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 .

With our boat now well and truly on the water, we are smoothly steering into the final stretch of Term 3. As we enter these last three weeks, our focus remains on keeping the momentum going and pushing toward the finish line, where a well-deserved opportunity to stop, recharge, and rest awaits our entire school community. However, before we reach our end of Term 3 harbour, we continue to celebrate the journey so far.

Nothing illustrates our school's shared drive and energy better than our phenomenal performance at Sports Camp 2026, last week. It was an incredible week of sport, teamwork, and unstoppable school spirit! From the moment they arrived, our students embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, representing Wairau Intermediate with pride, while demonstrating resilience, sportsmanship, and a strong commitment to our core school values.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Wairau Intermediate finished **2nd overall!** This outstanding result reflects the collective effort, dedication, and determination of our students throughout the week.

Sports Camp 2026 Results

GOLD

- Field Hockey
- Girls Basketball
- Table Tennis
- Indoor Hockey
- Cross Country
- Darts
- Archery
- Cheer Dance Performance

SILVER

- Athletics
- Wallball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Volleyball
- Softball

We are immensely proud of every single student who participated. Whether competing on the court, cheering from the sidelines, or encouraging peers, every individual played a vital role in our success. The way our students celebrated one another, met challenges head-on, and gave their absolute best was a true reflection of the Wairau spirit.

A huge thank you to teachers Mr. Adam Phillips and Miss. Malia Sinisa, who poured endless time and energy into training and preparing our teams. We also thank Sophie McFarland (Learning Assistant) for her time in preparing our students for their Cheer Dance Performance which resulted in a first-place win. This sincere gratitude is extended to our incredible parent helpers; Karl Roff, Geoff Nottage, and Rebekah McIvor, for generously supporting our students and staff throughout the week. To all the families and community members who came down to cheer them on, thank you. Your encouragement made a world of difference.

This achievement belongs to our entire Wairau community.

Ka pai, Wairau! What an outstanding week. Congratulations on an incredible **2nd overall** finish!

Spell-a-Thon

Spell-a-Thon Test Day is This Friday!

Get ready to test those vocabulary skills, our Year 7 and 8 Spell-a-Thon testing day is happening this Friday, 11 September! Over the past few weeks, our students have been hard at work mastering core academic vocabulary across Mathematics, Science, and Social Science.

Remember, this is a completely cashless, achievement-focused event aimed entirely at celebrating academic effort. Every student who achieves a perfect 100% score on their test will be entered into our exciting Grand Prize Draw! There will also be spot prizes up for grabs, and awards for perseverance and most valued participant.

A Huge Thank You to Warehouse Stationery!

We would like to extend a warm thank you to our local Warehouse Stationery Wairau Park for their generous support and donations toward our student prizes. Their contributions are helping us reward our students' hard work and make our Grand Prize Draw truly special. We greatly appreciate our local business community for stepping up to help us inspire academic excellence!

Daffodil Day Support

On Friday, 28 August our students wore or accessorised their clothing with a hint of yellow in support of Daffodil Day. This annual fundraiser raises vital funds for the Cancer Society, directly supporting life-saving cancer research, patient support services, and health promotion programmes across New Zealand. The daffodil serves as a symbol of hope for the 71 New Zealanders diagnosed with cancer every day. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, our gold coin donations will help ensure that no one has to face cancer alone. Thank you for showing your support and wearing your yellow with pride! The students raised $117.70

Yachting at the AIMS Games

On Friday, 28 August students also wore mufti in support of Stephen Wood from room 1/0 who represented Wairau at the AIMS games in the yachting event last weekend. Stephen had an amazing experience on the water and represented Wairau with immense pride. Sailing at AIMS has been a dream of Stephen's since he first took to the water, and our school community was honoured to support him. While he narrowly missed the podium, we are incredibly proud of his remarkable achievements and dedication!

"From Saturday to Tuesday I was at the 2026 AIMS Games in Tauranga, representing Wairau Intermediate School in sailing. In the sailing event there were seventy competitors. On Saturday we didn't race because it was registration and measuring day. We had to measure the boat to make sure that it meets all the safety and regulation requirements for racing. On Saturday we also took the opportunity to practice as the conditions in Tauranga are very different to those we experience at Murrays Bay, the local club where I sail.

Sunday was the first day of racing. We had an early briefing for all the sailors. Then we had a club briefing from an experienced sailor whose son sails at our club. Then we were on the water in the first race. I had a pretty good day on the water, finishing 13th overall for the day. After the sailing for the day, I headed off to the late session of the opening ceremony. It was an amazing experience. At the opening ceremony the Mayor of Tauranga spoke to us. I learnt that he won a gold medal at the Olympic Games in rowing. They also revealed The AIMS Mascot for the first time. Its name is Moko. Then Frankie Venter sang and some sport legends, like Francis De Villiers from Auckland FC, spoke to us.

On Monday we had a club briefing from another good sailor then we headed on to the water just like the day before. It was rainy to start and the wind was light. It was another successful day of sailing, and I managed to move up to 9th overall.

On the final day of competition, the fleets were divided into Gold and Silver fleet, based on your fleet position at the end of day 2. We had a little bit of a delay getting onto the water as there wasn't much wind. The day was filled with delays as there were many wind shifts and the course had to be completely turned around.

The final day was my best day of sailing, despite being in the gold fleet for the day. At the end of the competition I finished 8th overall and I was the 4th place Year 7 boy.

I want to thank my school for all the support they gave me to attend the AIMS Games. The support has been a massive help, and I couldn't have done nearly as well without it. Thank you so much for making my dream of sailing at AIMs games a reality." ~ Stephen Wood

Stephen has also been chosen to represent New Zealand in the under twelve sailing development team. He will be flying to Australia on the 26th of September. He is one of six in his team. This is their first time representing our country, so this is a big deal for them. Stephen's team is also one of three development teams going to Australia to represent New Zealand. Thank you to the students and families who have been supporting Stephen with his fundraising efforts. We are incredibly proud of his achievements.

