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 .

Energy and New Opportunities

We are thrilled to welcome our students back for Term 2! After a restful break, we return with a renewed sense of energy as routines settle and we dive deeper into learning.

The middle months of the year are often the most demanding, making courage and consistency more important than ever. By showing up each day and embracing challenges with determination, our students build the strong foundations necessary for long-term success. As the saying goes, "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

Central to this progress is our focus on connection. The partnerships between students, teachers, and whānau create the supportive environment needed for everyone to thrive.

Whether it's an "aha!" moment in the classroom or building confidence on the sports field, let's work together to make this a term be defined by kindness, focus, and a shared passion for excellence.

We wish all our students an inspired and enjoyable Term 2.

Last week we farewelled **Mrs. Stephanie Swart**, a dedicated and valued member of our staff, who has contributed greatly through her work in Metal Technology and ESOL. Her commitment to practical learning and supporting our diverse learners has made a lasting impact on both students and colleagues. We wish Stephanie all the very best as she begins an exciting new chapter with her family in Perth.

Mrs. Swart's departure has also provided us with the opportunity to reimagine our learning spaces. The metal room will be transformed into a dedicated science classroom, supporting more hands-on, experimental learning opportunities for our students.

Following a successful interview process last week, we are delighted to welcome **Miss Niyanta Chand** to our team. She will be teaching practical, inquiry-based science aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting this week. We look forward to the energy and expertise she will bring to this exciting new phase of learning at our school.

Parent Hub – Hui Mātua

This term we are launching our parent hub (Hui Mātua). This hub will provide a drop in opportunity, to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and I, to discuss curriculum updates, assessment and reporting as well as an opportunity to ask questions about our school.

The first of these opportunities is on **Friday, 15 May between 8.45-9.45am**. If you can pop by, we would love to have you join us. We plan to hold these at different times to allow parents / caregivers different opportunities to join us.

The second opportunity this term will be on **Monday, 22 June at 2.00pm**. We intend to hold a Hui Mātua twice a term.

Once interest is established, we plan to include a range of topics relevant to intermediate.

Student Leave in Term Time

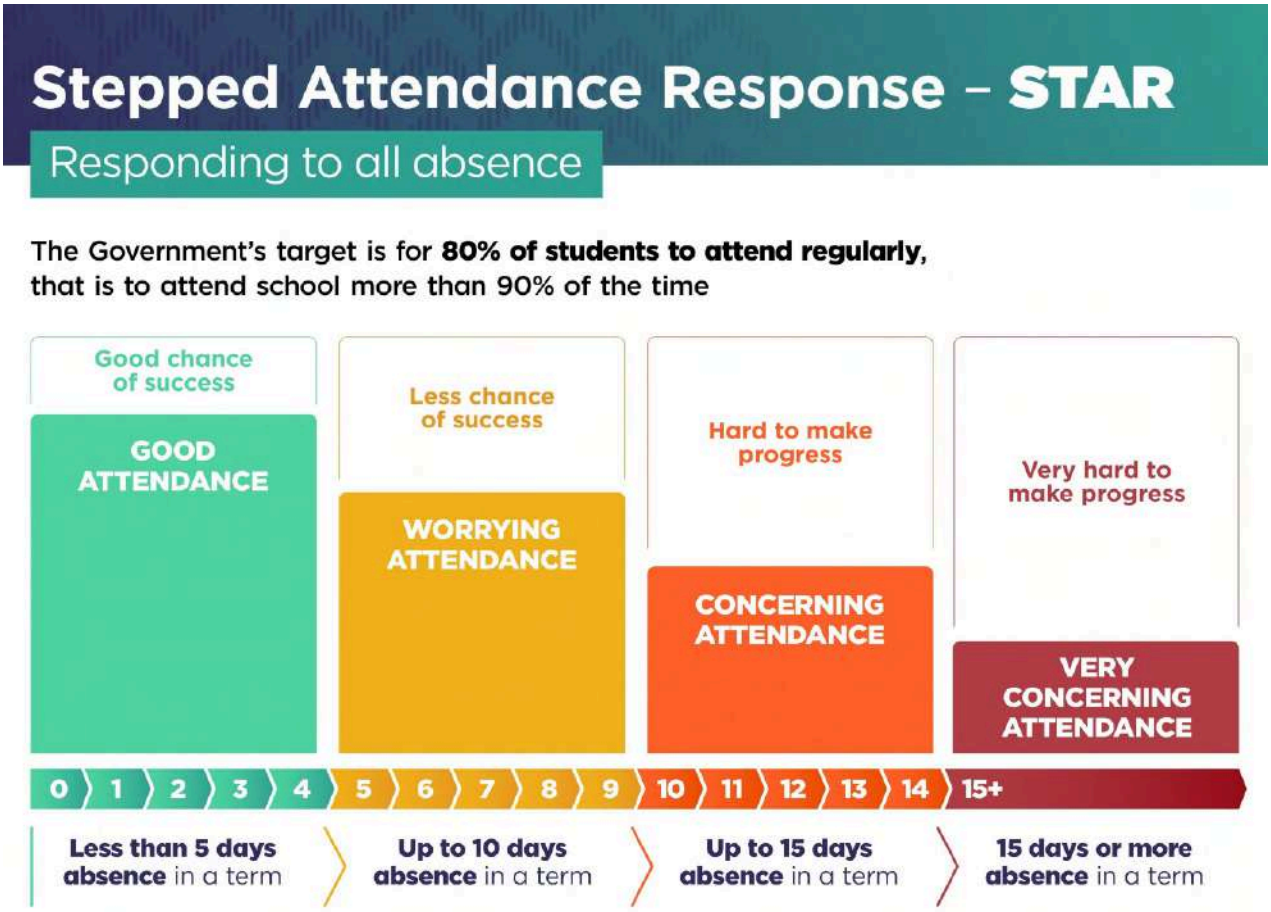
A reminder about school attendance: It is important that students are present every day unless genuinely unwell. We strongly discourage families from taking holidays during term time. Please be aware of the following if you are requesting leave for travel:

