

Kia ora e te whānau - welcome to the last Waverley Park newsletter of the year! As usual, it's been as busy as you could expect it to be; more so for some than others.

Last Friday evening was our Hui Whakapumau - celebrating our departing year six tamariki Maori as they transition to become high-school-bound rangitahi. As usual, Te Tomairangi marae hosted us and Whare Te Rongopai was full of Waverley Park whānau supporting their kids. Our thanks to nga tangata o Te Tomairangi for yet another genuinely warm welcome; we truly value your (many) years of manākitanga to our kura me nga akonga: he waka eke noa.

Art exhibition...

Our end of year celebratory events vary from year to year - largely determined by whatever has come out of the inquiry themes the kids have been focussed on. Last year it was a hangi; this year it's an art exhibition featuring some of the kids' work from across the year.

The majority of the pieces on display are inspired by the Kai Tahu pūrākau (stories) - a big part of the kids' inquiry mahi this year. Indeed, it was an honour and a privilege to host a group of Kai Tahu kaumatua today; a group visiting specifically to view the exhibition featuring their creation stories in particular.

The vast majority of kids have had pieces included - there will have been a few who didn't complete works so may have missed this deadline too. Lots of the pieces are impressive ; some are impressive if not quite outstanding.

The arts are important: they encourage creativity; they allow for imagination to bloom; expression and exploration to resonate deep in the soul. And: they cannot be (nor should they be) 'tested' simply for the purposes of assessment.

For some kids; athletics and sport is where they shine. For others it's art and music. Today, we have celebrated the imagination, creativity, skills, and talents of the many visual artists on the roll at Waverley Park.

If you were able to get in to view the kids' work either yesterday or during the day today: thanks for that commitment. It has exactly the same impact as turning up on the sideline or at the pool to cheer on your family's athlete. This week, it has been the artist you have shown up to support - who knows where that investment of your time will lead the Picasso or Rembrandt currently living at your place.

Thank you for your support wānau: you're good people.

(PSST: *The Southland Express* visited last night too - keep an eye out next week...)

WPSUE @ BUPA...

Speaking of the arts: earlier this week, the musicologists of the Waverley Park School Ukulele Ensemble entertained the residents of the Ascot Retirement Village: smiles all-round



Comprised of kids who meet weekly and jammed with our resident ukulele expert and folk music aficionado, **Renee McGinnis**: it was hard to discern who had the most fun - WPSUE or the residents. The smiles on the dials at the end indicated that it might have been a draw. Thanks, WPSUE - nicely done!

Attendance 2025...

The official government target: *“Eighty percent of students to be present for more than ninety percent of the school term by 2030.”*

School is a bit like having Christmas with your mum: your presence, the number one priority. Despite the usual impact of illnesses etc; this year's attendance data shows good improvement from the same time last year. Congratulations, whanau - thank you for the difference that you're making for your kids...

67% of WPS kids meet or exceed 90% (2024: 34%)
+ 16% WPS kids with 85 - 89% attendance (2024: 18%)
= 83% WPS kids could easily have met the target.

A further seven percent of WPS kids have attendance in the 80 - 85% range (*80% is the equivalent of a day off per week; 39 days over the year - more than seven school weeks of absence*). With a little more persistence, these kids would also be part of the success.

Congratulations to **Lilly Crosby** and **Juana Rossetti** - the only WPS kids to achieve 100% attendance across the full year to date: kapai, kōrua. And our congratulations to your respective support crews too - it takes a team effort.

The calendar...

December
15 Year 6 graduation; 7.00pm - 8.30pm; Christian Centre
16 Last day 12 noon; BOT - 7.30pm

January
26 & 27 Call back days for the staff
30 Re Rua Akomanga Whakatūwhera

February
02 Term 1 starts - 8.50am
06 Waitangi Day
20 Phoenix Zone athletics
23 Swimming begins (Mon - Thurs: 4 days/week)
27 Southland Community Challenge mufti day

March
05 Swimming ends
21 Southland Athletics Champs (Surrey Park)

April
02 Term 1 ends
03 Good Friday
20 Term 2 starts
27 Day off for ANZAC Day

Grate - cheese'll do for now...

