Wairau Intermediate

NURTURING OUR FUTURE

Respect ~ Integrity ~ Courage ~ Empathy

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School Email: wairauint@wairau.school.nz Board Email: boardchair@wairau.school.nz
www.wairau.school.nz Wairau Intermediate - Official

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Kia ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi Atu, Taloha Ni, Ni sa bula, 你好, Namaste, 안녕하세요, Hola, اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ .

As we find ourselves in the middle of Term 1, we hope that you are finding your child/children have now settled in at Wairau and are beginning to make the most of the new opportunities on offer.

You will have noticed that Zone Days this term have been fast and furious, resulting in a lot of information for new students to take onboard and for teachers to organise. This week we have had the swimming zone day and tomorrow we have a number of students competing in the Triathlon.

Other Zone Days this term include:
- North Harbour Boys Tennis Monday, 17 March
- North Harbour Girls' Tennis Monday ,18 March
- Orienteering Thursday, 20 March
- North Harbour Girls' Cricket Tuesday, 25 March
- North Harbour Boys' Futsal Tuesday, 1 April
- North Harbour Girls' Futsal Thursday, 3 April

Please be mindful that zone days are mostly organised by out of school facilitators. This means that details often come into school with short notice prior to an event taking place, which in turn has an impact on how soon we can send out information to students who are interested in participating. It also means that events can sometimes be cancelled at short notice, especially once we head into the winter months and the weather changes.

If you have questions about zone days or day to day learning and activities, remember to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Teacher emails can be found on our school website: www.wairau.school.nz. Find the teacher you are looking for and click on their name to compose a message directly.

Swimming Zone Day

Congratulations to all who participated in the swimming zone day on Tuesday, this week. It was a very busy day with students performing their best and displaying our school values proudly. Thank you to our parent helpers. You are greatly appreciated for your support.

Shore to Shore 5km Fun Run/Walk

Sunday 6 March – All entries go towards earning sports equipment for your school—courtesy of a variety of Sports Distributors.

Photolife Class and Portrait Photos

Photolife will be at school on **Tuesday, 29 April** to take class photos and individual portrait photos of students (including siblings if a request has been received prior to photo day). Flyers and information on the ordering process, will be sent home as soon as the school office receives them from Photolife. Keep an eye out for these.

Wairau Wero 2025!

Our Wairau Wero (Challenge) FUNdraising event for 2025 is well underway with a total of **$9,002.00** raised so far! There are lots of daily prizes up for grabs so if your child/children haven't registered, we encourage them to do so.

What's the goal? We are raising funds to purchase digital signage and resources for our school. This exciting new signage will replace our current, outdated noticeboard and will allow us to better communicate with our students, families, and the wider community.

Why Digital Signage? As participation in sports, cultural events, and extracurricular activities continues to grow, we need an effective way to showcase and celebrate these achievements. The digital signage will also be a great way to share important notices and updates. We believe it will have a positive impact on all current and future students.

Exciting Prizes and More! We've partnered with Go Raise It to manage our fundraising platform, and there are some amazing spot prizes available for those who participate. You can find more details about these prizes on the fundraising website.

Our Goal – Let's Beat the Last Fundraiser! In our previous fundraiser (2023/2024), your generous support helped us purchase the school van. This year, we aim to raise even more – over $15,000 – to make our digital signage dream a reality!

Thank you for your continued support!

Government Updates – New Zealand Curriculum Refresh

We are aware that you may be hearing of curriculum changes to the Mathematics and English curriculum. While we work through these changes, we are ensuring that quality teaching and learning still takes place in our classrooms. The revised English curriculum for Year 7 – 13 should be with us towards the end of this term.

This year, to enhance the teaching of mathematics and to assist in developing students' numeracy skills, we are using Mathematics and Statistics for Aotearoa New Zealand through providers Oxford Maths (https://www.oxforddigital.co.nz)

This programme has a focus on:

- A mastery approach that ensures success
- Real world contexts that bring mathematics to life
- Explicit instruction that allows educators to differentiate according to student needs

The programme has three parts.

Student Book: Unlike other textbooks, it is not intended that all students will complete every page of this textbook. Each topic in this textbook offers differentiated learning paths that are either 'Guided', 'Independent' or 'Extended' practice activities to suit students working on the same concept at different levels.

Each topic starts with a pre-test so that teachers can build on students prior learning. Following the pre-test, students are taught the content of each topic through hands-on activities. They are then able to access the appropriate textbook page at their own level to support their understanding. Of course, the teacher will support students in reading questions where necessary and explicit teaching of concepts is still essential to the success of this programme.

Teacher Dashboard: This online component programme is designed to support teachers.

The dashboard contains a variety of resources such as lesson plans, assessment tasks, extension activities, mastery tasks and interactive activities, as well as the Student Book pages for front-of-class use.

Student Dashboard: This online component of the programme is designed to support students with digital resources, such as pre-tests and post-tests, as well as the Student Book pages, Activity Sheets and Blackline Masters.

