

Waikaka School Newsletter

Friday September 12th ~ Term 3 Week 9

Contact

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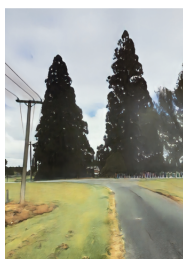
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Text an absence 027 2072027

USE THE HERO APP to report an absence

School Office: Helen Popham ~ office@waikaka.school.nz

Principal: Nicola Millar ~ principal@waikaka.school.nz



Our Values

Learning for Life

Waikaka School cultivates a culture that inspires all to achieve beyond what they thought possible

E hara toku toa i te takitahi, he toa takitini
My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective
Co-operation - Noho Tahi "Be compassionate and respectful to each other"
Collaboration - Mahi Ngatahi "We're in this together, work as a collective"
Competition - Tauwhāinga "By giving your all, your excellence will show"

A message from the Principal...

Kia ora e te whānau ~ Hello, family/community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It is so lovely to see the beautiful daffodils and other bulbs & flowers blooming around the school and district. Spring is here. It is a great time of year, especially the prospect of heading into warmer weather.

Earlier in the week I had the privilege of attending the Principals' Conference in Wellington. It was an incredible event, bringing together over 600 principals from across the country. The opportunity to talk with others, listen to speakers and be reminded why I do what I do was refreshing. I have returned with motivation to continue improving learning outcomes for our students here at school. Huge thanks to my wonderful staff who keep everything running so smoothly while I am away. They are amazing at what they do and we are all very lucky.

Support Our Teachers – Support Our Kids

Currently teachers in New Zealand are negotiating with the Government through NZEI around their working conditions. Teachers are advocating for:

- Fair pay for all teachers, including early childhood educators
- More support in classrooms, such as teacher aides
- Sustainable workloads to prevent burnout
- Protection of holidays and personal time

Burnt-out teachers or under-supported classrooms are not in the best interests of children – fair conditions for teachers directly support better learning outcomes for students.

There has been an offer from the Government which has been rejected by teachers across Aotearoa. If the offer from the Government is not improved, a strike may be necessary. Strike is a decision teachers never take lightly, but one that reflects the seriousness of the situation. We ask you, our community, to stand with teachers to ensure all children have the support and learning environment they deserve.

Next week is the last week of Term 3. I hope you all manage to get some sun and relaxation. Enjoy having your children at home. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ma te wa – See you later,

Nicola Millar - Tumuaki / Principal

Events Calendar

Term 3

12/09/25: Week 9 Newsletter

12/09/25: Assembly 2.15pm hosted by Room 5 Tauwhāinga

16/09/25: Year 7/8 to Gore for Tech

16/09/25: Visit to Tapanui to watch Heriot perform Peter Pan

19/09/25: Last Day of Term 3

Term 4

06/10/25: Teacher's Only Day

07/10/25: First day back for children

07/10/25: Year 7/8 to Gore for Tech

13/10/25: School Photos

14/10/25: Year 7/8 to Gore for Tech

20/10/25: Cancellation Date for School Photos

21/10/25: Year 7/8 to Gore for Tech

23/10/25: School Production

24/10/25: Teacher's Only Day

27/10/25: Labour Day

28/10/25: Year 7/8 to Gore for Tech

28/10/25: Board Meeting 6pm

02/12/25: Board Meeting 6pm

CERTIFICATES

Values

Cooperation: Charlie Cunningham

Charlie has been an enthusiastic member of Noho Tahi. He is dedicated to his learning and always tries to take on new challenges set by his teachers. Charlie is a friendly member of class and always makes new children feel welcome and included. He is also a dedicated learner at home by always completing his reading. Charlie has been a valuable member of Noho Tahi and we will miss having him in the class. Good luck at your new school and we wish you all the best with your exciting journey ahead.

Collaboration: Kaitlyn Wilson

Kaitlyn, you are so deserving of this award for the incredible effort you put into creating your group's Escape Room Challenge as part of the wider wolf group activities. You embraced the challenge of designing a series of puzzles that required teamwork and problem-solving, and your creativity really shone through. Every group that completed your escape room commented on how much fun it was and how clever your ideas were. This shows not only your ability to take on complex tasks and see them through, but also your commitment to creating something that others could enjoy and learn from. You are a wonderful model of collaborative thinking and behaviour. Well done!

Competition: Hazel Steel

Hazel, you are a patient and consistent learner who gives your best effort in all areas of school. You are well-rounded and you enjoy learning. You approach each task with a positive attitude and you like to complete all your tasks within the timeframe. You work happily with anyone and

actively strive to be a kind and supportive friend to others. You demonstrate determination and a strong sense of integrity, always doing the right thing. Hazel, you consistently reflect our school values through your personal drive for improvement, your spirit of collaboration, and your willingness to cooperate with others. Well done Hazel you are stepping up as a super role model to those around you with a positive and thoughtful attitude.

