Te Kura o Wainuioru
Kawerongo

Wainuioru Newsletter

Curious, Confident and Connected

Term One - Week 10

Principal's Pānui

Kia ora e te Whānau o Wainuioru,
As we reach the end of a busy and productive Term 1, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey together. Our learning context this term has been deeply rooted in our local curriculum (teaching and learning programme).Our over arching concept for 2026 is CONNECTED. Term 1 focused on being connected to ourselves and our place.

Over the course of the term all of our tamariki have had an incredible range of experiences from Beach Ed and visits to Te Ore Ore Marae to the excitement of Agri Kids and the recent Equestrian event, the term has been full of rich learning. I want to extend a huge thank you to our teachers, who have truly gone above and beyond to make these opportunities possible.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we are excited to dive into our next learning programme. We'll kick things off with a **Superhero Dress-Up Day** on Monday, April 20th, to support Wairarapa Rescue trust and spark interest in our new topic. Please see key dates for term 2 further below including learning conference dates, booking for these will open next term.
Bus lists have been updated for Term 2 and communication regarding buses will be shared via HERO next week, as we have some driver changes. A huge thank you to Mel & Kylie who took on full time bus driving for the term, you have really gone above and beyond to ensure our kids could get to and from school.
On a bittersweet note, I must share that our wonderful caretaker Kylie has resigned and will be finishing with us at the end of the break. Kylie has been a real asset since joining us last year, with the Carlsen Family - Zac, Harry, Quinn and Jake being a big part of our school community for a number of years, along with the extended family. We have truly appreciated Kylie's dedication to creating a fun, inviting and engaging environment for our tamariki. As a result, you will notice an advertisement for a new caretaker in this newsletter as we look to fill this role.
Thank you to our community for your ongoing support. I wish everyone a safe and refreshing Easter break and a wonderful school holiday.
Ngā mihi nui,
Morgan Bunny



Fernyhurst Tinui Food Forest visit





Fernyhurst Tinui Food Forest visit

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A message from the Board of Trustees

As a board, we would like to take a moment to thank all of our staff at Wainuioru School who go above and beyond for our students. Your dedication and hard work do not go unnoticed.
Being a new year, we'd also like to introduce ourselves. In each newsletter, we will feature a spotlight on one board member so you can get to know us and our roles better. If you ever have a concern, please follow the communication process outlined in this newsletter.

Board Members:
Morgan Bunny: Principal
Nathan Williams: Presiding Member
Richard Wills: Property
Mel Johns: Health and Safety
Emma McKinstry: Finance
Talia Shadbolt: Policies & Secretary
Kim Hill: Staff Representative

Spotlight: Talia Shadbolt
"Hi, I'm Talia, the most recent parent representative on the Wainuioru School Board. My role involves reviewing policies, completing secretarial duties, and keeping updated on all the great things happening at our school for our tamariki.
The most eye opening part of this role has been seeing the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to provide opportunities for our kids. I'd like to give a huge thank you to our amazing teachers and support staff, it's been a fantastic first term, and we are all very grateful for everything you do. Wishing everyone a lovely school holiday!"

As a board, we would also like to sincerely thank the McKinstry family, Emma and Fred, for their generous donation of $6,500 to the school from their efforts at the Wainuioru Trail Ride. This is an incredible contribution, and the school and board are extremely grateful for their support.

The first topic that the Board will consult with the community with this year relates to a uniform review. Keep an eye out for communication regarding our School uniform.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break!

From the Wainuioru School Board of Trustees

Wainuioru School

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WSCA

thank you!

A message from the staff:

We'd like to give a big shout out to our WSCA committee, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our students. Thanks to their generosity, our AgriKids team looked smart and polished in their new shirts at the recent event, our Motocross team represented the school proudly in their hoodies, and our equestrian riders had new hat covers and saddle blankets. It's wonderful to have a committee that champions the extra-curricular opportunities we offer, helping to enrich our students' learning experiences beyond the classroom.







Sports update:

We had 9 students compete at the Wairarapa swim champs in 24 events on Wednesday 25th March.

Congratulations to the following students:

Harlem Williams, Maraea Williams, Ngaio Williams, Penny Swindlehurst, Oscar Pearce, Hannah Wills, Thea Wills, Ellie Walker & Madelyn Walker.

The following earned top 3 places:

Ngaio Wiliams 1st 25m Freestyle, 2nd 25m Backstroke, 2nd 25m Breaststroke, 2nd 100M

Thea Wills: 2nd 25m Freestyle, 2nd 25m Backstroke

Ellie Walker 2nd 50m Breaststroke, 3rd 50m Backstroke

HOCKEY: (registration link has been shared via HERO)

We have 3 teams entered into the local Hockey competition starting next term week 2.

