Newsletter Number 15 2025
23 October 2025

Wairau Intermediate School

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

113 Becroft Drive, Forrest Hill, Auckland 0620 Phone: 09 410 7805
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, ٱلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ .

As you will be aware it has been a busy, yet productive start to the term. Students are settled and engaged in learning.

As we move through the term, we're encouraging students to take greater responsibility for their learning, organisation, and choices. Developing independence is a key part of building confidence and preparing our tamariki (children) for the next stage of their learning journey.

We'd love your support at home with this. Simple actions such as encouraging your child to pack their own bag, manage their homework, step out of their comfort zone, embrace new challenges, and problem-solving before asking for help can make a big difference. Independence helps students build self-belief, resilience, and pride in their achievements. It also enables them to learn from mistakes, seeing these as experiences that support them to succeed both in and out of the classroom.

During their two years at intermediate, it is our role to assist students to develop positive study habits in readiness for high school, where parents are less directly involved in day-to-day learning.

Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us in helping our learners grow into capable, confident, and self-directed young people.

End of Year Reports and Assessments

At the end of term, you will receive your child's end of year report. This term, teachers will be assessing the academic progress of their students. Regular attendance is important if teachers are to fully measure this progress. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends regularly. When attendance is inconsistent it is much harder for teachers to accurately provide you with a picture of your child's progress and achievement.

At the same time, we value strong partnerships with whānau. If you ever have questions or concerns or would like to know more about how your child is progressing, please reach out directly to their class teacher rather than waiting for formal reporting times. Early conversations help us work together to support each learner's needs and celebrate their successes.

Class Placements 2026

We are currently organising class placements for our 2026 students. If your child isn't enrolled or will not be returning next year, we would appreciate you informing us of this as soon as possible. Please contact our school secretary: ruis@wairau.school.nz

Year 8 Enrolments - High School 2026

If you haven't yet enrolled your child in high school, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Transitioning to Year 9 can feel unsettling for some students, so knowing where they will be going helps them approach this change with confidence and excitement. Enrolling early also ensures you receive important communications from your child's future school.

Diwali Mubarak! Happy Diwali 2025

Wishing all our friends and neighbours in the Hindu and Sikh communities a joyous and prosperous Diwali season.

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Hindu festival celebrated in India, Nepal, and other parts of the world. It is a joyous occasion that marks the victory of good over evil and light over darkness.

Diwali is also a time for families and friends to come together and celebrate. It is a time for feasting, gift-giving, and enjoying fireworks. The festival is marked by the lighting of diyas (earthen lamps), which are placed in homes and outside.

In acknowledgement of these celebrations, we invite students who celebrate Diwali to wear cultural clothing on **Friday**, if they would like to. We hope your celebrations have been filled with love, laughter, and good fortune.

SunSmart Policy

As part of our SunSmart Policy, all students are expected to wear a **school uniform, bucket hat (or school cap)** when outdoors during Term 4. Wearing a hat helps protect against harmful UV rays and supports our focus on making sun safety a daily habit.

Students without a hat will be asked to remain in shaded areas during intervals, lunchtimes, and outdoor activities. Please ensure their hat is clearly named and brought to school each day.

Let's all do our part to stay safe and SunSmart this term!

School Uniform Reminders

Taking pride in appearance is an important part of being a student at Wairau Intermediate. Therefore, it is important that students keep high standards of appearance, right through to the end of Term 4.

To support with this, please ensure your child wears the full school uniform and has the correct school sports uniform and house T-shirt when required. With the warmer weather, students may wear black sandals to school, but they must have heel straps. Slides are not permitted.

Jewellery - The wearing of jewellery such as dangling earrings, rings, bracelets and necklaces can be very dangerous, particularly during physical activities. Piercings in the ears must be small studs only. Jewellery that has a special cultural or religious significance for the family can be worn at school.

Make up/Nail Polish - Students are not allowed to wear make-up or nail polish to school. False nails, stick on/ drawn tattoos are also not appropriate.

Hair - For health and safety, long hair must be tied up for school.

Instructions for attaching **WAIRAU FLASHES/NAME IT** iron on labels.

1. Set iron to cotton setting with no steam.
2. Iron on top of label for 5-7 seconds (ideally, hold iron still and press hard).
3. Allow label to cool down.

To avoid burning delicate materials, iron for less time using short quick bursts of heat. Repeat until label is firmly in place and no edges are lifting. If the label lifts, re-iron with more time and pressure.

