

# Waihi School Newsletter



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## Weeks Ahead...

### Term Three 2024

#### WEEK EIGHT

*Wednesday 11 Sep*      *Wig Wednesday (Child Cancer fundraiser)*  
*Sanford Science Fair Prize giving @ Craighead*  
*6:30pm – 7:30pm*

*Thursday 12 Sep*      *Year 8 vaccinations*

*Friday 13 Sep*      *Year 8 visit to South Pacific Serra Lab*

*Saturday 14 Sep*      *Aoraki Schools MTB – details to come*

*Sunday 15 Sep*      *Year 8s leave for camp*

#### WEEK NINE

*Monday 16 Sep –*  
*Wednesday 18 Sep*      *Year 8 camp – Otago Rail Trail*

*Thursday 19 Sep*      *Year 7/8 Timaru Speech finals*

*Friday 20 Sep*      *SCPSSA Mountain Biking*

#### WEEK TEN

*Monday 23 Sep*      *South Canterbury Anniversary – NO SCHOOL TODAY*

*Tuesday 24 Sep*      *Cultural Photography Session*

*Wednesday 25 Sep*      *Mothers Lunch, starting at midday*  
*2025 New Boarders overnight stay experience*

*Thursday 26 Sep*      *2025 New Students Day: 8.30am – 4.00pm*

## RE M I N D E R

TERM THREE FINISHES ON:

**Year 8s ..... Wednesday 25 September 2024**

**Year 4-7s ..... Thursday 26 September 2024**

~ NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024 ~

Friday 6 September 2024

# From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents

Sometimes I can't quite believe that there are only a few weeks between newsletters, so much goes on in the space in the middle, just look at the plethora of pictures in this newsletter, and the Sports newsletter to come, to see the variety of experiences and fun that is Waihi.

Our children, and staff, really do manage to squeeze every last drop out of their time at Waihi and, as I discussed with staff as we returned from our mid-term break, this term has been no exception. In six short weeks, alongside the normal teaching and learning that goes on, we managed to fit in: Winter Sports final games; Skiing competitions; Queenstown NZ Rugby Festival; Aoraki Maths; Bandquest; MTB competitions; Jump Jam; Three billeting fixtures; Christchurch Prep School Winter Sports Festival; Chess Power Regional Event; NZ Secondary Schools Equestrian Competition; Rep Sport participation; the start of Winter House Sport Competitions; a visit from ERO and our magnificent Duets Evening Fundraiser. To come this term, we still have our Founders Day and Grandparents Day; Flava Festival; Speech Finals; Sanford Science fair; Duathlon; more MTB competitions; Mothers Lunch and our 2025 New Students Day.

Well done to my fantastic staff, teaching and non-teaching, and our awesome tamariki, your can-do attitude is amazing!

*Allan Short*  
Headmaster

## Headmaster's Thought for the Week

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did.”

~ Mark Twain

## Board News

Next Tuesday the Waihi Board, together with our Senior Leadership Team are holding a strategic planning day. Over the course of the year, we have gathered data from students; staff, parents and the Education Review Office. Whilst most feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, our aim is not to rest on our laurels, but to ask ourselves how we can be better tomorrow than we are today.

~ continued over the page ~

Our current Strategic Plan included goals around the following five areas:

- Excellence in Education
- A Leading boarding Environment
- Embracing the Unique aspects of a Waihi Education
- Customer Focus
- Financial Health

There has been much discussion in the media over the past couple of months around academic standards. The Prime Minister and Minister for Education having announced changes to mathematics and literacy in primary schools, with the introduction of compulsory annual standardised testing in primary schools from 2025. Waihi families can take comfort from the fact that not only does Waihi already meet this target but exceeds it. Waihi uses both standardised assessment tools (PATs and e-asTTle), which will become required to be used in state schools.

The Government said it was accelerating the changes to the maths curriculum after fresh data revealed many New Zealand children were still struggling. The data from the Curriculum Insights and Progress Study (CIPS) showed less than a quarter (22%) of Year 8 students were at or above curriculum level in 2023. PAT and e-asTTle data from Waihi shows that 87% of the Year 8 leavers in 2023 were at or above the expected curriculum level (Level 4) as they moved on to high school at the end of the year.

The Board have recently held a special meeting with the headmaster (Allan Short) and assistant headmaster (academics) Nathan Morland discussing and reviewing the school curriculum and education at Waihi. Allan and Nathan shared assessment and reporting data with the board. They discussed initiatives at Waihi to 'ring-fence' core academic time, whilst allowing for the broad, rich holistic experience that is clearly the 'Waihi Way'.

