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 .

A Warm Welcome
As we reach the midpoint of Term 1, our school continues to buzz with the energy of students striving for their personal best. This week, we are reflecting on our theme of Excellence and Pride by celebrating the incredible outcomes achieved by our students in the 2025 school year.

🌟 Celebrating Our 2025 Achievement Data
The final data from 2025 highlights the high standards our students and staff have set. Across the board, we are seeing outstanding levels of achievement that reflect the hard work happening in every classroom.

School-Wide Success (At or Above Expectations):

Reading: 83% of all students.
Mathematics: 83% of all students.
Writing: 75% of all students.

Key Highlights
Our data tells a story of consistent growth and high performance across all year levels and demographics:

- Year 7 & 8 Strength: Our Year 7 and 8 cohorts showed exceptional strength in Reading, with 80% of Year 7s and 85% of Year 8s achieving at or above the expected level.
- Gender Achievement: Our girls achieved particularly high results in Reading, with 89% reaching or exceeding expectations. Our boys also showed strong results, particularly in Maths, where 81% achieved at or above the expected level.
- Cultural Excellence: We are proud of the progress of our Māori and Pacific learners, with 76% of our Pacific students and 71% of our Māori students achieving at or above in Reading.

Comparison at a Glance

Learning Area	All Students	Year 7	Year 8
Reading	83%	80%	85%
Writing	75%	74%	76%
Maths	83%	82%	85%

Our Commitment to Growth
Pride comes from seeing hard work turn into results. These figures are not just numbers; they represent the dedication of our students to their own learning journeys. As we progress through this school year, we are confident that we can continue to build on these encouraging results.

Softball Success: Heading to Auckland Champs
We would like to extend a warm congratulations to the girls' softball team for their recent triumph over our competing intermediates. Throughout the tournament, the team represented our school with a commendable level of excellence and sportsmanship.

As a result of their win, the team will now move on to represent us at the Auckland Softball Championships. We wish them the very best of luck as they prepare for this next level of competition. We are extremely proud of you all!

Front row: Harper R., Shimonle T.
Second row: Jane N., Meila C., Ekam R., Ava D-G.
Back row: Maddie H., Ariah C., Scarlett F., Chloe J., Nezmay W-T.
Teacher: Mr Ryan P.

Update: Teacher Only Day Insights

A big **thank you** to our Wairau Intermediate community for your support and understanding yesterday while our staff stepped away from the classroom for a **Structured Literacy Teacher Only Day**.

We had an incredibly productive session working alongside the expert facilitators from Coactive Education Consultancy. The day was dedicated to refining our practice and ensuring our teaching methods align with the latest research on how students learn best.

What We Covered

Our focus was on the "Science of Learning" (SoL) to ensure every student at Wairau Intermediate has the tools they need to become confident, lifelong readers and writers. Key areas of exploration included:

- How Reading Develops: Understanding the cognitive processes that allow the brain to map sounds to letters.
- Structured Literacy Principles: Moving toward a highly organised, cumulative approach to language instruction.
- The Power of Explicit Teaching: Shifting away from "guessing" and toward direct, clear instruction where no skill is left to chance.
- Effective Pedagogy: Refining our classroom techniques to reduce "cognitive load" and improve memory retention for our learners.

Why This Matters

By grounding our teaching in evidence-based research, we can more effectively support students of all abilities. This professional development ensures our teachers are equipped with the most modern, impactful strategies to help our students succeed.

We look forward to seeing these insights come to life in our classrooms!

Wairau Fun Run, Fundraising Campaign 2026

We are thrilled to announce that tomorrow, Friday, 6 March, marks the launch of our Wairau "FUNdraising" event for 2026!

Tomorrow, you will receive an email with more details, and a letter will be coming home.

To get involved, please head to: https://wairaufunrun.raiseit.co.nz to sign up and create a fundraising profile for your child.

What's the goal? We are raising funds to upgrade our school tuck shop with a view to seeing this up and running again.

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 and in the email and letter coming your way.

