

Motto - Expect the Best

School Vision - Students are empowered to achieve as confident responsible life-long learners

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome Back.

I hope everyone had a relaxing and sunny break. I'm having trouble getting my head around how fast time is moving these days – someone once tried to rationalize this for me by explaining, that we gauge time as either part of our life so far, or, a multiple of our life so far – e.g. if I take Jayden in room 3, then 6 weeks is a greater percentage of his life so far, compared with Mr. Waller in room 3 – where 6 weeks is just a snippet of the years he has had on the planet. I reckon that's rubbish and that earth is just getting closer to the sun and hence the years are getting shorter.

Volunteers / Hard Workers / Amazing People.
Every year we ask for those amazing people who take on fundraising responsibilities, library and odd jobs. These people are vital to the school, some taking on occasional one off tasks (when they can) others committing for a full year, helping manage the Ladies High Tea and Ag Day events. Below are the first two major volunteer opportunities.

School Fundraising Committee

This is me pre-empting what will be a bigger request in latter flyers/newsletters. Every school needs those lovely people who assist with fundraising throughout the year. Whether you are one of those people who have amazing ideas, or are available at odd times to help out – we need you. We will be having the first meeting of the year on **THURSDAY 16th FEB 8.30AM in the Staffroom.**

Library Supervisors

As many days as possible from 12 to 1.30pm. We would very much like to open the library to students during lunchtimes – but of course this requires supervision. If you were able to put your name down for one day or more that would be great.

Basic job description.

- To sit in our lovely new library
- Watch the few students who are in there
- Repair the odd book
- Help keep it tidy

We have trained student Librarians to help out.

Swimming Sports

A reminder that our school swimming sports day is Wednesday 1st March. (see term 1 diary for all event dates) Starting at 10.15am, and going through to 2pm (these times are weather dependent). If you are unable to attend for the whole day, I can give you a rough idea as to when your child may be swimming – we start the day with the beginner/learners, the afternoon is the competent swimmers, finishing with the House relay. As with any full school sports event, HELPERS are needed and welcomed – so if you can, please let your child's class teacher know.

Upcoming Events

A&P Show – Saturday 25th Feb – Sinead competing in Young Farmer.

Term 1 Camps

Rooms 4 and 5 – 13th, 14th, 15th March
Room 2 (dates to be confirmed)
Room 3 (term 2)

Forms and notices will be coming home soon please complete and return promptly, so we can confirm numbers.

Community Get-together.

Whether it be catching up with old friends or meeting the new members of our parent community – we thought it would be a great idea to organize a live band for one evening this term, in the School Hall. This has been organized for Saturday March 4th - Free of charge. BYO Drink and Nibbles.

Assemblies – Thursday afternoon 1.15pm. Everyone welcome.

Marzipan Drama and Confidence Courses – Starting up on Tuesday lunch times. They will be in to tell the students all about it at our assembly on Thursday 9th.

Year 7/8 Tech Classes at Kaipara College start on the 7th March.

French – Rooms 4, 5 will be introducing French as part of their curriculum this year - as an introduction to learning a second language.

Meet the Teacher afternoon

The Meet the Teacher afternoon is a great opportunity to introduce yourself to your child's new teacher, and vice versa, or if your child has the same teacher, to find out what new developments are happening in class this term/year in terms of programmes, topics, routines and so on. The sessions are timetable so those parents with two or more children can attend all classes. For any further information please contact your teacher. Wednesday 8th February, timetable as follows:
Room 1: 2:45pm
Room 2: 3:00pm
Room 3: 3:15pm
Room 4: 3:30pm
Room 5: 3:45pm

Term Dates for 2017

Below are the key dates for booking holidays and holiday supervision programmes.
Term 1: Tuesday 31st January – Thursday 13th April.
Term 2: Monday 1st May – Friday 7th July
Term 3: Monday 24th July – 29th September
Term 4: Monday 10th October – Wednesday 13th December

Term 1 diary

Below are some key dates for term 1. I know it can be difficult to get time off work – but if you have the time and opportunity we would love for you to come and join us at any of these schools' sporting occasions.

