



# 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 koutou,

As we head into the final week of Term 2, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a successful term it has been. From getting stuck into the mud at our recent Mud Run to exploring the wildlife on our Hamilton Zoo trip, our students have made some wonderful memories.

Behind the scenes, there has been some fantastic academic growth too. Our Maths Acceleration sessions with selected students have been a huge success, supporting our students to stretch their learning. At the same time, our teaching team has been working hard behind the scenes, integrating the Refreshed Curriculum into our daily classrooms to ensure your children are getting the very best education possible. We're also excited to let you know that we welcome back Miss Hannah Cassidy in Koowhai Room as of term 3!

Thank you to everyone who has already attended our Three-Way Interviews. These conversations are vital, as they allow us to set collaborative goals to support your child's learning journey. If you weren't able to make it, please make an appointment with your child's classroom teacher for a time after school that suits you.

As we emerge out of the winter solstice—the longest night of the year—we turn our attention to the reappearance of the Matariki star cluster. Traditionally, for Maaori people, this mid-winter moment was celebrated after the seasonal crops were gathered and storehouses were full. It was a time to share the bounty of the harvest, feast with whaanau, and give thanks. Not too dissimilar festivities took place (and still do) in Northern Europe during Yule, where some of my Viking ancestors for example, embraced the beginning of warmer days with songs, good food and celebrations of light.

To honour Matariki, we invite our entire community to celebrate the Maaori New Year with us next Wednesday at the Weraroa Marae (students to be there by 5.15pm, everyone else is welcome from 5.30pm). Please bring a plate of finger food to share. We cannot wait to see you there to celebrate, connect, and reflect before a well-deserved term break.

Ngaa manaakitanga,

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



## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 30th June  
Year 7/8 Technology Huntly

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

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
School Term 3 Starts

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August  
Waikaretu School Cross  
Country

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
Teacher Only Day

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Teacher Only Day

## 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.



**Happy Birthday Will  
who turns 12 on the 28th  
of July**





**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 @ 5:30pm at Weraroa Marae. Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Everyone is welcome!

We look forward to seeing you there.

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

# Assembly & Awards 15<sup>th</sup> June



Aria, Mia and Mac received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



The WAI Way prizes went to Mac and Eli.

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## Brave Courageous

- I try new things
- I can share my ideas
- I stand up for those that don't have a voice

# Assembly & Awards 22nd June



Caeley and Ben received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



The WAI Way prizes went to Ayla and Jasmine.



Margo, Ayden and Will received their WAI Way bands.

**HOT NEWS, COLD DAYS**  
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# Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge



On Wednesday the 17th June an enthusiastic bunch of Year 3-8 students ventured to the Ngaaruawahia Christian Camp to attend the Tough Guy & Gal Mud Run and it truly lived up to its name; it was very muddy!



Our students had a fantastic time, represented our kura with pride and showed the Wai Way through their bravery and courage to give anything a go.



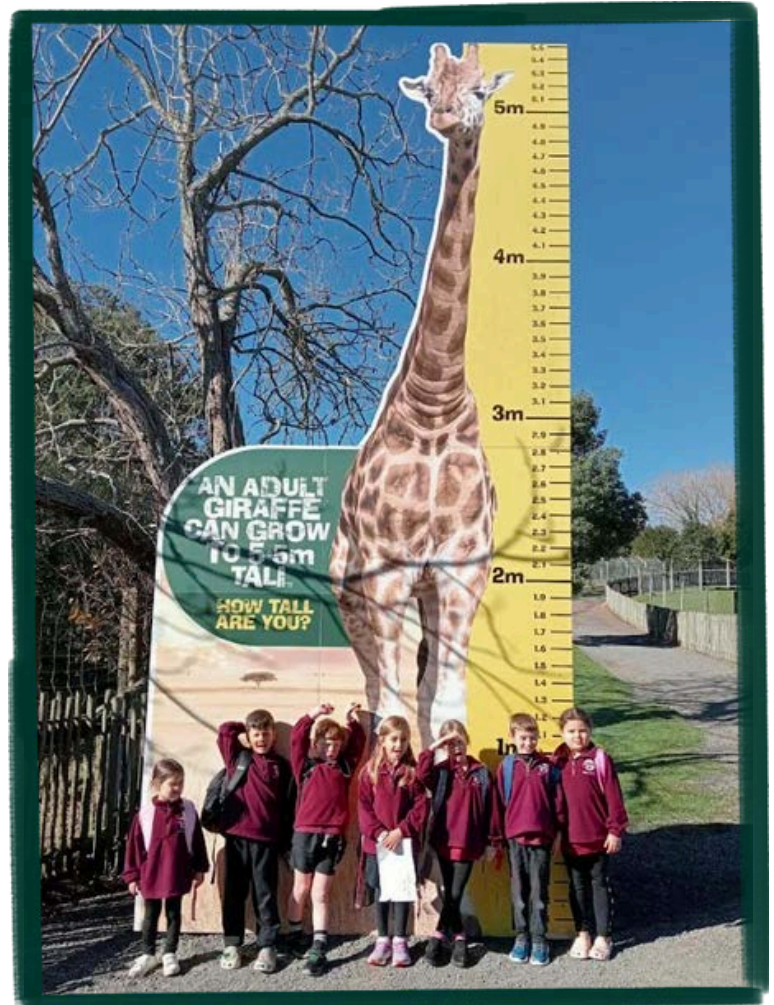
They had to run, slip, walk, crawl, and slide their way through the course, along with hundreds of other students from around the area. Thank you to Hayley, Emily, Catherine and Stacey for helping us transport the children to and from the event.

