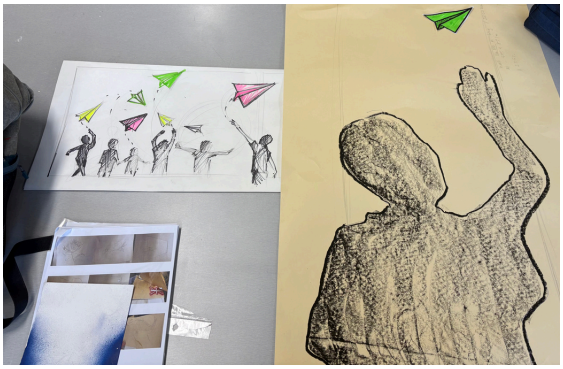
WAS' school values - Look after your school and work positively with others by being a good citizen = Respect Self/whakaute i a koe ano, Respect Others/whakaute i etahi atu and Respect Environment/whakaute taiao.

Mural project





Planning is well underway for our mural project, Hannah and I are currently working on the nuts and bolts of student participation.

The Wednesday art group will be key players, as well as other selected students. As this will need to be a quality finished product, the management of this will be well organised.

There will be one large mural under the covered walk way area, and two 2400mm mural boards, fixed on the outside of the external wall of where a the art room door is.

Hannah and I are super excited about this project, walls will be prepared this week, and time is of the essence!

SEWING at WAS





At the beginning of the term, Olivia expressed that she would love to learn how to sew. Over the term, learning included learning about patterns, how to use a sewing machine and different stitches, applied design into fabric, how to form a 3-D shape using a range of construction techniques and how to sew on a button. The result is thus beautiful bunny, Olivia will proudly gift to her Mum.









We were incredibly lucky to welcome the talented Craig Smith, famous New Zealand children's author and musician, visit Waiau Area School again! Our students were captivated from start to finish, with plenty of singing, dancing, laughter and fun! The fabulous puppets, hilarious storytelling and interactive performances had everyone joining in and loving every minute! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and enthusiastic children getting involved. ***A huge THANK YOU to Craig Smith for sharing your wonderful stories, music and energy with us.*** *What a memorable visit!*



The Y9/10 Ripper Rugby team represented WAS proudly at last week's tournament, making it to the semi-final and eventually finishing in 4th place. Huge congrats to all players and thanks to CSC for hosting, Rugby Southland for refereeing and special mention to Waiau's Brooke and Jordon for initiating the whole competition, inviting the other schools and organising the draw! Ka pai!





Celebrating Success at the Murihiku Tertiary Academy Graduation!

A fantastic evening celebrating the achievements of our students at the Murihiku Tertiary Academy Graduation Ceremony! Throughout the year, these students have shown great commitment and dedication to their courses at the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT), and it was wonderful to see their hard work recognised.

A huge congratulations to our Waiau Area School graduates:
Maddi – Hairdressing; Sofie – Animal Care; Katelyn – Beauty Therapy

And special congratulations to Maddi, who was also awarded the Top Student Award in her Hairdressing course! What an outstanding achievement! We are incredibly proud of all three girls for their hard work, perseverance and success throughout the year. What a fantastic way to finish 2026!



