

Waitoki School NEWSLETTER

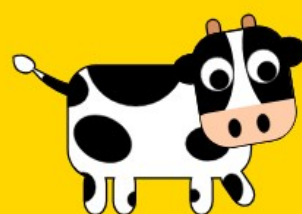
TERM 1

21 FEBRUARY 2025



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
Ownership
Aroha
Teamwork

Tēnā koutou Whānau,

Learning at Waitoki for 2025 has begun with a hiss and a roar. The inquiry focus for this term is that the Earth is one planet in the solar system, which includes the Sun, planets, moons, and other celestial bodies. Mr Ashley, our resident scientist, led a rocket launch experiment as a provocation to get our tamariki thinking. Students in Y4 - Y8 are looking forward to going to the Stardome on **Tuesday 25th February** to learn more about our solar system. Whilst the senior students are learning about all the planets, the Y0 - Y3 students are focussing on planet earth and its environment. They have an EOTC visit to Kelly Tarltons planned for **Wednesday 26th March**, which has been organised to coincide with their learning about sea week.

The students are all busy preparing for school swimming sports from **11am on Friday 28th February**. You are most welcome to come along and cheer the children on. Melissa Smith and the fundraising team will be running a pop up cafe on that day and we will also have our usual Friday ice blocks for sale.

Melissa and her team are busy planning a few fundraising events for 2025, starting off with a **Colour Run on Friday 21st March from 1pm**. Assembly will be at 8.45am on that Friday, just for that week only. Melissa is also organising an **Easter Parade** for the end of Term 1, which is being sponsored by Harcourts.

One of the many advantages of intermediate school at Waitoki, is the way in which we are able to offer students' leadership opportunities. This year our eight herd leaders will be attending the GRIP leadership conference on **Wednesday 19th March**, aimed at developing their leadership skills. We have ordered our first EPRO8 kit and the Y7 & Y8 students will soon begin practising their STEM skills (science, technology, engineering and maths), collaboration and leadership in preparation for the Auckland wide EPRO8 competition during Term 4.

Reminder: **Three way conferences** between student, teacher and parents to collaboratively set learning goals for the first half of 2025 are being held on **Tuesday 4th March**. **School will close at 12pm** and 15 minute interviews will take place between **12.30pm - 7.30pm**. Bookings can be made through the Skool Loop app.

Once again, Pete and his team of elves have been busy carrying out the essential garden maintenance work for us at no cost to the school. Melissa and I met with Pete last week and he has very kindly offered to continue to support our school. These are just some of the things that Pete plans on doing for us over the coming months; transplanting of lemon trees, make a planter box, relaying paving slabs, repairing and redirecting pebble path and edging, recontouring of all areas to prepare for topsoiling and grass seeding, transplanting of three playground grasses, filling dead spaces with the river rocks, supplying new weed matting for the potting shed walls, supply or transplant a citrus tree for the small garden area by Rūma Ono, and apply slow release fertiliser to all areas. As you can see, it is quite a list so I really appreciate Pete's ongoing support. I know that the gardens do look a wee bit messy at this stage, but please bear with us because it is going to be fabulous in the end. If you need any landscaping work done, please contact Pete Reelick Landscaping (027 436 3591).

We will need some community support with this project over the coming weeks with jobs such as; water blasting and then paint the balance beams, boardwalk and garden beds, lift and stack paving slabs ready for relaying, preparing the potting shed to be rewrapped in windbreak, prepare the veggie and herb gardens, putting mulch in the gardens at the front of the school and collecting up the rocks ready for redistribution. Melissa Neville has kindly

volunteered to coordinate help for these important jobs. We will also be holding a working bee this term so please watch this space if you are keen to get involved as many hands make light work.

Good luck to **Piper Stubbs**, who is representing Waitoki School in the Junior Farmer competition and to all the Waitoki students who are competing with their AG day lambs at the Helensville A & P show on **Saturday 22nd February**. If you are interested in going along, children 16 years and under are free, adults are \$15 each. The Junior Farmer competition starts at 9.30am. Please give our students a cheer and look out for the Waitoki School cows, which have been decorated by all the students in each class.

I hope to see you all at the **family picnic** tonight, **Friday 21st February from 5pm - 7pm**. This is an informal opportunity to chat to the teachers about how the first couple of weeks of term are going and to catch up with other families. **'Pasta e Basta'** food truck and **Mr Whippy** ice cream truck to be on site along with a sausage sizzle organised by the Waitoki School Board. You are also most welcome to bring your own picnic.

