

Waitoki School NEWSLETTER

TERM 4

16 DECEMBER 2024



WAITOKI
WS
SCHOOL

1119 Kahikatea Flat Road
Waitoki, Auckland
09 420 5244
admin@waitoki.school.nz
www.waitoki.school.nz



Waitoki School

Adaptive, curious,
creative lifelong
learners.



Grit
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Aroha
Teamwork

Tēnā koutou Whanau,

It was lovely to see so many families join us on Friday evening for Christmas in the Country. I really enjoyed watching our talented students perform.

And just like that, we have reached the last week of the school year. I can't believe how quickly it has gone by. However, it is not over yet as we still have a couple of celebrations before the end of the year. **Whole school prize giving** is tomorrow, **Tuesday 17th December** from **8.45am** and I am looking forward to celebrating student success. The **Y8 graduation Ceremony** is on **Wednesday 18th December** from **6pm** to celebrate our oldest learners who are moving on to college.

Today, your child should have brought home their end of year report outlining their progress and achievement, along with a letter informing you of their class teacher for 2025, instructions for ordering stationery and your child's attendance report for 2024. We were once again pleased to see a positive shift in our student achievement data in reading, writing and maths. Analysis of the school wide reading data indicated that 89% of all students are achieving either at or above the expected level for a child of their age. This is 9% higher than the national target for 80% of students to be achieving at the expected level.

Student progress and achievement in mathematics was also pleasing. A comparison of data from June 2024 and November 2024 identified an increase from 77% of all students achieving at or above the expected level in mathematics to 81% by the end of the year, an increase of 4% and 1% higher than the national target. It was particularly pleasing to see a rise in the number of students achieving above the expected level, which rose from 16% to 27%, an increase of 11%.

An improvement in student's writing data was noted. A comparison between mid year and end of year writing data showed an increase from 65% of students working either at or above the expected level to 68%, a positive shift of 3%. The focus will be to continue to increase student achievement in writing during 2025 and to meet the government target of 80% of all learners achieving at the expected level by 2030.

Our tamariki will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates on **Wednesday 18th December**. Parents will also be given the chance to connect with the new teachers on **Monday 3rd February**. Appointments can be made through Skool Loop and more information about the booking process will follow in January.

Many thanks to Melissa Smith for organising the **Christmas Disco** for our students a couple of weeks ago. This event was a great success and raised just over \$1,000 which will be put towards our school playground enhancements.

We will be saying a few sad farewells this week. Shannon Mitchell is moving on to Northcross Intermediate and Jess Howdill leaves us for

Riverhead School. We wish you both good luck at your new schools. Nicolette Land and Greg White's fixed term contracts have also come to an end and we wish them well with their next adventures. Claire Nolan (aka Madame Nolan) is looking forward to studying French and having more quality family time. We will really miss you in our school office Claire.

For those of you that I don't see before the end of term, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and get to spend plenty of quality time with your families. See you next year!

Ngā mihi nui
Jules McCourt

Community news

Skids

If you need childcare on our half day on Thursday 19th December (final school day), Skids will be open from 12pm! Please click on the below link to make your booking:

<https://enrolmy.com/skids-bumblers-limited/book-now/105-Early-Finish-Day---Waitoki-19-December-2024>



Coastie kids Fishing comp

Coastie Kids are holding a kids fishing competition over the month of February, with a celebration being held on Sunday March 2nd. Please scan below to enter or visit iticket.co.nz



Upcoming events to add to your diary:

Term dates 2025:

Term 1—Mon 3rd February 2025 to Fri 11th April 2025

Term 2—Mon 28th April 2025 to Fri 27th June 2025

Term 3—Mon 14th July 2025—Fri 19th September 2025

Term 4—Mon 6th October 2025—Tues 16th December 2025

Reports coming out—Mon 16th December

Whole School Prizegiving—Tues 17th December @ 8.45am

Meet the Teacher—Wed 18th December @ 9am (students only)

Yr 8 Graduation celebration—Wed 18th December @ 6pm

Last day of school—Thurs 19th December @ 12pm

First day of school—Mon 3rd February

Waitoki School Board End of Year Update

Tēnā koutou katoa. Hello everyone!

