WAIRAU INTERMEDIATE
NEWSLETTER

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 .

The events of this past week have left us all reflecting on the fragile and precious nature of community. With the loss of one of our dear parents and highly regarded community members, Sarah Clark, we are poignantly reminded of the weight of empathy and the necessity of leading with compassion.

In times of profound grief, we realise that our greatest strength isn't something we hold individually, but something we draw from one another. It is in these moments, when the path becomes difficult, that the true bond of our community shows its worth. We must continue to think of one another, lean on each other, and offer kindness where it is needed most.

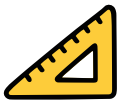
As Sarah's family and dearest friends navigate the difficult journey ahead of them, we keep them at the very centre of our thoughts. We stand with you in spirit and send our deepest, most heartfelt aroha to you all.

It is in this spirit of looking out for one another that we continue with the rhythm of school life. Much of what Sarah valued; connection, kindness, and supporting our young people, is reflected in the updates we share with you today.

Curriculum Insights: Wairau Intermediate Shines!

We are incredibly proud to share the results from our participation in the national Curriculum Insights and Progress Study, in late 2025. These outcomes highlight the hard work of our students and the high standard of teaching at Wairau Intermediate.

Overall, our students are performing competitively on the national stage, with standout results in several key areas.



Mathematics: Leading the Way

Our students significantly **outperformed the national average** in Mathematics.

- **School Mean Score:** 32.9 (National Mean: 28.8)
- **A High Baseline:** Even our lower quartile scores were nearly equal to the national median, showing high levels of achievement.

Reading: Strong Across the Board

Wairau Intermediate continues to demonstrate excellence in literacy, exceeding national averages in every assessed strand:

- **Comprehension:** Average score of 16.70 (National: 14.20)
- **Vocabulary:** Average score of 5.60 (National: 5.00)
- **Sentence Completion:** Average score of 10.40 (National: 8.20)

Technology: Future-Ready Thinkers

Our performance in Technology was a major highlight, with students showing they are well-equipped for the digital age:

- **Coding & Algorithmic Thinking:** In the "Coding the Stars" assessment, Wairau students scored a massive 4.69, well above the national average of 2.98.
- **Digital Impact:** Our school also led the way in "Is it Digital?" (8.50 vs. 8.14) and "School Sunhat" design (4.70 vs. 4.37).

Creative Arts: High Notes in Music

Our students showed great rhythm and focus in The Arts, particularly in the "Play It Again" music repetition assessment. Our school average of 3.09 soared past the national average of 2.43!

Looking Ahead in Writing

While we are slightly below the national figures in some writing rubrics, this data provides us with a clear roadmap. We are already using these insights to target specific skills like punctuation and spelling to ensure our students continue to grow.

A huge congratulations to all our students for their dedication and to our staff for their ongoing commitment to excellence!

Wairau Fundraiser and Fun Run 2026

A huge thank you for your incredible support in helping us get our lunchroom back up and running. Every dollar raised brings us one step closer to seeing this upgrade come to life.

Where We Stand -

- **Progress So Far:** At the time of drafting this newsletter, our community has raised **$6,286**. This is an outstanding effort!
- **Student Participation:** So far, 159 students (47% of our school) have set up pages.
- **The Final Push:** If every remaining student sets up a fundraising page and finds just one sponsor for a minimum of $10, we will raise a further $1,730! Just go to our Fundraising Hub page at: https://wairaufunrun.raiseit.co.nz and click on **Create your Fundraising Page**.
- **Prizes & Events:** The excitement doesn't stop! We are continuing our daily and weekly prize draws.
- **Recent Winners:** Congratulations to Sione, who won the wireless earbuds and to Kausick, who won the rainbow lights speaker!
- **Next Chance to Win:** We have added another major prize draw to next **Thursday, 26 March**.

The Grand Finale: Fun Run

Our fundraising efforts will culminate in a Fun Run on Friday, 27 March, from 2.00–2.45pm. We would love to see you there! Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend and cheer on the students. Please see the attached poster for more details.

Prizes for our top fundraisers will be announced at our final school assembly for the term on Thursday, 2 April. Information about these prizes can also be found on the Fundraising Hub page at: https://wairaufunrun.raiseit.co.nz

Swimming Zone Day

Last Tuesday I had the privilege of taking an amazing group of students to the swimming zone day. While we didn't place in the finals, I would like to commend this group of students for swimming with enjoyment and determination. As always, these students represented Wairau with a huge sense of pride.

Well done to: Caleb B, George R, Harper, Jake, Matthew M, Elijah M, Scarlett and Olivia.

Water Safety / Surf Programme

Over the past two weeks, all students took part in the Water Safety Programme at AUT Millenium, as part of our PE curriculum. The programme involves a theory and practical session that focuses on survival and rescue skills in the water. The students gained valuable skills and had a great time!

Softball Success: Interzone Softball Championships!

