

Kia ora e te whānau

Tuesday morning and one junior optimist informed me that there were only "ten school days left." Turns out, that was exactly right (and now - there are only six!): so much to do; so little time.

## Putangitangi successes...

Congratulations to both *Tuinga Tahi* and *Te Piringatahi*; second overall in their respective sections at last week's Nga Putangitangi competition. In addition to a bunch of certificates, they also brought home some trophies. This is a well-deserved result for two groups of hardworking kids - and their equally hardworking support teams: tino pai - we're very proud of you all. What makes it extra special is that this was *Te Piringatahi's* (years 1 - 3) debut appearance in a competition - three trophies to show for it!



*Te Piringatahi - on debut.*



*Chynna-Rae - leading from the front.*

## The calendar...

### December

- 09 Board of Trustees - 7.30pm
- 11 End of year celebration - art exhibition
- 12 Reports sent home
- 15 Year 6 graduation; 7.00pm - 8.30pm; Christian Centre
- 16 Last day - 12.00 noon

Another heartening aspect of the day was seeing former Waverley kids performing for their respective high schools; including...



*SBHS & SGHS: Kalyn, Merida, Kaia, Lilly, Frankie, Dejah, Amya, Sam*



*JHC: Amia & Atawhai, Mahae (Kāitataki Kōtiro trophy winner!)*

We're proud to see them continuing into their high school years what they started at primary school; and we're even prouder to see them still succeeding too - tino pai, rangitahi ma!

## Overdue sports payments please...

It is not compulsory to be a member of any of our sports teams. In signing your child up to play a sport, you also agree to pay the entry fees charged by that sport - **the school charges nothing** - all monies received are simply handed on.

Increasingly, we find ourselves in the same position as the last person from a group to pay their tab at a restaurant: who ends up stumping-up for the three others who left earlier without paying. It's unfair and annoying - but you pay it anyway. **Please do the honourable thing and clear your debt with our office - it's the school, not the sports body, that is out of pocket.** Thank you.

## Art Exhibition...

We're taking a more low-key approach to celebrating the end of school this year. Throughout 2025, the kids have produced some really good artwork - some of it outstanding - so, an end of year art exhibition seemed an obvious choice. Open from 4.00 - 6.00pm on Thursday next week; and from 9.00am - 3.30pm on Friday: [details on invitations being sent home today](#).

## "I'm going to school to help..."

Kind though the offer may seem; it's actually not. When high schools close before we do; primary schools frequently get swamped by largely well-intended former pupils coming back to their primary school: to help, to visit, to just hang out - and the disruption that causes can be considerable.

Our kids are already tired and scratchy - wrangling some of them is a bit like herding flies in high wind. At night. Blindfolded. Knowing the older kids are already on their holiday break and having them back on site is destabilising - especially when there's competition for teachers' time and attention. It becomes a bit of a nightmare to manage.

Over the next couple of weeks, please be aware of your high-schoolers intentions; make sure they know that they are not to be here until after 3.00pm. Our team will be most grateful - thank you.

## Congratulations, Jiu Jitsu Jordan!

Last weekend, the New Zealand Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation staged its "King of the South VIII" International Open in Queenstown. Jordan had five fights on the day; winning a gold

in the Gi section (Gi is the traditional jacket and pants uniform); and a silver in the No-Gi section - against heavier and more experienced opponents (some up to two years older). This is particularly impressive, as Jordan had only recently stepped up a belt grade - having cleaned up in his own age bracket in tournaments earlier in the year. These sorts of results don't come by magic; it takes hard work and persistence to achieve this degree of consistency: kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui, Jordan: kapai!



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### Paying us via internet banking?

A/c number: 12 3154 0103559 00

A/c name: Waverley Park School BOT

Payee: Your child's name

Ref: Event name - eg: netball, camp, marae trip etc

## Doomed to repeat others' blunders...

On Tuesday, the New Zealand Principals' Federation published a report "exposing holes in the government's plans for a 'knowledge-rich curriculum'. The NZPF report captures crucial lessons from England's experience that our government should be applying when revising the New Zealand curriculum.

"The Minister of Education claims she is focused on closing the gap between our highest and lowest performing students, yet the Government is implementing an education framework that will almost certainly make things worse," says New Zealand Principals' Federation President Leanne Otene.

"The evidence clearly shows that a knowledge-based curriculum fails to deliver the improvements in educational equity it claims to promote. It ignores the fact that students are individuals, many with diverse needs that require different education strategies to succeed.

"After 10 years, England's education equity gap remained notably wide, and those with special educational needs continued to fall behind their peers.

"If we don't hit pause now and rethink what we're doing to New Zealand's education system, we are going to go down the same path England did.

"We risk making the equity gap in our schools even wider. We risk the futures of our most vulnerable young people," she says. High-performing countries such as Singapore, Japan, and South Korea are actively reforming their education systems to move away from rigid, knowledge-intensive frameworks toward curricula that foster creativity, critical thinking and advanced problem-solving skills. Similarly, Finland and other Nordic countries, which consistently rank among the world's top education systems, intentionally elevate their educational experience beyond basic recall of information."

It's about political control, folks - not education - control.

Anyway; to end on a far more positive vibe: **thanks!** Ngā mihi nui to all of our whānau who have helped coach, manage, or support our sports teams from the sidelines this year. Our teams would not have been able to enjoy these sporting opportunities without you; you make the difference. Who knows what some of these young athletes might go on to?

## This just in...

I've been asked to sing on a Christmas album featuring Bing Crosby, Don Henley, Mary Hopkins, and Lee Hazelwood: a very exclusive group - just Bing, Don, Mary, Lee, and I...

Until next week, ka kite.

Kerry Hawkins & staff