

# Waitoki School NEWSLETTER

**TERM 4**

**29 NOVEMBER 2024**



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# Waitoki School

Adaptive, curious,  
creative lifelong  
learners.



Grit  
Ownership  
Aroha  
Teamwork

Tēnā koutou Whanau,

The school year has certainly flown by! I cannot believe we have less than three weeks until the end of Term 4. An update on new (or not so new!) staffing for 2025. **Mim Rushworth** has been appointed as our Literacy Support Teacher (a new government initiative) and will be supporting tamariki in Y0 - Y2 with literacy five mornings per week. **Deb White** will be returning to the Senior School on Thursdays and Fridays to release Becky Minton, who was recently appointed as Across School Leader for the Kahui ako. **Julie Atkinson** will continue to work with Briar Porter one day per week and will be in the Y3 class every Friday as well as covering teachers classroom release time in the Junior area of the school. **Suzy Fury** will once again be in Rūma Ono one day per week during 2025. We have appointed **Sarah Fitzgerald** as our new Office Manager and she will join our Waitoki School family on Tuesday 28th January 2025. Sarah is highly experienced, with over 25 years experience working in schools in office executive positions.

Last week Kaipara College hosted the **Kāhui ako Science Fair**. Waitoki students in Y4 - Y8 had their science boards (from Term 2) showcased as part of the event. Well done to all the students who took part - your work was of a high standard. Congratulations to our Waitoki winners; Dario Jonas - Joint First place Y7 - 8 Chemistry  
Indie Hawkins - Joint First place Y7 - 8 Chemistry  
Raoul Sparke - First place Y4 - 6 Physics  
Ayla Minton - Joint Second place Y4 - 6 Biology  
Ella Franklin - Joint Second place Y4 - 6 Biology  
Connor Bateman - Second place Y4 - 6 Physics  
Eva Nutsford - Second place Y4 - 6 Chemistry

Over the past few weeks we have met with various playground companies to get a better insight into how we can best enhance our current play spaces within our budget. We hope to share these with you shortly. If all goes to plan, we hope to see construction begin early 2025. We have now purchased two soccer goalposts using the money raised by the **“4 to Fit” challenge** and these are due to be delivered to us on Monday 9th December. It will be great to see the result of all the fundraising efforts over the last couple of years for our play spaces to start to come to life.

A few reminders of upcoming school events. We will be acknowledging and thanking all the wonderful members of our community who have helped and supported Waitoki School at the **Helpers Celebration** on **Friday 6th December** from 12.15pm. This will be followed by our final full school assembly of the year at 1.15pm. **Christmas in the Country** is on **Friday 13th December** from 5pm on the turf. Student performances will begin at 6pm. **Whole school prize giving** will be on **Tuesday 17th December** from **8.45am** to acknowledge students from all year levels and present certificates, medals and cups. The **Y8 graduation Ceremony** is on **Wednesday 18th December** from **6pm** and we will also acknowledge all the **Y6 students** at this time.

Teachers have almost finished students' end of year assessments and written reports. These will be sent home on **Monday 16th December** along with a letter informing you of your child's class teacher in 2025. Students will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates on Wednesday 18th December. Our new teachers, Scott, Seann, and Makayla will also be joining us on that day.

I hope all our tamariki have a wonderful time at the Christmas Disco tonight. Many thanks to Melissa Smith and her team for organising this event for our students. Enjoy your weekend.

Ngā mihi nui  
Jules McCourt

## Class Organisation 2025

| Teacher   | Rūma      | Year Level/s                       |
|---|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Kirsty Hodd (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) & Suzy Fury (Wed)       | Rūma 6    | Y1                                 |
| Sharon Hartley  | Rūma 6    | NE from Term 2 2025                |
| Makayla Lawson  | Rūma 3    | Y1 & Y2 composite                  |
| Serena Bateman (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs) & Trudi Green (Fri)  | Rūma 4    | Y2                                 |
| Briar Porter (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs) & Julie Atkinson (Fri) | Rūma 2    | Y3                                 |
| Becky Minton (Mon, Tues, Wed) & Deb White (Thurs & Fri)     | Rūma 5    | Y4 & Y5 composite                  |
| Taylor Dunn   | Rūma 7    | Y5 & Y6 composite                  |
| Seann Ashley  | Rūma 8    | Y5 & Y6 composite                  |
| Scott Hillman   | Rūma 9/10 | Y7 & Y8 composite                  |
| Mim Rushworth (AM only)                                     | Rūma 1    | Y0 - 2 Structured Literacy Teacher |
| Chelsea Brown   |           | Deputy Principal/LSC               |





### Upcoming events to add to your diary:

#### **Term dates 2024:**

**Term 4** – Mon 14 October 2024 to Thurs 19 December 2024

#### **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

**Bi-weekly Assemblies:** Assemblies are every 2nd week. Next assembly is on Fri 6th December at 1.15pm.

**Christmas Disco**—Fri 29th November @ 5pm (JNRs) and 7pm (SNRs)

**Community Helpers Celebration**—Fri 6th December @ 12.15pm

**BOT Meeting**—Wed 11th December @ 6.30pm

**Christmas in the Country**—Fri 13th December @ 5pm

**Reports coming out**—Mon 16th December

**Whole School Prizegving**—Tues 17th December @ 8.45am

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

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

### Fundraising & events

#### **Christmas in the Country—Save the date!**



### In other news

#### **Kapa Nui Olympic Medalist talk—Dylan Schmidt**

On Monday 25th November, the senior students had a special visit from Olympian Dylan Schmidt, NZ Trampolinist.

Dylan spoke to us about his experiences at three Olympic games (Rio, Tokyo and Paris), his bronze medal win in Tokyo, his hobbies and passions outside trampolining.

He also shared the importance of the NZ Olympic Team values of Friendship, Excellence and Respect. He spoke about his ups and downs in life, injuries, medals and own key values.

He amazed the students with a box jump onto the stage from standing and did a tucked back flip! We got to hold 2 of his gold medals.



#### **Yr 7 & 8 Kaipara Stem Challenge**

Yesterday (Thurs 28th November), our Year 7/8's went to a STEM Challenge at Kaipara College for the day. It was a fabulous event, where they rotated around 4 different challenges - marble run, pizza design, code breaker and a science challenge where they had to separate iron. We competed against other Kuras in our Kāhui Ako. The students enjoyed a free sausage sizzle at lunch time as well as claiming some prizes at the end of the day using their WAKA cards, which is an awards based system used at Kaipara. Well done Year 7/8's for showing your GOAT values, growth mindset and giving all the challenges your best shot! A big thank you to the Kaiako at Kaipara College for organising a wonderful event.



#### **Buddy Bench update**

Some of our Year 7/8 students have been busy designing and painting our next buddy bench. The buddy bench will be a fabulous addition to our school and can be used as a way for students to make new friends, as well as enhancing existing friendships. We can't wait to see the finished product!





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