



Wednesday 28th August - Week 6 - Term 3

Wed 28th- Fri 30th Aug	• Senior Snow Camp
Tuesday 02nd Sept	• Whole School Assembly - 10.30am - Hall
Friday 6th Sept	• 3x3 Basketball - ILT Stadium Yr 9&10
Monday 09th Sept	• SCHOOL PHOTOS - starting in the morning
Monday 16th Sept	• Vaping & Smokefree Roadshow - Yr4-13
September 27th	• Last day of Term 3

Kia ora koutou WAS whanau.

A **massive thank you** to Miss Quinn (in her role as Acting Principal), staff, students and you, the whanau, for ensuring WAS continues as per usual whilst I was away. The time away was very much needed and I thank the BOT for being extremely supportive by being a good employer here. It was also a good time for me to reflect on WAS and in my role as principal. Hand on heart, there are so many positive aspects to WAS. We are certainly unique ! As principal, I am very proud of WAS' progression and the way we all keep trying to meet the needs of all our tamariki and rangatahi along with whanau. There is always improvement as we all know.

I was fortunate enough to visit some schools from all walks of life and work with staff. WAS is no different, where we are trying to work in partnership with you, whanau and the community, to help grow all our students' academic abilities and wellbeing. Here are some partnership areas you can continue to help WAS by ensuring your child:

- is up to date with their work and any further support required that the teacher/s are contacted;
- is aware of their next learning steps, behaviour improvement goals, attendance and general school happenings;
- is wearing the correct uniform when they leave home for school;
- has their cell phone away in their bag or kept at home;
- has no illegal substances on their possession such as vapes;
- has the confidence to seek/ask for help and a go to person (such as a member of staff, parent, counsellor, friend) to share what's on their mind/troubling them;
- making good friendships outside of school and that social media is monitored; and
- has gentle reminders about how it looks when being a decent person in society - ie demonstrating manners and having respect for self, others and the environment they're in.

WAS staff cannot do this alone and when there is family support, the child can often flourish even more so and reach their full potential/goals. Again, please sing out if you feel we can do more in partnership with your child/ren as the WAS staff are always keen to help (in addition), where we can and given the timeframe we have.

In terms of self reviewing aspects of WAS, as principal, I will be drawing on some feedback from you as families. Here are some of the areas to look out for (via email, catching up face-to-face and surveys) which we'll be seeking your support/feedback on:

- Free Lunches in Schools (known as Ka Ora, Ka Ako - Healthy schools lunch programme) for 2026 feedback - new funding model and how WAS should budget and deliver this programme accordingly.
- New changes in Education - NCEA, curriculum refresh, structured literacy, structured numeracy, assessment and more emphasis on student attendance - plenty of media releases on this and the implementation process for schools.
- Student behaviour - particularly in Years 7-10. What impacts they're having at WAS and further invention required. A team approach on building strategies and understanding in ways we can navigate our way through this journey. Open to ideas here.
- Bike Park / Pump Track - revisiting our options here - solely looking at how we can all work together to achieve this project for our young ones and with their help.

There have been a number of new students/whanau coming to WAS. (Some of our new students in photo, right) 19 new students have started WAS of late - 14 in the primary school and 5 in the Year 7-10 end. This is exciting for WAS as our school roll has been steady for the two years around the 140-150 mark. This also causes a lot of time for staff to bring our new students (and whanau) 'up to speed' with WAS' values, learning experiences, relationships (our people) and general school happenings. Dynamics change, new friendships are formed and further relationship building occurs. Again, you can all (every family) help by communicating with your loved ones, at home, by ensuring they come to WAS with:



- a positive attitude towards learning and building relationships;
- having an open mind to people having differences, beliefs, abilities, medical conditions and so forth;
- an understanding around; 'there is always an underlying issue' why people treat others poorly or with disrespect or demonstrate characteristics (such as trauma) which affect others. This is a great time to build an understanding here and WAS certainly tries to do their best through classroom programmes, such as Mitey and the many, many restorative/pastoral approaches we do have with students (and whanau);
- welcoming attitude and developing a genuine care for one another - team spirit approach. We're all in this together type of culture.

Here is a Ministry of Education link that may be helpful for you as whanau?

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/further-education/scholarships/>

Our WAS **Tennis court shelter** foundations are in and cemented! Watch this space with the building developments under the expertise of Mr Warwick, senior BCITO students and builders.

School Photos - School photos are **Monday 9th September**. Please make sure your child/ren are in their correct, clean uniform. If you have requested family photos (office have these from earlier in the year) these will be done in the afternoon, If you have not completed a form for family photos but would like these done on the day, please let the office know.

School Office - All visitors must sign into the school office on arrival. Our office is unattended during break times which are 10.50am- 11.20am for Morning Tea and 1pm-2pm for Lunch. If you are collecting your child during these times please check in at the Staff room to let us know. Thank you.

Again, thank you for your continuing support and care towards your child/ren and WAS. Times are not easy and having that sense of 'togetherness' is even more so important now.

Have a great week and always feel free to contact WAS

Teacher Aide Position

Due to an increase in our student roll WAS is looking for a casual part-time teacher aide for a few hours in the morning, four days a week. Must be child friendly and a team player.

Please contact the school office on 2266285 and speak to Charmaine.



RUGBY LEAGUE

DEVELOPMENT

Junior DAY *Ages 5 up*

28TH SEPTEMBER

Centennial Park

Ages 5-10 | 10am-11am
Noah Waaka & Jack Maguire

Ages 11-13 | 11am-12:30
Kerey Tautu & Kerey Pennicott

Youth Open | 12:30pm-2pm
Kerey Tautu & Kerey Pennicott

Bring a mouthguard!

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CENTRAL RUGBY LEAGUE
EST. 2016