If your child is involved in outside school sports, cultural or musical activities and events and you wish for us to showcase their achievements in our newsletters we would be really keen to do this. Please send information to: ruis@wairau.school.nz with a supporting photo.

North Harbour Netball

The winter season of Netball has come to an end and we wish to acknowledge all the players, coaches and managers for their efforts, and share the wonderful results.

All of our teams will receive a certificate or medal from North Harbour Netball, and our 1st place teams will also be given a trophy to hold on to until next season!

Year 7/1 **2nd Place** in grade 3
Year 7/2 **1st Place** in grade 12
Year 8/1 **3rd Place** in grade 2
Year 8/2 **1st Place** in grade 11
Year 8/3 **1st Place** in grade 12

Hockey Success

What a fantastic season of hockey at Wairau Intermediate this year! We kicked off the year with a clear five-point philosophy to guide our play:

1. Hockey should be fun
2. We play as a team
3. Learn new skills
4. Have fun again
5. Win if we can!

Keeping fun and development at the core, paid off in the best possible way - both of our teams, Girls Wai and Boys Awa, went on to win their respective grades!

We were incredibly fortunate to have one of our parents, Jo, step into the role of head coach for the girls' team. With her wealth of club-level experience, Jo worked closely with our teacher in charge of hockey, Mr Johnston, combining their shared passion and knowledge of the sport to support the development of every player.

Congratulations to all players on an enjoyable, skill-building, and championship-winning season! Thank you to the parents for signing your children up and bringing them to practices, games and standing on the sidelines cheering the team on even in the rain. The season is not possible without your dedication and support.

In2Art

The Mairangi Arts Centre are holding a biennial local Year 7 & 8 Student Art Exhibition, **In2Art**, between 5 - 22 September. Congratulations to the following students who will be showcasing their art in this exhibition:

Lani S, Thinsu K, Caleb B, Gaon L, Mikylie M, Ekam R, Chloe B, Luke H, Fei Fei Z, Qiqi L, Sofia M, Ella S, Daniel L, Cynthia Q, Noel P, and George C.

Please head down to 20 Hastings Road, Mairangi Bay sometime to check it out.

Parent Hub – Hui Matua

Our next parent hub is scheduled for Monday, 14 September at 3.15–4.00pm. You will notice we continue to adjust the time in the hope to provide different opportunities for parents to join us. Your children are welcome to come with you. This next session will have a focus on keeping your children safe online. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. This is also an opportunity to meet with my Deputy Principals and I so that we can answer any questions you might have.

Dancing like the Stars

Our annual Dancing Like the Stars competition takes place on Friday, 25 September, starting at 12.00pm in the school hall. This exciting event is a spectacular culmination of our dance programme this term and a wonderful way to showcase our students' dance talents as we bring Term 3 to a close. Parents, caregivers, and extended family members are all warmly invited to attend and celebrate with us!

Electric Scooter Update

Following advice from NZ Police and similar decisions by surrounding schools, electric scooters remain banned at Wairau Intermediate.

Why this decision was made

Safety Concerns: Police report a rise in young people using high-powered e-vehicles - some capable of reaching 70-80 km/h - without the required licensing or safety training, risking severe injury.

Legal Context: National discussions are underway to restrict e-scooter use for under-16s, as these are legally classified as motor vehicles rather than toys.

Police Action: Waitematā Police are launching an educational safety campaign, though unlawful or dangerous riding may result in fines or impounding.

We are coordinating with Inspector Aron McKeown to arrange a safety session at school for students and parents. Thank you for your continued support as we prioritise the safety of our school community.

Free Computer Tables

We have a number of computer tables that are free to anyone who would like one. They are strong and sturdy and would be a colourful addition to a child's bedroom or study. If you are interested in collecting one or more of these please call the school office on 09 410 7805 to arrange collection.

Community Communications

Strong communication between home and school is essential to supporting our students, and we greatly value our partnership with you. All staff email addresses are easily accessible on our school website should you need to reach out.

To help manage expectations and allow our staff to focus on teaching and wellbeing, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- **Response Times:** Where possible, teachers will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 hours, between 8.30am and 4.00pm on school days.
- **Classroom Hours:** Teachers are actively engaged in teaching and learning during the school day, so they are not expected to respond to emails while working directly with students.
- **Evenings & Weekends:** Our staff are not expected to check or reply to emails in the evening or over the weekend. Messages sent during these times will be addressed during standard working hours, which may cause a short delay in getting back to you.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support in maintaining a healthy balance for our dedicated teaching team!

2027 Enrolments and Planning

Enrolments for next year remain open! We are currently planning our class structures for the year ahead, so if you have a child who still needs to be enrolled, we would greatly appreciate receiving their application as soon as possible.

Similarly, if you know your child will not be returning to Wairau Intermediate next year, due to a family move or other change, please notify the office as soon as you can. Having accurate numbers helps us prepare effectively. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,

Yolanda East
Principal
Wairau Intermediate School

IMPORTANT DATES

Term Dates	
Term 3 Term 4	20 Jul - 25 Sep 12 Oct - 16 Dec
Sport	
Wednesday, 23 September Thursday, 24 September	Girls Volleyball Zone Day Boys Volleyball Zone Day
Events and Other	
Friday, 11 September Monday, 14 September Tuesday, 15 September 14 - 20 September Friday, 25 September	Spell-a-thon Parent Hub - Hui Mātua Photolife - Teams/Groups Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori Language Week Dancing Like the Stars!

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