

Kia ora e te whanau

It was a pleasure to have Shona Hoffman, Cynthia Bell, and Denise Findlater back in the staffroom last Friday. Shona graciously agreed to accept a farewell morning tea from our board and staff; and the other two returned to take part too. Suffice to say that all three looked very well indeed - maybe that's what happens when you no longer work in a school? Following a few speeches, a few teary eyes, and presentations from board and staff; the kids performed *Tahu Potiki* en masse; a very apt way to mark Shona's twenty-six years as a member of our staff; as the mum of a Waverley kid; and as a leader in our school.

Years ago, Shona initiated what has been Waverley Park practice ever since: visiting new entrants in their pre-school environment before they first venture into the school. This does much to lower the stress of starting school by allowing each child to meet with their new entrant teacher in an environment where the child feels comfortable. Apparently, we are still the only primary school to do that. Thank you Shona for your unwavering commitment to kids - new entrants in particular.

We all wish Shona the very best of everything in her "not retirement" - Kia kaha, Mrs Hoffman; kia maia, kia manawanui.

But we do get to keep...

Miss Te Huia! A range of factors meant that we had a gap to fill on our teaching roster for 2026; the sort of gap that would perfectly suit a newly-graduated teacher who has been on posting with Miss Paulin all year. So we get to announce (and welcome back) ex-Waverley kid Maraea Te Huia - who will be teaching a junior class in room 4 next year.

Classroom organization for 2026...

We have had to wait for a few decisions outside our control before we had all the pieces of the puzzle but we can now say with some confidence that this is what it will look like.

Kia kaha block

- Room 1 Carolyn Williams Y5&6
- Room 2 Brenda Devery Y3&4
- Room 3 Jacqui Paulin N/E
- Room 4 Maraea Te Huia Y1&2

Kia maia

- Room 5 Tina Baird Y2
- Room 6 Justine Hewer-Marley Y3&4
- Room 7 Kaytlin Tomlins Y3&4
- Room 8 Awhi Mataira-McLatchie Y5&6

Kia manawanui

- Room 9 Taryn Swney Y1&2
- Room 10 Richelle Waldron Y3&4
- Room 11 Helen Kennedy / Michelle Pirie Y5&6

Absolutely perfectly worded...

What **Marama Stewart, Principal of Apanui School** in Whakatāne, wrote to her community; is included here in full - with her permission - as it eloquently reflects our own position.

“Last week was quite a ride for our teaching team, and we really appreciate your support on Thursday while many of us in the public sector walked off the job. The media conversation since has, unsurprisingly, been full of mixed messages. It reminded me of our last newsletter, which focused on the complexity of teaching.

Our communities are diverse, layered, and full of colour. That richness is what gives life to the tapestry of who we are. The complexity of those threads is incredibly important. The last thing we want to do is simplify those threads so much that we end up with a flat, two-tone checkerboard instead of something woven with depth, pattern, and meaning.

Unfortunately, there is a growing belief that if we simplify learning into tidy steps, all children will learn the same way. This idea is influencing the curriculum changes currently being introduced. It is based on parts of neuroscience being taken without the cultural and developmental context needed to understand them.

The two pieces of science the Minister refers to as the “Science of Reading” are how the brain moves information from short-term to long-term memory and orthographic mapping, which helps us store letter-sound patterns. These processes are real and important, but knowing how to sound out a word is not the same as understanding it.

Here’s an example. The Minister recently celebrated “improved reading results” from a phonics test. But the test measured sound recognition and recall, not comprehension. Many of us can read this whakatauki from our New Zealand Curriculum | Te Mātaiaho aloud:

Mātai aho tāhūnui, Mātai aho tāhūroa, Hei takapau wānanga e hora nei.

Most of us can decode the words of this whakatauki, but not everyone will understand the meaning. Meaning-making is where true learning lives. It does not move in straight lines or tidy levels. It grows through our identity, our whānau, our reo, and our relationships. It is the richness and spice of learning that gives colour, texture, and life to the tapestry.

This is the part that has been removed from the newly released curriculum: the parts that honour diversity, inclusion, community, partnership, belonging, and the complexity of who we are. Those threads matter. They are what make learning real, human, and connected.