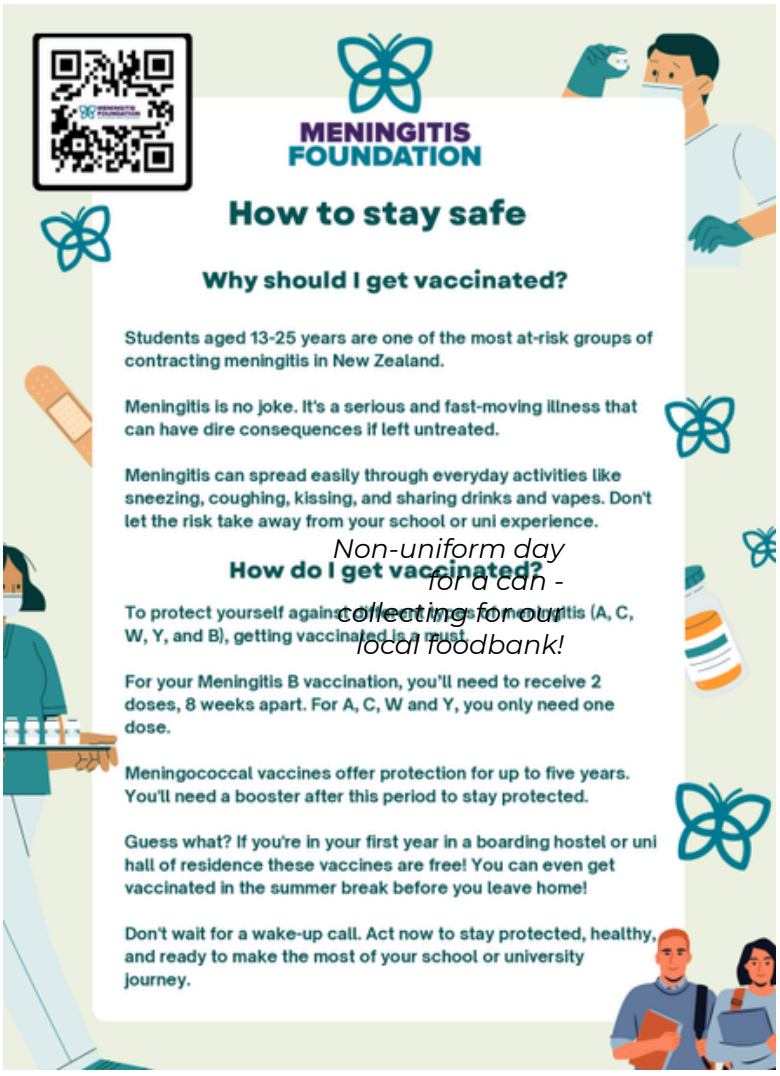
Non-uniform day for a can - collecting for our local foodbank!

Supporting the Tour of Southland riders as they rode past WAS!

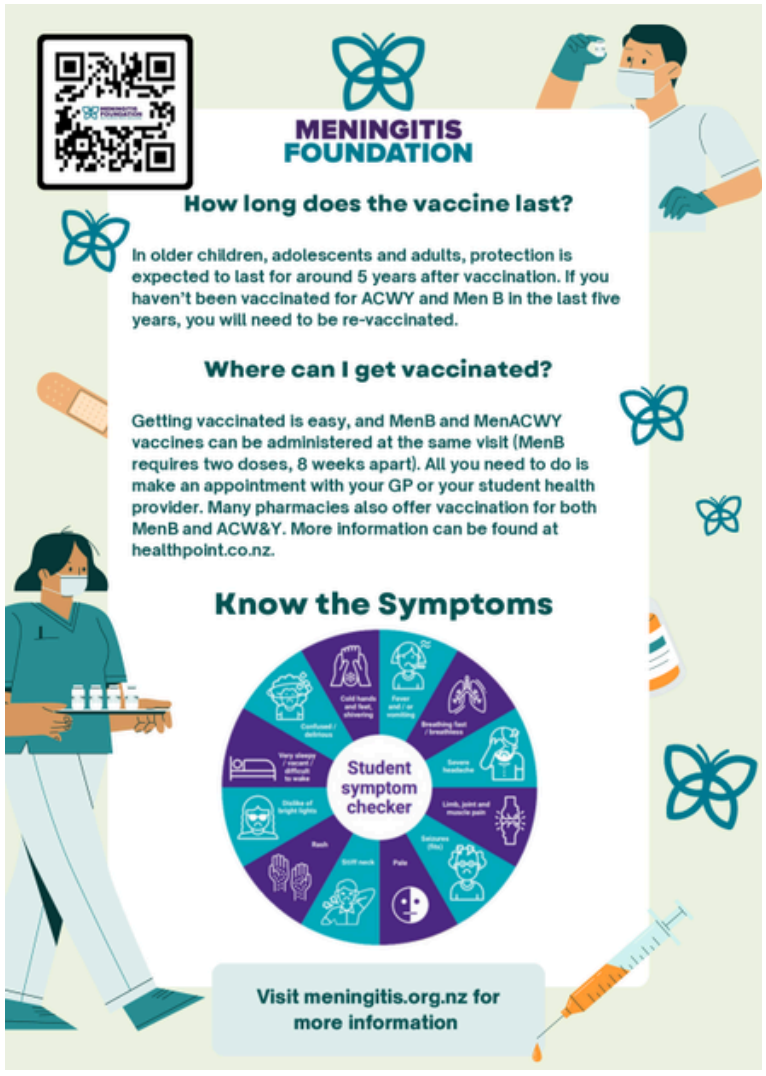








Non-uniform day for a can - collecting for our local foodbank!



