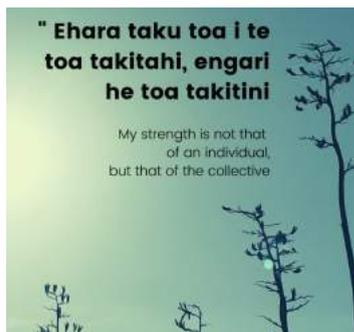


19th November 2021

Kia ora koutou,

We held a Mihi Whakatau for Ardie and his Mum and Dad, Georgina and Willie, welcome to Waitati School. Nga mihi nui Poutama, Kaea's uncle who has volunteered to support Waitati school with Te Ao Māori. We are so grateful. There are so many generous and kind people who are supporting us. Once again I'm reminded of what a fabulous community Waitati is.

COVID-19



"My strength is not that of an individual but that of the collective." Covid-19 has made being a collective all that more challenging. I think for a small community it impacts even more. We miss not having you around the school. You used to meet and chat by the playground at the end of the day. The carpark is not the same. If you had concerns or encouragement you dropped in and chatted. Covid-19 creates distance, so we need to be intentional in the way we connect and communicate with you. Online platforms provide us with ways to catch up and show what the children are learning. This newsletter and Educa helps. Please encourage each other to read the information and if you have questions, please ask. While we want to limit the flow of adults onto the school grounds, it is perfectly fine for you to pick up your child and drop-in for a chat with a teacher once in a while. Just remember to mask up,

scan-in and socially distance. The Ministry of Education has recommended that we stay away from assemblies inside and big gatherings. That is why we will be doing things a bit different this year.

End of Year Assembly

For our Year 8 students who traditionally deliver a speech at the end of year Assembly, we will be hosting a dinner in Kapuka for you and your family. We will record the speeches and put up on Educa. For our Year 6 students who are moving to a different intermediate school, we will include your goodbye at our final assembly and you will be invited to plant a tree in honour of your time at Waitati. Our end of year assembly will be held at school and live streamed.

Reports and learning conferences

Coming up are our learning conferences and reports. Teachers are highly trained professionals and know where your child is in relation to the New Zealand Curriculum. The NZC starts with visions of young people who will develop the competencies they need for study, work, and lifelong learning and go on to realise their potential. One thing is clear, it is not a race. As I have referred to in past newsletters, children do not learn in a linear manner, some years they make more progress than others. Our reports are made up of two components.

1. We share learning via Educa throughout the year.
2. Twice a year we share progress in reading, writing and maths.

This diagram shows the progress a student may take across the years they are at school. You can see that there is no requirement to get through any level in one year. Children

move through the levels at their pace. Level 1 covers Year 1 to the end of Year 3. Level 2 covers Year 2 through to the middle of Year 6. Level 3 covers Year 4 to the middle of year 8. Why? Because children are unique.

Our New Zealand curriculum is not like other countries where children are required to learn a certain amount of information in one year before they move onto the next level. In NZ, children can be at different levels for different subjects in different year levels. At Waitati school we don't base what your child learns on their year level, we teach them from where they are and we teach them the next steps. The way we organised the classes and the way we teach supports this.

I write all this to explain that when you get your child's report in a couple of weeks for reading, writing and maths, you will find at the back it has a graph and the graph shows a broad look at the curriculum levels. Your child may be within one of the levels and you may not see much progress. The graph is a broad stroke tool and doesn't show detail. When you go to the learning conferences, your child's teacher will show you the progress made in finer detail that can't be shown on the graph.



Year	Reading							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Year 1	█							
Year 2	█	█						
Year 3	█	█	█					
Year 4		█	█	█				
Year 5			█	█	█			
Year 6				█	█	█		
Year 7					█	█	█	
Year 8						█	█	█

Year	Writing							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Year 1	█							
Year 2	█	█						
Year 3	█	█	█					
Year 4		█	█	█				
Year 5			█	█	█			
Year 6				█	█	█		
Year 7					█	█	█	
Year 8						█	█	█

Year	Mathematics & Statistics							
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8
Year 1	█							
Year 2	█	█						
Year 3	█	█	█					
Year 4		█	█	█				
Year 5			█	█	█			
Year 6				█	█	█		
Year 7					█	█	█	
Year 8						█	█	█

As a parent, I know that reports can cause anxiety. During our Wellbeing professional development as staff, we have learnt about negativity biases. As humans, we tend to go to the negative and worry. Please, we are here to help you. We hope that you have spent time reading through your child's learning posts on Educa and notice what type of learner they are. One of the purposes of Educa is that you can see your child as we see them. Successful, happy, engaged, motivated learners who are learning to be resilient and making progress. Learning is the skill of how to learn with the content of what to learn.

Here is a list of the Top 10 skills recruiters are looking for in 2021 by Forbes. I have put our school values in brackets so you can see the connections to what we are teaching at school.