- Teachers will not provide schoolwork during this period. However, we encourage your child to maintain a daily journal and continue to engage in regular reading.
- The school is not responsible for any lost learning resulting from this absence.
- If your travel plans change or are extended, please inform the school immediately to prevent your child from being removed from the school roll.
- Leave longer than 20 days may result in your child having to re-enrol and be placed in a different class on your return.

While this leave may be approved for administrative purposes, your child's absence may still be recorded as a concern, as absences totaling five to nine days can result in attendance falling below 91%, which is classified as "irregular attendance" under Ministry of Education guidelines.

If your child has irregular attendance, you will notice you will be receiving emails/alerts from school regarding this. It is important that you always inform us of your child's absence as we have an obligation to record and report this to the Ministry of Education. This is the same for all schools and is part of the Government's attendance strategy to see 80% of all students attending school regularly by 2030.

If you receive such an alert, we ask that you communicate with us respectfully about this as we are following the Ministry of Education process expected of all schools.



Let's continue working together to ensure our students are present, engaged, and thriving in their learning.

Class Photos

PhotoLife will be taking Individual Portraits, Sibling & Class photographs on Tuesday, 12 May 2026. Please remind your child to wear their correct uniform, including shoes and not to wear any jewellery (unless cultural).

Key Events and Activities in Term 2

This term there are several opportunities in which students and whānau can engage. Please remind your child to listen out for daily notices and announcements so that they can participate where possible.

Block 3 Camp Monday 4 – Friday 8 May (payments unless staggered by prior arrangement are due TODAY)

Block 2 Camp Monday 18 – Friday 22 May (payments unless staggered by prior arrangement are due by Friday, 15 May 2026.

Orienteering Monday 4 May

Football Zone Day Year 7 Boys – Tuesday 5 May

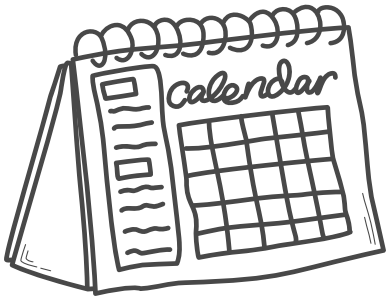
Football Zone Day Year 8 Boys – Thursday 7 May

Book Week Monday 11 – Friday 15 May (Community Night: Wednesday 13 May 4.00 – 5.30pm)

