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 .

Navigating the Wairau Waters: Halfway Through Term 3

As we reach Week 5, we find ourselves right at the halfway mark of the term. If the early weeks were about untying the ropes and clearing the harbour walls, we are now fully out on the open sea, steadily navigating the Wairau waters together.

This week also provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Tongan Language Week (Uike Kātoanga'i 'o e Lea Faka-Tonga). The Kingdom of Tonga and our wider Pacific whānau share a proud legacy of master wayfinders - courageous voyagers who read the stars, ocean swells, and winds to navigate vast distances. In that same spirit of wayfinding, our journey at Wairau Intermediate is driven by purpose, determination, and teamwork. True navigation requires us to keep our eyes fixed on the horizon, constantly striving for continuous improvement and holding high expectations for every student aboard.

Just as traditional navigators read the signs of the sea, we track our students' progress using clear markers. With the implementation of the refreshed English and Mathematics curriculums, we have moved to five curriculum progress descriptors: **Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient, and Exceeding**. You will have seen this in your child's mid-year report and discussed this with their teacher at our learning conferences held at the end of Term 2.

At Wairau Intermediate, we are committed to setting high expectations for every learner to ensure they are fully prepared for their future learning journey.

Using these descriptors gives us a clearer, more detailed picture of where each student is on their path. For most students, they are now on track to meet end-of-year expectations. By the end of Year 7 or 8, achieving "Proficient" signals that a learner is fully equipped and prepared for the next leg of their journey.

Wairau Intermediate Mid-Year Achievement Highlights 2026

Our mid-year results reflect the hard work of our students and teaching staff, highlighting encouraging overall achievement as well as key areas where we are directing targeted support to help every child reach their potential.

Overall, our students are making encouraging mid-year progress across Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Across the entire school, 64% of students are on track in Mathematics, 63% in Reading, and 61% in Writing. While these mid-year benchmarks are slightly lower than anticipated for this time of year, it is important to note that these results reflect data gathered after only about 14 weeks of learning (assessments were completed mid-way through Term 2 before the report writing process began). In addition, the expectations for students in reading, writing and maths are considerably higher with the implementation of the new Maths and English curriculums.

Key Performance Highlights

- **Year 8 Leadership:** Year 8 students are leading the way across all subjects, with 72% on track in Maths, 70% in Reading, and 66% in Writing. This signals that our Year 8 students are well positioned to meet expectations by the end of their two years at intermediate in preparation for high school.
- **Balanced Strengths:** Mathematics shows equal achievement across genders, with 65% of both boys and girls currently on track.
- **Literacy Trends:** Girls are showing particular strength in literacy, with 72% on track in Reading and 65% on track in Writing.

Focus for the Second Half of the Year

While our Year 8 cohort demonstrates strong momentum, our mid-year data highlights clear focus areas for Term 3 and 4. Our target students are very much on our radar.

- **Year 7 Transition & Support:** Early-stage interventions will target Year 7 foundational skills, particularly in literacy, to help close the gap with Year 8 achievement levels.
- **Targeted Cohort Programmes:** Focused instructional support will be directed toward target students to boost progress and ensure every student meets end-of-year expectations.
- **Key interventions include:**
  - Continuation of the Ministry funded MAP (Maths Acceleration Programme) for identified students.
  - Boys writing intervention with a focus on lifting Year 8 to strengthen literacy skills prior to Year 9.
  - Digi-Kids Reading Intervention focused on lifting reading achievement.
  - Continuation of our ESOL programme to support learners who are new to English.

In addition, teachers continue to provide scaffolded and differentiated classroom support to meet the needs of all learners, grounded in the strong belief that every learner can succeed.

Tongan Language Week

Our Pasifika dance students have been preparing for Tongan language week. It was a delight to see them perform at our whole school assembly on Thursday.

Special thanks go to Miss Sinisa, Miss Fesili and Phoenix (one of our learning assistants), for showcasing our students' talents.

Throughout the week students have been completing a daily quiz to develop their knowledge of Tonga.

New Sound System

Our new sound system has now been installed in the school hall! A big thank you to Edwards Sound Lighting and Audio Visual for their professional service throughout the installation. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Helen Whitcombe from Funding Connection, the Pelorus Trust, and Pub Charity Limited for their generous financial support. Investing in this technology ensures Wairau remains a vibrant community hub fostering connection and celebration in a modern, well-equipped space.

