Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

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Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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Kia ora koutou,

As always, Term 4 is flying by, so please make sure to check our important dates to keep track of all the upcoming events.

A gentle reminder that our School Open Week is running through until the end of this week. Everyone in our community is warmly invited to pop in, meet our lovely staff and wonderful students, and see our school in action! We are also very excited to welcome a few new 5-year-olds who have started with us this term—it is fantastic to see our school whaanau growing.

We have plenty of exciting activities on the horizon, including Senior Athletics and a visit from the Life Education Trust. A huge congratulations is also in order for our talented Year 7 & 8 team, who won the Franklin Schools Zone EPro8 engineering competition! They are now heading off to compete in the semi-finals at The Gardens School in Auckland—we wish them luck! Thank you to Mr Denton for coaching our students and leaving some engineering tricks and tips for our students prior to the event.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to share that we are expanding our school transport route for 2027. If you have a child starting next year, get in early! Any pre-enrolments for 2027 completed by November 12th 2026, will go into the draw to win a food and drink voucher for Te Karaka Station & Lodge. Please check our community notices in this newsletter for more details.

In the classroom, our older students have been learning about voting and why we must never take our democracy for granted. On that note, exercising your right to vote is vital: our school will be hosting a polling booth this Saturday, November 7th, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM for anyone who hasn't voted yet.

Before we know it, we'll be wrapping up the year with our end-of-year production and Christmas songs. Hang in there!

Ngaa manaakitanga

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



Prizegiving Trophies

If you have a trophy from our 2025 School Prizegiving, please return it to the school as soon as possible!
Thank You!





IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 10th November
Year 7-8 E-Pro 8 Semi-final

Friday 13th November
Senior Athletics Day
Glen Massey School

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

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

Friday 11th December
Last Day Term 4

Tuesday 2nd February 2027
Term 1 Starts





Community Notices

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 💛



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:



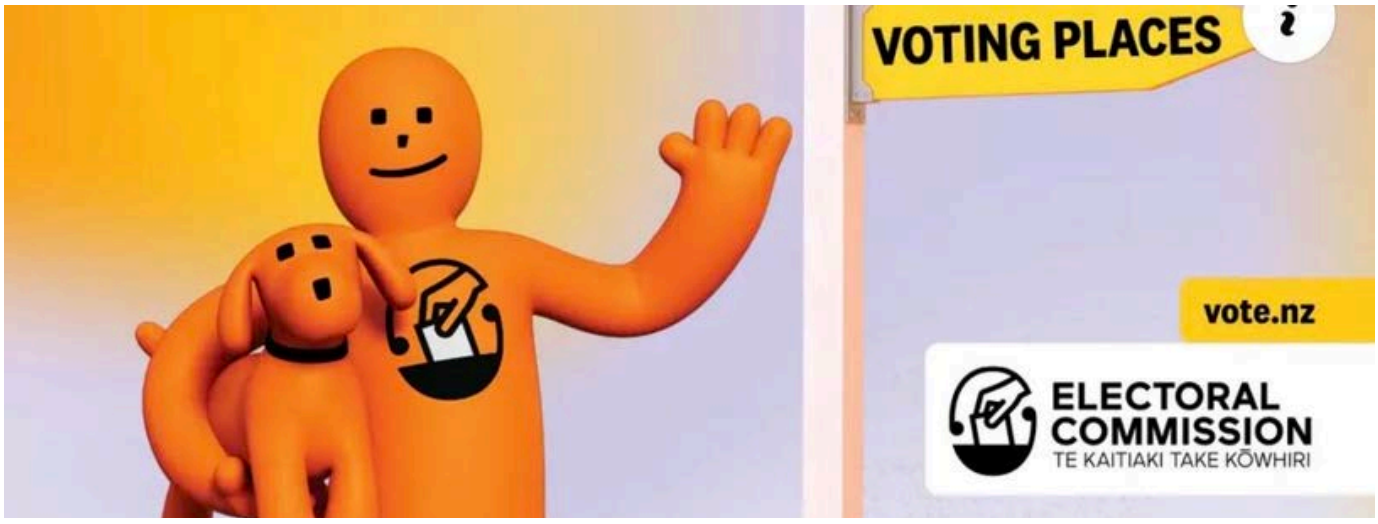
See the last page of our newsletter for more of our sponsors and their services.

