

Waitoki School NEWSLETTER

TERM 4

1 NOVEMBER 2024

Country Fair
Oct 2024



WAITOKI
WS
SCHOOL

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Waitoki, Auckland
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www.waitoki.school.nz



Waitoki School

Adaptive, curious,
creative lifelong
learners.



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Aroha
Teamwork

Tēnā koutou Whanau,

Term 4 has definitely started with a bang and even though Ag Day, Country Fair, and Group Day are over we have plenty of things happening to keep our tamariki engaged in their learning for the rest of the year. Our focus for the term is 'Celebrations' and we certainly have a lot to celebrate. Some of the learning opportunities for our students include, athletics, Kaipara Kapa Haka festival, Y7 & Y8 sustainability challenge, Y7 & Y8 STEM challenge at Kaipara, Garden to Table pop up restaurant, swimming in the school pool, Christmas in the country, Y8 graduation ceremony, and our end of year prize giving assembly.

All of our tamariki are currently in the process of preparing to compete in our school **athletics on Wednesday 6th November** to discover who is going to represent us at the Kaipara Schools cluster event on **Monday 11th November**. Other upcoming events include our Y7 & Y8 students going surfing at Aotearoa surf club on **Tuesday 5th November** as part of their William Pike Leadership challenge and the Kaipara Kapa Haka festival in two weeks time on **Saturday 16th November**.

Last week Waitoki School hosted the Kaipara Kāhui Ako speech competition and I was very proud of Jordan Hefer (Y5) and Charlize Taylor (Y8) who both came first in their divisions. They were both absolute standouts and really deserved to win. Congratulations to you both, you definitely gave us something to celebrate. Ella Franklin and Lucia Schick also did a fabulous job as our MC's for the event. Well done girls.

We have begun the process for 2025 student class placements. This is a huge piece of organisation, involving all the teachers. We take a large number of factors into consideration including, student's personal attributes, academic strengths, individual learning needs, friendships, personality clashes, class size, gender, age, and parent requests. We are placing almost 170 students into 8 classes so it is not possible for every single parent to hand select their child's classroom, the teacher, or the other students who will be with them for 2025. We ask that you please trust our robust process as we piece together this complex jigsaw puzzle. Please see the following page of this newsletter for the class organisation for 2025.

We will be able to organise our 2025 classes more effectively if we have accurate numbers. Therefore, please could you email either Claire (admin@waitoki.school.nz) or Emma (ehagerty@waitoki.school.nz) if your child/children are **NOT** returning to Waitoki School in 2025. If you have already informed us, then you do not need to email us again.

I have some news to share with you. **Claire Nolan** has resigned and will be leaving our Waitoki School family at the end of this year. Claire plans to do some further French study to increase her quali-

cations as well as spending more time with her young family. She will be a huge loss for the school and we are currently searching for the right person to fill her big shoes.

Enjoy your weekend.

Ngā mihi nui
Jules McCourt

Upcoming events to add to your diary:

Term dates 2024:

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

Bi-weekly Assemblies: Assemblies are every 2nd week. Next assembly is on Fri 8th November at 1.15pm.

Group Day—Fri 1st November

Yr 7 & 8 Surfing Trip—Tues 5th November

Whole School Athletics—Wed 6th November (Save day is Thurs 7th November)

Kaipara Athletics—Mon 11th November

Whanau Info evening on Positive Puberty (Yr 6-8) —Thurs 14th November

Yr 7 & 8 Sustainability Challenge—Fri 15th November

Kaipara Kapa Haka Festival—Sat 16th November

Yr 6, 7 & 8 Positive Puberty Talk— Tues 19th November

BOT Meeting—Wed 20th November

Hearing & Vision Testing—Fri 22nd November

Yr 7 & 8 Stem Challenge—Fri 29th November

Christmas Disco—Fri 29th November

Community Helpers morning tea—Fri 6th December

Christmas in the Country—Fri 13th December

Whole School Prizegiving—Tues 17th December

Last day of school—Thurs 19th December

Waitoki School Christmas Disco

We’re excited to invite all Waitoki School students to our upcoming Christmas Disco! Here’s everything you need to know:

Event Details:

Date: Friday, 29th November

Time:

- Juniors & Preschoolers: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Seniors: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Cost: \$5 per child (tickets available via Skool Loop)

Attendance:

Who Can Attend: This event is for Waitoki School students only, with the exception of preschool siblings.

