



Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

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Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

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WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ

Kia ora koutou,

I can't believe it is the final term of the year already. We have a great line-up of learning and events ahead. But, first I like to congratulate our students and thank our community.

Recently, 4 students represented our school at the Police Physical Competency Test (PCT) or the Blue Light Challenge. Competing against 28 other schools in the Franklin area, they took home 3rd place! Not bad for a small school! We are incredibly proud of our students' grit, teamwork, and determination.

Our recent Quiz Night at the Glen Murray Hall was a resounding success! Beyond being a fantastic, fun-filled evening for our community, events like this play a vital role in creating equitable opportunities for our students, ensuring our small school can offer rich and well-resourced learning experiences. I like to thank our generous sponsors who donated incredible prizes and support, our wider community members who bought raffle tickets, joined in the fun, and continuously stand behind our school and our amazing parents working tirelessly behind the scenes—from setting up and organising logistics to running the night smoothly.

We started the term with our annual Pet Day. This is always a highlight on our school calendar, and this year's event was truly special with the sun shining upon us. Our students' creativity on display inside the classrooms was outstanding. It was wonderful to see students proudly showcasing their pet lambs, goats, and other animals. The cake auction was a massive hit! A huge shoutout to all the dads (and maybe a few helpful mums!) who got extra creative in the kitchen. The competition and baking skills were top-notch, and the bidding was fast and furious. It was particularly heartening to see old students, neighbours and several new families with pre-schoolers joining us and enjoying the day. It was a great taste of our wonderful school community! A big thank you to our judges and Rob McNab for auctioning the cakes.

We have a packed curriculum for our final term. Our students will be learning practical skills around managing money, budgeting, and financial decision-making. They will be doing some hands-on learning exploring circuits, engineering, and problem-solving. Students will be developing their performance skills through dance and drama as we work toward our End of Year production. We are looking forward to a visit from Harold and the Life Education Trust, who will be helping us learn all about our growing bodies, health, and well-being.

Let's make this last term of the year a memorable and rewarding one for all our tamariki!

Ngaa manaakitanga,

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



Prizegiving Trophies

If you have a trophy from our 2025 School Prizegiving, could you please return it to the school within the next couple of weeks.

Thank You!



Ayden who turns 8 on the 24th of October.

Chip who will be 7 on the 30th of October.

Ben who will celebrate his 8th birthday on the 31st of October.



IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 22nd October
EPro 8 Challenge

Monday 26th October
Labour Day, no school

Tuesday 27th October
Yr 7&8 Technology Huntly

Wednesday 28th October
BOT Meeting 5.30pm

Friday 13th November
Senior Athletics Day
Glen Massey School

Friday 11th December
Last Day Term 4

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

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.



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

Community Notices

Meet the Candidate Matthew Paul

National Party Candidate for Port Waikato

27 October 6.30pm

Nikau Caves Cafe

1770 Waikaretu Valley Road, Waikaretu 2695

www.national.org.nz/team/matthewpaul

Authorised by M Paul, matthew.paul@national.org.nz



Waikaretu School showed its support for Wig Wednesday by holding a Wacky hair day fundraiser to raise money for child cancer.

Assembly & Awards 18th & 24th September



The WAI Way prizes went to Ayla and Mia



Ayla, Amelia and Jack received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



Sienna, Nelly, Aria, Libby, Caeley and Will received the Attendance Awards.



The WAI Way prizes went to Ayla and Nelly.

Fear Factor Challenge

We closed term 3 with another win for Waikaretu School!

28 teams competed in the Franklin PCT Fear Factor Challenge and our students came home with 3rd place! We were blown away as this was our first ever attendance at this event. We just came to explore and enjoy the challenges. Our mixed year 7 & 8 team with Will, Caeley, Jasmine and Eli got the fastest time in the memory challenge and did great in the rest of these challenges:

- Police car push
- PCT obstacle course
- Swimming Pool challenge

This is why we fundraise for our little school; to give our kids opportunities - and they embrace these with open arms. Well done team! Thank you to the NZ Police Force and Papakura Franklin Blue Light for organising this awesome event. We'll be back next year!

Brave Courageous

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



Pet Day

Pet Lamb Section



Eli Welch won Senior Champion Lamb with his lamb Mel. Mac Whitford won Reserve Champion Lamb with Snickers. Margo Whitford won Junior Champion Lamb with Whittakers. and Ben Starr won Junior Reserve Champion Lamb with Grogu.

Other Pets Section



Eli was delighted to receive the Champion Ribbon with his goat Bill. Tilly Ziegler won the Best Cared For Pet award with her rabbit Snow White, while her sister Amelia Besson impressed the judge with her knowledge of her pet angelfish, Lightning.



Sienna Leigh and her lamb Haza won the Senior Fancy Dress Competition and Nelly Keen-Jones the Junior section with her goat Brownie.

Pet Day and Art Displays



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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