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Tuesday, 24 November, 2026 **Term 4, Week 7**

Tēnā koutou katoa

Murihiku Tertiary Academy Graduation

Congratulations to Maddi Martin, Sofie Templeton and Katelyn Molloy on their Murihiku Tertiary Academy Graduation graduation held on the 23rd of November. Maddi also took out top honours in her Hairdressing programme. Our partnership with SIT is an exciting extension opportunity for our students to find their futures while still at secondary school. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the team at SIT (Southern Institute of Technology) for their continued partnership, dedication, and valuable support of our students.

NCEA Exams Continue

NCEA examinations are now in full swing. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Paul Maloney and Chrissy Lampitt and their team for managing our students through the examination process while minimising disruption to teaching and learning across the school. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated examinations team supporting our young people during this important time of the year.

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance remains one of the most significant factors influencing student achievement and wellbeing. It is critically important that students are at school, on time, and ready to learn every day.

Recently, we have observed a concerning trend of families taking students out of school for reasons that do not meet the criteria outlined in Ministry of Education attendance guidelines. We continue to work closely with families to ensure students are attending regularly and receiving the full benefit of their education.

Key Dates:

	Term 4
10th Nov-4th Dec	• NZQA Exams begin for WAS Students Y11-13
Sat 12th Dec	• Y6-10 Stalls at WTCC Market Day
Thurs 17th Dec	• Mufti Day so uniforms are clean • WAS Prizegiving 7pm (Whole School)
Fri 18th Dec	• **Last Day of the year - 1pm finish!**
Thurs/Fri 28th 29th Jan	• **Teacher Only Days**
Mon 1st Feb	• 2027 School Year starts fo**r ALL students**

We are also monitoring Year 9 and Year 10 attendance closely. Establishing strong habits of attendance during the junior years is essential preparation for the increasing academic expectations students will face as they move into senior secondary schooling.

Looking Ahead

We have a busy and exciting programme planned over the coming weeks as our junior students complete their learning for 2026. There are a range of activities, celebrations, and opportunities for students to finish the year positively and successfully on the 18th of December. We hope to see all our families for Prize Giving on the 17th of December 7pm.

Planning for 2027

An exciting area of development for 2027 is the introduction of enhanced pathways through Outdoor Education, Agri-Trades, and the Arts Academy. These programmes are being designed to provide students with rich, authentic learning experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world contexts. Through hands-on, practical opportunities, students will develop technical skills, creativity, leadership, resilience, and problem-solving capabilities while engaging with the unique opportunities our rural environment offers. These pathways reflect our commitment to holistic education, ensuring students are not only academically prepared but also equipped with the practical skills, confidence, and experiences needed for success beyond school. By broadening senior learning opportunities, we aim to increase engagement, strengthen career and tertiary pathways, and support every learner to pursue their passions and aspirations.

Ngā mihi nui,
Heather Gorrie, Principal

Technology, Gaming and Student Wellbeing

We have recently observed some concerning impacts on student wellbeing and engagement that appear to be linked to the release of the latest Grand Theft Auto game. These impacts have included increased absences, fatigue, and a number of students presenting as dysregulated and less focused on learning. We remind families that this is an R18-rated game intended for adults, and exposure to age-inappropriate content can have unintended consequences for children and young people.

We also ask families to continue supporting the school's expectations regarding mobile phones. **Under current government legislation, schools are required to be phone-free environments during the school day, and students should not be using mobile phones while at school.**

Unfortunately, we have recently managed several incidents involving technology-related bullying, including the use of artificial intelligence tools to alter and manipulate images of others without their consent. Such behaviour can cause significant emotional harm and distress to those affected. Families should be aware that incidents involving online harassment, image manipulation, or cyberbullying may be referred to Police and other appropriate agencies where necessary.