In previous fundraisers your generous support helped us purchase the school van (2024) and last year, we were able to purchase our new digital sign. Your continued support will go a long way in supporting us to achieve this year's goal. We look forward to making this the best FUNdraiser yet!

go raiseit
SCHOOL & CLUB FUNDRAISING

Parent Curriculum Portal

The Ministry of Education's Parent Portal digital resource, provides useful information for parents/caregivers in relation to the refreshed knowledge-rich curriculum from Year 0 to Year 10, including draft areas. The interactive resource allows parents to see what their child will learn under the proposed new curriculum, across every year level, in a clear and understandable way.

The refreshed curriculum is designed to ensure children are learning the fundamentals they need, and it gives clarity to teachers on what to focus on in the classroom.

The Parent Portal is updated with activities and resources to support reinforcing key learning at home.

You can access a freely available online maths practice tool for children in Years 3 to 8. This covers basic facts, fractions, rounding, working with money, place value, counting patterns, square numbers, and word problems. https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal

The Parent Portal is available on the Ministry of Education website at: www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal

Technology and Arts Education

At Wairau Intermediate, we have a proud tradition of delivering high-quality technology and arts education. Our modern, purpose-built classrooms are designed to support hands-on, practical learning experiences that engage and inspire students, while providing opportunities to use the core curriculum skills from Maths and English in real life contexts.

With a team of highly experienced and specialised teachers, we provide expert instruction across a range of technology and arts disciplines. Our focus is on fostering creativity, problem-solving, and technical skills, ensuring every student has a successful and rewarding learning journey. Our specialist subjects include:

Hard Materials - Wood Technology
Students create their own projects following a design brief and work plan. They explore and work with a range of materials and equipment such as wood, acrylic sheet, electrical components, and various hand tools. A laser engraver is available for students to utilise for their projects.

Hard Materials - Metal Technology
Students develop different skills using a variety of tools to cut, shape, manipulate and weld different types of metal. They learn spray paint techniques, problem solving and creativity. They also learn to use equipment such as sanders, pliers, drills, tinsnips and hammers.

Food Technology
The focus is on cooking healthy food and learning life-long skills with a combination of active demonstrations and practical cooking lessons in the specially designed kitchens. Students learn fundamental kitchen skills, how to use specific equipment such as knives, ovens, fry pans, microwave and air fryers. They make delicious meals for you to enjoy.

Visual Arts
Students develop their creativity and artistic skills through hands-on exploration. They learn how to make and create original artworks using a variety of materials and techniques. With guidance and support, students experiment with both 2D and 3D art forms, developing their understanding of artistic processes while expressing their own ideas and creativity.

Performing Arts - Music
Students learn how to play tuned percussion, ukulele, keyboard and bucket drums, and work towards performing as part of an ensemble. They explore orchestral instruments, different genres, and the fundamentals of reading music.

School Policies and Procedures

Like many schools, our school policies and procedures are available online within "School Docs". Each term you can contribute to the policies that are under review, by following these steps:

All Reviewers visit the website https://wairau.schooldocs.co.nz

1. Type in our school's name: Wairau Intermediate school.
2. Enter the username (wairau) and password (wairau), sign in
3. Click on Reviews
4. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed
5. Read the policy
6. Click the Start your Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page
7. Select the reviewer type
8. Enter your name (optional)
9. Follow the prompts to show that you've read the topic and enter your feedback if you'd like to comment.
10. 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. This term we welcome your feedback on:

- Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Harmful Substances Policy
- Sun Protection
- Digital Technology and Online Safety
- Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices
- Firearms (optional policy)

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Immunisation Programme 2026

Year 7 students will be offered 2 vaccines in school: Boostrix vaccine (Tdap) and Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV – Gardasil 9).

- Boostrix is a booster of tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (pertussis). Most children received these immunisations last as pre-schoolers. This vaccine is scheduled for **25 March** (with a catch-up date 1-2 weeks later for those students who are absent on the first date).
- HPV vaccine protects against 9 types of HPV that are most likely to cause cancer and genital warts. This is a New Zealand scheduled vaccine that is recommended to be given at 12 years of age. Students need two doses of HPV vaccine with a 5-month gap between dose 1 and 2. The first dose is scheduled for **25 March** and the second dose is scheduled for **1 September** (both with catch-up dates as above).