Pink Shirt Day Friday 15 May

Football Zone Day Year 7 Girls – Monday 18 May

Football Zone Day Year 8 Girls – Tuesday 19 May



Rugby Zone Day Boys - Tuesday 26 May

Māori / Pasifika Whanau Hui Thursday 28 May 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Water Polo Zone Day Thursday 4 June

Hockey Zone Day Boys & Girls – Wednesday 17 June

Table Tennis Zone Day Tuesday 23 June

Matariki Celebration (Wairau and Contributing Schools) Wednesday 24 June & Thursday 25 June 6.30pm – 8.00pm – ticketed event

Mid-Year reports Emailed to Parents Monday 29 June

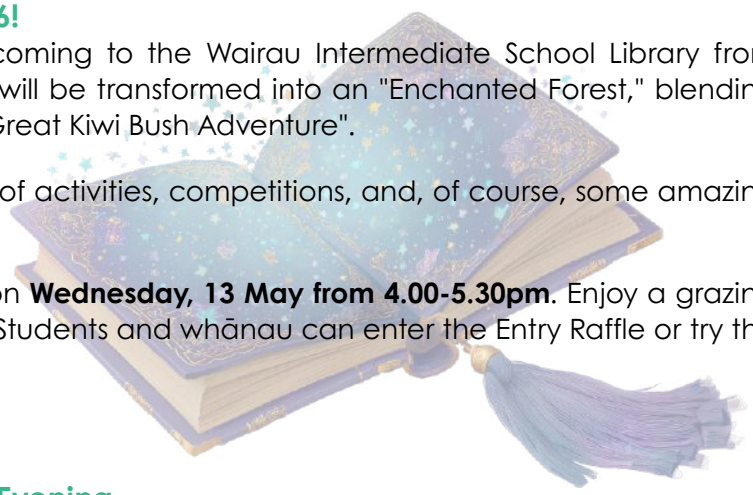
Student Learning Conferences Wednesday 1 July 1.00pm – 8.00pm (details to follow)

End of Term 2 Friday 3 July

In addition to these events, we encourage students to be involved in day-to-day activities within and beyond the classroom. With all that Wairau has to offer, academic, sporting and cultural, we ask that you encourage your child to be fully involved in the life of the school.

Step Into the Enchanted Forest: Book Week 2026!

We are thrilled to announce that Book Week is coming to the Wairau Intermediate School Library from **Monday 11 to Friday 15 May**. This year, our library will be transformed into an "Enchanted Forest," blending the magic of a fairy-tale woodland with a classic "Great Kiwi Bush Adventure".



Entry is free, and we have a jam-packed schedule of activities, competitions, and, of course, some amazing new books on sale to discover.

We invite all families to our "Books & Evening Tea" on **Wednesday, 13 May from 4.00-5.30pm**. Enjoy a grazing table with NZ classics while browsing the Book Fair. Students and whānau can enter the Entry Raffle or try the "How Many Book Worms" challenge and more.

We can't wait to see you in the forest!

Westlake Boys High School Annual Information Evening

Westlake Boys High School will be hosting their annual **Information Evening** on **Thursday, 30 July 2026**. There is no need to register for this event; it is open to all students and their families who wish to explore what WBHS has to offer in relation to secondary school enrolment decisions. The evening will begin with school tours led by WBHS Year 13 Prefects from 6.00pm – 7.15pm, followed by a formal address from the Headmaster and musical performances. If you are interested in seeing what WBHS has to offer, please consider attending this exciting evening at Westlake.

Student Spotlight

Harper R. came away with 2 trophies at her end of year prizegiving for the Northcote U13's mixed softball team. She was awarded Top Batter and Most Improved.

Alongside her team, the North Harbour Seahorses, Harper played in the Tauranga National U12 Waterpolo tournament last weekend. Unbeaten all tournament they faced off against Marist in the A grade finals. A tough game saw them come 2nd against a strong defense.

Congratulations on these amazing achievements Harper!

Extra-Curricular opportunities

We are always looking for opportunities to extend what we have on offer at Wairau. Currently we are seeking support with re-establishing a **Pasifika dance group**. If this is something you can assist with, please contact me by email: Yolandae@wairau.school.nz

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

PARENT HUB - HUI MĀTUA

Friday, 15 May 2026
8.45 - 9.45am

- Drop in to the school library for a tea, coffee, cookie and chat
- Speak with our Principal and Deputy Principals, regarding your child's learning needs at school, or to ask questions regarding Curriculum and Assessment.
- Receive updates regarding attendance, assessment and reporting
- Pick up information on a range of topics such as our Enrolment, School Events, Home Learning and supporting your child at home.

