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 .

Welcoming the Cold, Looking to the Stars

As crisp Pipiri (June) mornings settle into Aotearoa and we pull our winter coats a little tighter, a distinct shift fills the air. The arrival of shorter days brings a natural invitation to slow down, look inward, and connect with those around us.

While the Matariki long weekend doesn't arrive until July 10th, this month serves as our time of preparation. In traditional Māori history, winter was the season of the Whare Wānanga (houses of learning) - a time when the cold kept people indoors, gathering around the fire to share stories, pass down knowledge, and learn from one another.

As we look ahead to the rising of the stars next month, we are reminded of the three core pillars of the Māori New Year:

- **Honoring** those who have passed
- **Celebrating** the present
- **Planning** for the future

New Zealand's history is full of remarkable people who understood the power of perseverance through tough seasons. Dame Whina Cooper spent a lifetime working for her people, reminding us that true leadership is about keeping our communities warm, safe, and unified. Similarly, Sir Edmund Hillary famously used the rugged, icy winters of Mount Cook to train for Everest, proving that great heights are reached by enduring the coldest testing grounds.

We encourage our students to approach their studies with that same resilient spirit. This season offers the perfect opportunity to dive deep into learning, support peers, and reflect on the year so far. By embracing these crisp mornings, we can sustain the warmth of our school community through kindness and connection.

As the term gets busier, it's easy to let the winter blues set in. But just like the stars of Matariki that will soon pierce the dark night sky, our students have the chance to shine brightly through their effort, focus, and care for one another. Let's make this a month of steady progress, collective kindness, and big ambitions.

"Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu" – Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly. Let's give each other the feathers of encouragement over the coming weeks.

Curriculum and Reporting Updates – Keeping Changes Front of Mind

You will now be very aware that primary and intermediate education across New Zealand is undergoing some exciting updates. We want to share how these changes positively impact our Year 7 and 8 students and give you an even clearer window into their learning journey.

From "Levels" to "Phases of Learning"

The Ministry of Education has introduced a refreshed, knowledge-rich curriculum designed around the "science of learning" - essentially, how the brain best retains and applies knowledge.

As part of this update, schools are moving away from the old, broad "curriculum levels" and moving toward distinct **Phases of Learning**. Our Year 7 and 8 students sit squarely in **Phase 3**.

What does Phase 3 mean for your child?
At this critical intermediate age, Phase 3 is all about helping students "see themselves in the wider world and advocating with and for others." The new English and Mathematics curriculum are highly detailed, ensuring our students build deep, transferable skills in literacy and numeracy that perfectly bridge the gap between primary school and high school.

What's New with Reporting?
Alongside the curriculum refresh comes a brand-new, nationally consistent approach to reporting. The goal is simple: to make sure you receive clear, easy-to-understand, and reliable information about how your child is tracking, no matter what school they attend.

When you receive your child's upcoming mid-year progress report, you will notice a few positive updates.

The Five Progress Descriptors
To give you a clear, accurate picture of where your child sits on their learning journey, their progress is mapped using the following stages:

1. Emerging	Student is **working below** the expected level for their year group and **requires significant guidance / scaffolded support** to access the curriculum and achieve their personalised learning goals.
2. Developing	Student is **beginning to** touch Year 7/8 concepts but **usually needs help** to apply them. They are **making some progress towards** curriculum expectations for their year level.
3. Consolidating	Student is **mastering** the foundational concepts with **increasing independence**. They are **meeting many** curriculum expectations for their year level and are **steadily strengthening** their understanding across learning areas.
4. Proficient	Student is **working confidently** and **independently** and is **meeting** curriculum expectations for their year level.
5. Exceeding	Student has **moved beyond** and is **exceeding** year-level expectations. They are **working deeply** within Year 7 or year 8 expectations (Phase 3).

Next Steps & Partnership
Reports will explicitly outline what your child needs to work on next, and your child's teacher will discuss how we can work together to support them at home.