# Junior Tough Guy and Gal Challenge



# Koowhai Room Hamilton Zoo Trip

Our Koowhai class went to the Hamilton Zoo to learn about animals, their habitat and how we can be kaitiaki (guardians) for animals, especially those who are endangered. We had loads of fun doing so. Here are some snapshots of our day.



# Poohutukawa Room

In Poohutukawa Class we have been delving into Algebra. We are creating patterns, posing questions for our classmates to solve and working out how to solve algebraic equations. We are learning that in algebra, when we don't know what a number is yet, we use a letter (like  $x$ ,  $y$ , or  $a$ ) as a mask.

These letters are called variables because the number hiding behind them can vary (change). We are also discovering that the most important rule in algebra is that the equals sign ( $=$ ) acts like a perfectly balanced playground see-saw. Whatever is on the left side has to weigh the exact same as whatever is on the right side. If the scale is balanced, and you add a block to one side, it tilts!

To keep it balanced, you have to do the exact same thing to both sides.

Here are some photos of our pattern creating session where we had to create continuing patterns and then figure out the monetary value of our pattern - combining algebra and financial literacy in one!



# July Holiday Activities



Looking for something fun & creative to entertain your children these holidays?  
Consider a **Young at Art** workshop!



**PK1, OUTSTANDING OWLS, Mixed Media on canvas (6 yrs+) - Pukekohe**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 9.00am - 12.00pm

Using a variety of different mediums including paint and interesting papers to create your own outstanding owl on canvas.

Tutor: *Kirsty McGregor*

Cost: \$57.50 incl. GST & all materials



**PK2, CUPCAKES ON CANVAS, (8 -17yrs) - Pukekohe**

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Design your own creative cupcake and learn how to use acrylic paints and how to add form, light and depth to your work.

Tutor: *Kirsty McGregor*

Cost: \$57.50 incl. GST & all materials



**PK3, COOL CATS, Printing (6 yrs+)**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 9.00am - 12.00pm

Create an interesting and painterly backgrounds, then a create a super cool cat with pattern to create stunning block prints.

Tutor: *Kirsty McGregor*

Cost: \$57.50 incl. GST & all materials



**PK4, TIE DYE & TOTE BAGS (8yrs - 17yrs)**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Tie dye your own t-shirt or pillowcase and then create your own personal design to paint on to a tote bag.

*\*Please note tote bags will be provided along with a piece of fabric for the Tie Dye project. If your child would like to bring along a t-shirt or pillowcase to tie dye they are welcome too. We suggest 100% cotton or as much cotton content as possible for the best results*

Tutor: *Kirsty McGregor*

Cost: \$57.50 incl. GST & all materials



**FOR BOOKINGS OR MORE INFO:**

[www.youngatart.co.nz](http://www.youngatart.co.nz) or [admin@youngatart.co.nz](mailto:admin@youngatart.co.nz) / Mob No. 0297 712 923  
HOME STUDIO, 117 Valley Rd, Pukekohe (side entrance)

*Holidays, Term Time and Arty Parties.  
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# Onewhero Thunder Basketball Club

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## Onewhero Thunder Basketball Club

**Term 3 Expressions of Interest are now open!**  
**5 yrs-18 years old**  
**No experience necessary.**



For more info: [onewherothunder@gmail.com](mailto:onewherothunder@gmail.com)



Onewhero Thunder Basketball Club



Franklin Basketball Association



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## NOR-WEST FENCING

Keith Marshall  
027 317 4657 or 07 825 4458  
[nor-west@outlook.com](mailto:nor-west@outlook.com)



## WELCH SHEARING

WAIKARETU, NZ

Mobile: 021 776 486

[Emilywelch648@gmail.com](mailto:Emilywelch648@gmail.com)

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