Wainuioru Warriors Year 5&6

Wanuioru Turbo Year 3&4

Year 7&8 Coasties

Wainuioru School

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Term 1 wrap up

Here are the many opportunities that have been provided to our school over the term: Ngāhape/Fernyhurst Beach Ed – Riversdale, Go Bus Talk, Senior Class swimming lessons (town pool), Year 8 Woodshop (Whareama), Junior Swim Carnival, Mandarin, Rural Swimming Sports, Year 7 & 8 Technology, Ngāhape Golden Shears, Ki o Rahi Coastal Classic, Agri Kids (afternoons), Te Ore Ore Marae visit – Ngāumu, Ngāhape Aratoi Trip, Masterton Swimming Champs, Rippa Rugby Tournament, Equestrian Event, Poroporo Aratoi Trip, Trail Ride/Motocross, Tinui Food Forest – Fernyhurst, Jump Jam, Production Prep, Enviro Sessions (Fridays).

Shout out to our teachers for Term 1, they've gone above and beyond to make all of this happen. These aren't things they have to do, but they choose to because they care about providing rich opportunities and experiences for our students. We're very lucky to have the staff that we do. If you get a moment, be a hero and flick them an email to say thanks, it really does go a long way.















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Equestrian

Last Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Our Wainuioru riders competed in the Equestrian Event. Our students, George M, Lucy M, Esme, Emerson, Phoebe, and Harper, took part in Dressage, Hunter Jump, Show Jumping, CTR, Show Hunter, and Cowboy Challenge.

All riders showed great effort, courage, and sportsmanship.

Special mentions go to Team Green (Harper, Esme, Emerson, Phoebe), who were Show Jumping section champions, and Team Red (Lucy, George, Naomi, Lachie), who finished 2nd overall in the team championship.

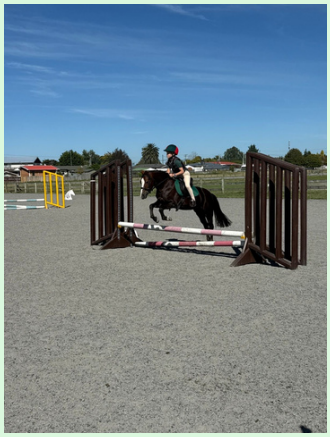
A special thanks to all the families who helped prepare and support their children for this event, your effort and encouragement mean a lot. We also appreciate Ms Nelson, who went along on Tuesday to support our riders.
We're proud of all our students for representing Wainuioru so well.















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House Competition - Longball

What an afternoon we had hosting our first house competition for the year, Longball! There was plenty of energy out on the field, and the teachers were really impressed with the level of sportsmanship shown throughout the games.

We saw some real local heroes out there, students supporting each other, cheering loudly, and bringing great vibes to every match. It was awesome to see everyone getting involved, especially with some tough competition across the houses.

After a close and hard fought final, Motukai came away with the Longball win against Stronvar. A big acknowledgement to Stronvar as well, who handled a tough loss with real maturity.

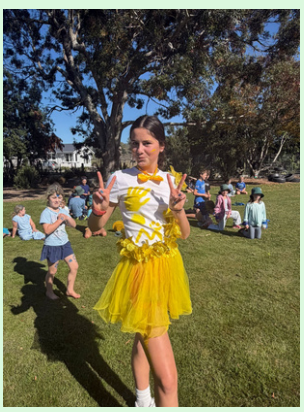
We also announced our overall house results for the term:
4th: Bideford
3rd: Motukai
2nd: Stronvar
1st: Westmere

Westmere celebrated their win with spiders and Easter egg treats out in the sun, a well-earned reward! A great competition and a fantastic way to wrap up the term.









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Assembly Celebrations



Zara and Ada



Aiden and Beauden



Thea and Emmy



The amazing Ngahape!



Emma and Jack



Esme and Noah



Billie, Holly, Mark and Rosa

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School Buses



We always do our best to tweak systems to ensure they are as efficient as possible for everyone regarding school bus runs.
There is a large number of changes coming in daily at the moment. Please ensure you inform the office before 2.30pm if there is an afternoon change.
Please ensure morning changes are communicated by 7.30am so our drivers know who they are picking up and can start their runs without needing to check phones whilst driving.
A big thank you to Mel & Kylie for driving full time for us this term - without you we would not have been able to run the buses. We are grateful that you were willing to take it on to ensure our kids could get to and from school.

Communication Process



Teacher

Please remember if you wish to get a hold of your classroom teacher that they will be working with your child/ren between 8:30am - 3:00pm. Please contact them for catch ups outside this time. If you need a meeting then phone the school to arrange this with the teacher. Any concerns regarding your child should be firstly raised with the classroom teacher.