Brie Encounter

the skies are gruyere since she left me
i've never felt so danish blue
caught between a roquefort and a hard cheese,
i stilton't know what to do

don't give edam about the future
now my babybel's walked out the door
can't believe i've double gloucester
i camembert it any more

i've ricotta get myself together
and build my life back caerphilly
cheddar tear for the final time
say goodbye to us and halloumi

Brian Bilston



End of year reports..

These were handed out today - he's put it somewhere (it's usually a boy who "loses" his)...

Thank you, Harvestfield Church!

We are truly blessed to have these guys as neighbours. This year, the generous team from Harvestfield Church donated a bunch of Christmas vouchers: two per classroom. If your name has come out of the draw, congratulations (winners have been notified).

At the end of the year...

It is customary to thank those who have helped and assisted our school to do what we do; and be who we are. Academic progress for our kids has been, and always will be important - 2026 will be no different - irrespective of politics .

Just as important as ensuring kids' academic progress; is ensuring that school provides a sense of belonging, a sense of community, and a sense of security. All of these are facets of our school that the wider Waverley whānau contributes massively to: everyone plays their part in making a positive difference in the lives of our kids. That's what success looks like - thank you for that.

To quote the final newsletter of 2024: "Waverley Park School is a good example of something that is more than just the sum of its parts." That hasn't changed and long may that remain so.



From our board of trustees and staff: remember the reason for the season; make the most of the summer break; and enjoy some quality whanau time; and relax.

Meri Kirihimete, whānau.
From all of us to all of you.



Incredible Years Autism



Incredible Years Autism

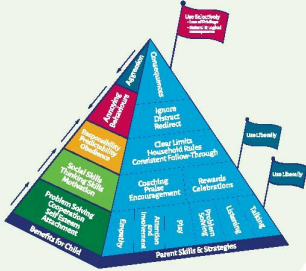
Incredible Years Autism is a free programme which aims to support you by delivering practical strategies to help you parent your children/Tamariki aged 2 – 5 years old who have been diagnosed with autism or showing traits of autism

We know that children/Tamariki on the autism spectrum are more likely than their peers to have behavioural issues, and their parents are more likely to experience high levels of stress. We also know it's the key adults in a child's life who have the biggest impact and can make the greatest change.

Incredible Years Autism will start in Invercargill at Family Works on Spey Street on the 10th February 2026, every Tuesday from 10am – 12.30 pm

We offer childminding and a pick up/drop off service also.

Contact: Telephone: 03 211 8272
Mobile: 027 223 1417
or email IY@familyworksld.nz



BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS Holiday Experiences

CHILD VS WILD [5 Days]

7 to 13 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
15th December to 19th December 2025
19th January to 23rd January 2026
An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend four days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

NATURAL CREATORS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
22nd December 2025
27th January 2026
A one day creative cooking experience preparing nourishing meals in the kitchen from scratch. Children will come home enthused, feeling capable and independent after a day with Geraldine from the Ferment Kitchen.

BUSH KIDS [1 Day]

7 to 16 year olds
Invercargill & Gore
9am to 3pm
Monday 26th January GORE
Wednesday 28th January Invercargill
Thursday 29th January Invercargill
Friday 30th January Invercargill

A one day bushcraft and survival day experience*:
Advanced fire starting skills
Knife work, whittling, carving
Bush exploration, navigating, orienteering
Shelter building
Cooking on gas stoves/ fires
Survival first aid
Plant medicine
Foraging

*Every day brings a different adventure. Activities are weather, location and seasonally dependent

www.trueinnature.com



Katie: 0226381497

SOUTHLAND FOOTBALL SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp for juniors aged 7-13 of all skill levels to develop and have fun

13-14 DECEMBER

- ✓ Academy coaches
- ✓ Inclusive environment
- ✓ Develop skills and understanding
- ✓ Goalkeepers welcome

13 DECEMBER 7-13 years old 10am-2pm	14 DECEMBER 7-13 years old 10am-2pm
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\$40 FOR ONE DAY, \$70 FOR TWO
ILT Football Turf, Invercargill

Registration Link
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/392588>

More Information- Leigh Matthews
021 507 077 | leigh@southlandfootball.org.nz



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2026/2027

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