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 .

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Block 3 on a highly successful Camp experience last week. This memorable event would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our Block 3 teachers and the wonderful support of our parent helpers.

A sincere thank you to the teachers for their careful planning, organisation, and leadership, which ensured the camp ran smoothly from beginning to end. We are also incredibly grateful to the parents who generously gave their time and energy to support the programme and help all activities run seamlessly. Your teamwork, enthusiasm, and support made this camp a rewarding and enjoyable experience for all students involved.

I have no doubt that Block 2 will be just as successful next week. Photos celebrating the Block 3 camp can be found on the Wairau Intermediate Facebook book page www.facebook.com/wairauint/photos_by. Here are a few highlights.

Celebrating Student Innovation – "Inventionator" Success!

Last week, a team of outstanding students represented our school in the "iNVENTIONATOR" programme - and what a fantastic effort they put in! Their hard work, ideas and the ways they navigated the online portal was truly impressive. Through their collaborations across the week, these students demonstrated that they could collaborate and create innovative solutions to everyday problems. They worked hard, maintaining focus as they enthusiastically developed their ideas. They were a pleasure to observe and work alongside. They can be incredibly proud of their achievement. These students were Qasim K, Navdeep C, Matthew M, Wesley B and Connor M.

A special acknowledgement goes to Matthew, who's team won best rationale, for their invention "Bottom Trawlers". They delivered a clearly spoken and engaging presentation with great visuals and powerful credits, tackling the urgent crisis of bottom-trawling and the massive issue of by-catch. Their proposed onboard scanning, surveillance, and release technology is a clever, innovative idea, and their analogy of using a "broom instead of a rake" is incredibly effective at illustrating how we can protect marine life such as coral reefs and kelp forests while still catching targeted fish.

Practice Lockdown

As Kaitiaki (guardians) of Wairau an important part of our role as teachers and leaders is to provide a caring and nurturing environment where health and safety processes and practices are strong. We review these processes regularly, so that we are familiar with what we need to do especially in an emergency. As part of our emergency response processes, we carried out a lockdown practice on Wednesday this week.

Our practice lockdown ran smoothly. Students and staff responded calmly which allowed us to ensure we are ready to respond should we be faced with a real lockdown situation. You will have received communication by email and Skool Loop.

In a real lockdown we will do the following:

1. Send a text, alerting you to check emails for updates.
2. Inform you via Skool Loop that we are in lockdown.
3. Keep you updated as new information comes to light at regular intervals (depending on the length of the lockdown) by email.
4. Ask that you do not phone the office or come onsite as we need to keep the lines open and the vicinity of the school clear for emergency services.
5. Inform you when the lockdown is over by text, then email.
6. Direct you regarding the process for collecting your child from school or whether we can continue with the rest of the school day.
7. After the lockdown is over (later that day or evening) send more information to you regarding the event that led to the lockdown.

While we know, in a real event this will be a worrying time for you, we will need your understanding and patience if we are not in contact for a while. Our communication with you will be dictated by the nature of the event as in a real lockdown we often have to take our direction from the police who will also work closely with us. Our priority will be to the put the safety of our students first.

