

**To ensure our students are able to take their place in the world, they will be
Resilient, Resourceful, Respectful and Responsible**

Friday 5th December 2025: Term 4 Week 9

Kiaora,whanau/ hello everyone!

It is hard to believe in just 20 days we will be celebrating Christmas day! If you didn't quite need that vision yet, we still have 1 week to go of school. During this last week, we will say our see you next time to our departing students and looking forward to a Christmas break. We wish you all a very joyous Christmas and a happy, safe New Year! This will be our last newsletter for the year. **Thank you to all** the parents, the PTA, School Board members and the wider school community for all your hard work, support and help over the 2025 year! We couldn't have made it as amazing as it was without you all! As always our star team (Mrs Craig, Mrs Keenan & Mrs Knapp) were helped by our support stars: Lachie Morton, Sue Shaw, Jo Cheesbrough and Shakira Morton. We loved having Mrs E come in and cover Mrs Craigs class time while she was on sabbatical. Ms Van Den Beld and Mrs Short for coming in and helping us out when required. Our super bus drivers, pool committee members and neighbours! All in all, too many to name so we thank you all again.

The last day of school is Friday the 12th with buses leaving at 1:30pm from school. Children attending that day will need lunches as normal. **The first day** of term 1 in 2026 is Wednesday the **28th of January**. May everyone have an amazing summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2026!



Waituna Ambassadors (and guests) look to be heading down to the lagoon on Wednesday the 11th. More details will come home next week. Suitable clothing, packed lunch and a drink bottle will be required as always.

Karaka-Whero Class

On Thursday 11th December, our class would like to have a shared lunch to celebrate our year together and to farewell those who are moving on to other schools.

As your children have worked extremely hard to learn tables and basic facts, I will supply pizza and fizz or juice, but it would be lovely if you could send along something to share as well but no worries if not. It does not have to be finger food as we have wee plates/bowls etc. If the weather is good, we will have a fun swim before lunch, send swim suit, towel & goggles. We will aim to have lunch at 12pm and then watch a movie. Please, if your child or children are not going to be at school on Thursday, can you let us know as soon as possible.

Mrs Keenan

Kakariki Shared Lunch and Swim

Kakariki will be having a shared lunch next Thursday, to celebrate our year's learning and to farewell Tyah and Hope. It would be lovely if you could send along something that the children could share together. We will have lunch at the usual time of 1pm.

Fun Swim

We would also like to have a fun swim on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon starting at 1.30pm. To do this, we will need parent help both in the water and supervising on the side. Can you **please contact Mrs Knapp** if you are available on either of these days.



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Join the PTA!



On Monday the 8th of December at 7:30pm the PTA will meet at the Gorge Road Country club to go over the year that has been and look ahead to 2026.

We have families moving on to other schools and need our current and future families to get involved.

Even if you can pick up supplies or cook on the BBQ, all help is appreciated. If you are interested contact Brendan in the office for more information. Otherwise feel free to come to the country club on the night. It will be pretty informal.

Our Prizegiving & Production night was again a standout feature of the school year.

Thank you to all those families and community members that attended, it was fantastic to see you all there! It's great to see the result of all the hard work our Tamariki have put in over the last few weeks. Lots of patience has also been used by parents, whom had to listen no doubt to songs being rehearsed at home. Patience from teachers giving directions and children waiting their turn to get on stage. Mrs Craig our amazing seamstress adjusting costumes and making running repairs. A labour of love with all the hard decisions resting firmly on your shoulders.



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Upcoming Events Dates subject to change	
Wednesday 10 th December	Waituna Ambassadors outing
Thursday 11 th December	Fun Swim and shared Lunch – Swim suit, towel, goggles Lunch @12
Friday 12 th December	Last day of school, School finishes @ 1:20pm Buses leave @ 1:30pm
Wednesday 28 th January 2026	First day of School 2026 (will be onsite from Monday if you need to get in touch).
Monday 9 th February 2026	(BoT) School First School Board meeting
27 th February 2026	SZ Athletics
12 th March 2026	SZ Triathlon @ GRS
Thursday 2 nd April 2026	Last day of Term 1
Friday April 3 rd 2026	Easter – Good Friday No School no buses
Monday 27 th April 2026	ANZAC DAY Holiday observed – No School no buses

LUNCH FOOD LIST

Pies (Mince & Cheese) or Mince	\$1.50	Popcorn lightly salted 12g	\$1.00
Pizza (Ham/Cheese) or Hawaiian	\$2.50	Choc Chip Cookie	\$2.00
Juicies (wildberry or tropical)	\$1.50	Small Sausage rolls not always in stock	\$3.00
Moosies (Chocolate & Blue Lagoon)	\$1.50	Toppas not always in stock	\$3.00