As a school, we are committed to implementing this programme while ensuring teachers are upskilled in its use and content. This term focuses on discovery, building familiarity and providing opportunities for teachers and students to explore and work with this resource. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any further questions about this programme.

Linewize - Internet Safety

The way in which young people use technology has shifted significantly, with children spending more time than ever online. This shift presents many new challenges, not to mention an increase in online risks and threats.

At Wairau, we take our students' digital safety and wellbeing seriously. We continually look at ways to ensure we can proactively keep children safe when online. That is why we are pleased to announce our continued partnership with Linewize, which has already assisted us in taking digital wellbeing and safety to the next level.

This partnership with Linewize enables us to add additional layers of filtering and supports us in monitoring that students are accessing educational content throughout the school day or when completing homework using their school account.

Prior to this partnership, we saw high use of social media platforms and inappropriate internet searches while students were logged in on their school account, particularly late at night or early in the morning. Therefore, you will notice your child can only use their school account between the hours of 8.30am and 7.30pm. This is because these accounts belong to the school as part of our information technology processes. If your child needs to use their device outside of these hours, they will need to use their own personal account.

These restrictions are recommended by Linewize, and this is an expectation for all Linewize supported schools. They encourage good time management for our students, as they have to organise their home learning time within these parameters. We don't expect students to be engaged in home learning late at night.

It also puts the responsibility onto parents to monitor their child's safe use of the internet outside of these times when our learners are not at school.

If your child's device is shared with another family member, it is also important that your child's school account is not used by anyone else. After using their device, they need to log out, and the next person using the device must log in with their own account.

Linewize App for Parents

The technology that Linewize provides protects more than 12 million students and now includes a parental child safety app from Qustodio, giving you visibility of how your child engages online on their learning device, especially when using their own account.

Designed to keep children safe online, the app gives you visibility over what your child sees and does online on up to two personal devices.

Key features include parents being able to:

- Filter and block apps and content that you don't want your child to see
- Customise what your child can access during homework hours
- Balance screen time by setting time limits on devices as well as for specific apps
- Protect screen-free moments, such as meal times and bed times.

Please use the link below to create your Qustodio account through our Online Safety Hub and help manage your child's learning device.

https://wairau.onlinesafetyhub.nz/parent/topics/Qustodio

Please be mindful that one parent/guardian needs to create the account in the first instance, and then additional parents/guardians can be invited and given access to the same features, once the account has been created.

We are excited to support our students in becoming responsible digital citizens and welcome your continued partnership with us to make this happen.

Mitey—Sir John Kirwan Foundation

We are delighted to partner with Mitey over the next couple of years to grow and support the mental health and wellbeing of all our students.

The Sir John Kirwan Foundation has designed Mitey with NZ teachers and the University of Auckland to provide an evidence-based approach to teaching mental health education to primary and intermediate aged children.

It is built around the NZ curriculum and embedded into everyday learning to ensure children are equipped with the age-appropriate skills and knowledge they need to recognise and respond to mental health issues in both themselves and others before they enter teenage years.

Mitey has successfully implemented its approach to schools in Auckland, and we are excited to be included.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

A Mitey coach works with staff to develop teaching and learning. This ensures Mitey is tailored to our school's unique culture and community.

Mental health education will be taught by our teachers in every classroom, with the skills, knowledge and understanding of mental health woven into what is already being taught.

Parents and the whole school community are an integral part of Mitey's approach and as with all our learning, your engagement and support is a key aspect of educating our students.

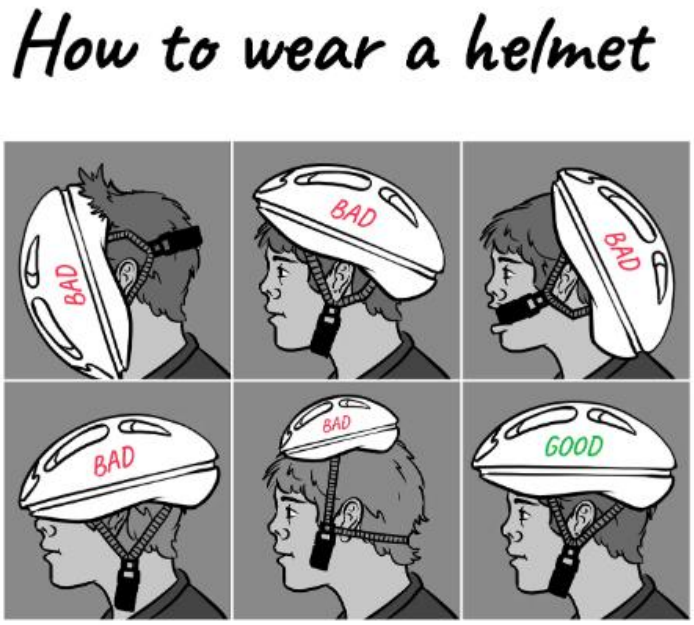
WHY THE NEED

Mental health concerns and issues amongst NZ youth have doubled in the past 10 years and we all agree that unhappy students don't learn.

