

Welcome to Week 10, the last week of Term 4. With school finishing this Friday at 12pm this will be our final newsletter for the year. There is so much awesome news to share and things to reflect on after a busy year.

Here are a few property changes and improvements from the year;

- Te Pakau, our Specialist Teacher Space was fully operational after major renovations during 2024
- The school library returned to being used as intended - not as a staffroom
- Our staffroom returned to its location from the late 1990s
- The space that was formerly Mokopuna was refurbished, along with the surrounding outdoor area and is now established as our Foundation Room - Te Rito.
- During the term holiday breaks there were significant renovations including
 - Acoustic ceiling panels, new wall linings added, improved storage systems, new aluminium joinery, interior painting upgrades, large stacker doors and additional internal walls
- Our awesome new school pool mural, created by Josh & Quincy



Along with all the upgrades to our space and environment we have had a number of events;

- Our first Matariki Art exhibition (included a glow in the dark display in the theatre)
- Year 6 overnight camp
- Our bilingual classes travelling to Otiria Marae
- School Fun Run, which raised just under \$10k
- Numerous end of year trips
- School disco
- Walking buses during Walk to School week
- Book Week, with an awesome dress up day
- The establishment of a very popular & successful Breakfast Club



So many things crammed into one year!

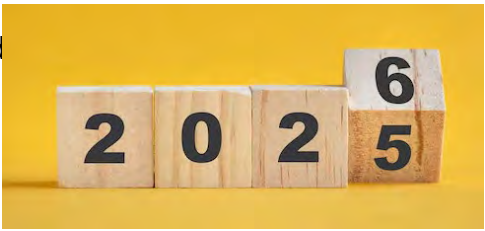
We also have seen an overall improvement with attendance, we reached the 'magical' 90% attendance back in Term 2 and this was celebrated by having pizza for everyone! Since then our attendance rates have remained steady with the majority of children having 70% or greater. We also had numerous classes join the 100% club, when all tamariki in their class are at school. Some classes managed this over consecutive days, and on Mondays and Fridays too which historically have seen poorer attendance. A reminder that at our end of year celebration on Friday we will be having the lucky draw where all tamariki that have achieved 70% or greater attendance this term will be in with a chance to win one of two \$500 Woolworths gift cards.



As 2025 draws to a close I would like to acknowledge how lucky we are at WVS to have such an amazing

team and community. This includes our hard working staff & BOT, our supportive parents and whanau, and, of course, our tamariki. Visitors often comment on the strong sense of community and whanau we have, so thank you to everyone who contributes to this. I hope everyone has a great summer break and gets the chance to relax and spend time with your loved ones. We will see you back at school on Thursday 29 January ready for the first day of 2026.

Ngā mihi, Irene Kelly



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 10 December | End of Year Event 1:30pm (Reports sent home with tamariki) |
| Thursday 11 December | Last day for Minder |
| Friday 12 December | Last day of term 4 - 12noon finish (No Minder) |
| 2026 DATES | |
| Thursday 22 January | Stationery sales at school 10am - 3pm. Office open for new enrolments |
| Monday 26 January | Northland Anniversary - Public Holiday |
| Wednesday 28 January | Staff Only Day. Office open for enrolments, uniform & stationery 8:30am-2:00pm |
| Thursday 29 January | First day of school for tamariki - 8:45am start! |
| Friday 6 February | Waitangi Day - school closed |

Deputy Principal/ Tumuaki Tuarua

ATTENDANCE

| Term 4 Week 8 | Monday 1 December | Tuesday 2 December | Wednesday 3 December | Thursday 4 December | Friday 5 December |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Daily attendance rate | 74% | 80% | 77% | 77% | 74% |
| Unexplained absences | 58 😞 | 26 | 35 | 34 | 41 |
| Late students | 42 (18%) | 36 (14%) | 37 (15%) | 41 (16%) | 32 (13%) |

HAERE RA- FAREWELL

This year we have a number of staff leaving us.

Whaea Sierra started with us in 2016 first as a teacher aide in the bilingual class alongside Whaea Ange. In 2017 she finished her teachers degree and gained a teaching position with us. Whaea Sierra has been with us for 9 years and has taught across the school. For the last few years Sierra has been teaching in our bilingual classes. We appreciate the time and effort Sierra has put into sharing her knowledge of kaupapa Maori with our students, staff and community.



Whaea Romy started with us in 2018. During her time here she has been a teacher in the Junior and Senior syndicate. She has supported numerous tamariki through small group work and individual support. She has also been a valuable member of team for the last couple of years. We will miss her generous nature and know she has left a positive impression on many tamariki and staff.



Also leaving us are;

Whaea Kathryn- Kathryn joined us near the end of 2021. During her time here she has supported individual tamariki and also been a class teacher aide.

Whaea Tanya Tanya has been our part time Learning Supporter for the last 4 years. She has assisted many tamariki and whanau to access support from other agencies.

Whaea Ngaio - Ngaio has been with us for just over 2 years. During that time she has supported individual students, as well as making an awesome contribution to our kapa haka roopu.

Whaea Leigh Leigh joined us at the beginning of this year. She has taught in our Foundation Room, Te Rito. Earlier in the year Leigh brought pet lambs to school which provided great entertainment for the tamariki.

Whaea Jez Jez joined us late last year. She has been based in Room 12, supporting a range of tamariki.

Whaea Naomi Naomi has been with us since the end of February this year. She has supported a number of tamariki across the Junior Syndicate.

Whaea Lilly - Lilly started at WVS at the beginning of Term 4. She is based in Room 1, supporting one of our tamariki.