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All lunch orders must come from home via a note/envelope (written by an adult). Money can be paid in cash or via a bank deposit to 03 1745 0027472 00 with Name and lunch as reference. We will no longer use credits as money will be sorted on the day and sent home within the week. Mr Mason will take charge of doing the ordered lunches. **Please if ordering Juicies note down the flavour on order**

ABSENTEES: To report an absence please use the **Skool Loop** (preferred option) or phone the land line 032395763 opt 1 or 3 before 9.30am, text 0274674373 or email office@gorgeroad.school.nz It is a Ministry requirement to have a reason recorded for the absence; e.g. appointment, sick, dentist...

SCHOOL UNIFORM TOPS: We no longer carry these in stock, they can be purchased from the UniformNZ website then collected at their shop which is now at 142 Otepunu Avenue.

<http://gorgeroad.uniformnz.com> this is the polo top we wear to sports day but can be worn every day as a uniform if you wish. Note the sizing is on the small side. We also have the option of a grey/red hoodie with logo on front. These hoodies are warm and the perfect garment for these cooler days.

A reminder to all parents to ensure your tamariki / children have something for **fruit/brain break and lunches are healthy.**



**Travelling
overseas in the
school holidays?**

**You must do a New Zealand
Traveller Declaration
when you come back**

TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

**New Zealand
Traveller
Declaration** | Whakapuakanga
Tangata Haere ki
Aotearoa

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Gorge Road School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:



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To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search

'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.



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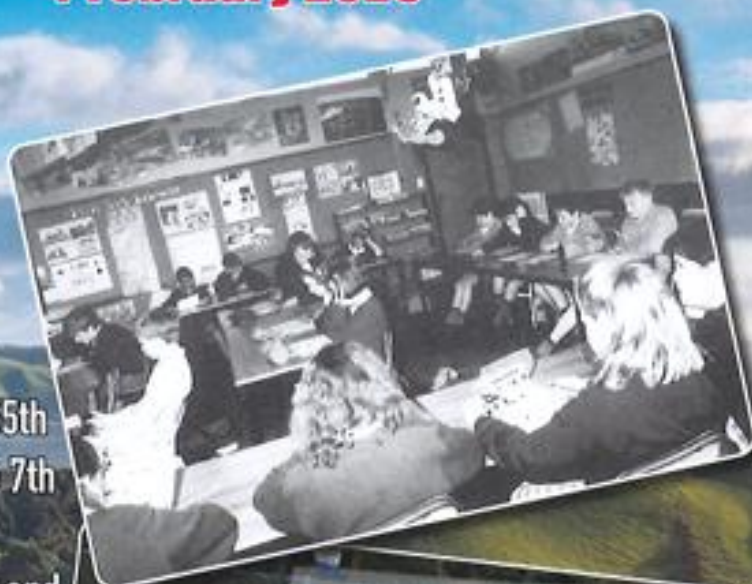
Menzies College 55th Reunion

7 February 2026

Menzies College is celebrating its 55th Reunion at Waitangi Weekend on the 7th of February 2026.

We invite all former students, staff and friends of the College and District High School to return to Wyndham and share old times together.

This should be a great weekend. Book now on Eventbrite by grabbing the QR code below or going to www.eventbrite.co.nz and searching for Menzies College. Or register your interest by emailing menzreunion22@gmail.com.



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BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS Holiday Experiences

CHILD VS WILD [5 Days]

7 to 13 year olds

Invercargill

9am to 3pm

15th December to 19th December 2025

19th January to 23rd January 2026

An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend four days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

NATURAL CREATORS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds

Invercargill

9am to 3pm

22nd December 2025

27th January 2026

A one day creative cooking experience preparing nourishing meals in the kitchen from scratch. Children will come home enthused, feeling capable and independent after a day with Geraldine from the Ferment Kitchen.

BUSH KIDS [1 Day]

7 to 16 year olds

Invercargill & Gore

9am to 3pm

Monday 26th January GORE

Wednesday 28th January Invercargill

Thursday 29th January Invercargill

Friday 30th January Invercargill

A one day bushcraft and survival day experience*:

Advanced fire starting skills

Knife work, whittling, carving

Bush exploration, navigating, orienteering

Shelter building

Cooking on gas stoves/ fires

Survival first aid

Plant medicine

Foraging

*Every day brings a different adventure. Activities are weather, location and seasonally dependent.

www.trueinnature.com



Katie: 0226381497

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1st December 2025 – 31st January 2026

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