Newsletter Number 16 2025
18 November 2025

Wairau Intermediate School

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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 .

I recently shared a story with our students about a group of young climbers who faced a challenging mountain climb. At first, the journey was full of excitement and energy, but as the path grew steeper, many grew tired and wanted to give up. It was one climber's words that inspired them to keep going: "We didn't come this far just to stop now."

Like those climbers, our learners have worked hard, overcome challenges, and made great progress this year. This final stretch is where perseverance truly counts. How we finish is just as important as how we start. As we head into the final four weeks of the term. I am sure you will support in encouraging our students to stay focused, keep striving toward their goals, and finish the year strong because the view from the top is always worth it as long as we continue to persevere.

Arts Extravaganza

The success of our Arts Extravaganza last week provided an exciting springboard from which to begin wrapping up the year.

This vibrant event was a true celebration of creativity, talent, and collaboration - a wonderful opportunity to showcase the spirit of Wairau while also strengthening our partnerships with our contributing schools.

A huge thank you to Ms. Nicolle Gate (Performing Arts) and Mrs. Fiona Scott (Visual Arts) for their passion, vision, and tireless work behind the scenes that made this event shine. We are also very grateful to Sunnynook, Forrest Hill, and Target Road Primary Schools for their contributions and for sharing their talented tamariki with us. It was inspiring to witness such a rich display of artistic expression across our four schools.

This celebratory event provided a further opportunity to come together as an extended community. It was also exciting to meet many of our students and their families again, who will be joining us next year.

Thank you to the teachers, staff, and parents who supported and attended this celebration of the arts. Your enthusiasm, support and encouragement help make these moments so special.

As the next few weeks unfold, we will continue to enjoy the last of our planned events and learning opportunities for the year. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our graduation and prize giving assembly on the last day of term, Wednesday, 17 December 2025.

Staff Farewells

It is with mixed emotions that we are farewelling Performing Arts Teacher Ms. Nicolle Gate, homeroom teachers Miss. Janet Conway and Mr. Satish Prasad, and Creative Technology teacher Ms. Dixie Dolejs. All four teachers have been an asset to the Wairau team. They have taught with immense passion, fostering positive connections with staff and students. They will be missed dearly. We wish them all well with their future endeavours.

We are currently working on finding teacher replacements and these will be announced once finalised.

We are, however, able to inform you that we will be welcoming Mrs. Rebekah Kim as our new performing arts teacher from the start of Term 1 next year. She too is a very talented musician and teacher who will continue to enhance and develop our performing arts programme.

Class Placements 2026

We are finalising classes for next year. If your child isn't returning next year, we would appreciate you informing us of this as soon as possible. Please contact our school secretary ruis@wairau.school.nz.

New enrolments for 2026 are still open.

Year 8 Enrolments 2026

If your child is in Year 8, it is important that they are now enrolled at high school for next year. This is a matter of urgency. Not knowing where they are enrolling can be unsettling for them, especially as they see their friends preparing for next year and receiving communication about the year ahead. If you need support with this process, please email Deputy Principal, Libby Brown libbyb@wairau.school.nz or myself yolandae@wairau.school.nz.

Year 8, End of Year Social Event

On Thursday 11 December we have organised an end of year social event for our Year 8 students. This will be held in our school hall from 7.00pm–9.00pm. Further communication about this will be sent home with Year 8 students soon.

End of the Day Departure

We appreciate that many of our students walk home at the end of the school day and that families encourage this independence. However, we have recently received a few concerns about the behaviour of some of our students passing through the Sunnynook Shopping Centre. Reports have included shouting, riding in super-market trolleys, and running between parked cars.

As a school, we value the strong relationships we have with our local community and the shop owners in this area. We therefore ask for your support in reminding your child to make their way home promptly after school and to show respect for others when in public spaces.

The shopping centre is a shared space where everyone should feel safe and comfortable. If students wish to spend time together after school, the nearby park is a much better place to run around and play while waiting to be collected. Please note that the Glenfield Greyhounds clubrooms are also off limits.