We wish ALL our staff that are leaving all the best for their next adventures. We appreciate the contribution you have made to Whau Valley School!

YEAR 6 PRIZEGIVING

Last Friday we celebrated our Year 6 tamariki with a special prizegiving. It was awesome to have so many whanau join us, with our school the capacity!

All Year 6 students received a leaving certificate and a WVS leavers shirt, and were acknowledged for their contribution to our kura with certificates for such things as Road Patrol, Kapa Haka.

We also had some special award presented. The winners of these are listed and pictured below.



SPORTSMANSHIP- Tim

TE REO MAORI- Dallas

OUTSTANDING PROGRESS

Connor & Aroha

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC

Rozay & Hayley

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Dallas & Unaiki



GOOD NEWS!

Last week I got a phone call from Ben Soole, Deputy Principal at Kamo Primary School. He had good news to share! He wanted to inform us of what a great impression our basketball team had left after their game last week. Kamo's team didn't have enough players and asked our boys if they could help out. Ben reports that the WVS group were keen to help wherever they could. They listened to the coach, were supportive and encouraging of everyone and did a great job of sharing the ball amongst the other players. So awesome to hear!

NGA KERERU SYNDICATE WATER FUN DAY!

Last Thursday, as a celebration of a fantastic year, Nga Kereru held a water fun day. Tamariki and kaiako alike were invited to bring water guns, recyclable water balloons, togs and a fantastic attitude to share in the excitement and fun. We were lucky the clouds disappeared, the rain cleared, and the sun came out to play! We had a huge water slide running where friends and classmates raced each other down, and baskets and buckets of filled water so we

could fill our guns and balloons, ending with a splashing great time making whirlpools and diving competitions in the school pool. A great day was had by all!





Minder Fees Reminder



Please make sure that all Minder Fees are paid before the end of the year.

Account Name: Whau Valley School Board of Trustees

Account Number: 12 - 3101-0050203- 00

Reference: Child's name & Minder

The last day for Minder is this Thursday 11 December.

We appreciate your support in making sure we wrap up the year smoothly.



Te Kamo Intermediate
Parent Support Group

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Monday **15 December** 5.30pm - 7.00pm **School Hall**

\$10.00 Hats



\$15.00 Shorts, Skorts & Shirts



\$25.00 Jumpers & Pants



\$45.00 Jackets



CASH SALES

no EFTPOS. On the spot bank transfer if necessary

LOST PROPERTY



Please check for your children's belongings on a regular basis and write your child's name on everything.

ALL lost property not collected at the end of the year, will be donated or disposed of.

We have unnamed school shirts, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, towels, shoes and socks.



UPDATING DETAILS

A BIG thank you to all the whanau that returned the forms by the end of last week ensuring that we have the correct details for whanau. We had the lucky draw on Friday afternoon and the lucky winner of a \$50 Woolworths gift card is Axel from Room 1. Axel is pictured to the left with Whaea Jacqui.

A reminder that if your contact details change please let us know. This enables us to get in contact with whanau as needed.

Congratulations to Axel and his whanau, we are sure that you will have a great time spending your gift card!

HELP PLEASE

As you might be aware, we currently have a couple of bugs going through school that are impacting tamariki and staff. One of these

'nasties' is a vomiting bug. We have used our pile of ice cream containers that we send home with children when they are unwell to prevent potential messes on the car ride home! If you have any clean ice cream containers, preferably with lids, can you please send them into the school office.



YEAR 6 - CLASS OF 2025

It is that time of the year again where we farewell our Year 6 tamariki. We have thoroughly enjoyed watching these students grow during their time here, whether they are one of the 11 who have spent all their primary years with us, or whether they have

joined us anytime over the last 6 years. We have seen them take on challenges, build their resilience, learn about so many different things, make awesome friendships, and to grow into the awesome leaders that they are today. We know this group is ready for the move to intermediate and that they will enjoy all the different opportunities offered to them. Take what you have learnt at WVS and continue to be curious, brave and kind. We look forward to hearing about their future adventures and successes.

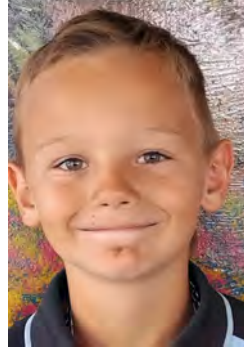
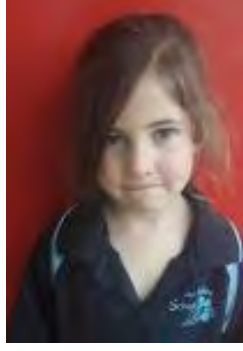
Pictured below, and on the next page are our group of Year 6 tamariki.

Aaliyah, Aaraitanga, Adwaith, Airini, Akkadias, Aroha, Azania, Bella, Blakileigh, Cairo-Hayze, Calvin, Christian, Connor, Dallas, Deepika, Felix, Hayley, Hinarangi, India, Isabella, Israel, Issabela-Anahera, Joel-Jnr, Kaley (continued on next page).



YEAR 6 - CLASS OF 2025 (continued)

Keetii-Haanaa, Kenula, Kyson, Luella, Lukah, Lyric, Manos, Marcus, Na-Tural, Nancy, Nesian-Leigh, Oliver, Patariki, Rama, Rikki-Lee, Rozay, Shaniyah-Lee, Tari-Ape, Tau, Te Ahika, Tim, Tori, Unaiki & Wiremu.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Finally, a massive thank you to our school whanau and wider community for all the support you have given us throughout the year. We hope you all get a chance to relax at some stage over the break.

From all of us at Whau Valley School (including Mr Jenkins and his wife Sally who are currently in Liverpool)!

