



AWHITU
DISTRICT SCHOOL



Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

No 4: Monday 23rd June 2025

Wow, another term about to finish! Where has the time gone! I hope everyone enjoyed the Matariki Celebration Day public holiday last Friday.

Matariki

Mānawatia a Matariki

Māori believe that appearance of Matariki in the morning sky in mid-winter marks the Māori New Year, or Te Mātahi o te Tau. It signals a time to remember those who have passed, celebrate the present and plan for the future. It's a time to spend with whānau and friends – to enjoy kai (food), waiata (song), tākarō (games) and haka.

Our tūpuna (ancestors) would look to Matariki for help with their harvesting. When Matariki disappeared in April/May, it was time to preserve crops for the winter season. When it re-appeared in June/July, tūpuna would read the stars to predict the upcoming season. Clear and bright stars promised a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warned of a bleak winter.



Congratulations

At assembly last Thursday, the following students were awarded certificates for a variety of achievements such as showing leadership, always making an outstanding effort, for hard work and demonstrating our PRIDE values.

Pride Awards

Te Whaanau Kiwi R1 & R2: Natalie and Samantha

Te Whaanau Takahe R3: Arcadia and Layne

Te Whaanau Tui R4: Pascalle and Mikaia

Te Whaanau Toroa R6: Krishan and Eden

Class Awards

Te Whaanau Kiwi R1 & R2: Lincoln and Cullen

Te Whaanau Takahe R3: Maggie and Georjah

Te Whaanau Tui R4: Taufu and Imani

Te Whaanau Toroa R6: Sione and Deeaz

The next school assembly is on Thursday 26th June at 1.30pm

Let's Celebrate:

Georgie Palmer had a very successful night when she represented Awhitu District School at the Waiuku Schools' Combined Speech Competition on Wednesday 18th June. Georgie came a well deserved 2nd in the competition. Georgie delivered her speech on "The Importance of Good Mental Health". Well done Georgie, we are so proud of you!

Staffing Update:

I'm pleased to announce that Mr Paul Humphrey and Two Socks will continue teaching in Toroa (Rm 6) for Term 3, and I'd like to welcome Mrs Shea Malloy, a very experienced junior school teacher, who will be joining our staff and teaching full time in Honu (Rm 3). I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Lexi Dillon and Mrs Sharde Dodd, for relieving in Honu (Rm 3) for Terms 1 & 2. You have been a valuable part of the staff and have ensured the students in Honu have had an exceptional learning programme over the past two terms.



CRAZY HAIR DAY

On Thursday 26th June, the school leaders are holding a fun "Crazy Hair Day". Gold coin donation to go to Jammies for June fundraiser.



Prizes for the craziest and most creative crazy hair creation.

The school field is a bit muddy at the moment, so it would be a good idea to pop in a change of clothes in your child's bag for them to use, in case they get muddy playing at break times. This will help keep the classroom environment clean. Thanks.

School reports will be sent home on Friday 27th June. Parent interviews will be held on Wednesday 23rd July, from 3pm to 7.30pm. You can book a time slot on the Skool Loop app, or contact Lisa in the office.



Today some new bark was delivered and spread over the playground, as it was getting very thin in places. It looks great and makes the playground safer. The bark is of a special quality designed to meet the safety requirements for playgrounds. This was funded from the Easter Auction. A big thank you to the Easter Auction PTA Committee.

Senior School Camp Fundraiser: Don't forget to order your "Chips and Biscuits" fundraiser. Pick up is on Thursday 26th June. Cash only please. The money raised will go to the Senior School Camp in Term 4.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, the Maori Culture Group will be preparing and holding their Matariki Hangi at the Matakawau Hall. **For those students not involved in this, there will be a Matariki breakfast at school on Tuesday morning. Please could these students please bring a cup for their hot milo drink.**

Library Refurbishment Project: During this school holiday break, the school library is being refurbished with new carpet and new LED lighting being installed. As the library is an old building some asbestos was discovered under the three layers of flooring that have been installed over the years. The

builders are going to completely remove all the old layers of flooring. The school and grounds, therefore, will be closed to everyone for the first week to allow the builders plenty of access to remove the carpet and prepare for the new carpet safely. Thank you for your cooperation.

Help Please!!! As mentioned above, everything needs to be removed from the library before Friday this week for the refurbishment. Tania Torpey (our Librarian) has made a great start to packing up all of the 7000 books into boxes. However, there are a few more that need to be packed up. If you can help to do this before Friday, please ring the office. Your help will really be appreciated!

Dates for this term... Please check the dates below for any changes and/or updates		
WEEK	DATE	EVENT
Wk 9	Tuesday 24th June Wednesday 25th June Wednesday 25th June Thursday 26th June Friday 27th June Friday 27th June	Matariki Breakfast (non Maori Culture group students) PTA meeting at 2.30pm (pavilion) Board Meeting at 5.30pm Crazy Hair Day & School Assembly School reports home Last day of Term 2.
Last Yr 7/8 Technology Day for Term 2: Friday 27th June.		
Have a great holiday break! Term 3 starts on Monday 14th July 2025		

2025 Yr 7/8 Sports Camp Report by Whaea Deb

Well, what can I say? What an amazing experience for our students. To participate in this event, held at Camp Adair, Hunua, we had to team up with Pukeoware. We sent 19 students and Pukeoware sent 21 to make a team of 40. Over the course of the week students bonded well with each other making a strong team to take on teams from Beachland, Buckland, Bombay and Glenbrook.

