WAIRAU INTERMEDIATE
NEWSLETTER

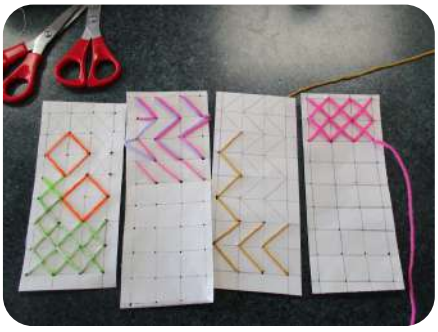
Dear Parents / Caregivers,

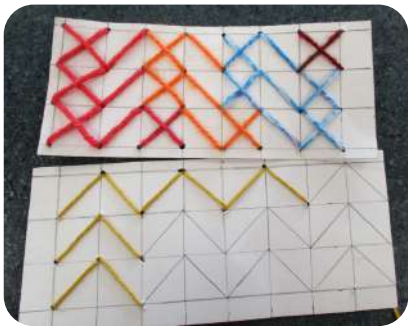
Kia ora, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Fakalofa lahi Atu, Taloha Ni, Ni sa bula, 你好, Namaste, 안녕하세요, Hola, اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ .

As our Wairau waka sails into the calm waters of the Term 3 harbour, it is time to drop anchor, rest, and recharge with our whānau. Refueling our spirits isn't just about stepping back; it's also about reflecting on what grounds us.

As highlighted during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori last week, our journey with Te Reo and Tikanga Māori remains a vital part of our school's identity. Taking this well-deserved break provides the opportunity to reconnect with family, while pausing to honor the language and cultural values that keep our waka grounded and moving forward.

Throughout last week, teachers strengthened their focus on Māori language, culture, and identity. A range of classroom and lunchtime activities provided additional opportunities to connect through food, performance, traditional craft, and quizzes to test our knowledge and understanding of te reo Māori.





A particular highlight was our kapa haka performance at Park Lane Retirement Village, where our students received abundant applause. A number of student leaders also launched the week with a vibrant display of banners to draw attention to our spotlight on Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

Kia Manawaroa Education Pānui

Kia Manawaroa is a dedicated newsletter for whānau Māori, sharing opportunities, updates and information about education. If you would like to read this free pānui please visit: mailchi.mp/education/kia-manawaroa-18-september-2026. This issue of Kia Manawaroa is a celebration of te reo Māori in all its forms, from classrooms and kapa haka stages to homes and communities across the motu.

Spell-a-thon Winners

Our Year 7 and 8 Spell-a-Thon testing day took place 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.

This achievement-focused event, aimed entirely at celebrating academic effort, resulted in some amazing prizes for our winners. We were impressed with the high levels of participation and effort. Thank you to Mrs Alexander for organising this spell-a-thon. The results were as follows:

Grand Prize (Tablet) - Medhansh

Grand Prize (Mountain Bike) - Qasim

Spot Prizes - Alexy, Connor, Jeremiah, Shiying, Luke H., Jana

MVP (participant) - Stephen

Marimba Festival

Last Saturday, a group of 13 talented students performed at the Marimba Festival held at the Barfoot & Thompson Stadium in Kohimarama. Playing alongside schools from across Auckland, they showcased their musical skills across an impressive 10-song repertoire. A special thank you to our music teacher, Mrs Rebekah Kim, for preparing our "Beat It" group for this fantastic event!

Dancing Like the Stars

Our annual Dancing Like the Stars competition takes place tomorrow, 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 is a wonderful way in which 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! We look forward to seeing you.

School Attendance & Student Leave Request Guidelines

Regular attendance is a Government requirement, and as a school, we are proud of our high attendance rates. We are well on our way to consistently meeting the expectation that 80% of all students attend regularly every term (attending 90%+ or having fewer than 5 days absent). It is essential that students are present every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

Reporting Everyday Absences

If your child is going to be absent for a portion of the school term for any reason, such as: illness, tangi, or a medical procedure, you must inform us as soon as possible. Please report all absences using one of the following methods:

- **Send us a Message** via the school website
- Complete the **Absentee Form** via the Skool Loop app
- **Leave a Message** via the Absentee Line - call 410 7805 option 1
- **Email Message** to secretary@wairau.school.nz

Requesting Term-Time Leave (e.g. Family Holidays or Travel)

When families take children overseas or on holiday during term time, it significantly impacts our overall attendance rates and results in missed learning opportunities. Family holidays or taking time off for non-school-organised extracurricular activities are not considered acceptable reasons for absence. We strongly discourage families from taking holidays during term time.

If you need your child to take leave during the term, you must follow this official approval process:

1. **Email the Principal:** Send a formal request to Yolanda East at yolandae@wairau.school.nz to ask for your child's leave to be approved.
2. **Confirmation Letter:** If the leave is approved, you will receive a confirmation letter from the school secretary.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to ensure our students are present, engaged, and thriving in their learning!

