



Monday 21st October - Week 2 - Term 4

Monday 14th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term Four
Thursday 24th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Shake-Out day
Monday 28th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Labour Day - WAS is closed
Tuesday 29th - 31st Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Room 4 Camp - Borland Lodge
Tuesday 29th-31st Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Junior School swimming with Brittney - all week
Monday 04th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pet Day
Tuesday 5th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NCEA exams Start - Yr 11- 13
Monday 11th Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MOE Funded Teacher only Day (TOD) - WAS is closed for the day
Wednesday 11th Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prize-giving = start at 6:45pm
Thursday 12th Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last Day of Term 4
Tuesday 04th Feb 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 - Term 1 starts for all students

Kia ora koutou WAS whanau.

Term Four usually whizzes by far too quickly! Please keep us in the loop with any changes at your end and we'll try our best to do the same. WAS really appreciates **your support and communication** - it's a team effort here educating and supporting (life skills included) all our tamariki & rangatahi.

Thank you for completing the **surveys** which have been emailed to you. Your feedback, along with staff and students' feedback will assist the WAS BOT with their future plans.

Term Four also means the students can wear a **hat/cap when outdoors** to keep inline with WAS' Sunsmart policy. We have sets of hats in the primary end which students can use. However, we find the students take more ownership when they bring their own hat. WAS also provides sunblock in the classrooms which students can access.

The following points are meant to be helpful. I appreciate a lot of you are on-to-it already here. A reminder to us all never goes astray.

Here are some gentle reminders where you can help out WAS and ensure your child/ren are:

- Able to access the correct WAS uniform at home - spares, washed and ready to go;
- Wearing the correct uniform when leaving home - before you put them to bed and say goodnight you can see that they have their uniform on their chair or at the end of the bed good to go;
- Prepared for school - drink bottle, snacks, stationery, spare clothing (if need be) and any notices to be returned;

- Checking in with your child's teacher or the office to see if there is anything coming up (events) or/and check the website (and your emails) for newsletters/info/Facebook posts.
- Aware the importance of being true to themselves and being a decent person.

WAS has had a steady **increase in roll numbers which is exciting**. This also means that student dynamics are tested as new & current students form new friendships and pecking orders change. Classroom dynamics change, especially with increased learning and behaviour needs.

Rest assured, WAS continues to use our Mitey (life values), PB4L (restorative) and the WAS way (relationship based) approaches with students. WAS has a big emphasis on demonstrating a pastoral approach. This takes time and perseverance. Staff continue to work above and beyond by ensuring all students' academic needs are being met and they continue to provide consistent behaviour expectations. The staff will continue to be understanding (and in some cases empathic) towards everyone's needs. The reality we face, as a school, is our students come from all walks of life. We have a lot of individual programmes and plans in place for students.

Furthermore, WAS is experiencing more and more equity issues. To address these equity issues, we find our staffing role goes beyond teaching and learning. Again, we rely on WAS' team approach by encouraging all students to be the best they possibly can and be mindful that we all have different needs and backgrounds. We try to be transparent with students, as much as we can, without breaching anyone's privacy.

By and large our students **are a real joy to be around**. There are so many positives and successes. It's only a handful of students who are testing the waters and they stick out in a small school such as WAS. We are mindful that there are reasons why some of these students are acting out. WAS will continue to give them every opportunity to turn their attitude and behaviour around. In some cases, it's just a matter of time.

Again, we need your support by encouraging your child/ren to be the best person they possibly can be. Here are some **strategies WAS applies with students**:

- To use your words when other children are being unkind - tell them to stop what they are saying and why it's hurtful (Mitey approach). To use your mental strength by not getting sucked in (not rolling in the mud/water off a duck's back analogies) by retaliating (PB4L approach);
- Go to a staff member or senior student to let us know if someone is being consistently unkind so we can work with that child directly. It'll be that person who is finding friendships challenging or acting out in a way that they're needing attention or simply crying out for help (restorative process usually finds this out);
- Sticking up for yourself and protecting yourself if you're being backed into a corner - not accepting poor behaviour or bullying words/actions;
- We often find when students come to us it's more about us as the adults to hear what they're saying and facilitating misunderstandings between students;
- Asking for help and asking if someone else is ok. Communicating in a team approach manner goes a long way to resolving differences;
- Requesting with WAS (or doing it yourself) to have a hui with another family and their child to address any issues you have - we find this process to be very powerful as the child (in some cases the culprit of the bullying) hears it directly from the source;

- Asking for help in the classroom and going to another staff member if they're finding it challenging with another staff member. We often encourage students to talk to someone at home about their issues, so they can ring the staff if that's easier.

As principal, I'm writing this in this newsletter, **hoping one will read it!** WAS finds if we don't have parents onboard and their child knows it, then conflict occurs. We host a lot of whānau meetings where we work together in order for the student to change their ways. We also encourage our WAS students to lead by example.

This year has been challenging. However, we believe this term we'll see a positive collective difference in student behaviour, particularly in the Year 7-10 areas.

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

Have a great week and always feel free to contact WAS, Ngā mihi Andrew

Pet Day - November 4th

Reminder to please return your petday entries to the office A.S.A.P.
Pet diaries will be allocated by Wednesday



Free Lunches in Schools Menu Term 4



Weeks	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2, 4, 6, 8	Chicken Salad and Garlic Bun	Bagels and Veggie Sticks	Sandwiches	Chicken Pasta	Pizza and Salad
3, 5, 7, 9	Bacon and Egg Pie and Salad	Chicken Drumsticks, Salad and Garlic Bun	Pulled Pork Sliders and Veggie Sticks	Filled Rolls	Nachos
Fresh Fruit daily, Muffins and/or Biscuits twice weekly Snacks: veggie sticks, yoghurt					