The safe and responsible use of technology is a shared responsibility between home and school. We encourage parents and caregivers to have regular conversations with their children about digital citizenship, online safety, respectful online behaviour, and the legal and ethical responsibilities that accompany technology use.

If your child has access to a mobile phone or other digital device, **please ensure appropriate supervision, monitoring, and age-appropriate boundaries are in place.** We also ask that families support both school expectations and Ministry of Education requirements by ensuring devices are not brought to school for use during the school day.





Will your child be absent from School? Letting us know saves us having to phone you!

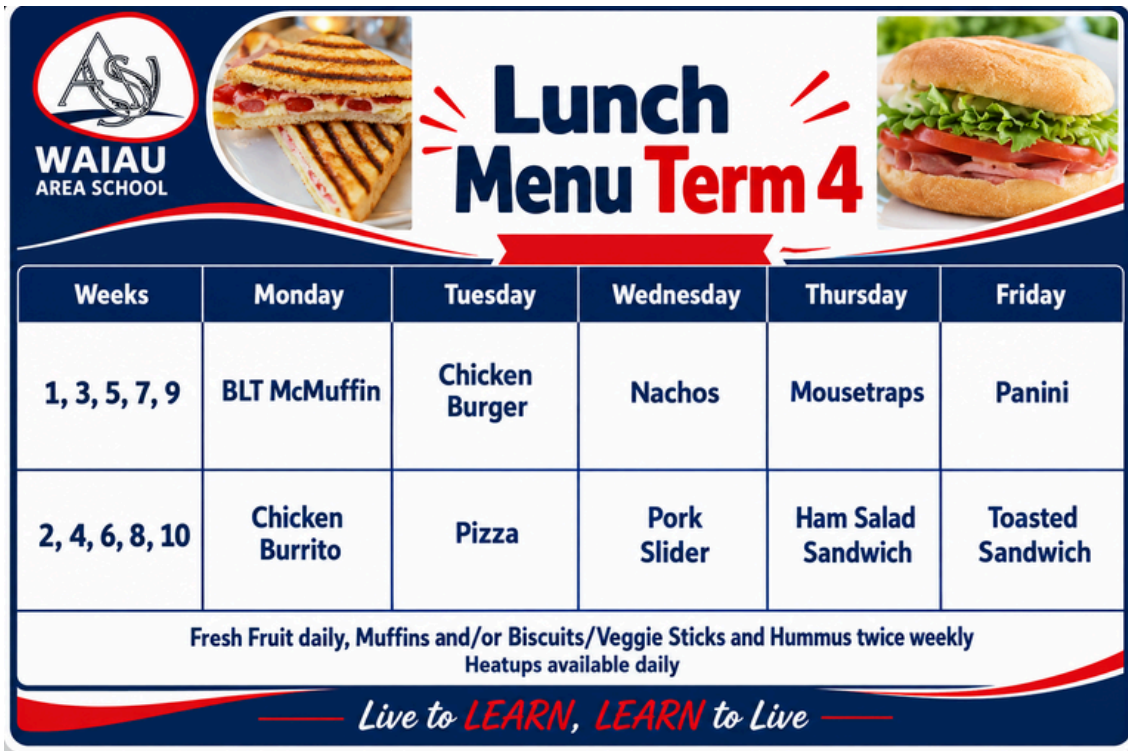
You may have read that the Ministry of Education is monitoring all school attendances and our records on a daily basis. There are several ways to let us know if your child is going to be absent from school.

- via the **Skool Loop App** for your smartphone ***(Highly Recommended & easy to download from your preferred app store)***
- Phone the school office on **(03) 2266 285** (you can leave us a message if no-one is here to answer your call!)
- Email the school office - **admin@was.school.nz**

Gentle Reminders

- **ALL visitors (including parents) MUST report to the School Office on arrival please.**
- **If your child will not be on the bus PLEASE let the office know.**





Friday Fish & Chips

HotDog & ½ scoop chips | Chicken Nuggets & ½ scoop chips | Fish Bites & ½ scoop chips

If your child wishes to have an order the $5 must be handed in to the school office on **Thursdays before Morning Tea** please.

Please note that **late orders can not be accepted.**