Youth suicide rates in NZ are among the highest in the world. Partnering with Mitey allows our school to be part of a transformational change for young people by enabling them to nurture their mental health – and that of others – for the rest of their lives.

The following link will take you to Mitey's homepage www.mitey.org.nz where you can find out more about the programme for schools.

MITEY™ SIR JOHN KIRWAN FOUNDATION



Technology Fees

A reminder that our Technology/Specialist Fees of $100 per student were due by Friday, 28 February. We understand that some families are finding finances difficult in the current economy, therefore we are happy for smaller contributions to be received towards this sum on a regular basis. Please email our finance secretary at Vasitiv@Wairau.school.nz if you wish to proceed with this option.

Breakfast Club

Our "BREAKFAST CLUB" is held every Monday morning from 8.00am-8.30am in the Food Technology room. Students are provided with Weetbix and milk. Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY COUNSELLOR

WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A TRAINING COUNSELLOR (THROUGH MASSEY UNIVERSITY) ON FRIDAY'S AT WAIRAU THIS YEAR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR CHILD ATTEND SOME/ANY SESSIONS PLEASE CONTACT LIBBY

libbyb@wairau.school.nz

OR GIVE THE SCHOOL A CALL TO SPEAK TO HER MORE ABOUT THIS.

STUDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO SELF REFER IF THEY FEEL THEY WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A SESSION WITH OUR COUNSELLOR, MARGARET .

Gently Loved Markets Flea Market

10AM - 1PM
SATURDAY 15TH MARCH

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(for fluent speakers of English)

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(Starting Week 1 of Term 2, 2025)

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Reserve a space

Online after-school tuition (one-hour lesson)
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- Academic vocabulary
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- Building the fundamental skills required for the NCEA Literacy Co-Requisite (Writing Assessment)
- Building confidence in writing

Allie Rankine:
Qualified & Registered New Zealand Teacher with over 35 years of experience.

Contact: EnglishWithAllie.teacher@gmail.com

NZ OPERA

Preparations for *La bohème* are now underway! As part of our casting, we will be assembling a small, children's chorus of unbroken voices. Children between the ages of 8-14 years are invited to apply to audition.
Auckland auditions are:

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

Saturday 15th March | 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Venue: NZ Opera Studio

5/69 St Georges Bay Road, Parnell

Important Dates

2025 Term Dates:

Term 1	3 Feb—11 Apr
Term 2	28 Apr—27 June
Term 3	14 Jul—19 Sept
Term 4	6 Oct—16 Dec

Sports

NH Triathlon	**14 Mar**
NH Tennis Boys	**17 Mar**
NH Tennis Girls	**18 Mar**
NH Orienteering	**20 Mar**
NH Cricket Girls	**25 Mar**
NH Futsal Boys	**1 Apr**
NH Futsal Girls	**3 Apr**
Shore to Shore Run	**6 Apr**

Other

24 Feb - 31 Mar	**Wairau Wero FUNdraiser**
Block 1 Zoo Trip—14 Mar	
Block 2 Zoo Trip— 4 Apr	
Block 3 Zoo Trip—21 Mar	

Board of Trustee Meetings Term 1 2025
To be held in the Staffroom:
Tuesday, 25 March—6:00-8:30pm

Teacher Only Days 2025
Friday 30 May

Public Holidays

18 Apr	**Good Friday**
21 Apr	**Easter Monday**
25 Apr	**ANZAC Day (within school holidays)**
2 Jun	**King's Birthday**
20 Jun	**Matariki**
27 Oct	**Labour Day**

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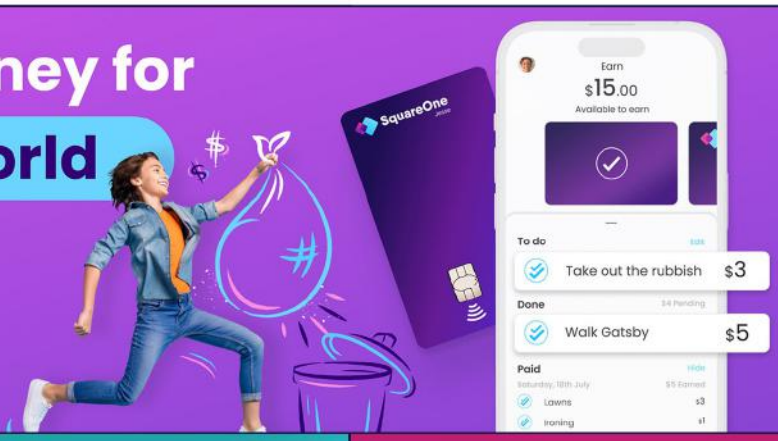

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