Community Notices





Waikaretu School will be open for voting on Saturday 7th November from 9.00 am until 7.00 pm.



Assembly & Awards 23rd October



The WAI Way prizes went to Nelly and Eli.



Aria, Anastasia, Margo, Mac and Ayden received the WAI Way assembly certificates.

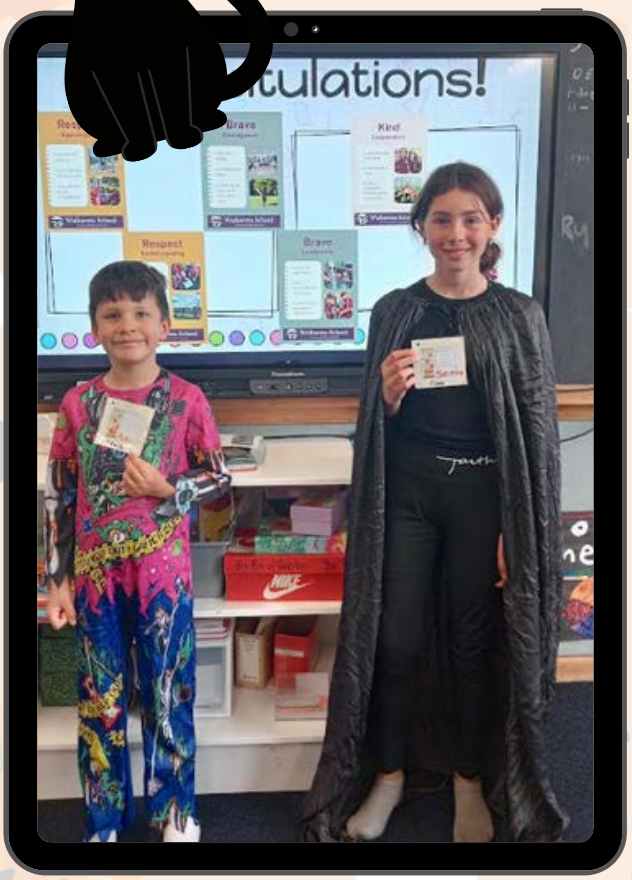
Ayden went to group day at Te Kauwhata. It was a great turn out with only two boys within the group; both boys did very well up against the girls!



Ayden placed 1st for rearing, 4th for leading, 4th for most obvious, 5th for best of 3. Congratulations and well done Ayden!

Halloween Assembly & Awards 30th October





The WAI Way prizes went to Ayden and Jasmine.



Caeley, Nelly and Raiatea received the WAI Way assembly certificates.

EPro8 Engineering Challenge

On 22nd October, our years 5&6 and 7&8 teams went to the Franklin regional competition of the Epro8 Engineering competition at St Joseph School in Pukekohe.

We are so proud to announce that they're off to the SEMI-FINALS in Auckland! Both teams did really well at ther regional competition at St Joseph School in Pukekohe. In E-pro-8 enginnering students require a high standard of skills in the following domains:

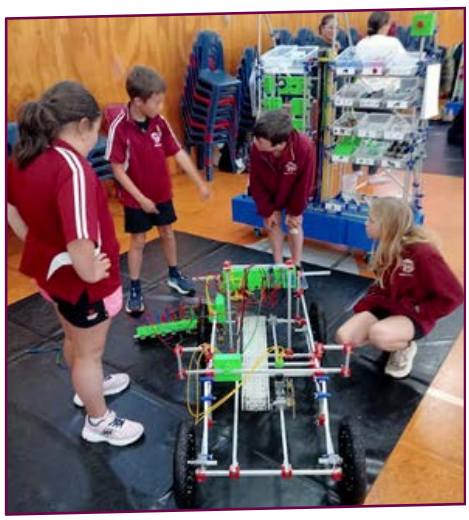
* teamwork
* maths
* technology
* science













In the end our year 5 & 6 team placed 4th and our year 7 & 8 team came first. For the first time in 5 years, we've taken home a trophy! That means that our Intermediate School team is heading to the semi-finals on the 10th November. Little School - Big Dreams are coming true!

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