



Waihi Newsletter | 19 Nov 2025



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2026 Term One Calendar

WEEKS AHEAD... TERM FOUR 2025

WEEK SEVEN

NOVEMBER

THU 20 ISNZ Year 8 Dance (Christchurch)
FRI 21 Y8 Production: Full Dress Rehearsal

WEEK EIGHT

NOVEMBER

MON 24 Year 8 Production: Disney Frozen Jr.
TUE 25 SCPSSA Athletics Day
Year 8 Production: Disney Frozen Jr.
WED 26 Year 8 Production: Disney Frozen Jr.
THU 27 Year 8 Production: Disney Frozen Jr.
FRI 28 Year 8 Leavers Lunch / Leavers Service
SAT 29-30 Year 8 Leavers Weekend (arranged by parents)

WEEK NINE

MON 1 Class of 2020 Reunion
TUE 2 Waihi Association & Board Meetings
Boarders Dinner
WED 3 Year 8 Adrenalin Forest trip
FRI 5 &
SAT 6 See further into the newsletter for details

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Friends of Waihi,

You may have seen recent announcements from the Ministry of Education about fast-tracked curriculum changes across a number of learning areas. These shifts are part of a nationwide effort to bring greater consistency to teaching and assessment, and while the intentions are positive, the pace of change has created a fair amount of uncertainty in many schools.

In times like these, I am reminded of the real strength we have as an independent school. While state schools are required to immediately implement new directions as they are released, we are able to take a step back, watch carefully, and make decisions that genuinely serve our students and community. Rather than rushing to meet a deadline, we can ask the more important question: *Is this right for our learners at this time?*

This freedom allows us to prioritise stability and quality. It gives our teachers the space to continue delivering rich, structured programmes that are already working well, without the distraction of constant reshuffling. It allows us to wait, to observe how these changes play out nationally, and to adopt the parts that enhance learning while setting aside what does not. Most importantly, it keeps our focus exactly where it should be, on the wellbeing, progress, and confidence of the children in front of us.

Although I have only been at Waihi for a short time, it is already clear to me that this is a place where tradition and thoughtful innovation work hand in hand. Our independence allows us to make decisions deliberately rather than reactively, and to ensure that any changes we do make are well considered, well resourced, and grounded in what we know works for our children.

As the educational landscape continues to shift, please be assured that we will continue to move at a pace that maintains high standards, supports our staff, and puts your children first, always.

As we head into the final three weeks of the term, there is plenty to look forward to and celebrate. It is a busy and exciting time at Waihi, not least with our Year 8 production taking the stage next week. I look forward to enjoying these final weeks together as we finish the year strongly and with plenty of pride in what our students have achieved.

Warm regards

Gareth Wood
Headmaster

WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

Return of Trophies / Cups

Calling for all Awards Assembly and Prize giving trophies to be engraved, cleaned and return to Kat in the school office please.

*Prize giving trophies:
are due back to school by **Friday 21 November 2025***

Year 8 Leavers Lunch / Leavers Service

A reminder the **2025 Year 8 Leavers Lunch** will start at 12.30pm on Friday 28 November 2025 in the dining hall.

Y8s and their parents to be seated by 12.25pm please.

This will be followed by the **Leavers Service** in the school hall from 2.00pm.

Year 8 Leavers Weekend

The traditional Leavers' Weekend is always a highlight for our Year 8 students and their families.

This weekend is parent organised, and commences at the completion of Saturday sporting commitments.



OfficeMax
MySCHOOL

Order Back to School stationery now and **beat the rush!**

Class lists are ready to view at
myschool.co.nz

<https://www.myschool.co.nz/WaihiSchool>

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WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

Spirit of Christmas

The Waihi Christmas tree is once again up in the School Administration Office area, awaiting donations for those in need at Christmas.

For the last few years, Waihi families have donated a range of Christmas gifts and food to be distributed within the South Canterbury region via Arowhenua Whanau Services.

Please label wrapped gifts with the age and gender (if applicable) they are intended for.

Thank you in advance for your generous support again this year.



Timetable for the End of Term Four

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2025

8.30am	Assembly (children and staff only)
9.00am – 10.00am	Music Performance - Session 1
10.00am	Morning Tea
11.00am – 12.15pm	Music Performance - Session 2
12:15pm	Picnic Lunch on the Quad for families (children without a parent here will have lunch provided - please advise Kat if your child requires a school lunch ordered for them on this day)
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Students in their homeroom classes
2.30pm – 3:45pm	Awards Assembly
3.30pm - 5.00pm	Parents and Friends Cocktail Function (see the next page for details)
NO DAY SERVICE BUSES RUNNING FRIDAY AFTERNOON – ALL STUDENTS STAYING AT SCHOOL	
4.45pm – 5.15pm	Early Dinner for ALL Students, then into Number Ones
5.15pm – 6.30pm	Christmas Service in Waihi School hall
6.00pm	Day Students to be collected– NO BUSES RUNNING

PLEASE NOTE:

- **MUSIC PERFORMANCES** are open to all parents, you are welcome to attend even if your child is not performing, your support is very much appreciated. Prior to the day Mr Bradley will let you know which of the performances your child will be performing in. We respectfully ask that parents arrive for the start of the session and stay until the session is completed to support all children.
- **COCKTAIL PARTY:** all parents are invited - further details are given on the previous page.
- **DAY STUDENT FAMILIES:** you may take your child home at 3.00pm, or they can stay at school (**let Kat know which**). Please return them to Waihi by 5.00pm at the latest so they can be seated with their class for the Christmas Service. If you cannot arrange this the children are welcome to remain at Waihi for dinner with the boarders, they will however require their Number 1 uniform with them to change into.
- **CHRISTMAS CHAPEL:** NUMBER ONE uniform for all students. Parents are welcome to join us in the school hall.
- **COLLECTING CHILDREN:** All day children need collecting from Waihi at the conclusion of the Christmas service.