Over the next few weeks teaching staff will be sharing more with parents about expectations around curriculum coverage, homework and ways in which families can support their child's academic journey. We are also investigating further use of several online teaching and learning platforms, some of which are already in use at Waihi, such as Google Classroom, Khan Academy and Education Perfect. Such tools can be useful to additionally engage students when outside of the classroom; to assist with independent learning and revision of key learning concepts, catching up work during and after student absence, and help to prepare students for the key skills of independent, self-direct learning that they will need for high school and beyond.

We are looking forward to our Strategic Planning Day next week and to sharing with the school community the results of this work in due course. When we set about the task of reviewing our strategic plan we start with a blank sheet of paper and three words – *The Waihi Student*. You can be assured that the decisions we make will be centred around our Waihi Child and the knowledge of what makes each one tick, this is the real point of difference at Waihi.

# W A I H I N O T I C E S

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

## AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS/TRAINING

Term 4 2024

After school swimming lessons/training are available with Clare Connolly, swimming instructor on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in Term 4.

Please email Clare directly for any enquiries and an enrolment form [clare.connolly@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clare.connolly@xtra.co.nz)

Enrolments close 30 September 2024.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY VISITS

### TIMARU

**DATE:** Wed 23 October 2024

**TIME:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**VENUE:** Hector Blacks

### ASHBURTON

**DATE:** Thu 24 October 2024

**TIME:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**VENUE:** The Fine Lion

### WANAKA

**DATE:** Tue 19 November 2024

**TIME:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm

**VENUE:** Bistro Gentil

Everyone welcome. Whether you are a past, current or future parent, we would love to see you when we are visiting your local area.

This is an informal gathering – we would love to discuss with you how we can best nurture success in your child.

Please email your interest to Kat at: [executive@waihi.school.nz](mailto:executive@waihi.school.nz)

*These events are being hosted by Christ's College, St Margaret's College and Waihi School*

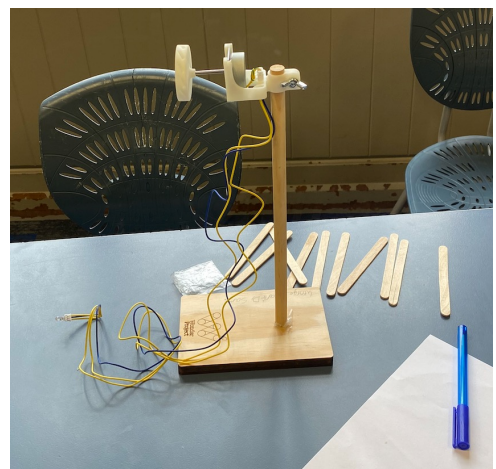
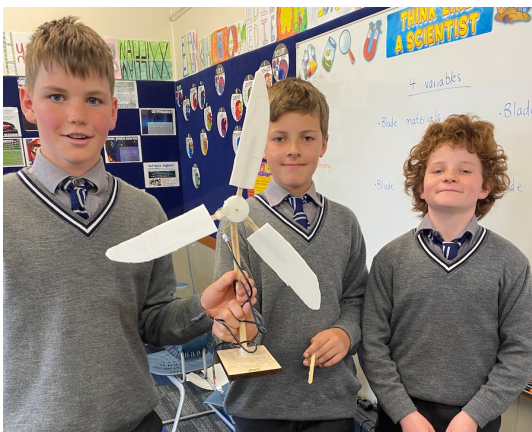
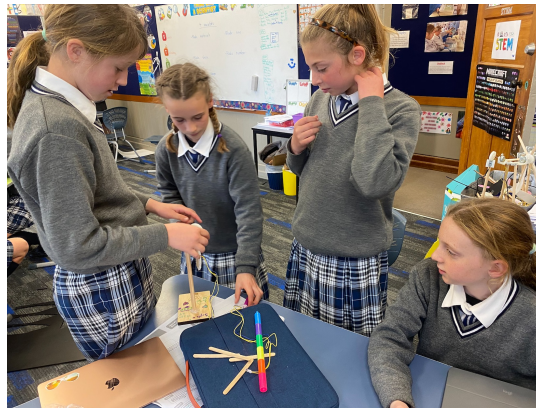
# W A I H I : S T E M

Sharing Our Learning | Information

Year 7s have been very busy in their Wonder Project Power Challenge making their prototypes of their working wind turbines. Using the engineering design process,- they had to think carefully about the variables of blade design, blade number, blade material and blade size and how this will affect how efficient their wind turbine is at generating electricity from the wind.

Our next steps are to complete our prototype wind turbines, and then test them to see how many LED (light emitting diodes) the wind turbines can light up in the model town. Ka Pai Year 7s- fantastic teamwork and designing.

- Mrs Cunningham





# WAIHI MUSIC

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

## NZ MUSIC MONTH COMPETITION

Last Friday, a representative from Harvey Norman attended our assembly to present us with our prizes from the New Zealand Music Month Competition held in May.