A Partnership for Success
When you receive your child's report on Monday 29 June, you might notice that the language used will look different to previous years. Please rest assured that this is simply a change in the measuring tape, not a reflection of your child losing ground!

We are excited about these updates. They take the guesswork out of assessment and ensure that you, as parents, are active partners in your child's learning. Our staff have been working hard behind the scenes to implement these frameworks smoothly, ensuring our teaching remains engaging, supportive, and tailored to every student.

If you have any questions about the new reporting format or your child's learning phase, our doors are always open. We look forward to seeing many of you at our student learning conferences on Wednesday 1 July where information in your child's report will be explained.

As a reminder you can also access curriculum and reporting updates on the designated Ministry of Education parent portal www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal.

You may also be interested in giving feedback on the portal by completing a short survey to help shape future updates www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentportal2026. The survey closes on 20 June.

Ministry of Education Māori and Pasifika Newsletters

Kia Manawaroa education pānui
Kia Manawaroa is the Ministry of Education's dedicated newsletter for whānau Māori – sharing opportunities, updates, and information about education.

Kia Manawaroa Issue 15 ▪ Subscribe to Kia Manawaroa

For feedback or story ideas, please email kia.manawaroa@education.govt.nz.

Matavai Pacific education e-newsletter
Matavai is the Ministry of Education's monthly e-newsletter featuring the latest Pacific education updates, stories and upcoming events.

Matavai Issue 13 ▪ Subscribe to Matavai

For questions, feedback or contributions, please email matavai.newsletter@education.govt.nz.

ASB GetWise Financial Literacy Programme

Recently, our Year 7 and 8 students participated in the ASB GetWise Financial Literacy Programme. This engaging and interactive programme is designed to help young people develop the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions both now and in the future.

Students explored key concepts including the difference between needs and wants, setting financial goals, budgeting, saving, and understanding how everyday spending choices can impact their future. The presenters also encouraged students to think critically about advertising, online spending, and the importance of making responsible money decisions.

The programme aligns closely with the New Zealand Curriculum, particularly within the Social Sciences learning area, where students develop an understanding of how people make economic decisions and participate in society. It also supports students to learn how to evaluate choices, set goals, and make responsible decisions. Financial capability is an important life skill, and opportunities such as GetWise help students apply their learning to real-world situations that will benefit them throughout their lives.

The sessions were highly relevant and practical, helping students build confidence in managing money and understand the value of planning ahead. We thank the ASB GetWise team for sharing their expertise and supporting our students to become financially capable and responsible citizens.

Kiwi Competitions – Upcoming Academic Challenge

Our students are looking forward to participating in the upcoming Kiwi Competitions in English, Mathematics, and Science, running between 15 June and 24 July. These well-regarded academic challenges provide an excellent opportunity for students to extend their learning, apply their knowledge in new contexts, and engage in rich problem-solving tasks across the curriculum.

Participating students have already registered and paid and are preparing to take on a range of stimulating questions designed to promote critical thinking, perseverance, and academic confidence.

We look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are released later in Term 3 and acknowledging the effort, commitment, and enthusiasm they bring to this enriching experience.

Maths Acceleration Programme (MAP)

This year, Wairau Intermediate has implemented the Maths Acceleration Programme (MAP). This 12 week programme is designed to support students; focusing on accelerating learning and addressing foundational gaps in maths understanding. We want to thank the students and parents for being open and commited to this new initiative.

SPORT

3x3 Basketball Tournament

Last month, some of our top basketball players participated in the first 3x3 basketball tournament for Intermediate schools on the North Shore. This relatively new sport offers something a little different from the traditional 5x5 game; with only 3 on the court at a time and rolling subs. This tournament was an opportunity for students to increase their skill work with a much faster paced game and enjoy a great day of hoops. We wish to thank the parents who volunteered to coach/manage and supervise the teams on the day.