Check this out!

TEN FEET TALL

Weekly Classes Term 2 2026

GIVE THEM SKILLS FOR LIFE

SPEECH & DRAMA | PUBLIC SPEAKING | DEBATE

Build Skills for School and Life

- Speak with clarity and authority
- Express ideas and communicate with impact
- Act, present and perform confidently
- Think critically under pressure
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VIEW TIMETABLE & REGISTER

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Step into the Enchanted Forest

Join us for book week as we transform our library into a magical woodland adventure! From the "Fiction Falls" to our "Campsite Reading Nook," there is a world of stories waiting to be discovered.

Come and celebrate

MAY **13th** 2026

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

We invite all families to our "Books & Evening Tea". Enjoy a grazing table with NZ classics while browsing the Book Fair. Entry is free, and we have a jam-packed schedule of activities, competitions, and, of course, some amazing new books on sale to discover.

Recieve a FREE raffle ticket on entry!

Wairau Intermediate School Library
113 Becroft Drive, Forrest Hill

wairau.school.nz

YOU ARE INVITED TO A **FREE** SESSION BY INDUSTRY EXPERT JOHN PARSONS ON HOW TO KEEP ĀKONGA AT YOUR KURA SAFE ONLINE.

SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER USING THE LINKS PROVIDED BELOW

ONLINE CHILD PROTECTION

FOR WHANAU, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

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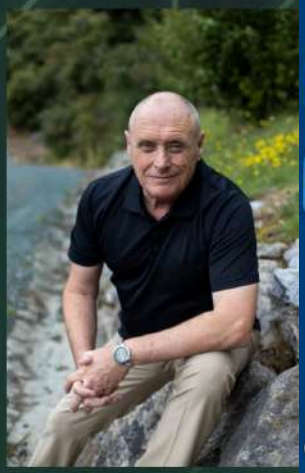

WHERE MAIN LOUNGE, LEVEL 1, NORTH HARBOUR STADIUM
COLISEUM DRIVE, ALBANY
(FREE PARKING AVAILABLE)

WHEN 4PM TO 5PM
MONDAY 11 JUNE

COST FREE

This session is about empowering whanau, parents and caregivers.

In today's digital world, young people face an increasing range of risks in their online activities. Equip yourself with the tools to reduce these risks and confidently address issues when they arise. Join us to learn how to reduce risks and maximise the benefits for your children.

Some of the things John will cover include:

- Online sexual predators
- Cyber bullying
- Sextortion
- Pornography and extremism
- Mobile phones
- The importance of sleep

John Parsons is a highly regarded Internet Safety and Risk Assessment consultant and has worked extensively in the education sector in Aotearoa. John is a published author and social commentator who works throughout Aotearoa.

REGISTER HERE

SCHOOLED

This event has been funded by Schooled and the CES Foundation

CES FOUNDATION

Piano, Guitar & Drums Lessons

RIGHT AT SCHOOL !

Why not give it a go this term?

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All with zero extra travel for families

Scan the QR code to enrol

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Learning music supports all areas of learning through **developing**

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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/

CAM
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Online after-school lessons for students in Years 5-9

Now Enrolling For Term 2

Limited spaces available

- One-to-one personalised lessons
- One-hour sessions: $100

Available Lesson Times	
Mondays:	7:00pm-8:00pm
Tuesdays:	4:00pm-5:00pm
Thursdays:	7:30pm-8:30pm
Fridays:	4:00pm-5:00pm

Strengthen and Extend Academic Writing Skills

Build confidence and develop essential writing abilities through targeted support in:

- Writing with a clear, formal academic voice
- Expanding academic vocabulary
- Crafting complex, well-structured sentences
- Using accurate grammar and punctuation
- Organising ideas into clear paragraphs and structured essays
- Developing strong main ideas with supporting arguments
- Building critical thinking and reading comprehension, including inference skills

Teacher: Allie Rankine

Qualified & Registered New Zealand Teacher with over 30 years of experience.

Please email to reserve a place or to inquire further.

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