End-of-Day Message & Pickup Requests – Submit before 2.40pm

As the school day winds down, the administration office experiences a high volume of calls and drop-in requests between 2:40pm and 3:00pm.

During this final 20-minute window, classes are often packing up, engaging in closing activities, or moving between outdoor spaces, specialist rooms, and different areas of the school. Consequently, delivering urgent last-minute messages to individual students before the final bell can be extremely challenging and, at times, impossible.

To help us ensure your child gets where they need to go safely and calmly, please follow these guidelines:

Cut-Off Time for End-of-Day Messages:

Please notify the office of any changes to pick up arrangements, appointments, or bus routines before 2:40pm. This allows our team enough time to locate your child's class and deliver the message reliably.

Emergency Exception Only:

Requests received after 2:40pm will be handled on an emergency basis only. We cannot guarantee that non-urgent messages received after this time will reach your child before 3:00pm.

Pre-Arranged Pickup Expectations:

If you need to collect your child early on a tight schedule, please advise the office or classroom teacher in advance via email or phone call earlier in the day. Please also remember the school day finishes at 3.00pm and therefore we ask you to avoid pick-ups between 2.45pm and 3.00pm as it is challenging and disruptive to the school and the office.

Establish a Backup Plan:

We encourage families to have a set default routine with their children (e.g., standard meeting spot outside the gate) so they know what to do if a routine change doesn't reach them in time. We encourage students who are not collected on time, or per their arrangements, to come into the office so that parents can be contacted and an alternative plan made.

We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation in keeping our end-of-day routines smooth, safe, and stress-free for both students and staff.

Aria's success

On the 11th and 12th of September, Aria attended the 2026 Sydney Synchronized Festival at the Erina Ice Arena in NSW, Australia. She competed as part of her team, Obsidian, against 7 other teams from different parts of Australia. "It was difficult to adjust to the new rink and ice *and* the thought of hundreds of people watching me, but when the results came out, I was very happy that we ended up in 2nd place!" ~ Aria Hung. Well done Aria, we are so proud of you!

Malik's victory

Malik recently competed in the Syzygy BJJ in-house Jiu-Jitsu competition where he attends Jiu-Jitsu lessons. He competed fiercely and finished undefeated in 1st place! Great work Malik!

Volleyball Zone Day - Boys

The school was fortunate to enter two teams into the Boys' Volleyball Zone Day. Alongside quality volleyball play there were a couple of close games that went to golden point twice. The boys dug deep and managed to win on both occasions.

The day started hard and fast and the pace never let up. Playing back to back games is a tough ask but the boys managed to represent Wairau with pride while upholding the school values. Finishing 5th in one division and 3rd in the other, the boys should be proud of their achievement and effort.

Volleyball Zone Day - Girls

A huge congratulations to our two Girls' Volleyball teams who competed in the Harbour Volleyball Zone Day on Wednesday! Representing Wairau among a massive 30 teams, both 8-player squads showcased impressive skill and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Team 'You Got Served' put on a fantastic display to finish 14th overall, while team 'Notorious D.I.G' battled hard to secure a brilliant 11th-place finish. We are so proud of both teams for representing our school with determination, spirit, and commendable behaviour!

As the Wairau waka now glides into the Term 3 harbour, these celebrations leave us inspired and ready for a well-deserved rest with our whānau before we set sail for Term 4. We look forward to seeing our students next term. Have an enjoyable end of term break!

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	
Tuesday, 27 October	Athletics Day
Events and Other	
Friday, 25 September 28 September - 11 October Monday, 26 October	Dancing Like the Stars! School Holidays Labour Day

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HARBOUR VOLLEYBALL

TERM 4 INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL GRASS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE AT CARMEL COLLEGE

We are very excited to be starting an Intermediate School Grass Volleyball League at Carmel College in Term 4, 2026!

SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS
We ask that each **SCHOOL** enters their teams in this form. Super simple and easy! This can be a teacher or parent looking after the schools teams.

REGISTRATION CLOSES
Friday 16 October
(2 weeks before the start of the league).

We will then email you for final team details including team names, divisions, emergency contact details and an invoice to the school.

LEAGUE DETAILS

DATES
6 consecutive Fridays from **30 October to 4 November**

TIMES
4pm - 6pm
(times may vary per team)

VENUE
Carmel College

FORMAT
Pool Play followed by Playoffs

PLAYERS PER TEAM
4 are on the court, but the team can have between 4 and 5 players. Use rolling subs if you have 5.

GENDER
There are no gender requirements or gender divisions, everyone will play in either the competitive division or the social division. Teams can be all one gender or mixed.

FEE
$240 per team

QUESTIONS? Please contact our GDM Rob Tarr
gdm@harbourvolleyball.co.nz 027 786 5539

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