Principal

If you have raised a concern with the classroom teacher and feel your concern has not been addressed please contact the principal to have a discussion or meeting. These can be scheduled during the day and will be followed up by the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Board of Trustees

If you do not feel that your concern raised with the principal has been addressed, your next step is to get a hold of the board of trustees - if the concern is in regards to school policy.
secretarybot@wainuioru.school.nz
Please ensure your conversations are in fair and polite manner where everyone's dignity and feelings are kept in consideration.
Please use this guide to help you through the communication process with us.

Thank you to Awatahuna Farm

Thank you to Charmaine & the Will whānau for their generous donation of sausages for next terms Friday sausage sizzle.

A big thank you to the parents who are helping out over the 11 week term, including those who have doing double duty - we really appreciate your support.



Term Two Events

Year 7&8 Tech T1 final session Friday 24th April
3 way learning conferences - Kaiako, ākonga, whānau
Wednesday 6th May 1.30 - 6.30
Thursday 7th May 3.00 - 6.30

Whakaoriori combined teacher only day
Tuesday 2nd June

Rural schools cross country hosted by Tinui
Wednesday 3rd June

More events to be added in the next newsletter

We will have the calendar function on HERO up and running for Term 2

HERO

Accounts are all up to date for Term 1 with statements posted home.
Thank you for your patience as we got on top of accounts properly. We have improved our systems to more efficiently reconcile payments & charges.
If you have any queries please contact Kelly in the office.
7&8 tech fees for Term 1 have not yet been applied due to us waiting on an invoice, these will be added in Term 2.

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Thanking our Sponsors

A big thank you to the businesses who've signed up to the Fuel for Schools initiative, your support is making a real difference.

If you're keen to get involved and support our school, contact our local Sales Manager, Bernie Illston, on 027 702 0105. He'll be happy to help.

Maungahina Trust Independent Trucking Limited Lister Works Mt Royal Contracting Limited R M Southey Cobden Land Company Limited	Kieran Oliver Contracting Ltd Kahuiti limited Wayne Loader Pariroa Farm Bagshot Limited Te Hau Holding Ltd Limestone Land Company Limited
Cobden Land Company Limited Lagoon Hill Road Matapihi Farm Te Awa Limited Taniwha Marine NZ Limited Arrowline Fencing Limited KAYJAY Cattle co Pukekowhai Farms	Brown Trout Limited Willys Way Colab Creations ltd Riverbend Partnership Cobden Land Company Limited Roydon Trust - Bramerton Station Wai Iti rams
If you're keen to support our school, get in touch with our local Sales Manager, Bernie Illston, on 027 702 0105 — he'll be happy to help. Thanks to this initiative, we've already raised $15,000!	

YARDLANDS
ANIMAL & GARDEN SUPPLIES

Notice Board



We'd like to say a big thank you to the Wairarapa Rescue Trust for their recent visit, and for generously donating copies of The Adventures of Dusty Dustofferson by local author Vesna Wells.

Our students were genuinely excited to receive these books, and it was great to see their enthusiasm for reading sparked in such a meaningful way. A special thanks to Sam Milligan for presenting the books to our Ngāumu syndicate students.

Because of this generous donation, we've decided to give something back. Our upcoming Superhero Day will be a fundraiser to support the Wairarapa Rescue Trust.



Notice Board

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Bus Driver, Cleaner, Caretaker

Cleaner (12 hours per week)

Wainuioru School is seeking a reliable, friendly cleaner to join our team.
We are a small rural school located just 20 minutes from Masterton. This role is for 12 hours per week, with flexible hours that can be negotiated for the right person.
The role involves general cleaning duties around the school, and we're happy to provide a full job description on request.

Bus Drivers (Casual, Relief and Fixed-Term Opportunities)

Wainuioru School is seeking friendly, reliable bus drivers to join our team.
We operate three bus routes covering Tauweru, Ngāumu and Bideford Corner, with morning and afternoon runs. We have regular, relief, and casual driving opportunities available, operating a 22-seater Coaster bus and a 17-seater Transit van.
Applicants must hold a full driver's licence and passenger endorsement, and be able to pass a police vet. We're happy to support the right person to gain the required endorsements.

Caretaker (8 hours per week)

Wainuioru School is looking for a practical, hands-on caretaker to help maintain our school environment.
This role is for 8 hours per week and includes general maintenance of the school grounds such as lawns, gardens, and leaf blowing, along with small repair jobs (e.g. doors, decking and other minor fixes).

Flexible Opportunities Across Roles

We understand that travel can be a factor for rural roles, so we are open to flexible arrangements across these positions.
For the right person, there is the option to combine roles—for example, completing a bus run in the morning and afternoon, and undertaking cleaning or caretaker duties during the day. This doesn't need to be all three roles; a combination of two may suit.
All hours are negotiable, and we're happy to work alongside you to find an arrangement that fits.

To apply: Please contact Morgan Bunny, Principal – principal@wainuioru.school.nz for further details.