It was a special moment, particularly as we have now won this competition two years in a row.

We are especially proud to be the only South Island school to have received a prize this year.

- Mr Bradley



## THE BANANA PIANO

Last week at music we had fun learning about how keyboards work and making our own out of Banana's!!



For all music or itinerant enquiries, please email [music@waihi.school.nz](mailto:music@waihi.school.nz)

Friday 6 September 2024

# WAIHI MUSIC

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

## BANDQUEST 2024

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August, we took both Waihi bands up to Bandquest 2024 in Christchurch, and what a fabulous day it was! Both bands absolutely rocked the stage, delivering impressive performances that made us all proud.

“1907” was thrilled to take out 3rd place with their awesome rendition of Sunday Bloody Sunday by U2, and the Weezer version of Mr Blue Sky, winning a \$300 Rockshop Voucher for our school music department!

“Harrison Road” then gave an excellent performance of Proud Mary & Somebody That I Used to Know. Florence Black was awarded the top specialist instrument award for her playing on the glockenspiel!

A huge thank you to all the parents and families who came along to support the bands, especially those who made the big journey from Invercargill and Dunedin.

We are so proud of these fine musicians, and it was an absolute thrill to see them rocking the big stage at the James Hay Theatre in Christchurch.

- Mr and Mrs Bradley



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Friday 6 September 2024

# ANNUAL GIVING : DUETS 2024

## WAIHI FUNDRAISER EVENING

An amazing evening was had by all at the Waihi Fundraiser Evening - DUETS 2024. This year, the annual Waihi fundraiser was combined with DUETS, an innovative event created by our Directors of Music, Al & Sheryl Bradley. For the past five years, DUETS has been raising money for various organisations around South Canterbury.

Eight brave members of the Waihi community took to the stage alongside some of the finest singers South Canterbury has to offer. Each couple delivered outstanding renditions of well-known duets.

The performances were followed by an auction, which proved to be a huge success. Over \$20,000 was raised to support the much-needed upgrades to the heating systems in both the Chapel and School Hall. This incredible amount was made possible thanks to the generosity of everyone involved.

A huge thank you goes out to all the singers and everyone who contributed to making this night possible. Special thanks to everyone who purchased tickets and came out to support the evening—it was such a success, with great feedback received.

We would also like to thank our Auctioneer, Snow Buckley, for his expert handling of the auction, and to Karen McArthur (Waihi Events) and her dedicated team for organising the auction items that were kindly donated.

The Waihi Fundraiser Evening - DUETS 2024 was definitely a night to remember!!

- Sheryl & Al Bradley

## Waihi Music & Cultural Arts

Click on the below link to follow this page to ensure you do not miss all the Waihi School's Cultural / Music updates

<https://www.facebook.com/Waihi.Music>



# CELEBRATING OUR WAIHIANS

## AGRIKIDS GRAND FINAL 2024

Jack France, Henry Phillips, and Arthur Redfern made it through to the AgriKids Grand Final for 2024, which was held in Hamilton in conjunction with the New Zealand Young Farmer of the Year. To make it to this stage is an outstanding achievement alone. Along with dads, the boys went up and had a great time. They worked well as a team and made Waihi School proud. They even appeared on the TV program What Now, where they were interviewed and spoke very well. What a fantastic experience overall for them. Roll on next year! The boys reported the following:

*"This year, we made it into the National AgriKids final in Hamilton. After coming 3rd in our region for the AgriKids, we flew up to Hamilton and started the three-day competition. There were three sections: The race off to complete agri tasks quickly, The agri quiz, a test about our farming knowledge, and the modules featuring hands-on tasks like naming parts of a Motorbike, Wallaby conservation, and crops and machinery, to name a few. We were so lucky to have the opportunity to represent Waihi at the AgriKids final 2024."*

- Jack, Arthur and Henry.



## TIMARU SCHOOLS Y5/6 LIONS SPEECH COMPETITION

Thursday 5 September 2024

This term the Year 6 children have been writing, learning, and perfecting their speeches, and delivering them in class.

From there, four from each class were short-listed for a further delivery to all the Year 6 syndicate. One was selected to represent Waihi School at the Timaru Suburban Lions Year 5/6 Speech Competition in Timaru last evening.

Well done to **Pip Neal** for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> – Barbie indeed is a positive role model, as are you!



# CELEBRATING OUR WAIHIANS

## LIBRARIANS 2024

We are excited to announce:

**Head Librarian**      Riley McBain

**Deputy Librarians**    James Gorrie  
Tom Siegert



## SCIENCE BADGES

Congratulations to the following students for being awarded:

**Wool Badge**

- Olivia Copland

**Advanced Science Explorer**

- Florence Black
- Van Bishop
- Rupert Williams