Daffodil Day 2026

Daffodil Day will be acknowledged on Friday 28th August. Daffodil Day is our country's chance to work together and change the experience of cancer for every New Zealander. In support of this day, students are invited to wear something yellow to school and to also donate a gold coin. All money raised will be sent to the Cancer Society in support of cancer research and treatment.

Sports Camp Week 7: Year 8 Students

Between Monday, 31 August and Friday, 4 September, a group of 35 Year 8 students will be attending sports camp at Totara Springs in Matamata. Preparation began in Term 4 last year, when students underwent a series of trials as part of the selection process.

Students will participate competitively in a range of sports across the week. This event will be a test of their sportsmanship, skills, and stamina. We wish them every success as they compete against intermediate schools from across New Zealand, and we look forward to sharing photos with you in due course.

Special thanks go to Mr. Adam Phillips and Miss Malia Sinisa for their hard work behind the scenes and with the students to ensure this camp experience runs smoothly. Thank you also to our parent volunteers who are attending to support our students and teachers throughout the week.

Riley's Roller Hockey Journey to the USA

A huge congratulations to Riley Barnes, who recently returned from Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he represented New Zealand in the prestigious State Wars Roller Hockey Championship, the largest annual inline hockey event in North America!

Riley competed in the 2013 A Division with the Kiwi Blacks, taking on top-tier international competition from the USA, Canada, Sweden, Colombia, Mexico, and Great Britain. It was an unforgettable tournament packed with incredible highlights:

- Riley and the Kiwi Blacks brought home 3rd place and a bronze medal!
- Based on Most Valuable Player points awarded by opposing coaches throughout the tournament, Riley earned a spot on the prestigious tournament All-Star 'Honour' Team.
- Riley placed 2nd in the official skills competition, showcasing his high-speed puck control, obstacle handling, and precision shooting.
- Riley scored multiple key goals during tournament play, including opening the scoring against Colombia in a 4–4 draw and netting another in a 4–0 victory.
- In addition to the Kiwi Blacks, Riley stepped up to play four games for Team International, testing his skills against top AAA-tier players from North America's elite national hockey programs, where he scored a goal and set up an assist.

To top off an extraordinary season, Riley was also awarded Most Valuable Forward in his New Zealand domestic league!

We are incredibly proud of Riley's outstanding skill, grit, and sportsmanship on the global stage. Ka rawe, Riley, what an inspiring achievement!

Beanies For Sale

We still have a few beanies for sale at the school office. We initially made an error with costing, so unfortunately the cost for the remaining beanies is now $12.00 each. Fortunate however for those who already bought one at the cheaper price. So come grab one before they're gone!

Rehu tai Speech Competition

On Wednesday this week, the following students competed in the Rehu Tai Speech Competition at Northcote Intermediate.

The Rehu Tai Festival of Oral Language theme for 2026 is "Our Roots, Our Voices, Our Future" (Tātou Pakiaka, Ō Tātou Reo, Ō Tātou Anamata).

They each gave impressive presentations in front of several judges, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements as they competed against local intermediate schools: Northcross Intermediate, Takapuna Normal Intermediate, Northcote Intermediate, Glenfield Intermediate, Murrays Bay Intermediate, Rosmini College and Birkdale Intermediate.

They achieved as follows:

- **Meila Coyle** – Spoken Word, **1st place**
- **Honour Tutakiau-Mahoni** – Traditional Speech, **2nd place**
- **Karter Tau-Mackinnon** – Rap, **2nd place**
- **Aiden Yang** – Flash Talk
  Aiden didn't place, but presented brilliantly.

With Meila's first-place achievement, for her spoken word presentation, she will now go on to the Auckland-wide finals, which take place on Wednesday, 2 September 2026, at the Dilworth Junior Campus from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Together, all four students put Wairau on the centre stage. Well done and congratulations! We wish Melia the very best at the Auckland finals!

Updates from the Board

Wairau Board Insights

Guided by the principles of kaitiakitanga, as a Board, we remain committed to making strategic decisions that enhance the environment under our care.