Sporting Highlights

School Athletics Day

Congratulations to the following students!

TRACK

100 meters	Yr 7 Girls	Yr 7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Rylee	Jayden	Olivia R	Charley
2nd	Ekam R	Lithum	Diamond	Bronson
3rd	Aria	Filip	Brooke	Jaden

200 meters	Yr 7 Girls	Yr 7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Chloe J	Jayden	Olivia R	Charley
2nd	Honour	Filip	Diamond	Bronson
3rd	Ekam R	Jiwon	Lucy D	Jaden

400 meters	Yr 7 Girls	Yr 7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Rylee	Max / Riley B	Brooke	Lincoln
2nd	Ekam R	Jayce	Lucy D	Muhammad
3rd	Chloe J	Leighton	Joyce	Illidan

FIELD

High Jump	Yr 7 Girls	Yr7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Aria / Shams	Karter	Diamond	Elijah N
2nd	Ekam R	Lithum	Bethany	Lincoln
3rd	Rylee	Jayden	Olivia C	Maui

Discuss	Yr 7 Girls	Yr 7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Harper	Hanlu	Diamond	Leo
2nd	Honour	Jiwon	Katarina	Jaxon
3rd	Madison	Jayden	Isabella	Owen K

Shotput	Yr 7 Girls	Yr 7 Boys	Yr 8 Girls	Yr 8 Boys
1st	Harper	Dahntay	Isabella	Alex T
2nd	Madison	Max	Malia	Ben G
3rd	Keiana	Ben	Olivia R	Soane

Athletics Zone Day

Thank you to the students who represented Wairau at the Athletics Zone Day on Friday, 7 November. Despite the heat, students participated with enthusiasm and pride.

To be commended are:

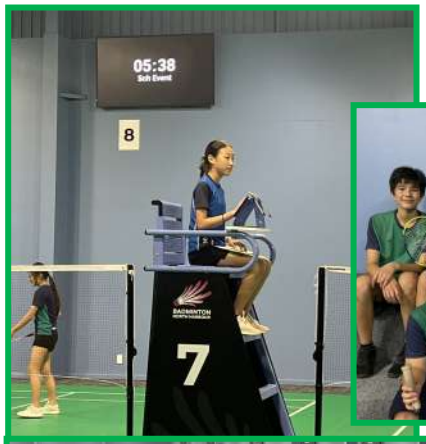
Discus – Yr 7 Boys	Hanlu Le Roux, 4th place
Discus – Yr 7 Girls	Harper Roff, 5th place
Shot put – Yr 7 girls	Harper Roff, 7th place
Shot put – Yr 8 Boys	Alex Tegg, 3rd place
400m – Year 8	Lincoln Richmond, 7th place

Top Team

We also want to thank the students who participated in Top Team on Thursday, 6 November at Whangaparaoa College. This was first time these students have participated in this event and while the competition was tough, they displayed excellent team work and had a great time. The team came away with 8th place - well done!

Badminton

Last week a small group of girls and boys represented our school at the North Shore Intermediate Schools' Badminton Competition at the Badminton North Harbour Centre. The students played valiantly, won some, lost some, and had a great time. Thank you for upholding our kura values, we are proud of you.



Waterpolo

Harper and her North Harbour U12 team played at the Olympic Hopefuls Tournament in Hamilton last month. They made it all the way to the finals but lost in a tight game by 1 point and walked away with the Silver medal. Amazing efforts!

Student Achievement

Over Labour weekend Riley C. participated in the Whaka 100 Mountain Bike Race in Rotorua. Thousands of mountain bikers toughed it out through the rough terrain of Whakarewarewa Forest. The event featured six races: 173km, 100km, 50km, 25km, 10km and the Kids 5km. Riley managed to finish the 25km! This is an incredible achievement - great work Riley!

Blue Friday

On 7th November, a group of our Year 7 girls took the initiative to organise "Blue Friday" in support of Diabetes New Zealand. Students were invited to wear something blue and bring a gold coin donation to raise awareness and funds for this important cause.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, $147.20 was raised! We are incredibly proud of our students for leading this initiative with enthusiasm and compassion. The funds will go directly towards helping Diabetes NZ continue their valuable work in supporting Kiwis, with information and resources to identify and manage diabetes symptoms. Well done, a fantastic example of student leadership and community spirit!