Parent Requirements for Preschoolers: Parents must stay for the entire duration if bringing a preschool-aged sibling, as preschoolers cannot be left unattended at the event.

Additional Items Available for Purchase:

Glow Sticks to light up the dance floor

Face Painting for added fun

Pop-Up Café featuring yummy treats and drinks

This festive evening promises to be a memorable event for our school community. If any parents can help with baking, decorations, or general support, please let your child’s teacher know, and Mel will be in touch.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our Waitoki families!

Ice block Fridays

Just a reminder that each Friday we will be holding Ice block Friday. Children can purchase either \$2 or \$1 ice blocks. Save yourself time and pre-purchase ice blocks at the office! You can either pay by eft-pos or direct credit. Otherwise, children can bring cash on the day.

Student corner

Well done to our very own Manu!

Manu thoroughly enjoyed training jiu jitsu, judo and Muay Thai at different Dojos across Bali. It was hard work in such high temps but he showed some great resilience.

He arrived home and went straight into Stealth Jiu Jitsu Nationals. There was some incredible competition this year and we are excited to say that he secured gold in Gi.

Now training is focused on grading in December.



In 2025 our classes will be organised in the following way:

Teacher	Rūma	Year Level/s
Scott Hillman	Rūma 9/10	Y7 & Y8 composite
Seann Ashley	Rūma 8	Y5 & Y6 composite
Taylor Dunn	Rūma 7	Y5 & Y6 composite
Becky Minton	Rūma 5	Y4 & Y5 composite
	Rūma 1	Y0-2 Structured Literacy
Briar Porter	Rūma 2	Y3
Makayla Lawson	Rūma 3	Y1 & Y2 composite
Serena Bateman	Rūma 4	Y2
Kirsty Hodd	Rūma 6	Y1
Sharon Hartley	Rūma 6	NE from Term 2 2025

Chelsea Brown will continue to be our Deputy Principal and the team leader for the senior school along with sharing the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) role with Danielle Simpson. Trudi Green will be working with all the students/classes covering teachers Classroom Release Time (CRT).

You will note that there are a few staff changes. Mim Rushworth has resigned from her permanent teaching role to focus on SPELD. However, Mim hopes to return to us in another capacity in 2025. Kim Geden has also resigned so that she can remain in the UK and continue to support her family. The Board has granted Katrina Selfe a year's leave without pay to spend time with her three boys and we look forward to welcoming Katrina back to teaching at Waitoki in 2026. Shannon Mitchell and Jess Howdill are both moving on to new teaching adventures. Deb and Greg White will once again be returning to the Australian sunshine at the end of term 4.

Here is a little bit of information about our new staff members.

Scott Hillman has 15 years teaching experience as well as holding leadership roles such as ICT curriculum leader and WSL. His curriculum strengths are in reading, writing, maths as well as ICT, which is a huge strength. His educational philosophy includes visible learning pedagogy, developing student agency and he will be preparing our oldest students for college. Scott is passionate about teaching STEM, coding, Robotics and ePRO8. He is very sporty, loves football, builds fantastic relationships with his students and we are sure he will be able to connect to our oldest learners.

As well as being the parent of Arlo, Emi and Freya, Seann Ashley has over 10 years teaching experience and as he is very community-minded, he is keen to contribute more to our community. His curriculum strengths include reading, writing and maths, along with Te Reo Māori, technology, inquiry-based learning and art. He has a strong set of values relating to whanaungatanga, student-led learning and engagement, and he is well-known for his ability to build strong connections and positive relationships with his students. We are looking forward to utilising Seann’s expertise in culturally responsive pedagogy and having his support with our Kapa Haka groups.

Makayla Lawson has 5 years teaching experience as a primary school teacher in the junior area of schools as well as 5 years teaching experience in ECE. Her curriculum strengths include reading, writing and maths and she has been teaching using a structured literacy approach since 2020. She is passionate about working with our youngest learners and uses a number of strategies to support, encourage and motivate them to do their best. Mayayla believes that building connections with ākonga, their whānau, and the wider community is the foundation for creating a safe, inclusive classroom environment to support the wellbeing of each learner.

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