tuesday 16th June  
Year 7/8 Technology Huntly**

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

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
BOT Meeting 5:30pm**

**Monday 15th June and  
Thursday 18th June  
Three-way conferences**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Matariki Evening**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
School Term 2 ends**



## **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, fathers, or caregivers at the school. Please contact Catherine Hore 021 113 7770

**Community Notices**

**SCHOOL MATARIKI EVENING**

Wednesday 1 July at Weraroa Marae. More information will be provided closer to the date. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Everyone is welcome!

We look forward to seeing you there.

**HOT NEWS, COLD DAYS**  
Download Our School App  
This Winter

**With our Skool Loop app!**  
Download today to keep up to date with school information. Notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

**Simple free download**  
Scan the QR code or In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
THE  
**GREAT WAIKATO CRITTERS COMP 2026**  
KIDS HUNTING COMPETITION

**POSSUMS RATS TURKEYS**

**26<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**GET READY FOR AN EPIC WEEKEND OF ADVENTURE!**

**FULL LIST OF CATEGORIES TO COME!** **SPONSOR LIST TO COME!** **DETAILS TO COME!**

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**  
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ENTRY INFO, RULES AND PRIZES.

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

# Assembly & Awards 8<sup>th</sup> June



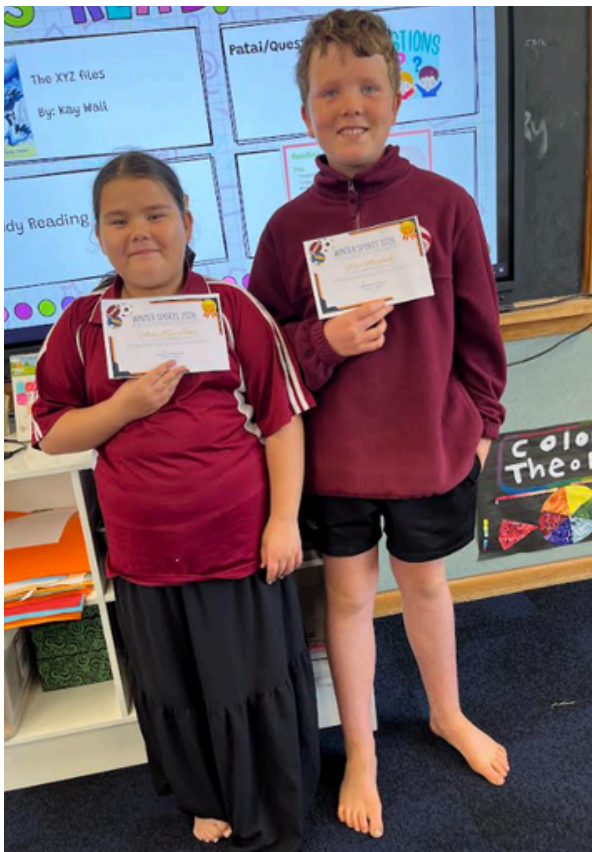
Sienna, Jasmine and Ayden received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



The WAI Way prizes went to Libby and Mason.

## Kind Compassionate

- I use kind words
- I am supportive of others
- I understand the impact of my actions



## WINTER SPORTS 2026 AWARDS

From Te Akau School, Aria received the year 6-8 most outstanding round three soccer player certificate and Will received the year 6-8 most outstanding round five ripper player certificate for their efforts in the Senior Winter Sports. Well done!

# Poohutukawa Room, Life in Athens

There I was, at only 12 years old, a young Spartan warrior with no fear. My friend and I were in a group of 20 people and we had to survive in the bush for five days with only our knowledge. It was a harsh task, but we were confident that we could manage. The first couple of days were fine, but it was the last two days that were challenging.

## **The 5 Day Survival Challenge**

On the first day we were put into groups of five. Luckily, me and my friend were together. The first challenge was to build a camp area to sleep in. Then we had to collect wood for the fire and to make weapons. First we made a bow and some arrows. It was a tough challenge but we pushed through. After that, we went hunting for food and to collect water on the way.

## **Pushing Through the Challenge**

We came back with an average sized pig. Then one of the kids cooked it over a fire, no joke, he is not a bad cook. We cut it up with a makeshift knife I had made. It was a delicious meal, if only we could have had it every night. Then we found a river and made a fishing rod. No luck on the first couple of attempts. But then it was all on, my friend just hooked a big one. It was a good size.

## **The Last Two Days**

The river was 300 metre away from the camp, so it was a bit of a hike back. When we got there, we cooked the fish. Delicious yet again! But then disaster struck and we couldn't catch any food for a day. The terrible weather made the pigs hide from us. How would we survive?

**By Levi Dawson**

I woke up in Athens. There were a few thoughts in my huge brain. First I needed to get rich, so my family could get healthy. My idea was to gather sand and put it into my old furnace. Next I would make glasses and once that was done I would make a big farm. The farm would have crops and paddocks.

First I gathered sand in a highly engineered wheelbarrow. My first go at making glasses was bad but after a while they got better. Two months later, I set up my risky stand. Soon I made a small nugget of pure gold and got some grape seeds. I made a small garden and before I knew it I had a few grapes. I got some olive seeds and grape seeds and 10 planks of wood. I started to sell food, like bread and grapes. It was hard to make 13 garden boxes but it was worth it because I could buy a big crop and I hired 33 farmers and gardeners. They planted the crop.

One year later, it was time for my crops to be harvested. I got a big house and yummy food from the crop. I bought pigs to mix up the soil, a paddock of goats and started milking and got milk and cheese. It took a long time to get a bigger shop where I could sell more glasses. I made another furnace using clay from the river.

**By Jack Marshall**

# Garden to Table



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

# July Holiday Activities

## Edventure Hamilton Holiday Programmes and Camp

Join us these school holidays for exciting activities, themed days, adventures, and unforgettable outdoor experiences! Including a week long outdoors based camp

Our Hamilton Holiday Programmes are based at Berkley School and offer a range of fun-filled activities to keep children engaged, active, and entertained throughout the holidays. Programmes from just \$55 per day, with OSCAR subsidies available.

### Holiday Programmes include:

- Edventure Everyday
- Edventure Outdoors
- D&D workshops

We're also excited to be running our popular Edventure Outdoors Camp, based at Ngamuwahine Outdoor Education Centre, packed with adventure activities, teamwork, and outdoor fun. Transport pick-ups are available from both Hamilton and Tauranga.

Book now at [www.edventure.co.nz](http://www.edventure.co.nz)

### Locations:

 Berkley School - Hamilton

 Ngamuwahine Outdoor Education Centre

 Pick-ups available from Hamilton & Tauranga

### Downloading the Skool Loop app a step by step guide



NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?  
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379



Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

#### To subscribe to groups as an existing user:

1. Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
2. Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
3. Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
4. You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

# 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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WAIKARETU NEW ZEALAND



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Thank you   
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**Community Association Inc.**  
for your continuing support of  
Waikaretu School




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