School Policies and Procedures

We would like to remind you that our school policies and procedures are available online within "School Docs" - https://wairau.schooldocs.co.nz

Each term you have the opportunity to contribute to the policies that are under review, by following these steps:

All Reviewers - Visit the above website

Type in our school's name: Wairau Intermediate school.

- Enter the username (wairau) and password (wairau)
- Click on Reviews
- Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed
- Read the policy
- Click the "Start your Review" button at the top right-hand corner of the page
- Select the reviewer type
- Enter your name (optional)
- Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
- Agree to the privacy statement and click "Submit Review"

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form. As always we value your input and feedback.

Go Raise It Fundraiser Success

Your generosity and enthusiasm during our Term 1 fundraiser made a real difference! We're excited to share that the funds raised are now helping bring our new **digital sign** to life - a project that's been in the making for some time.

The digital sign will allow us to better communicate school events, celebrate student successes, and keep our community up to date. We're proud to see this goal coming to fruition thanks to the combined efforts of our students, whānau, and wider community.

While a final cosmetic design is still to be added, it's wonderful to see the sign operational and already sharing key messages with our community. Thank you again for making this addition to our school possible.

Board Secretary

We are seeking a highly organised and professional **Board Secretary** to support our School Board.

Key responsibilities include:

- Attending meetings and taking accurate minutes
- Maintaining Board records, correspondence, and policies if required

We're looking for someone who:

- Has strong administrative and organisational skills
- Can work discreetly and maintain confidentiality
- Communicates clearly and professionally
- Has some understanding of governance / school board processes
- Is reliable, flexible, and comfortable using digital tools such as Google Workspace or Microsoft Office

Hours: Approximately 8 hours per term, with meetings typically held on Tuesdays of week 4 and 8 between 6.00pm and 9.00pm in our staffroom.

Renumeration: $27.00 / hour

If you are an efficient and detail-oriented person who enjoys supporting effective governance, we'd love to hear from you.

To apply: Please email your CV and a short cover letter to **Yolanda East, Principal**: yolandae@wairau.school.nz

Community Engagement

Bellyful is a community service that provides meals, for families with newborn babies and families with young children who are struggling with illness, where the family does not have support networks to cook and deliver free meals.

It is operated by volunteers and Bellyful North Shore gather in our Wairau Intermediate School kitchen about once a month to batch cook four different meals (Beef Lasagne, Beef Bolognese Sauce, Macaroni Cheese and Red Lentil and Tomato Soup), which are then frozen in branch freezers ready for delivery by our volunteers.

Art

The art extension group have been working hard on a mosaic designed to accompany the existing mosaic hanging up outside room 1/4. The students created this mosaic based on Pacifica style art. Beautiful!

Ngā mihi nui,

Yolanda East
Principal / Tumuaki

Important Dates

Term 4

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

EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom)

Mangere Mountain Trips

24 Oct	**Block 3 Y7 boys & Y8 girls**
31 Oct	**Block 2 rooms 2/6 & 2/7**
7 Nov	**Block 1 room 1/1**
14 Nov	**Block 3 Y7 girls & Y8 boys**
21 Nov	**Block 2 rooms 2/5 & 2/8**
28 Nov	**Block 1 rooms 1/2 & 1/4**
5 Dec	**Block 1 rooms 1/0 & 1/3**

Public Holidays

27 Oct	**Labour Day**

Sports

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 28 October from 6.00-9.00pm

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL!

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For children aged 5-13 years

To register and for more information visit

https://mairangibayslsc.org.nz/

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 .

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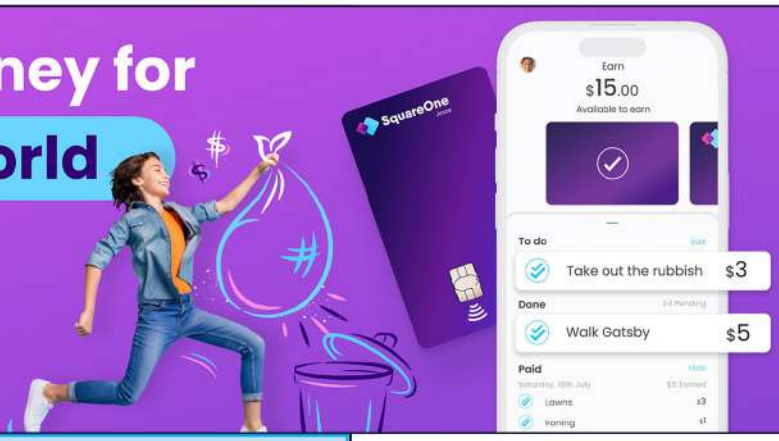

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