



AWHITU
DISTRICT SCHOOL



Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

Week 3 Friday 12th May 2023

School Phones: 092351005 or txt: 0275247338

It's so good to see some fine weather at long last, after days of wild, wet weather.

School assemblies are held every second Friday at 1.50pm. The next assembly is on 19th May.



Let's Celebrate

At the last assembly 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 Takahe: Kenneth P and Flynn C
- Te Whaanau Mokomoko: Sean B and Kourtney A
- Te Whaanau Honu: Briar L and Taufa F
- Te Whaanau Kiwi: Robbie N and Nala G
- Te Whaanau Toroa: Mason T and Nina P

Class Awards

- Te Whaanau Takahe: Isla M and Lilly P
- Te Whaanau Mokokoko: Zac W and Ariel W
- Te Whaanau Honu: Henry V and Ashyr M
- Te Whaanau Kiwi: Trey W and Alex B
- Te Whaanau Toroa: Sienna A and Joeleen M

Principal's Awards

Hawaiki (Te Whaanau Takahe) and to Te Whaanau Kiwi Class

Coming Up...

Soccer tournament at Pukekohe for the Yr 3 - 8 students. Good luck to all the students attending, the weather looks much better for next week too!

On Tuesday next week, the Yr 8's are having Stuart Kelly, the Principal from Waiuku College, coming out to talk to them about what to expect when they go to College next year. A couple of our former Yr 8 students come out with Mr Kelly to tell the current Yr 8's about their experiences of transitioning to college from primary school.

Next Friday is the annual **Pink Shirt Day**. The school leaders are organising some activities for the students to participate in and encourage everyone to wear pink on that day. Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand after a new year 10 student to their school was harassed and threatened for wearing pink clothing. We've been celebrating **Pink Shirt Day** in Aotearoa since 2009.

We have a group of students who have volunteered to be Peer Mediators. The Peer Mediation program worked well last year and complements our school's Positive Behaviour for Learning program. Peer Mediation is an empowering process that helps young people develop life long, problem solving skills and is beneficial for both the mediators and the students seeking support. Research has found that students who are taught the skills of mediation develop a more cooperative school atmosphere and have a general increase in self-esteem.

(See letter below) This has been sent by email to Parents of our Peer Mediators.

Kia Ora Parents/Whaanau,

Your child has volunteered to be a 'Peer Mediator' at school along with twenty other students. This program is run during break times and was very successful last year. The program aligns with our Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative within the school. The program will start next Monday with your child being rostered on as a Peer Mediator/Peer Support (with a buddy) for one or two break times per week.

The Peer Mediators have attended two training sessions (with the exception of one student who was away for this). I will follow up with the Peer Mediators on a regular basis.

Our next training session will include the following Youtube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2HPuToDERI> Teachers will be incorporating/advising aspects of the Peer Mediation process within the Quality Circle Time in their classrooms so that all students will be aware of the Peer Mediation process and how the Mediators help when faced with a problem in the playground (eg: minor events such as a disagreement over whose turn it is etc). Any complex playground behaviour is addressed by the Duty Teacher.

Peer Mediators will work towards gaining a certificate by the end of each term for their mahi (work). We are so proud of so many students volunteering to help their peers during break times.

Have a wonderful weekend and if you have any queries about the program please contact me or go online and google 'Peer Mediation in Schools', where there is a myriad of information about the program.

Ngā mihi,
Elaine

Yr 7 & 8 Passion Projects

As a follow on from their leadership course in Term 1, the Yr 7 & 8 students have planned "passion projects". These are activities they have organised to hold in the school for everyone to enjoy on a Thursday lunchtime. The first one yesterday, a movie with popcorn and hot chocolate, was a great success. The next one will be held on Thursday 25th May and will be art and craft activities.

It is school speech time again!!! All students are writing a persuasive speech about something they are passionate about. The Yr 5 - 8 school speech competition will be held on Monday 29th May and the Waiuku Schools Yr 7 & 8 Speech Competition will be held on wednesday 7th June.

In Mrs William's class, the students had to persuade Mrs Williams about the best cake to make and she said she will make it for the class.

Mrs William said "This was a very difficult decision to make as there were many great persuasive pieces of writing about many different types of cake like chocolate, rainbow, cookies and cream, fairy bread, crumble, pavlova, ginger, banana, rocky road and sponge cake"

The winning writing and cake made (with all of the above criteria and it was interesting, original and fun) was:

The Broccoli Cake by Caio M Rm3

I think that my broccoli cake is the best cake because it has a secret.

It is not a broccoli cake, it just looks like a broccoli.

It has a caramel smudge in it with a pinch of pepper.

It tastes good and is so amazing it will blow your mind.

It makes me feel so refreshed.

Well done Caio! The cake tasted awesome too !



Reminders

- Please make sure that your child/ren keep any **necklaces, rings, other jewelry items** at home. **These items can become a safety issue at school when children are playing.** Children will be asked to remove them if worn at school. If items are a special taonga, please write a letter to your child's teacher explaining this in order to gain an exemption.

- As the Ministry of Education is collecting data on school absences, please advise the office by phone, text or use the free school app if your child is going to be absent from school. If we aren't notified of an absence, the student will be marked as being truant.
- If there is a change to the usual way your child goes home in the afternoon, please contact the school office before 2pm, so this can be actioned. If the school is not informed, the student will be sent home as per usual.

Dates To Remember		
Week 4	Soccer Tournament	Yr 5/6: Tuesday 16th May, Yr 3/4: Wednesday 17th May, Yr 7/8: Thursday 18th May
Week 5	Pink Shirt Day	Friday 19th May
Week 10	End of Term 2	Friday 30th June

Yr 7/8 Technology dates : Friday 26/5/23, Friday 9/6/23, Friday 23/6/23

Nga mihi nui

The Team at Awhitu District School

PINK SHIRT DAY

Friday 19 May 2023

Gold Coin Donation

On Friday 19 May 2023, Aotearoa will become a sea of pink as schools, workplaces and communities join the PINK SHIRT DAY movement. By taking part you will be helping to stamp out Bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusion.



WAIUKU COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

I am the Homestay Coordinator for Waiuku College International Department. This year we have welcomed back our International Students to Waiuku College.

We are on the lookout for Host Families – short or long term. Short term is anything from 1 week to 2 terms and long term anything more than that. This year we have mainly short term and a few groups coming in July/August. The students we have had so far have been fantastic. Our domestic students have really enjoyed having them. Thanks for your time and any questions please contact me 092358139 cELL 0212721859

Kind regards

Jane Palmer

INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAY CO-ORDINATOR