Monday 6th February - Waitangi day—school closed
Wednesday 8th February - Meet the Teacher afternoon
Tuesday 14th February - HPV Yr 8 talk
Friday 17th February - Cottage Challenge
Saturday 25th February - A & P show
Wednesday 1st March - School Swimming sports day
Saturday 4th March - Community get together evening with a live band

Monday 13th - 15th March - Room 4 & 5 camp
Friday 17th March - Kaipara Swimming
Friday 31st March - Yr 5/6 Kaipara Summer Sports
Wednesday 5th April - HPV Yr 8 immunisations
Friday 7th April - Yr 7/8 Kaipara Summer Sports
Wednesday 12th April - Parent, Teacher Interviews
Thursday 13th April - School Triathlon / End of term

Newsletters

As per last year Newsletters will be coming out fortnightly. These will be sent home with your eldest child at school and emailed to you. It can also be found on our website www.waitoki.school.nz

School starts at 8.30am - A reminder that if your child arrives after this time, they must come to the office to be marked in the attendance register. A late slip will be issued and must be given to the teacher so they know the attendance register has been marked. If your child will be absent from school please ensure you let us know by 8.30 that morning.

End of Day procedure

You will know that the school congregates on the deck at the end of day to assist us with bus arrangements, as they tend to fluctuate from day to day, as well as providing an opportunity to convey last minutes messages, and farewell the students. In this environment sound tends to echo and students often miss hearing their names. We do our best to keep the students quite during this time for this reason. Parents, we'd appreciate your assistance and understanding in this matter also. Thanks.

Bus Pick-ups

At the beginning of every year, we take the previous years list of students who caught the bus, and roll it over. This works 99.9% of the time. In some cases there may have been a change of circumstances over the holiday period, if so please let us know, so we can alter the list.

Student Records

Kerry has asked me to please remind you that if there have been any changes to your address, telephone numbers / medical details, please let her know at the office.

Stationery

This has been issued to all students who need it and invoices will be coming home next week. Please arrange to pay the required amount either at the office or by internet banking within 5 days of date of issue.

Friday Lunches

Watch this space, we will hopefully have some information on Friday lunches soon.

Wheels Day Friday

Like last year, students are welcome to bring along their scooters, skateboards and ripstiks to play on at morning tea and lunch every Friday. Helmets and other protective gear is highly recommended.

Skids after-school care programme

The programme is run out of our school hall. Enquiries welcomed. Call in and talk to Paolo, or contact Paolo or Emma on 02778461725 or by email at waitoki@skids.co.nz

Music lessons within school time

Guitar with Mr Croft

Any Year 4-8 students wishing to continue with or start guitar lessons this term with Mr Croft please contact him on 0274 920 345 or fwcroft@gmail.com

Music with Mrs Clark

Calling all young musicians. If you like music, if you like having fun, then why not learn an instrument? MusicRoom offers instrumental music lessons, including voice to students at Waitoki. Contact Kathy 021 689 005 or email musicroomaccounts@vodafone.co.nz for more information.

Soap Box Derby

The Rotary Club soap box derby is being held week-end of 8-9 April and is a chance for Waitoki School to once again get a team together to race in this iconic event. In 2015 we did really well with a couple of students making the finals, and we are looking for a team of around 6 drivers to enter in this years event and for any parents keen to be involved. It's great fun for the students and there's even a chance to win a trip to the USA to represent NZ. No experience required just plenty of enthusiasm! For further details please contact Stephen Sylvester on 0275 793796.

Yummy Stickers

Once again we will be collecting in yummy stickers throughout the year. Collection charts are available in the school office or on-line, [click here](#). Remember, the more stickers, the more points, the more Sports equipment for our school.

Congratulations to ex-Waitoki pupil Connor Bell who won the Junior boys Secondary school discus and shotball award. He broke Jacko Gill's NZ record and is currently on the long list for the Commonwealth games!



Community Notices

Taekwondo at Waitoki School. Learn from double-Olympian Master Robin Cheong! Classes in the school hall on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons focusing on strength, co-ordination, fitness, self-defence, confidence and developing excellent taekwondo skills. For more information call Robin on 021 124 2340 or email elitetkd.robin@gmail.com.

Do you want to become fitter, stronger and more toned but don't want to go to a gym? Local, affordable personal training in my home or I come to you with a programme designed for your fitness level and personal needs. For more information call Sharon on 021 193 2228