Newsletter Number 14 2025
10 October 2025

Wairau Intermediate School

Respect | MANAAKITANGA · Integrity | PONO · Courage | KAHA · Empathy | AROHA

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School Email: wairauint@wairau.school.nz Board Email: boardchair@wairau.school.nz
Website: www.wairau.school.nz www.facebook.com/wairauint

Dear Parents / Caregivers

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

Welcome Back to Term 4

Welcome Back to Term 4 - the final stretch of what has been a busy, vibrant, and successful year! I hope the holiday break provided a chance for rest, connection, and a little recharge before what promises to be another exciting term.

Term 4 is always a special one. It's a time to celebrate growth, reflect on achievements, and enjoy the many events that make this time of year so memorable. From end-of-year activities and celebrations, to transitions and preparations for 2026, it promises to be an exciting term ahead.

Our focus remains on finishing the year strong, supporting each learner to achieve their goals, and recognising the effort, resilience, and teamwork that define our school community.

A key focus for us this term is attendance. Regular attendance makes a significant difference to learning progress, confidence, and overall wellbeing. Last term, only 63% of our students were attending school regularly, compared with the Government target of 80% or more. This was a decrease from Term 1 and 2 percentages. While winter illnesses certainly played a part, we have also seen an increase in families taking trips overseas during term time. These absences have a noticeable impact on student learning and our overall attendance rates. We encourage all families to prioritise regular attendance whenever possible. It ensures gaps in student learning are minimised, students are fully prepared for the next stage in their educational journey and supports us to remain strong as a learning community.

We do thank those of you who keep us updated when your child is absent from school and who have ensured they apply for student leave in term time where needed.

This week we have acknowledged the 63 students who attended 100% of the time last term. Congratulations!

Community Survey

We are still seeking your input as we begin developing our next Strategic Plan and future initiatives.

Last term, we invited our community to complete a short survey to share your thoughts, ideas, and aspirations for our school. Your voice is vital, it helps guide our direction, ensures we reflect the values and priorities of our community, and shapes the opportunities we create for our students in the years ahead. This survey will remain open until Monday 13 October at 4.00pm. If you have not yet had the time to complete this, we encourage you to do so by clicking on this link: Community Survey 2025

Dancing Like the Stars

Dancing Like the Stars took place on the last day of Term 3, Friday 19 September. After weeks of practice, under the guidance of professional dance instructor Jonny Williams, the students danced with grace and flair. The winners of the competition were as follows:

JIVE

1st place	Queenie and Ezra A
2nd place	Olivia C and Jihoo
3rd place	Oneli and Jack G

CHA CHA

1st place	Oneli and Jack G
2nd place	Isabella and Maui
3rd place	Olivia R and Max W
Block winners	Block 2

Please see photos on the next page.

52

41

103

2025 Kiwi Competitions

We wish to acknowledge the success of one of our students **Priyansh**, who attained the highest score (100%) in the Kiwi Year 8 Science Competition, administered by the University of Canterbury earlier this year.

Over 490 schools throughout New Zealand compete in the Kiwi competitions, so this is a tremendous achievement. Great job Priyansh!

SPORTS

Volleyball

At the end of Term 3, our Wairau Girls' Volleyball teams had a fantastic competition, playing against Kristin, Northcross, Northcote, TNIS, and Westminster at the North Harbour Volleyball Zone Day. Both teams showed great skill and determination, winning their semi-final matches and advancing to the finals. In an exciting finish, our two teams faced each other in the championship game! An awesome achievement that highlights the depth of talent and teamwork across the team.

Waterpolo

Also during the school holidays, Wairau students Charley, Olivia R, Ethan W, and Yireh, took part in the Year 7 & 8 North Island Water Polo Tournament as part of the Glenfield Gators squad. They played seven games in total, came away with five wins, and after some tough competition, finished in 5th place - an awesome result and something to be really proud of!

Hockey

During the school holidays, Wairau students Owen K, Riley B, and Parker, had great success at the 12 Under Inline Hockey NZ National Championship. They worked really hard and won 1st place. Well done boys!

"Term 4 – The Final Whirl!"

Buckle up, Wairau whānau, Term 4's begun,
The last leg of the race – but packed full of fun!
The sun's out, the vibes are high and clear,
We're ready to make it the best of the year!

We've got Dodgeball Royale – bring your skill and flair,
Duck, dive, dodge… and maybe say a prayer!
Then cool things down, no time to mope,
We'll have the Evening Y8 Social! – grab your mates and dance (we hope!)

The Art Extravaganza will dazzle the hall,
Paintings, sculptures, creativity for all!
At Onepoto Cultural Fest, we'll shine and sway,
Celebrating cultures in a Wairau way

Athletics Day will bring cheers and races,
Sweaty brows and smiling faces!
Prizegiving's coming – so do your best,
We'll clap for the champs (and still cheer the rest!)