Competition: Emma Clyne

Emma, you are receiving this Values Certificate for the way you always compete with yourself and strive to do your very best. I can see how hard you try in your learning, taking your time, asking questions when you are unsure, and never giving up, even when the task is difficult. Your persistence shows that real success comes from effort and determination. You are also a kind, caring, and reliable member of our class, always willing to help others and offer encouragement when it is needed. On top of that, you are fun to be around and bring positivity to our classroom every day. Ka pai, Emma, we are so proud of you!

Class Awards

Noho Tahi

Gwen Nicholson For working hard on following instructions and creating new documents during tech time!

Gus Bould For working hard at improving his formation and size of his letters at handwriting!

Alice Turua For showing amazing improvement with her literacy skills and reading her books accurately and fluently!

Mahi Ngatahi

Evie Miller For taking her time to improve her handwriting and forming her letters correctly.

Fergus Curley For taking a thoughtful steady approach to his work to self improve.

Harry Stewart For demonstrating and consistently trying to improve in all areas by working hard.

Waikakahi

Ruby Wilson For always trying your best at everything!

Erica Byars For always trying your best and always willing to help others.

Zara McCall For wonderful reading, you think carefully at unknown words and use your tools. Ka pai!

Tauwhanga

Charlie McCall What an incredible all-rounder you are becoming; you are putting in huge effort with learning your lines and singing for school production, working hard in the classroom on writing and leading sport in the playground. Keep it up!

Stevie Lamb You are working so hard behind the scenes on our school production; thank you for the effort you are putting in with your singing and with creating dances.

Georgia Bell Thank you for taking the lead and helping with School singing. By showing others how to warm up their voices you are helping our singing sound great. You are an incredible role model.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We have had the Scholastic Book Fair at Waikaka School! It has been awesome! We have been super impressed with the quality and prices of the books and resources. A huge thanks to everyone for supporting our Book Fair!

Waikaka Wonders...

Mrs Millar was walking around the school and found these Waikaka Wonders...



Nina and Quinn from Room 3 were inspired after watching a video about sunflowers and took that spark of interest straight to the garden! Not only did they write a thoughtful story about a sunflower that wasn't cared for, but they also planted their own and are now passionately tending to them with great responsibility. Their mission? To make sure *these* sunflowers thrive with love and attention.



Alec and all children from Room 4 have been investigating frogs. Fascinated by aquariums, he's been learning about filters, oxygenation, tank decorations etc, in preparation for welcoming tadpoles. Alec has an open and curious mindset. We're all looking forward to seeing some little swimmers join us soon (hopefully).



Ruby and Georgia from Room 2 have been role models in respecting and valuing our shared spaces. They've been keeping things tidy and inviting, showing real care in making our environment welcoming for everyone. Their hardworking attitudes truly shine! Thanks for your mahi girls, our place is cared for.



Max and Zac and all of Room 5 have taken on a fascinating project – worm farming!



Max and Zac were given the task of exploring the different layers needed to build a healthy worm farm, from the



drainage base to the compost and coconut fibre. They worked together and laid everything out. We are excited to see our worm farm come to life. Side note: Thanks to Anna Stewart for donating the bath!

Te Reo Learning

Each week, our whole school is learning some words in te reo Māori together. We're building our language by sharing vocabulary, displaying posters with meanings, and encouraging everyone to use the words in everyday life. Our understanding will grow as we all grow. Check out what we have been learning this past fortnight...

Waikaka Writers... Spotlight on Noho Tahī

On the weekend I went to Ranger's house and we stole his lollies! We also stole Mitchell's computer and we stole his crumbs. We tackled Baxter. Gus was there too, also Amelia, Jack and Harry. Harry stole Mitchell's phone and code. We got lemonade. We also went to the bike park with Jack, Archie, Harry, Amelia and Gus. By Charlie C

The sunflower did not give up and its flowers and its seeds flew in the air and landed in the wet grass. By Nina S

Peter caught a wolf and the hunter's thought they could shoot the wolf. The wolf tried to eat the cat. The bird was too fast for the wolf. The hunter's helped Peter lift the wolf. The cat helped Peter. The duck got eaten. The grandfather was so surprised. By William C

I watched a cartoon about a sunflower. I felt sad. The sunflower did not give up, it was sitting in dry dust and needed to get to the side with the water.

By Amelia S

Congratulations to...