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

Morning sport as normal

1.30pm	Prize Giving at school. Students to arrive <u>no later than 1.15pm</u> .
3.00pm	End of the school year

NOTE: Prize-Giving is traditionally outside on the grass in front of Big School.

If the weather on Saturday is inclement our reserve venue for Prize is the Geraldine Primary School Hall.

All students to be in NUMBER ONE uniform

WAIHI PARENTS

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

Waihi Parents and Friends Cocktail Party Friday 5 December 2025 @ 3.30pm - 5.00pm

The time of year is upon us again for the WAIHI PARENTS AND FRIENDS COCKTAIL PARTY!

This event takes the form of a relaxed get together under the trees near the front tennis courts.

Here is what we all need you to do to help with its success:

- ✓ Bring a plate of something delicious to add to the atmosphere, label your plates and take them to the kitchen chiller please
- ✓ Bring a bottle (or two) of wine to put into the wine raffle collection, pop these into the boxes in the kitchen chiller
- ✓ Bring spare change to buy raffle tickets for the above wine raffle
- ✓ The wine goes into groups of three and then at the end we hold a draw for the prizes so, there are usually a few winners!

Please feel free to ask **Mandy Westgarth** or **Bec Dwyer** if you have any questions.

See you all there!!
Many thanks,

*Parents and
Friends Committee*



WAIHI PROJECT

Upcoming Event | Information | Updates



You will have recently received an invitation to attend a special event on Sunday, 30 November, where we will be sharing the details of our exciting new project – the Building Our Future – Pyne House Expansion.

This marks a significant moment in Waihi's story as we respond to the continued growth in demand for boarding and our commitment to providing the very best environment for our community. Pyne House has always been the heart of our boarding community, and this expansion will ensure it continues to serve generations of Waihi students to come.

I am genuinely excited about what lies ahead and the opportunities this project brings. I hope you can join us as we share our vision for the future of boarding at Waihi.

Please RSVP here

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/17815> – I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Gareth Wood,
Headmaster**

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PYNE HOUSE

FREE TIME



TERM ONE 2026

	January	February	March	April
Sat				
Sun		1 Boarders Activities	1	
Mon		2 Boarders Activities	2 <u>Week 5</u> <u>Year 7 Camp</u>	
Tue		3 <u>Week 1</u> 8.30am School Begins for all. Buses Running	3 <u>Year 7 Camp</u>	
Wed		4	4 <u>Year 7 Camp</u>	1
Thu	1	5	5 <u>Year 7 Camp</u>	2 <u>House Singing Comp</u> End of Term One
Fri	2	6 <u>WAITANGI DAY</u> <i>Boarders Activities</i>	6 <u>Year 7 Camp</u>	3 GOOD FRIDAY
Sat	3	7	7	4
Sun	4	8	8	5 EASTER SUNDAY
Mon	5	9 <u>Week 2</u>	9 <u>Week 6</u> <u>Junior Camp</u>	6 EASTER MONDAY Mackenzie A&P Show
Tue	6	10	10 <u>Junior Camp</u>	7
Wed	7	11	11 <u>Junior Camp</u> <u>PSC ISSA Swimming</u>	8
Thu	8	12	12 Southern Lakes Comm. Visit 6pm-8pm	9
Fri	9	13	13 Wanaka A&P Show	10
Sat	10	14	14 Wanaka A&P Show	11
Sun	11	15	15	12
Mon	12	16 <u>Week 3</u>	16 <u>Week 7</u>	13
Tue	13	17	17 <u>NI Cultural Tour</u>	14
Wed	14	18	18 <u>NI Cultural Tour</u>	15
Thu	15	19 <u>Meet the Teacher PM</u>	19 <u>NI Cultural Tour</u>	16
Fri	16	20 EXEAT	20 <u>NI Cultural Tour</u>	17
Sat	17	21 EXEAT	21 EXEAT	18
Sun	18	22 EXEAT <u>Weet-Bix TRYathlon</u>	22 EXEAT	19
Mon	19	23 <u>Waihi Swimming Sports</u>	23 EXEAT <u>Parent Teacher Meetings</u>	20 <u>Teacher Only Day - no</u> <u>school today</u>
Tue	20	24 <u>Week 4</u>	24 <u>Week 8</u> <u>Food for Thought (Juniors)</u>	21 <u>Week 1 Term 2 starts</u>
Wed	21	25	25 <u>Food for Thought (Juniors)</u>	22
Thu	22	26 <u>Cathedral Grammar</u> <u>Fixture (Sports TRC)</u>	26	23
Fri	23	27 <u>Diagnostic Reports Home</u>	27	24
Sat	24	28	28	25 ANZAC DAY
Sun	25		29	26
Mon	26		30 <u>Week 9</u>	27 <u>ANZAC Observed Date</u>
Tue	27		31	28 <u>Week 2</u> <u>Waihi ANZAC Day Service</u>
Wed	28			29
Thu	29 <u>Teacher Only Day</u>			30
Fri	30 <u>Teacher Only Day</u>			
Sat	31 <u>Leadership Day</u> <u>New Boarders 2-3pm</u> <u>Returning Boarders 4-5pm</u>			