Graduation's waiting for our Y8 crew,
Big dreams ahead – we're so proud of you!
Student leader selections will get underway,
Who'll step up to lead the Wairau way?

There's a picnic to pack, a trip or two,
A long weekend break (we will have earned that, phew!)
But before you chill or dash out the door,
Remember those reports (so behave once more!)

So give it your all, from now to the end,
Work hard, have fun, be a great friend!
Term 4's a blast – full of laughter and cheer,
Ka mau te wehi, Wairau – let's finish the year!

Enrolments 2026

Enrolments are still open for the 2026 school year. As we have room to grow, we are in the fortunate position of being able to take both in zone and out of zone enrolments for next year. If you have siblings yet to enrol, or know of anyone wishing to enrol at our wonderful school, please complete the application process as soon as possible.

Information regarding enrolling at Wairau can be found on our school website www.wairau.school.nz. Alternatively, you can call the school on 09 410 7805 for support with the enrolment process.

Potential Teacher Strike

You may have seen recent media coverage about a potential NZEI and STCA / PPTA teachers' union strike on **Thursday, 23 October**. This has not yet been confirmed, only an informal notice has been issued to school boards. Boards will only receive three days' formal notice before a strike is confirmed.

If an official strike notice is received, the Board will assess whether there are enough non-union staff available to safely keep the school open. If not, the Board may decide to close the school on **Thursday, 23 October**.

At this stage, please keep this possibility in mind and begin to make tentative childcare arrangements.
Further information will be shared by the Board as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and partnership. Let's make this final term one to remember!

Yolanda East
Principal / Tumuaki

Important Dates

Term 4
7 Oct - 17 Dec (last day of school 12.00pm finish)

Public Holidays
27 Oct Labour Day

Sports
15 Oct Netball starts
16 Oct Dodgeball Royale starts
23 Oct Touch Rugby starts
29 Oct Athletics Day
11 Nov Boys' Badminton Zone Day
13 Nov Girls' Badminton Zone Day

Events
10 Nov Arts Extravaganza
21 Nov Onepoto Cultural Festival
17 Dec Graduation Prizegiving

Board Meeting in Term 4 2025
To be held in the Staffroom:
Tuesday 14 October from 6.00-9.00pm

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 .

Tuition in Academic Writing

Online after-school tuition for students in Years 5-8

Teacher: Allie Rankine

Qualified & Registered New Zealand Teacher with over 30 years of experience.

Enrolling Now For Term 4 ***** Limited Spaces*****

Small groups (maximum 4 students)

Groups: Years 5 & 6 Years 7 & 8

One-hour lessons $68 – See the timetable below

(For fluent speakers of English)

One-to-one lessons are also available for students in Years 5 to 9:

Please email to inquire about rates and availability for one-to-one lessons.

Master the fundamentals of academic writing:

Developing core writing skills and boosting confidence in academic writing. This tuition covers key areas such as:

- Using a clear, scholarly voice
- Expanding academic vocabulary
- Writing complex sentences to improve writing quality and tone
- Developing accuracy in punctuation and grammar
- Organising ideas into clear logical paragraphs and structured essays
- Writing strong main ideas with clear supporting arguments
- Develop critical thinking skills & depth of understanding of written text

Please email to reserve a place or to inquire further.

Timetable for Group Lessons

Mondays	
Years 5 & 6:	4.15pm-5.15pm
Years 7 & 8:	6.00pm-7.00pm

Thursdays	
Years 7 & 8:	4.30pm-5.30pm

EnglishWithAllie.teacher@gmail.com

V.12

TEN FEET TALL

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Grow their speaking & performing skills over the holidays.

SPEECH & DRAMA | LEARNING TO LEAD | DEBATE & PUBLIC SPEAKING

9am - 3pm, with free 8.30am drop off for Year 1-8 children

EACH DAY INCLUDES:

- Fun activities and exercises to build skills
- Opportunities to develop creativity
- Team Performances
- Hands-on confidence building
- Screen-free, high-energy fun!

A fun, creative space for kids to shine!

"My child absolutely loved every day – and came home more confident!"

WHY PARENTS CHOOSE US:

- Small groups
- Experienced, first-aid certified coaches
- Drama that builds real-world life skills – confidence, creativity & communication
- We don't share photos of students online or in our social media
- Affordable pricing
- Safe, supportive, and fun!