Year 8 students will also be offered two doses of the Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV-Gardasil 9) in school. The first dose is scheduled for **4 June** and the second dose is scheduled for **11 November** (both with catch-up dates as above).

Information on the vaccine and a consent form has already been sent home with your child. Please complete either section A or section B of the form and return it to school by Friday, 20 March.

For more information on the National Immunisation Schedule please visit the Health New Zealand website: www.info.health.nz

You can also access the consent form here: www.healthed.govt.nz

Zero Tolerance

This is a friendly reminder to always speak to staff with curtesy and respect. While we acknowledge that there may be situations, that from time to time can be frustrating, we ask that you remember the following:

Staff are here to support and work alongside you. Therefore, aggressive and abusive behaviour towards school staff or members of the school community will NOT be tolerated.

Anyone using verbal abuse, being aggressive in their tone, or making threats to members of staff, will be asked to leave the premises and you will be reported to the police.

Your understanding and support with this is appreciated.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

"Our first Manaakitanga Award for 2026 goes to Sophia from 2/6. Sophia consistently shows kindness and care to those around her. She lives out manaakitanga every day through her respect for others and her ngākau atawhai — her caring heart. Ka pai, Sophia!"

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

Sports

5 Mar	Cricket Zone Day
6 Mar	Water Safety
10 Mar	Swimming Zone Day
12 Mar	Water Safety
13 Mar	Water Safety
	Triathlon Zone Day
19 Mar	Orienteering Zone Day

Check this out!

WORLD ROCKS

10TH - 12TH MARCH
GMT TIMEZONE

PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE!

1HR TIME LIMIT PER PERSON!

WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER STUDENT!

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

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OUR OFFERING

- Small Group Tutoring
- Math and English
- Homework Club
- Beyond the Books - Club perks

1/28 Hurstmere Road, Takapuna

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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Wairau Choir 2026

CALLING ALL SINGERS

LOVE TO SING?

SIGN UP TODAY IF YOU'RE READY TO JOIN THE SCHOOL CHOIR!

- First meeting on 24th March
- Choir rehearsal is on every Thursday from Term 2!

Would you like to share your song or piece?

MUSIC OPENING

Performance opportunity at School Assembly

HOW CAN I APPLY?

- Prepare a five-minute performance piece.(**may combine 2-3 short pieces, no longer than 5 mins in total)
- Reach out to Ms. Kim (visit music room at break time, or email her) to schedule a time to play your piece.
- Get a confirmation from Ms.Kim regarding the date of your performance.

Ms.Rebekah Kim's Email: rebekahk@wairau.school.nz

WAIRAU BAND AUDITION

SIGN UP NOW!

Who can apply?
Any Wairau Intermediate students who have a passion for music, can either sing or play an instrument (with at least two years of experience), and are enthusiastic about performing at various opportunities.

WHEN?	17-19 March	WHERE?	@ Music room

You can either audition as a group, or as a solo performer.

Email Ms. Kim if you have any question: rebekahk@wairau.school.nz

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Travelling overseas soon?

You must do a **New Zealand Traveller Declaration** when you come back

TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

New Zealand Traveller Declaration | Whakapuakanga Tangata Haere ki Aotearoa

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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.

MY Holiday JOURNAL

1. WHO DID YOU SPEND YOUR DAY WITH TODAY?
2. HOW DID YOU TRAVEL TO YOUR HOLIDAY DESTINATION?
3. DESCRIBE WHERE YOU ARE STAYING.
4. WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO WEAR ON HOLIDAY?
5. DESCRIBE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING YOU SAW TODAY.
6. WHAT FOOD HAVE YOU LIKED?
7. WHAT HAVE YOU READ TODAY?
8. WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY?
9. WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?
10. WHERE WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO BE THIS HOLIDAY?
11. WHAT NEW FACT HAVE YOU LEARNT?
12. WHAT MADE YOU LAUGH TODAY?
13. WHAT DID YOU DO OUTSIDE TODAY?
14. WHAT SONG REMINDS YOU OF THIS HOLIDAY?

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