Therefore with these principles in mind, work to remove and replace Block 4 with four new classrooms and bathrooms begins next week! For the Board, this marks an exciting and long-overdue milestone. Block 4 has had significant weather tightness issues. This project will ensure we have additional dry and fit for purpose classrooms where our students and teachers can learn and teach safely in a weather tight environment.

This project is expected to gain momentum over the coming weeks, particularly during the end of Term 3 break. Completion is expected in time for the start of Term 1 2027.

To accommodate this transition, the following room changes will take place:

- Staffroom: relocated to Room 2/6.
- Room 2/6: relocated the Library.
- Music Department: relocated from Block 4 into the current Staffroom.

Because the Library is located directly adjacent to Room 2/6, this shift will cause minimal disruption to daily classroom routines.

While work is underway, the area around Block 4 will be fully fenced off for student safety. You may also notice a large shipping container has arrived in the visitor car park, which will be used to securely store surplus furniture during the build.

A drive way behind Block three will be installed to ensure vehicular access is kept away from the students and teaching spaces.

Out of school hours, please ensure your children keep well away from the construction site.

Thank you in advance for your support as we prepare for these exciting updates to our school facilities. We will keep you updated as progress continues.

Community Survey fuel voucher

A special thank you goes to the 80 parents who took the time to complete our community survey. With staff and board voice added to this we will have our 100 responses. This feedback will be invaluable in revising and shaping our strategic plan for the next two years.

All parents who provided emails as part of their feedback went into the draw for the $50 fuel voucher. The lucky winner was Elaine White, mum of Ben in 1/3.

Enrolments 2026

It has been a pleasure for my Deputy Principals and I to meet with enthusiastic parents and students at enrolment interviews over the last couple of weeks. Enrolments are still open for the 2027 school year. If you have siblings yet to enrol or know of anyone wishing to enrol at our wonderful school, please complete the application form as soon as possible.

Information regarding enrolling at Wairau can be found on our school website: www.wairau.school.nz
Alternatively, you can call our school office for support with the enrolment process: 09 410 7805

We are already looking forward to welcoming the new students to our school next year.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal
Wairau Intermediate School

Important Dates

Term Dates	
Term 3	20 Jul - 25 Sep
Term 4	12 Oct - 16 Dec
Sport	
Wed, 26 August	Gymnastics Zone Day
31 August - 4 September	Sports Camp
Wed, 23 September	Girls Volleyball Zone Day
Thur, 24 September	Boys Volleyball Zone Day
Events and Other	
Tue, 1 September	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri, 11 September	Spell-a-thon
Tue, 15 September	Photolife - Teams/Groups
14 - 20 September	Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Language Week
Fri, 25 September	Dancing Like the Stars!

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WESTLAKE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

2027 Enrolments Reminder

A friendly reminder to families of prospective students fo 2027 to submit your enrolment applications to WGHS as soon as possible. This includes all **in-zone applications** as well as out-of-zone applications.

Key Dates for Out-of-Zone Applications:

- Out-of-Zone Applications Close: Wednesday, 2 September
- Out-of-Zone Ballot Held: Wednesday, 9 September

Please visit our website at https://www.westlakegirls.school.nz/enrolment/ to complete your application online.

Contact us at enrolments@westlakegirls.school.nz if you need further assistance.

2027 STARTS NOW.

START YOUR WESTLAKE STORY ON THE WATER.

Coming to Westlake Boys High School in 2027?
Before your first day, join other Year 8s for a fun afternoon on the water and discover one of Westlake's most successful sports.

- ***ZERO EXPERIENCE NEEDED***
- ***MEET YOUR NEW MATES***
- ***TRY SOMETHING EPIC***
- ***GET OUT ON THE WATER IN A BOAT!***

LOCATION:
North Shore Rowing Club, Lake Pupuke

HAVE A GO DAYS:
7 & 21 August after school
29 & 30 September holiday camp

YOUR WESTLAKE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE.

REGISTER NOW

Hello,

my name is Stephen

I am 11 years old
and I love to sail my optimist

I have been chosen to represent New Zealand as part of the New Zealand Optimist Association Junior Development Team.
We will be sailing in a regatta in Australia at Lake MacQuarie, in NSW, at the end of September.
I am currently raising funds to help me reach my dreams of sailing for New Zealand.

Thank you for your support

Greeting cards

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