Ngā mihi nui

Jules McCourt

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

Upcoming events to add to your diary:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 21 February: | First of Bi-weekly Whole School Assemblies: Fridays at 1.15pm—all welcome. |
| 21 February : | Family Picnic from 5pm to 7pm on the turf. Come and meet the teachers in an informal setting and connect with other families. |
| 22 February : | Helensville Show: 9am to 4.30pm. |
| 25 February: | Kapa Nui Y4-8— EOTC visit to Stardome. |
| 28 February: | Waitoki School swimming sports from 11am. |
| 3 March: | Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora visiting school for the Year 7 / 8 immunisations. |
| 4 March: | Three way goal setting conferences (student/parents/teachers) from 12.30pm - 7.30pm.
School will close at 12pm on that day to allow the conferences to take place. |
| 10 March: | Kaipara Kāhui ako cluster swimming sports. |
| 14 March: | First Tech session for Y7 & Y8 students at Kaipara College from 8.30am - 12.30pm. |
| 17 March: | North West Swimming sports. |
| 19 March : | GRIP leadership conference—Herd Leaders. |
| 21 March: | Colour Run 1pm onwards. |
| 26 March: | Junior Y1-3 EOTC Trip to Kelly Tarltons (Information to come) |
| 31 March: | Y5 & Y6 Summer Sports (Rautawhiri Park) |
| 7th April: | Y7& Y8 Summer Sports (Rautawhiri Park) |
| 28 October: | School Closed for Teacher Only Day. |



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A decorative banner featuring colorful confetti in shades of pink, blue, and green, with several cupcakes in various colors (pink, blue, green) arranged below it.

WELCOME BACK!

FROM THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

Welcome back to another exciting school year!
We're looking forward to a great year of fundraising to support our school, students and community.

WE'LL BE ARRANGING OUR FIRST FUNDRAISING MEETING SOON—STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to join the fundraising committee, feel free to email me at mestinel@waitoki.school.nz.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A FANTASTIC YEAR AHEAD!

-THE WAITOKI FUNDRAISING TEAM-

The logo for Waitoki School, featuring a stylized 'W' and 'S' in blue and green colors.

Important Information:

Reminder: Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices

Our approach to cellphones and other personal digital devices supports student engagement and achievement. Personal digital devices include cell phones, and other devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartwatches. Devices that are part of a school-approved Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme have separate conditions for use. To comply with government regulations, we ensure students do not use personal devices during school hours, including break times.

Year 7 /8 School Based Immunisation Programme 2025:

HPV/Boostrix: Monday 3 March

The consent forms for the immunisation programme have been distributed to our year 7/8 students and will need to be returned by Monday 24 February. You must return the completed consent form even if you do not wish your child to be immunised.

School Gardens:

Please do not pick the fruit from the school garden fruit trees as we use this fruit for our garden to table programme with the students and we are finding we do not have enough.

Lost Property:

If you have any lost property we have a box located outside the sick bay door.

sKids

sKids will be open from 12pm on Tuesday 4 March for Three Way Conferences if you need to book your child in.

Skool Loop

Please make sure that you download the Skool Loop app on your phone if you haven't already, and subscribe to any relevant groups.

To download the free app, find it in to your Play store or App store and search for Waitoki School. To subscribe to groups, go in to Settings > Subscribe to Groups > Select your child's teacher, and any other groups you are interested in receiving notifications for e.g. sport.

Yummy Stickers

If you are a family who eats lots of apples, we collect yummy stickers which earn us points to purchase sports equipment at the end of the year. We have attached a yummy sticker collection page to our email and Skool Loop version of the newsletter for you to print. Otherwise, the school office has spare copies as well. This is the amazing sports gear that we purchased with the stickers from Term 4.



Ice Block Fridays

Every Friday lunchtime, during Term 1, the Senior School will be selling ice blocks to fundraise for much needed resources in the Senior School. There will be two options:

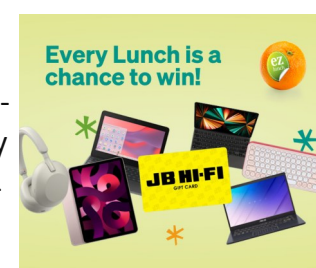
\$1 ice blocks or \$2 ice blocks, with different flavours available. Your child can either bring coins on the day, or you can prepay for the term at the office. (\$10 or \$20 "packages").

EZ Lunch Term 1 Rewards Campaign :Here's how it works:

EZ lunch orders are up and running! We have sushi Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Pita Pitt Fridays. If you are keen to take the stress out of lunches, visit ezlunch.co.nz, and click on Order Lunch. Remember to order before 9am on the day!

Every parent who orders an ezlunch goes into a weekly draw to win **\$100 Kindo Credit** for themselves **AND** \$100 for your school. Starts Monday 10 February 2025 and runs through to Friday 11 April 2025. Plus, all orders automatically enter the **Grand Prize Draw** for a **\$1,000 JB Hi-Fi**

Voucher + \$500 for their school! Thank you to JB Hi-Fi for making our Grand Prize rewards possible!



Car Park

Please do not allow your children to cross the road by themselves, please collect them from the school site.

Please do not park under the notice board as this restricts the bus drivers view when he is pulling out of the school.

Medical updates

This is just a reminder to please let the office team know if your child requires any medicine on either a once off or regular basis. This includes asthma inhalers, strepsils etc. We ask that children do not keep any medication in their school bags, and ensure it is kept in the sick bay.

Forms are available for you to fill in to let us know how to look after your child and administer the medication.



Congratulations

We love to celebrate our tamariki's achievements! If your child has done something awesome outside of school, please let us know by emailing : admin@waitoki.school.nz

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