



Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

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Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ

Kia ora everyone,

Can you believe we are already at the halfway point of Term 1? On top of an excellent start to the year in teaching and learning, we have already had a few events happen:

Thank you to all parents and whaanau that made it to our Whaanau / Meet the Teacher picnic afternoon. It sounded like everyone enjoyed a good time with some delicious shared kai and family games.

Our years 5-8 students recently returned from their Senior Leadership Camp, and by all accounts, it was a triumph of grit and teamwork. These camps are such a vital part of our school culture, designed to push our senior students out of their comfort zones through, for example, navigating team challenges that require collaborative thinking and decision making, stepping up to physical challenges, even when the nerves kick in, and seeing our oldest students step into their roles as kaitiaki (guardians) for the younger students.

As some of you noticed from my somewhat ungraceful "hopping" presence at the gate one morning last week, I was devastated to miss camp this year due to a broken ankle. While I was stuck home elevating my leg and living vicariously through the photos, I knew the students were in the best hands possible. A massive thank you to Mrs. Roberts and Sam Welch for stepping up. Taking a group of energetic seniors on camp is no small feat, and we are so lucky to have staff and community members willing to give up their time (and sleep!) to make these memories happen for our kids.

Then, I would like to give a huge shout-out to everyone who supported the Mr Motorcycles Bike Ride last Sunday! Whether you were riding, marshalling, or flipping sausages, your efforts make a world of difference. This event is a staple for our rural community, and the funds raised go directly toward local initiatives, including much needed school resources. It's always heartening to see our "small but mighty" community come together like this.

This Friday, our year 4-8 students will attend the Huntly West Rural Schools Senior Swimming Sports. This will be at the pools in Huntly this year. I wish our students all the best in their swimming efforts and I hope they have a tonne of fun, catching up with their friends from the other schools in the cluster.

In any case, we hit the ground running in Term 1 and it's true that time flies when you're having fun. For now, enjoy the sunshine while it's out there!

Nгаа Manaakitanga,

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



Swimming.

Weather permitting, we will continue swimming until the end of term. Please remember to bring your togs and a towel every day in a waterproof bag.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 6th March
Year 4-8 Swimming Sports

Tuesday 10th March
Technology Huntly Year 7/8

Thursday 19th March
BOT Meeting 5.30pm

Monday 23rd March
Science Roadshow in Tuakau

Thursday 2nd April
School Term 1 ends

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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

A BIG Thank You to everyone who helped out at the Mr Motorcycles bike ride last Sunday.

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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.

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Assembly & Awards



Caeley, Ayden, Levi and Nelly received the WAI Way assembly certificates on the 13th February



The WAI Way prizes went to Aria, Eli and Jack on the 13th of February



Jack, Sienna, Lincoln and Will received the WAI Way assembly certificates week 3 the 20th of February



Caeley, Libby and Mac received the WAI Way prizes 20th of February

Brave Leadership

- I make the right choice
- I am responsible for my choices
- I consider how my choices affect others



Mason and Ayla received the Assembly Certificates on the 27th of February

Senior Leadership Camp 25th-27th February

LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES IN THE B.O.P.

On Wednesday 25th February our Year 5-8 students headed off on a fantastic adventure to the Bay of Plenty. Our first stop was at the Matamata Domain to stretch our legs and play on the playground. Next we arrived at Rocktopia in Tauranga. Here we were challenged with various climbing activities that pushed us out of our comfort zone, but being the courageous Waikaretu Kids that we are, we accepted the challenge!

The final leg of this journey saw us arrive at the Oohope Top Ten Holiday Park, home for the next two nights. We spent all afternoon in the pool and on the hydrosides. That night we made our own pizza's, which were delicious and then proceeded to scare ourselves silly in the dark on the beach.

Thursday was an action packed day, beginning with breakfast (including making our own packed lunch) then we jumped in the van and headed to our meeting point to begin our 3.5 hour hike through the Oohope bush with Helen from the Whakataane Kiwi Trust. We pushed our muscles in both our legs and our brains as we hiked the ridgeline and learnt about kiwi trapping and tracking, using a compass and a microscope. We enjoyed a quick picnic lunch in the shade before heading to our next activity of paddleboarding and wharf jumping in the Oohope Harbour with the Takutai Adventure Company. We took on this challenge like professionals, all standing up on our boards and all taking giant leaps off the wharf.

Next it was back to the pool, hydroslide and spa for more fun, followed by the jumping pillow and then a sand sculpture/creation challenge on the beach. Dinner that night was Fish and Chips and the evening entertainment began with feeding seagulls but Mrs Roberts had rules for how this was to proceed. Chips must be placed between our toes for the seagulls to take! What a show of patience and determination this was and great entertainment for people passing by, looking at all these children with chips between their toes.

After a camp quiz, more jumping pillow time and plenty of ice cream, we headed back to the beach for spotlight/go home stay home - Waikaretu Style. Friday arrived and it was time to pack up. After a quick game of beach cricket and more time on the jumping pillow, we set off. Our first break was at The Lakes Playground in Tauriko then we pushed onwards to the Rangiriri Icecream shop before arriving back at School.

A wonderful camp with wonderful students, who all pushed themselves and encouraged each other to take on all the challenges presented to them!! Thank you to Sam for stepping in and helping out at the last minute, much appreciated. PS Parents, Mrs Roberts wanted to let you know that the children excelled at making their own lunches, keeping their rooms tidy and at doing dishes!

Senior Leadership Camp



Senior Leadership Camp



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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