Notice Board



The Goodtime music academy have confirmed there is enough interest from our community to run music lessons starting week 2 of next term.
If you are interested but have yet to register your child please register through the wesbite before the start of Term 2.
Lessons will take place during the school day.





Notice Board



Wairarapa NATURE @ NIGHT

13 - 27 APRIL 2026

Go Dark

ALWAYS BE →NATURING

When the sun goes down, Wairarapa lights up.

From 13–27 April, explore a region-wide celebration of our night skies and nocturnal wildlife, with local events, storytelling and world-class stargazing in our International Dark Sky Reserves. Our dark skies are globally recognised - come and experience the magic on your doorstep!

Matt the Bat @ Martinborough Storywalk®

13 - 27 April | Considine Park, Martinborough

Bringing the joy of reading to an outdoor setting. Flit like a bat from post to post to enjoy the story of Matt The Bat. A story inspired by the unforgettable moment a bat won NZ bird of the year in 2021.

City Dark Movie

13 April, 5.45pm | The Screening Room, Masterton

Join a free screening of the documentary The City Dark, sponsored by Masterton District Council. Filmmaker Ian Cheney explores what we lose when night disappears. Limited seats - register via Eventfinda.

Rangi Takō Winterstellar Exhibition

13 - 17 April | Carterton Events Centre

Step into the cosmos with Rangi Takō: Winterstellar, a breathtaking astrophotography exhibition. Featuring auroras and the Milky Way, celebrating the beauty of Te Waipounamu night skies.

Under the Night Sky - The Secret Life of Bats

14 April, 7pm | Carterton Events Centre

These flying mammals are the superheroes of the night sky. Monique Leerschool will bust myths, share insights on long-tailed bats and monitoring and protection work in the wider Mangatarere catchment.

Dark Sky Connections

15 April, 5.30pm - 7pm | Copthorne Solway

Lonely Planet named Wairarapa stargazing among the world's top 25 experiences. Local businesses are invited to explore ways to connect their business with the magic of our dark skies and get inspired.

Nocturnal Creature Hunt

16 - 20 April, 10am-4pm | Chicken & Frog, Featherston

Visit Chicken & Frog bookshop to hunt down the nocturnal creatures hidden around the shop. Stop off to have a look at our Nature at Night books and make sure to visit the Glow worm cave!

Pūkaha Twilight Tour

17+18+24 April | Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre

Guided after-hours night wildlife experience offering visitors a rare opportunity to explore Pūkaha at night while learning about nocturnal species and conservation.

Walk in the Dark

18 April, 6pm| Carterton Golf Course

As we walk from dusk to dark, we'll acclimatise to night using red-light torches. The walk focuses on slowing down, stepping outside comfort zones, and reflecting on darkness's value for wellbeing and environment.

Pūkaha Trapping Workshop

19 April | Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre

Learn practical trapping skills to control nocturnal pests like rats, possums and mustelids. Help protect native wildlife and support conservation efforts around your property.

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly Walk into the Dark

20 April | Fensham Reserve, Belvedere Road, Carterton

Take a walk into the night to explore the good, bad and ugly affecting our night-time environment. Meet local guardians protecting the dark, then enjoy hot chocolate and hopefully some stargazing.

Discover Your Wild Backyard with iNaturalist

20 April, 12 - 1pm + 6.30-7.30pm | Bakehouse, Featherston

Curious about the plants, birds and bugs around you? Learn how to use the free iNaturalist app to identify species, record observations, and contribute to real science in your community.

Heke Rangatira - Waipoua Whaitua spot lighting

21 Apri, 6 - 8.30pm| Tūrangarau - Paerau Road Bridge

The heke tuna is a special time of the year and wonderful opportunity for kaitiaki to observe and monitor our taonga species. Mai uta ki Tai- The Waipoua awa comes alive at night.

Light – a Vital Time Cue for Life on Earth

21 Apri, 6pm| The Courthouse, Carterton

Natural light cycles guide biological rhythms across species. Artificial light is rapidly increasing, disrupting ecosystems. This presentation explores the impacts on nature and solutions to reduce light pollution.

Bat Spotting at Mangatarere Valley

24 April | Mangatarere Valley

Our evening will highlight the night life along the stream. We hope to listen to bats with handheld detectors, hear rūrū (owls) and see kōura (freshwater crayfish), tuna (eels) and pūrātoke/titiwai (glowworms).

Aro matawai – Wairarapa Moana by Night

26 April, 7 - 9pm | Lake Domain Reserve, Featherston

A relaxed gathering on the lake shore where we can sit together sharing kōrero, listening to the sounds of the moana at night and observe the stars with a hot cuppa and a warm heart.

International Dark Sky Week 2026

To find out more and register for these events, visit:

wairarapadarksky.nz/nature-at-night