

Newsletter

Waitomo Caves
RD 7 Otorohanga

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Te Whakatipu i to Uira - Growing Your Glow

Term Two 2025

Week Three - 30 May

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Whanau and Friends of the School

Tena Koutou Katoa

Congratulations

We are excited to share the wonderful news of Mrs Magda Jordan's graduation that took place in Auckland yesterday. Magda has completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching. A huge feat of hard work and dedication. Congratulations Magda, what an awesome achievement. We are all very proud of you!

Attendance

Information around the new Government Attendance Initiative Star Programme:

As a school we are working towards achieving the Government's goal of 80% of students in New Zealand attending school at least 90% of the time (regular attendance).

Our data is rather low as we currently have 20% of our students in the regular attendance bracket which is actually good compared to 17% last term. There are 30% of students who need to be at school everyday for the remainder of this term and they too would reach that target making 50% of our students in the regular attendance bracket.

Thank you for doing your bit in ensuring your child is attending when they can. For your children to achieve the 90% rate it means they cannot miss more than 5 days of school in a 10 week term or 4 days in a 9 week term.

And remember, while we understand that some children are late for different reasons, we would much rather have them at school than not at all.



Whaia te ara totika – Make the Right Choice

As part of the Government's goal, they have released a new programme for schools to follow. This is the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) which sets expectations for schools, students, parents/guardians and the Ministry of Education to student absence. Check out the [Ministry of Education](#) website for more information.

As we unpack this initiative and look at implementing it we will explain in detail what this involves. In the meantime please work towards getting your child/children to school.

If you are struggling at home with getting your child to school, talk to us. If you are finding it hard to get your child to school, please talk with us so we can work together.

COPs Winter Sports

We were fortunate enough to have a lovely sunny day of soccer and rippa rugby for our COPs Winter Sports last week. The Year 5 to 8's had some successes in their games while the Year 3 & 4's improved their skills as the day went on. It was a fun day of games, fair play, making new friends and working together as a group.

Thank you to Alannah, Batch, Victoria and Ben who helped with the soccer food stall. Your support on the day is greatly appreciated. Thank you also parents for the beautiful baking that came in to sell, it was well received. The profit from the day is \$589.20. Thank you.



What Now

Hey parents ... Remember watching What Now on TV as a kid? Well, we've got a great reason for you to watch it again as an adult!

Yesterday, What Now presenters were here looking at Waitomo Caves weta with Lexi Green and Thomas McLennan. What an awesome experience for our two tamariki. Through the caves management team Nichole Taane-Edwards was also given an opportunity to be in front

of the camera during the morning's filming session.

Tune in to What Now and find out more about what these guys got up to. We will be sure to share screening details as they come to us, it is likely this filming will be aired in two weeks.



Photo #1: Lexi and Thomas are with Director Tom Eason and in the colourful hoodie is Director's Assistant Shardey Harris. Senior guide Hiria Kohe-Love, also part of the filming group, supported our tamariki for the great experience.

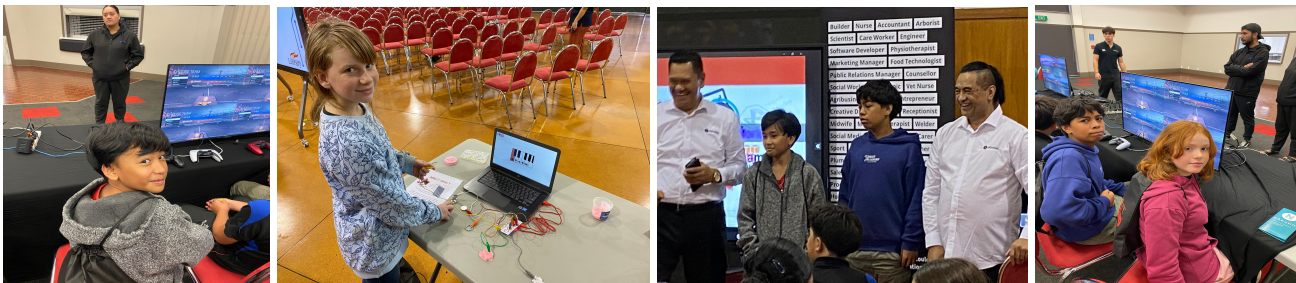
Photo #2: Nichole Taane-Edwards shining as a super star!

Photo #3: Lexi Green proudly shares her treasures from the day.

TechStep Event

TechStep inspires youth into technology careers. This event seeks to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the Digital IT industry by showcasing opportunities, pathways, and the diverse journeys within the digital world. Exhibitors shared personal stories, offered mentorship, and highlighted the industry's dynamic and innovative nature, inspiring rangatahi.

Our Year 7 & 8 students were grateful for the opportunity to be part of this expo and thank Aotahi Pathways for their support with transport.



King's Birthday

A reminder that school is closed on Monday to observe King's Birthday. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 3 June.

Overdue School Accounts

There are a number of school accounts outstanding, therefore we ask that you please clear these by the end of Term 2. If there are any concerns contact Mrs Dimond or Miss Groube to discuss payment options. We do not ask for a school donation however we do ask you to pay for your child's sports subs, stationery, camps and manual fees. Thank you.

Community News

Terrific Tales - Winter Reading Challenge

Check out the upcoming winter reading challenge, a collaboration between Waitomo District Library and Ōtorohanga District Library. Running from the 1st June to 31st August, pop in and pick up a postcard from your local library, complete three challenges of your choice, return the postcard back to the library and be in to win cool prizes! Open to all ages, from zero to 101!



For more information contact Ōtorohanga District Library on 07 871 7175 or library@otodc.govt.nz or Waitomo District Library on 07 878 1028 or library@waitomo.govt.nz

Our Tamariki



What's Coming Up

2 June	King's Birthday (School Closed)
11 June	National Young Leaders Day
18 June	Reach Awards
19 June	Aria Orienteering
19 June	Matariki School Celebration
20 June	Matariki (School Closed)
23 June	Board of Trustees Hui
25 June	Student Reports Home
27 June	Community Assembly, Last Day of Term 2
14 July	Start of Term 3

Mrs Tamae Dimond, Tumuaki ☺