The name Te Mātaiaho was gifted to our New Zealand Curriculum with purpose and intent. ‘Mātai’ means to study deliberately, examine, and observe, and ‘aho’ describes the many strands and threads of learning. When we remove those rich threads, we are no longer upholding the meaning of the name or the gift it represents.

And so, no matter what changes at a national level, here at Apanui School we will continue to teach and lead in ways that honour the whole child. Their culture, their identity, their voice, and their mana.”

Marama’s piece is word perfect. To understand our stance, all you need to do in your head is swap “Apanui” for “Waverley Park” in her final paragraph. Thank you Marama - perfect clarity.

Whooping cough...

Unfortunately, it’s in our school. The official advice is: “Children with whooping cough **are advised not to attend early childhood services, school or other public places** for three weeks from when they started coughing or five days after starting antibiotic medicine. Adults are advised not to attend work or public places for the same periods of time.

Close contacts of a person with whooping cough who attend early childhood services, are in contact with infants less than 12 months of age or pregnant women, or who are health care workers, can complete a course of antibiotic medicine to reduce their risk of developing the disease. A whooping cough booster immunisation will not prevent the disease developing if there has been a recent exposure.” You can find out more at: <https://www.immune.org.nz/diseases/pertussis>

Prepping for 2026...

All schools are currently getting organized for next year - we are no exception. **If you know of families intending to enrol with us next year, please ask them to get in touch.** Equally so...

While we obviously do know that our year 6 kids are leaving at the end of the year: there are often others who move house or to another town during the summer break. **If you know that your kids will be finishing at Waverley Park at the end of this year; please confirm that information with us asap** - that helps us with our planning too. Thanks!

Frozen meals...

Our friends and neighbours at the Harvestfield Church have frozen meals available for anyone in need. You are most welcome to contact **Kathryn Casey** | 027 379 5888 | directly. Thanks Harvestfield - your generosity is truly appreciated.

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

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Community Trust South

TE POU ARATAKI POUNAMU O MURIHIKU

The calendar...

November
14 Ngā Taonga Marae Trip New Entrants’ day Yr7&8
21 Assembly - Kia Maia - 10.10am
25 Science Roadshow
December
05 Assembly - Kia Kaha- 10.10am Hui Whakapūmau - Yr 6 Marae Graduation
10 Board of Trustees - 7.30pm
11 End of year celebration
12 Reports sent home
15 Year 6 Graduation (combined)
16 Last day 12 noon

Keeping in touch - too easy...



Phone 03 217 9332
Text 022 3179332
admin@waverleypark.school.nz
or use any Messenger, Skool Loop, Seesaw, or Edge app

Congratulations Sam!

Another ex-Waverley kid featured in [The Southland Tribune](#) last week. The always competitive **Sam Nicholson** refereed his 100th senior game during the rugby season; and has now brought up his 100th senior game for the Invercargill-Old Boys Cricket Club.



Photos (pinched from The SouthTribune): Debbie Fahey & Dakota Brown
None of this is a surprise - he showed commitment to the cause from an early age. Indeed, Sam was Kaitātaki Tāne in our very first Tuinga Tahi group to compete in Putangitangi - way back in 2009 (our Whaea Katy featured in that group too). Accolades well deserved, Mr Nicholson: kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui!

Three profound thoughts...

- 1: Why isn't the number 11 pronounced ‘onety-one’?
 - 2: No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
 - 3: You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
- Until next week, ka kite.
Kerry Hawkins & staff

LINDISFARNE KINDERGARTEN



We currently have morning session spaces available at Lindisfarne Kindergarten. 8:30am-12:30pm ages 2-5 years. Come along and have a korero with our helpful kaiako, maybe Lindisfarne is the kindergarten for you. Or alternatively check out our Kindergarten's profile page at ska.co.nz. We look forward to meeting you!



NZSL Club is coming to Invercargill!!

Join us for NZSL Club – a fun and relaxed way to practise NZSL with others!

Date: Wednesdays, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

12 & 26 November, 10 December

Address: South Alive, 262 Ness Street, Appleby

Everyone welcome – Deaf and hearing alike. Come along, learn, chat and connect in NZSL!

Website: www.mergenz.co.nz/nzslclub



More details available [here](#)



GARAGE Sale

8.30AM SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
497 Herbert Street

Harvestfield Church Invercargill

497 Herbert Street

Invercargill NZ



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service

Talkteeth Southern

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