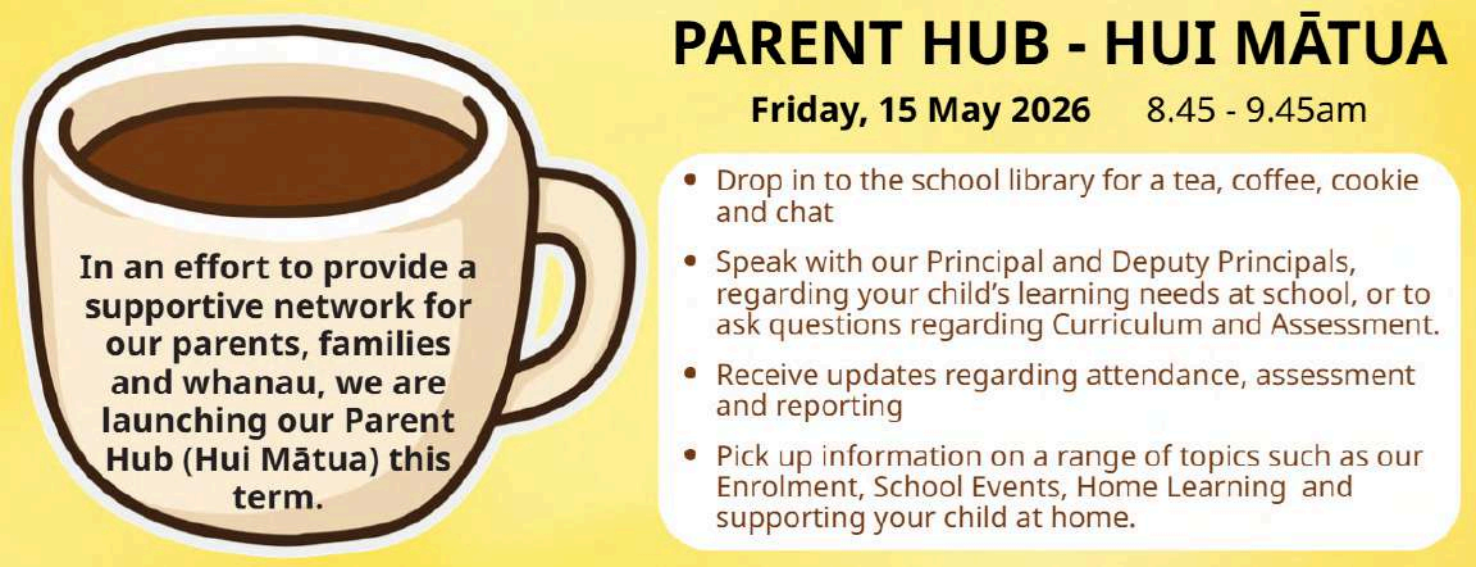
Curriculum – Assessment and Reporting

Education is a partnership of what happens in the classroom and what happens at home. Parents, caregivers, and whānau play an important role in supporting their child's learning and development. To assist with this process a parent portal launched by the Government is available to parents and caregivers.

This webspace is designed to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and whānau to access clear and up-to-date information on the school curriculum, assessment practices, and ways they can complement their child's learning. More detailed information can be accessed via this link: www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal

Parent Hub

The launch of our parent hub is intended to be a further way in which we can update you on curriculum changes.



Book Week

This week our school hosted a Book Week to promote the love of Reading. Our school library has been transformed into an enchanted forest and pop-up bookshop, offering a selection of engaging and affordable books for all reading levels.

Thank you to the families who joined us for the "Books & Early Evening Tea" on Wednesday. A special thank you also to Mrs. Monique Alexander for her hard work behind the scenes in bringing this magical event together.

Every book that has been purchased at the fair directly goes towards buying new books for our school.

Pink Shirt Day

This week is Bully-Free New Zealand Week – an important opportunity for us to affirm our commitment to a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all. Tomorrow, Friday 15 May we will acknowledge and support Pink Shirt Day!

Pink Shirt Day is about celebrating diversity, spreading kindness, and promoting inclusiveness to help stop bullying. It's a day where Aotearoa stands together to create safe, respectful communities for everyone - regardless of gender identity, sexuality, culture, ability, or background. Led by the Mental Health Foundation since 2012, the kaupapa encourages us to Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!

This opportunity reminds us that preventing bullying is a shared responsibility. As a school community, we need a common understanding of what bullying truly is. Bullying is deliberate, repeated behaviour that causes physical or emotional harm. At its core, bullying is about power when someone, or a group, seeks to control or dominate others.

Bullying has no place at Wairau Intermediate. It is hurtful, harmful, and completely at odds with two of our school values of Respect and Integrity and it takes Courage to stand up against bullying and Empathy to support those affected.

When our students live our school values, they celebrate diversity, include others, and build positive relationships. That's what makes our school a place where everyone can thrive.
We encourage you to talk regularly with your child about what bullying looks like, both in person and online. Please help us by having open conversations about how they treat others and how they are being treated in return. Monitor their online interactions and reach out to your child's teacher, one of our Deputy Principals, or myself if you ever have concerns.

To support this messaging, we welcomed Senior Constable Murray Fenton to our school this week. His visit put the spotlight on cyber safety. He talked to the students about the importance of keeping safe whilst online and how to make informed decisions. This included:

- Think before you post, like, comment or share
- Take caution when meeting someone online, people are not always who they say they are.
- Use the internet responsibly
- Avoid leaving an inappropriate digital footprint
- Check privacy settings
- Report and Block
- Tell a trusted adult
- Take a break if it gets too much.

Together, we can stop bullying, whether face to face or online before it starts and ensure Wairau remains a bully-free school where all tamariki feel safe and valued.

Māori and Pasifika Whānau Hui Fono

We are looking forward to the opportunity to connect with our Māori and Pasifika whānau on Thursday, 28 May between 7.00pm and 8.30pm. This informal gathering is a time to meet, eat and connect. The following flyer provides further information. Please RSVP to secretary@wairau.school.nz by Thursday, 21 May if you are able to join us for this social opportunity.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

Important Dates

Term 2 Dates	
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 2 Public Holidays	
Monday, 1 June	King's Birthday
Camps	
18 - 22 May	Block 2 Camp Ngāruawāhia
Sport	
Tuesday, 19 May	Year 8 Girls Football Zone Day
Events and Other	
11 - 14 May	Book Week
Friday, 15 May	Pink Shirt Day
8.45-9.45am	Parent Hub - Hui Mātua

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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