Best dressed (left): Origin, Sione N, and Diamond.
Organisers (right): Ekam K, Sophie H, Navdeep, and Riley-Reese.

Māngere Mountain

Over the last few weeks our students have been travelling in groups to the Māngere Mountain Education Centre, to spend the day there, as part of our Social Studies and Māori programmes. The day involves a guided walk up Māngere Mountain, looking at foods grown in their garden and participating in traditional Māori games. A few photos from these trips are overleaf.

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

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**

Sports

19 Nov	**Boys' Beach Volleyball Zone Day**
20 Nov	**Girls' Beach Volleyball Zone Day**

Events

21 Nov	**Onepoto Cultural Festival**
10 Dec	**School Picnic - Long Bay**
11 Dec	**Year 8 End of Year Social**
17 Dec	**Graduation Prizegiving**

Board Meeting in Term 4 2025

To be held in the Staffroom:
Tuesday, 25 November from 6.00-9.00pm

Māngere Mountain

Wondering about our..

STUDENT LEADER PROCESS FOR 2026?

WEEK 7

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN BEING A STUDENT LEADER, FOR THEIR CLASS AND BLOCK EXPRESS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO "APPLY"

STUDENTS THEN SPEND THEIR OWN TIME WRITING A SHORT (1 MIN MAX) SPEECH ABOUT WHY THEY WOULD MAKE A GOOD LEADER.

WEEK 8/9

IN WEEK 8 OR 9 TEACHERS WILL ALLOCATE A TIME OF THEIR CHOICE FOR APPLYING STUDENTS TO COMPLETE SPEECHES IN FRONT OF THEIR CLASS.

WEEK 11

1 STUDENT LEADER FROM EACH CLASS IS SELECTED AND ANNOUNCED.

THE SECOND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE SECOND WEEK OF TERM 1, 2026.

ALONGSIDE THEIR SPEECH, THE FOLLOWING ATTRIBUTES WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN SELECTION IS MADE.

ATTRIBUTES OF A STUDENT LEADER

- School values in action - Demonstrates our core Wairau values in daily behaviour.
- Positive Role Model - Someone others can look up to and learn from.
- Active Contribution to School Life - Goes beyond their classroom to contribute to the wider school community.
- Communication and Teamwork - Able to speak confidently, listen respectfully, and work collaboratively.
- Growth Mindset and Reliability - Shows perseverance, effort, and responsibility, can manage a busy schedule and lots going on.
- Whanaungatanga & Manaakitanga - Builds connections and uplifts others.
- Staff & Peer Endorsement - Others can see why this student was chosen and sees the above traits in them.
- Consistency - They operate in the same way at the start of the year, till the end.

ONEPOTO SCHOOL

CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2025

Celebrating 30 years!

Friday 21st November 2025

9am - 2:15pm

FREE ENTRY!

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Tickets can be bought with cash or EFTPOS only!
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Onepoto School

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Rosmini College

Camp Two
Thursday 11th-12th December
9am-2pm
Rosmini College

Camp Three
Thursday 18th-19th December
9am-2pm
Rosmini College

Camp Four
Monday 19th-21st January
9am-2pm
Rosmini College

For all enquires and registration
email:
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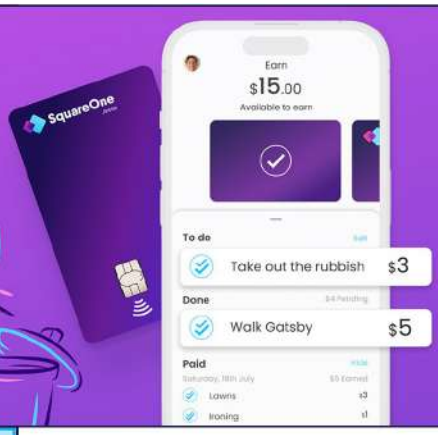

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