Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

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Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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Kia ora whaanau,

With less than a month left of Term 4, the energy around our kura is leading up to excitement for the end of the year! Our students have sat their assessments for the year and our teachers are busy writing reports. I want to commend our students and our teachers for their incredible efforts and wonderful things they have accomplished. Here are a few reflections of the past two weeks of this mahi:

It was wonderful to welcome several prospective families through our doors during Open Week who are looking to enrol for 2027. If you know of any families still considering their options for next year, please let them know it is certainly not too late to enrol! Visitors are more than welcome to pop in over the next couple of weeks to see our normal classroom routines in action.

A massive congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 students who recently travelled to The Gardens School in Auckland to compete in the EPro8 engineering semi-finals. Facing off against 11 other schools from across the South/East Auckland and Franklin region, the tension in the room was high, but our tamariki did us proud. They showed incredible perseverance, teamwork, and problem-solving skills under pressure.

Our Year 4–8 students also had a fantastic day out at Glen Massey School for our annual Huntly West rural schools cluster athletics day. While we are still waiting on the final official results to come through, there is no doubt that the vast majority of our students came away with placings across the different disciplines. A personal highlight of the day for me was the relays. Seeing schools combine within year levels to form teams alongside our friends from neighbouring schools is true sportsmanship in action. The crowd always goes bananas during those races, and it never fails to put a huge smile on my face.

Now it is the little ones' turn! Our junior students are heading off to Ruawaro Combined School this Friday for their sports day—we wish them a bucket load of fun!
With the final stretch of 2026 in sight, our focus is now turning toward preparations for our end-of-year play and prizegiving. With plenty happening between now and the end of the term, please keep a close eye on upcoming events and dates before the year wraps up. We can't wait to celebrate a wonderful year with you all!

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



Waikaretu playgroup is starting up again!

We're excited to get Waikaretu Playgroup up and running again and would love to welcome some new faces! 💛

We'll meet every second Thursday at Waikaretu School, from 9.30am–12.30pm. The school has fabulous facilities for the kids to explore and play, and it'll be a super relaxed, casual morning for everyone — with a coffee for the grown-ups too! ☕

📅 Our first playgroup will be Thursday 5th November, 9.30am–12.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, so pop along or get in touch if you'd like to know more. We'd love to see some new faces and build a lovely playgroup in our Waikaretu community 💛

For more information, please contact Jess Lourie
027 367 2837



IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 20th November
Year 0-3 Junior Sports Day
Ruawaro School

Tuesday 24th November
Year 7⁄8 Technology Huntly

Wednesday 25th November
BOT Meeting

Thursday 10th December
Waikaretu School Prize giving
5pm Waikaretu Hall

Friday 11th December
Last Day Term 4 & School reports go home

Tuesday 2nd February 2027
Term 1 Starts





Community Notices

Garden to Table Tomato Seedlings for sale

Tomato seedlings $3.00

Varieties for sale;

- Organic Tomato Rosella
- Rainbow cherry blend
- Albenga Oxheart
- Organic copia will be ready in a couple of weeks

Please email Waikaretu School for more information.



Friday Pie Day

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

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our Skool Loop app:



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

Assembly & Awards 6th November



The WAI Way prizes went to Lincoln and Mac.



Ayla, Jasmine, Will and Eli received the WAI Way assembly certificates.

Respect

Appreciation

- I can use my manners
- I can celebrate others' success
- I am mindful of my surroundings



Ayla and Ayden received their WAI Way bands.

Cluster Athletics 13th November

Senior Athletics Day at Glen Massey School

Our Year 4–8 students gave it their all at this week's Athletics Day, showing fantastic determination and sportsmanship across every track and field event. From tightly contested sprints and relays to impressive efforts in the high jump, long jump, discus, and shot put, it was great to see everyone cheering each other on and striving for personal bests.

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers, and whaanau on the sidelines for helping the day run so smoothly. Congratulations to all our students; we are so proud of your efforts!

















We had a small group today with a couple of younger students. The weather was awful so the students spent time inside making blini and sowing some sprouted seeds and garlic. We finished with a bit of weeding; the comfrey has gone into growth mode and is now flowering.

Blinis

20 @ 50mm
3 tblsp warm water
1/2 tsp dried yeast
1/4 tsp sugar
Mix together and set aside until foamy.
1/3 cup flour
1/3 cup buckwheat flour
1/8 tsp salt
1/2 tsp sugar
Mix well together.

1/3 cup milk
30 gram unsalted butter
1 large egg
canola spray
Beat together then add yeast mixture and stir all into the dry ingredients.
Cover and rise to double volume.
Cook as pikelets.









EPro8 Engineering Challenge

Year 7 & 8 South/East Auckland & Franklin Semi-Finals

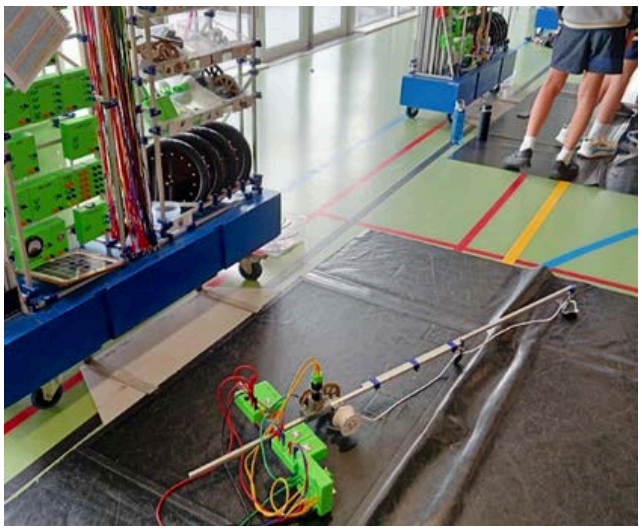




A huge congratulations to our team of four Year 7 and 8 students:
Eli Welch
Caeley Roberts
Will Marshall
Jasmine Grove

Our Waikaretu School team represented our school at the South/East Auckland & Franklin semi-finals! Going up against the top contenders from across the wider region, the competition was fierce and the standard was exceptionally high.

Despite the tough draw, our team rose to the occasion—showing incredible grit, resilience, and teamwork from start to finish. They never backed down from a challenge and represented our school values with pride. Ka pai, team—we are so proud of your efforts!





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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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