TERM 4 CLASSES OPEN FOR BOOKING:

- Speech and Drama, Public Speaking & Debate.
- Book online on tenfeettall.co.nz

Book a Trial Class for $15 and if you enrol for Term 4, you'll get $30 off your first class!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK - HURRY LIMITED SPACES!

tenfeettall.co.nz +64 21 444 002 admin@tenfeettall.co.nz

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

music education centre

Specialist music tuition for a range of instruments including Piano, Guitar, Drums and more!

IT'S CONVENIENT!

Give your child the opportunity to enjoy **music lessons right at their school!** Our individualised lessons are **fun, educational,** and designed to **develop their skills.**

Learning music supports your child's growth by developing:

confidence creativity concentration and so much more!

Scan the QR code for more info

SCAN ME

0800 89 39 39
Or call us!

SCOUTS IN THE PARK

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

ALL WELCOME

18 & 19 OCTOBER | SUNNYNOOK PARK | 10 AM to 4 PM

EXPERIENCE SCOUTS AND GUIDES

Supported by:

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board
Auckland Council

JOTA JOTI 2025

Experience Scouts and Guides

- Flying Fox
- Rope Bridge
- Science Experiments
- Cooking on Fires
- Badge collecting
- Make a survival bracelet
- 2 Way Radio
- Jamboree on the Air
- Jamboree on the Internet
- Bake Sale / Sausage Sizzle
- Rock Climbing *(Sunday only)*

LIGHT THE NIGHT!

BIKE RAVE - SUNNYNOOK PARK

GET READY TO RIDE, RAVE, AND GLOW!

* FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY AFTER-DARK GROUP RIDE
* PLAYFUL RAVE VIBES AND SAFETY AFTER SUNSET.

WHEN: 7PM, SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER
WHERE: PLAYGROUND BY COMMUNITY CENTRE
WHAT ELSE? BRING YOUR LIGHTS, GLOW UP YOUR RIDE! AND IF YOU'RE STUCK, WE'VE GOT A FEW FREE SHINY BIKE LIGHTS TO SHARE. FIRST IN, FIRST SERVED

Biketober Fun Music Safety

Bike Auckland
This event is supported by Bike Auckland

NORTHCOTE SOFTBALL CLUB

Have a GO DAY

Come on down and join in the fun.
Register for the season.
Collect your uniform.
Sausage sizzle

SUNDAY
12TH OCTOBER
10AM - 12PM

- Meet new friends
- Family friendly sport
- Great for all ages

www.sporty.co.nz/northcotesoftball | Sunnynook Park
Frank- 021 283 2858 | Northcote Softball Club

MARLBOROUGH PARK

YOUTHTOWN SINCE 1932

YOUTH HUB

>>PROGRAMME<<

Introducing the next best hang-out spot for our youth!

If you are aged 11-18 years old & want a space to connect, cook, create & unwind after school...

WE HAVE THE SPACE FOR YOU!

WE'RE OPEN: Every Tuesday & Thursday - 3PM - 6PM
LOCATION: Marlborough Park Youth Hall - 13 Chartwell Avenue
COST: No cost - this is a FREE programme for our rangatahi

Have questions?
Contact Sarah: 027 368 1633

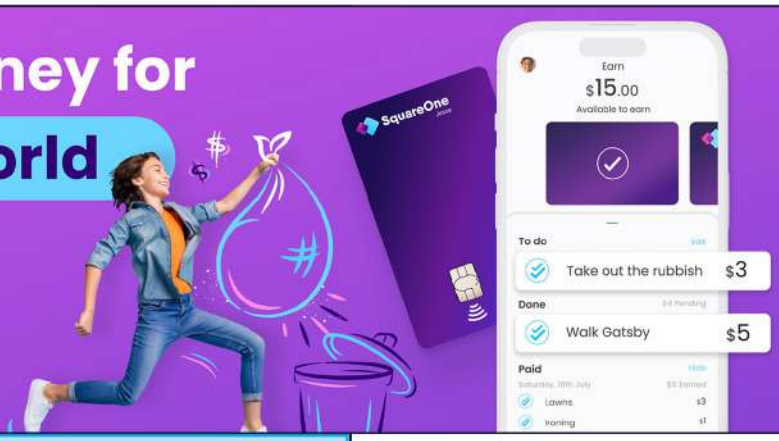
READY TO SIGN UP?
SCAN THE QR CODE!

Pocket money for a digital world

Download today

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



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KUMON

Give your child a head start in life

With our individually tailored Kumon maths and English programmes, your child will develop a strong academic foundation that will nurture their learning for life.

Contact your local Kumon Centre to find out more today.

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Standard home loan vs. smart home loan?

If you're looking for a smarter way to manage your mortgage, Jo, your local Mortgage Mentor, is here to help. Book a free chat today!

Jo Staines
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e jo.staines@nzhl.co.nz

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