Football Zone Day

At the end of May, our Football Girls spent the day at Becroft Park participating in the Football Zone Day. The team played valiantly in the quarter finals then the semi finals, and finally battling it out with Kristin to take the game by penalty shots at the goal. They placed 13th overall out of the 20 teams. Well done girls!

Earlier this month, two of our students took part in the 39th YBA Basketball tournament, which took place at Auckland Grammar School. About 160 children participated in the tournament, competing fiercely across various skill levels. We are thrilled to share the outstanding results: Jack K's team (League 3) and Jiwon S's team (League 2) both won **championship titles** in their respective leagues. Furthermore, Jiwon was honored with the League 2 - **MVP Award** for an exceptional performance throughout the day.

Water Polo and Rugby Zone Days

Last week's Water Polo and Girls' Rugby Zone Days were a fantastic celebration of teamwork, resilience, and school spirit. Our students represented the school with pride, demonstrating outstanding commitment, sportsmanship, and perseverance throughout both events.

In the water polo pool, players (The Orcas) showed strong tactical awareness, stamina, effective communication, and growing confidence under pressure. Each game highlighted the importance of teamwork, quick decision-making, and supporting one another in a fast-paced environment. They can be proud of their fifth-place achievement.

On the rugby field, our girls displayed determination, courage, and excellent skill development. It was especially pleasing to see students stepping up into new roles, encouraging their teammates, and embracing every challenge with a positive attitude. We are so proud of the girls' hard work, culminating in a superb third-place finish.

2027 Enrolments

It is hard to believe that we are already thinking ahead to next year's enrolments! With that in mind, please be aware of the following:

Open Days / Evening

Parents and caregivers are invited to come along to visit our school on our Open Days, being held next term on Tuesday 4 August and Wednesday 5 August between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm. During this time parents/caregivers can observe a vibrant, interactive snapshot of the school in action. Throughout the day, during school hours, individual/group tours of the school will be conducted by the Principal and Deputy Principals, and no appointment will be necessary.

An Open Evening will be held on Wednesday 5 August from 7.00pm - 8.30pm commencing in the school hall. Teachers and current pupils will be on hand to explain how the school functions and to show you around.

Year 6 Transition Days

Year 6 students from our main contributing schools have been invited to visit our school on the following days:

- Wednesday 22 - July Forrest Hill School
- Tuesday 28 July - Target Road School
- Wednesday 29 July - Sunnynook Primary School

Students will be given a copy of our prospectus and enrolment pack on the day of their visit. If your child does not attend one of our main contributing schools and you would like them to have the opportunity of spending a whole day at Wairau Intermediate experiencing some of the subjects they will be studying in 2027, they would be most welcome to come along.

Please phone the school secretary (Rui Stewart) on 410 7805 so that this can be arranged in advance and the appropriate form completed. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol their child at our school, we would appreciate you passing this information on to them.

Enrolment information can also be found on our school website: www.wairau.school.nz

EaseUp is a local, community-focused service dedicated to supporting young people with their mental health and well-being.

They offer both clinical and peer support and are backed by the Ministry of Health. Currently, EaseUp is offering their services in the central Auckland, Waitemata, and South Waikato areas.

We're excited to share that EaseUp is teaming up with Wairau Intermediate to provide a drop-in clinic for students on Friday mornings throughout Terms 3 and 4. If your young person is feeling worried or just needs someone to talk to, they are welcome to drop by for support. You can also refer them to the clinic if you think they will benefit. EaseUp has already seen great success running a similar clinic at other local intermediate schools, and it has been a hit with students.

It's a great opportunity for students to access support in a safe and welcoming space.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal

Important Dates

Term 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
Sport	
Tuesday, 23 June	Table Tennis Zone Day
Wednesday, 1 July	Hockey Zone Day
Events and Other	
Monday, 15 June	Dental Van visit
Thursday, 25 June	Westlake Boys & Girls Visit Matariki Celebration
Wednesday, 1 July	Student Learning Conferences

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Wairau Intermediate

Talk to **Miss Brown** or your teacher for more information

www.easeup.org.nz

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