Students got to participate in sports that were completely new to them, like Lacrosse, Ki-o-Rahi and Hungerball; and sports that they were very familiar with, like Netball and Kiwi Tag (Touch with rippa's). Students took on the challenge of playing sports that they had never heard of before with a fabulous attitude, turning up to the field or court, listening to the instructions and going out there and giving it a go. On most occasions they came away with a medal.

Our students represented our school with PRIDE. They played with great sportsmanship in every sport and every student came away with multiple medals for their efforts.

One of the best things about this tournament was the relaxed but competitive atmosphere. If teams didn't have enough members to compete in a sport other teams could have extra members from their team help them out. This made for a strong sense of community and comradery, with some of our students stepping in to help others teams, and in return others helping us when needed.

Every school was expected to do a performance and were scheduled for particular nights during the week. We lucked out and were on Thursday night, the final night at camp. This gave us an opportunity to have a practice with Pukeoware, our one and only practice. We had decided that we would do Puketapu as this was a song that we both knew. During Wednesday we upped the anti by choosing to also perform Utaina

and finish with the haka. We got together after dinner on Wednesday evening and ran through both songs twice.

On Thursday night, performance night, both our schools did us super proud, once again! They performed both songs with heart and soul and finished with a super strong haka, joined by some of the Glenbrook students. The performance brought a tear to the eye of our supporters.

The week ended on an absolute high when we all gathered in the Rec Hall for the final competition - Tug of War, followed by prizegiving. The competition was fierce, the atmosphere was electric, and the noise level was insane but overall the sportsmanship and support that teams showed for each other was fabulous. Something that I will never forget. At prize giving the Overall Winning team was announced. Congratulations Beachlands. The Sportsmanship Points Award went to Glenbrook - congratulations, and to our students surprise our schools, Pukeoware and Awhitu (P & A as we had become known), were awarded the Overall Winning Performance. We won a \$500 voucher (to be shared with Pukeoware) from Sports Distributors.

A huge thank you to Whaea Sue from Pukeoware, and our super camp parents - Kiri Torpey and Cherie Turner. A special thanks to Chanelle Hol and Matt Ryan who came and helped out each day. Without your support camps like this would not be possible. And finally a huge thanks to the students from both of our schools for bringing a fabulous attitude, great sportsmanship and a competitive spirit. You are all an amazing bunch!

Results were:

Girls:



Gold in Netball, Kiwi Tag, Pickleball - Singles and Doubles, Orienteering, Manu Competition,
Silver in Air Rifles, Volleyball, Gaga Ball
Bronze in Tug of War, Lacrosse, Table Tennis - Doubles, Tennis Singles, T-Ball, Flag Football

Boys:

Gold in Kiwi Tag, Lacrosse, T-Ball, Air Rifles, Hungerball,
Silver in Orienteering, Flag Football,
Bronze in Badminton Doubles, Netball, Pickleball - Doubles, Hungerball,

Mixed:

Silver in Pickleball - Mixed Doubles
Bronze in Dodgeball, Table Tennis, Cross Country



**2026 Enrolments for
Waiuku College**

In-Zone Enrolments for students starting in 2026
are due by Friday, 16th August.

School Tours
Thursday 12th June 4pm
Thursday 26th June 4pm
Thursday 25th July 4pm
Open Evening Thursday 7th August 5 pm

Unfortunately, Waiuku College will not be
accepting any Out-of-Zone Enrolments this year.

AWHITU DISTRICT SCHOOL MERCHANDISE is available. There are samples of these items displayed in the school office

Sweatshirts, hoodies and t-shirts and bucket hats are now available with our school logo printed on them! You can even have your name printed on the back, no more losing clothing at school! They will be great to wear to school everyday or to other combined school events, or just proudly representing our school while out and about! These are available in child/youth, women's, and men's sizes.

All the school merchandise is dark navy (with one grey marle option). Some of the pictures on the website may look black, but they are all navy.

IMPORTANT: When ordering, it is important to remember to change the 'NAME' to the name you want printed (shown below in red). If you don't want your name on the back of your merch, delete the word "NAME". (The company printing the merch has advised that they usually pick it up if it still says "NAME" and will contact the purchaser to double-check whether they missed changing it, but if they get busy, they can't guarantee it – and you won't get a refund if done wrong).

This is on-going fundraising for our school, as with each order the school receives a small monetary return.



This is the link for the website to order your clothing: <https://awhitudistrictschool.digitees.co.nz/>

Here is a link to show you the ordering process: [Click link here for video.](#)

Disclaimer: *If you have any issues with products, please contact Digitees direct, not the school.*