Thank you. Ngā mihi maioha!

On behalf of the Waitoki School Board, a huge thank you to all Waitoki School whānau, students, staff and supporters for a very successful Term 4 and 2024 school year. A special thanks to Tumuaki/Principal Jules McCourt for her dedication, mahi and leadership of the kura again for this special Centenary year for Waitoki School.

Please find below some updates from the Board on the following topics:

1. 2024-2025 Strategic Plan—2024 progress
2. Triennial Elections—September 2025
3. Board vacancy

1. 2024-2025 Strategic Plan - 2024 Progress

As part of the board's planning and review process, we review the progress of the school as it relates to the key goals of the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan.

Pleasing progress has been made in several areas, including:

- Student achievement data shows continuing improvements in the key areas of reading, writing and mathematics, with Waitoki School well on-track to meet the Government's 2030 targets.
- Increased attendance versus last year.
- Positive, constructive student, staff and whānau feedback and engagement. - The delivery of a relevant, up-to-date, local curriculum that caters for students with different needs and strengths.
- A school environment that is inclusive and respects and celebrates all cultures.

Being a two-year plan, there is of course work still to be done. With the board's endorsement, Tumuaki/Principal McCourt, DP Chelsea Brown, Acting AP Kirsty Hodd and staff have been preparing their 2025 plans, with a good balance of tried-and-true and fresh thinking, to support students to achieve their best, in an environment that seeks to strengthen the Hauora/wellbeing of all in the school community.

2. Triennial School Board Elections - September 2025

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that the triennial (i.e. every three years) School Board elections will be held in September 2025.

Part of a school board's work is to have a good succession planning process to pass on the governance of the school to new board members. With this in mind, the Waitoki School board is keen to hear from community members who are interested in nominating for the September elections and potentially being part of the board's activities in the months preceding as a way to understand the workings of the board and help prepare for board succession.

To learn more about the role of the school board, please see this reference guide from the New Zealand School Boards Association (formerly NZSTA) - [Role of the Board](#).

If you or someone you know is interested, please send an email to BOT@waitoki.school.nz. We look forward to talking with you in the new year.

3. Board Vacancy - Parent Elected Representative

The board is very grateful for the contribution of David Cooper, who confirmed his resignation from the board last week to focus on other commitments.

David has been a huge asset to the board and school over the past 2+ years. David has also been a highly regarded member of the school community for the past 8 years, during which Waitoki School has had the pleasure of supporting the learning journeys of David and Sonya's three sons.

We wish the Cooper family the very best for the future.

This creates a vacancy on the board for a parent representative. The position will have less than a year remaining to serve out the current board term, which ends in September. The board can choose to fill a casual vacancy via a by-election, or by selection.

In choosing the method to fill this vacancy, the board considered:

- The short time remaining until the next full-board elections in September 2025. - There is only one vacancy to fill.
- Cost to complete the process, i.e.:
 - Approximately two thousand dollars for a by-election process, or - Nil \$ for the selection process.
- The number of elected and selected parent representative members currently on the board.

On this occasion, the board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Requests for a by-election should be sent to: admin@waitoki.school.nz, no later than 30th January 2025.

Hari hararei katoa! Happy holidays!

Again, a big thank you to everyone for a successful 2024. On behalf of the board, we wish everyone a safe, happy, rejuvenating holiday and festive season.

For those families, students and staff moving on to new schools, our best wishes for the future. Thank you for your contributions to Waitoki School.

For those joining the school community or continuing at Waitoki School in the new year, we look forward to supporting your learning journey. Mā te wā. Noho ora mai. See you soon. Keep well and safe.

Ngā mihi nui.
Kind regards,



Paul Heagerty
Presiding Member on behalf of the Waitoki School Board.

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