Vol 34/26 Friday 06 November 2026.

Nau mai ano, whānau.

As the term rolls on, events keep coming. Next week, it is the high schools' new entrants day on Friday. If you have a child involved, please check the timetable for the day that their school has provided; especially the start time and where to go upon arrival; and the finish time - this can vary from school to school.

Timely...

Derek Wenmouth is one of NZ's leading future-focused education thinkers and professional development providers. The November 2026 edition of his Future Makers newsletter, focuses on "current issues in education" - the conclusion to which is an excellent summary of what should be happening in NZ education: "*Priorities shift with the electoral cycle, and each term brings new targets, reforms and reporting requirements, often before the last have been embedded or evaluated. Schools experience this as the accumulation of initiatives; learners experience it as a system that is constantly changing but not always improving.*

The outcomes that matter most take a decade or more to emerge, and they are the least likely to survive a change of direction. It does not have to be this way. Finland's comprehensive school reforms of the 1970s rested on a broad political consensus about the purpose and principles of education that has held across many governments and ministers. We cannot simply copy Finland, but we can learn from what that continuity made possible: stability in which teachers and schools could build capability over time.

New Zealand has also shown that cross-party agreement is possible when the stakes are recognised. A 30-year infrastructure plan has attracted support across parties, and health sector leaders are now calling for a ten-year cross-party health agreement. Education, whose results play out over a generation, has at least as strong a case. A long-term commitment would not mean agreeing on every policy detail. Debate about methods should continue. It would mean a ten- to twenty-year cross-party accord on four things:

1. Purpose: a shared statement of what education is for, and what success looks like.

2. Outcomes: a small number of long-term goals for learners, covering foundational learning and broader capability, equity and belonging.

3. Conditions: stable commitments to the teaching workforce, learning support, leadership capacity, funding and infrastructure.

4. Accountability: joint responsibility across education, health and social agencies, with regular public review, and with the voices of learners, whānau and communities, and our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, built in."

Thank you, Derek. Are you listening, Wellington?

Gumboot Friday...

Thanks for your $253.00 contribution to today's WPS version of an event that provides manākitaka for tamariki. In an ideal world, it wouldn't be needed… kia kaha, Waverley Park: thank you

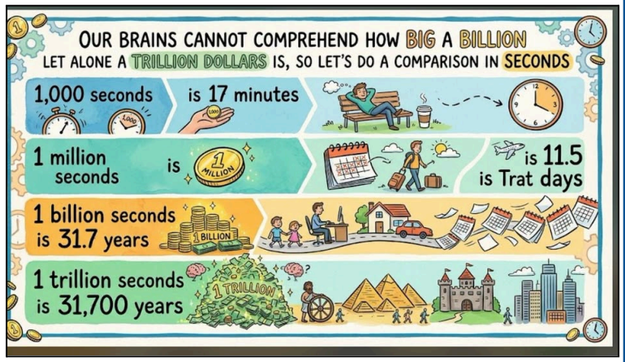
Scholastic book club...

Last one for the year! Lucky book club Issue 8 is now open. Orders will close on Wed 18 November. Orders can be cash or eftpos to the school office or made online Parent Loop Orders
All rewards received go towards new library books.

Request for payment...

All school accounts for Touch Rugby, Futsal, Football, Cricket and Ngā Taonga have been emailed via **Edge Learning**. Please check your inbox and spam folders.
We would appreciate payment as soon as possible.
Please contact the school office if you have any queries.
Thank you for your support! 😊
Payment can be made to Waverley Park School Board of Trustees **12-3154-0103559-00 ref: child name, & sport**

This could help...



The calendar...

November
13 High schools new entrants day
20 Assembly - Kia Maia - 10.10am
24 Ngā Putangitangi competition
December
01 End of year celebration Oreti Beach, 5.00-7.00 pm (TBC)
03 End of year celebration Oreti Beach back-up date
04 Assembly - Kia Kaha - 10.10am
Hui Whakapumau - year 6 Māori graduation
11 Waverley's Got Talent
14 Year 6 Graduation
15 Last day of school for 2026 - noon
January
28 & 29 Teachers Only Days
February
01 First day of school
06 Waitangi Day
08 Day off for Waitangi Day
23 Phoenix Zone athletics

The cop radioed in...

"Car one to base. Sarge, Sarge… are you there, Sarge?"
"Affirmative, car one; go ahead."
"We've got a woman here; she's just shot her husband … for walking across the kitchen floor she just mopped…"
"Well, have you arrested her?"
"No way, Sarge - the floor's still wet!"

Meantime...

The kangaroo kept getting out of his enclosure at the London Zoo. Knowing that he could leap pretty high, the zoo officials put up an 8-foot fence. The next morning, however, the kangaroo was out again, idly roaming around the zoo - so the zoo officials raised the height of the fence to ten feet. However, the very next morning the kangaroo was again wandering about the zoo. This went on and on until the fence was eventually a wall well over twenty feet high. Slightly bemused, the camel in the next enclosure asked: "Hey Skippy, how high d'ya reckon they'll go?"
With a classic Aussie drawl, the kangaroo slowly replied:
"Crikey, mate … who'd know? Maybe fifty feet … unless somebody realizes they need to lock the gates at night."

Kā mihi tatou.
Kerry Hawkins & team





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