...Kaitlyn Wilson for her amazing sporting prowess! Recently she achieved very well in the Invercargill Gymnastics Competition by participating in the Vault (9.4), Bars (8.3) and Floor (8.5). Kaitlyn won second place in the Beam with a fabulous score of 9.6! Kaitlyn also was named 'Most



Improved Player' in the 11th Grade Ferns Football Team. We also know that Ruby and Louisa are achieving well in their sporting competitions as well. Well done!👏

Nga Mahi – Thank you

He Pākē mō Te Kura o Waikaka – A Pākē for Waikaka School

A huge thank you to Caitlin Donnelly, who has gifted Waikaka School a very special traditional Māori garment called a pākē.

A pākē is a traditional garment worn at the waist or shoulders. It was once used as a practical waterproof cloak and has recently been revitalised in kapa haka performance. Pākē are now often made with muka—a soft, silky flax fibre known for its strength and beauty.

This pākē was lovingly handmade by Caitlin, who learned the art of muka preparation and weaving under the guidance of Whaea Jaki Eales. The muka was harvested from local harakeke (flax), including a bush Caitlin has cared for over many years. Every strand carries aroha (love), wairua (spirit), and shared learning from our community and local wānanga (learning gatherings).

The taniko (pattern) woven into the garment represents Waikaka School's haka—featuring our two maunga (mountains), Tapuaenuku and Hokonui; and our two awa (rivers), Poumāhaka and Waikakahī. The pattern is repeated three times to symbolise the past, present, and future.

Caitlin, we are deeply grateful for this beautiful koha (gift), which will be worn with pride. Thank you for supporting our school, our tamariki, and our community.

Fliers

SAUSAGES



We are selling sausages and saveloys again this term for Friday lunches. Please have all orders to the school office by Thursday lunchtime with your money. They are \$3.00 per sausage / saveloy.

FISH AND CHIPS

If you wish to order Fish and Chips from Donna over at the local Waikaka Hotel please have all orders to the school office by Tuesday. Children require an envelope for their orders which needs

to be ticked with the order and cash ready for delivery on Wednesday lunchtime. Check out the new menu.

A4 Paper

We are selling A4 paper, you can buy a ream for \$6.00 or a box for \$30.00. Please contact the office if you would like any.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farewell for Charlie Cunningham

Hey everyone,

As most of you know Charlie Cunningham and his family are leaving at the end of term. We would like to extend an invitation to any students, staff and families to join us at the Complex on Sunday the 21st of September from 2pm onwards, to have one last play and catch up with Charlie before we head off, he is going to miss Waikaka School so much. Thank you for making him feel at home at this amazing school.

Regards Trina, Cam, Charlie and Lacey

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MOE update - New Parent Portal

Education is a partnership of what happens in the classroom and what happens at home. Parents, caregivers, and whānau play an important role in supporting their child's learning and development. The MOE have launched a parent portal in order for you to be able to understand what your child is learning at school or kura, how they are progressing against the curriculum, and what you can do to support them at home. Please read through the attached PDF to update yourself on the new parent portal now available!



Information about new portal for families.pdf

Download
901.6 KB

School Docs

We use School Docs as a way to manage our policies. Policies are always open to consultation in our school community. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz - Click search for your school. Start typing Waikaka and select from the dropdown list.

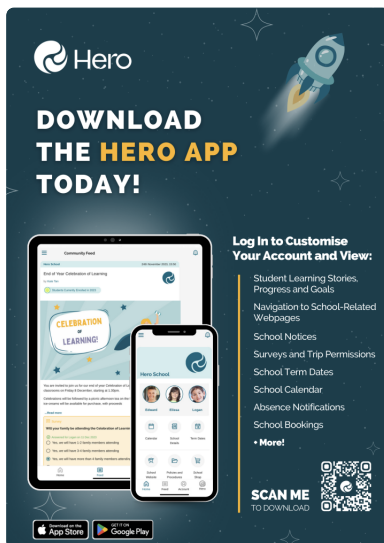
Username: waikaka

Password: matheson

You will see which policies are under review and you can respond to them as well.



Concerns or Complaints Process



Hero is our Online Reporting Portal that allows teachers, students, and whānau/families to view and share content anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Hero will be our main method of communicating and reporting from the start of 2025.

Step 1: Download the Hero app to your phone

Please follow the steps below to set up your Hero account. Please note that the email account you use must be the one we have on record here at school currently.

1. Go to the **Hero App**

Select the relevant link below to download the Hero App, or click to log in via a browser.

[App Store Link](#)

[Google Play Link](#)

2. Add your email address. Then select "**Next.**"

3. Select "**New User**"

Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children (or recently updated), use this address to request a password.

4. Select "**Submit**"

Hero will send you an email with a link to follow.

5. **Check your email**

You should receive an email within five minutes.

6. **Follow the link**

This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password.

Once you have logged in, you can update your password at any time.

If you encounter problems logging in, please check with the school office to make sure we have the correct details for you as a starting point.



Waikaka School

Waikaka School are using Smore to create beautiful newsletters