The Girls' Softball Team did an **amazing job** at the Auckland Interzone Softball Championships this week. The results were as follows:

7-2 WIN against Bailey Road School
9-8 WIN against Manurewa Intermediate
12-6 WIN against Waikowhai Intermediate
7-0 WIN against Bailey Road School

As a result of these wins, the team placed **3rd** **overall** in the whole of Auckland!

Once again, the team represented our school with an outstanding display of excellence, pride, and sportsmanship throughout the championship.

Well done to: Harper, Shimonle, Jane N, Meila, Ekam R, Ava D-G, Maddie H, Ariah, Scarlett, Chloe J, Nezmay, and Mr Ryan P for your leadership.

Cricket Zone Day

Earlier this month a group of students had a lovely day out at the Cricket Zone day. With one win against Northcross Intermediate and one loss to Kristen School, these students played with integrity and determination.

Well done to: Hirun, Ashu, Induwara, Stephen, Lewis H-A, Lithum R, Nate, Tharul, Medhansh, Tom and Mason.

The final zone days for the term are in week 9 with Futsal. A high number of students have been trialing hard with Mr Yoon. Letters will go home with the students selected. Unfortunately, this event can only accommodate a small group of students.

We look forward to a range of zone days next term. Please bear with us if you feel communication regarding these days isn't always timely. Our timeliness is dictated by outside facilitators and events can be cancelled last minute if there is a significant change in the weather.

Kiwi Competitions

In 2026, Wairau Intermediate is once again providing students with the opportunity participate in the Kiwi Competitions.

The University of Canterbury offer annual Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science competitions for Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools. The skills based Kiwi competitions are written by New Zealand teachers for New Zealand students and closely align with the New Zealand Curriculum. The online competitions will be run in the last 3 weeks of Term 2 and the first week of Term 3. The competitions take place at school under exam conditions.

Parents/caregivers will be provided with an individual student report outlining student performance. All participating students will be awarded a certificate, and a prize will be awarded to the top student in each competition. The cost to participate is $9.90 per competition entered. Information and entry forms have been sent home already, and are also available at the office.

Technology Fee

At the beginning of the year, we sent home a letter requesting payment of the annual technology fee of $100.00. Thank you to those who have paid this fee. It covers the take home component of our specialist technology and enrichment classes. As you will appreciate the cost of materials has increased significantly so we very much appreciate your support with this payment.

Payment of the technology fee can be made by Eftpos or via an online payment. The school's bank account details are: ASB 12 3109 0011778 00 (please put your child's name and "tech" in the reference fields).

Teacher only Day – Monday 30 March

This is a reminder that we have a further teacher only scheduled for Monday, 30 March so that our teachers can engage in the second day of structured literacy professional development. We appreciate your understanding and support with this. Term 1 finishes on Thursday, 2 April.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

CELEBRATING OUR RAISE IT FUNDRAISER!

WAIRAU FUNDRAISER 2026

COLOUR RUN!

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026
2:00PM - 2:45PM

GET COVERED IN COLOUR!

FUN RUN COURSE!

MUSIC & GAMES!

Wear WHITE or BRIGHT

Get Ready for the Colour Blast!

Whānau are welcome to run alongside the students and join in on the fun!

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR FUNDRAISING SUCCESS!

Check this out!

Important Dates

Term Dates 2026	
Term 1	3 Feb - 2 Apr
Term 2	20 Apr - 3 Jul
Term 3	20 Jul - 25 Sep
Term 4	12 Oct - 16 Dec
Term 1: Teacher Only Days	
30 March, 24 April	
Public Holidays	
3 Apr	Good Friday
Sports	
31 Mar	Boys Futsal Zone Day
1 Apr	Girls Futsal Zone Day
Events and Other	
25 Mar	Year 7 immunisations
27 Mar	Colour Fun Run

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2026 Kiwi Competitions

Certificates and prizes awarded

Online competition for Primary, Intermediate and Secondary students

Ask your teacher for details and entry form.

Kiwi Science Competition

Kiwi Maths Competition

Kiwi English Competition

Designed by NZ teachers for Kiwi students and align with the NZ curriculum.

The competition will run during the last 3 weeks of Term 2 and the first week of Term 3.

Register Now!
www.canterbury.ac.nz/cam/

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5km Fun Run/Walk
Sunday, 29th March 2026

Join our favorite fun run from Takapuna to Milford!

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Activation zone at the finish line

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shoretoshore.co.nz

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Friday Counselling

WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A TRAINING COUNSELLOR (THROUGH AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY) ON FRIDAY MORNINGS AT WAIRAU THIS YEAR.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR CHILD ATTEND ANY SESSIONS PLEASE CONTACT LIBBY

libbyb@wairau.school.nz

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

NOTE: STUDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPTION TO SELF REFER IF THEY FEEL THEY WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A SESSION WITH OUR COUNSELLOR, LEA. THEY ARE ABLE TO DO THIS INDEPENDENTLY, BY LETTING LIBBY AND THEIR TEACHER KNOW.

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