1. Growth mindset (Rangatiratanga)
2. Continuous learning (Kotahitanga)
3. Critical thinking (Kotahitanga)
4. Survival skills (adaptability and grit)
5. Resilience and curiosity (Rangatiratanga)
6. Flexibility (Manaakitanga)
7. Dedication (Manaakitanga)
8. A coaching mindset (Turangawaewae)
9. Comfort with ambiguity (Rangatiratanga)
10. Thriving in a virtual environment (Kotahitanga)

Plans for 2022

We have good numbers enrolling at school for 2022. We have a large number of high quality applications from teachers wanting to win one of two jobs at Waitati school. Three classes are being renovated over the holidays and a painting programme starts in 2022.

We are well into our planning for 2022. Here are the details on which year group will be in what building and with who. This may change depending on enrolments.

Note - the room names stay with the room not the class level.

2022 learning spaces	Mihiwaka	Huatea	Mapounui	Kapuka
Year group	Year 1-2	Year 3-5	Year 3-5	Year 6-8
Number of students per teacher	10 students with Bex 9 with a new teacher	19 students with Mikaela	19 students with a new teacher	26 students with Kat/Jess and 1 teacher aide

We were going to split some class levels over two learning communities but have decided to keep years groups together to support self esteem.

We will hold a hui soon for whānau to discuss 2022. One for Year 6-8 and one for the Year 3-5 Whānau.

Normally we would meet for a school picnic to celebrate the year. Let's try and reconnect in other ways, stop and chat, phone someone, have a playdate and take time to listen. We can do this together.

Tara O'Neill

SCHOOL CALENDAR

For our Online Calendar [Click Here](#)

Term 4	
Week 5	
Fri 19th Nov	Teacher Only Day, school closed
Fri 19th Nov	Deadline for out-of-zone enrolment for Term 1 2022.
	Waitati School Art Exhibition at The Gallery. Please call in and view the art pieces
Week 7	
Mon 29th Nov	Year 8 tramp
Fri 3 Dec	Reading, writing and maths reports uploaded to Educa. Please email the office if you would like a printed copy
Week 8	
Mon 6th Dec	Teina Junior Athletics 11am - 2.30pm at Waitati School Field
Wed 8th Dec	School closes early to allow for conferences
Wed 8th Dec	Parent/teacher/child learning conferences. 1.30 - 5pm
	Passion Project exhibition in the Playcentre
Thu 9th Dec	Parent/teacher/child learning conferences. 3pm - 7pm.
	Passion project exhibition in the Playcentre

Week 9

Wed 15th Dec

Thu 16th Dec

Fri 17th Dec

Year 8 leavers dinner Date TBC

End of year prize giving at school. 1.30pm - 3pm - This will be live streamed

Fire service water slide

Last day of school, pick up at 1.30pm

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

The Great Waitati Bake Off

Congratulations to the following winners;

International Bake - Bea

Creative Bake - Mia

Locally Sourced Bake - Oliver

Savoury Bake - Neave

Allergy Free Bake - Lucy

Christmas Bake - AJ

Principal's Choice Awards - Shay, Ashlyn, Clay, Otto and Koa.

Thank you all to all our parents and judges for supporting this Bake Off.



Congratulations On The New Chickens Mapounui



A Science project from Mihiwaka. Congratulations to all of Mihiwaka on your awesome projects. This one is from Ada.



Busy as bees



Looking forward to learning about beekeeping are Waitati School pupils (centre front) Io Bauchop (5), (back from left) Clay Sculpher (9), Elmer Jenkins (12), Ink Mcrae (9), Lumi Robertson (8), Jacob Reid (6), Te Paia Lewis (6) and Oliver Deaker (10). Principal Tara O'Neill said, thanks to funding from the Bendigo Trust and support from Bee Line Supplies, the school was able to buy equipment to start its own weekly Bee Club, led by hobbyist beekeeper Pete O'Neill. For the first session, the group tried on bee suits, watched live bees and learned about the types of bees in a colony. Waitati School was a Green-Gold Enviro school focusing on all things to do with the environment, she said. This was the first time the school had kept bees and the akonga (learners) were "licking their lips" dreaming of the honey they might harvest at the end of summer, she said.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mapounui practicing handwriting skills.

Mihiwaka maths lesson on fractions.



Writing Competition

Congratulations to Connor Turei on having a piece of writing accepted for publication in the Young Writer, Write on 57: Believe it or Not! Edition. I have ordered a few copies to share around the school.

Mihiwaka is learning about Myths and Legends. This week they continued to learn how to summarise by making a cartoon of a myth.

William	Charlie	Jeremy
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Emily from Huatea is making progress on her project on insects.

PTA



Waitati School PTA End of Year Fundraiser

We are collecting items to create great big bumper Christmas hamper to be raffled off before the end of term.

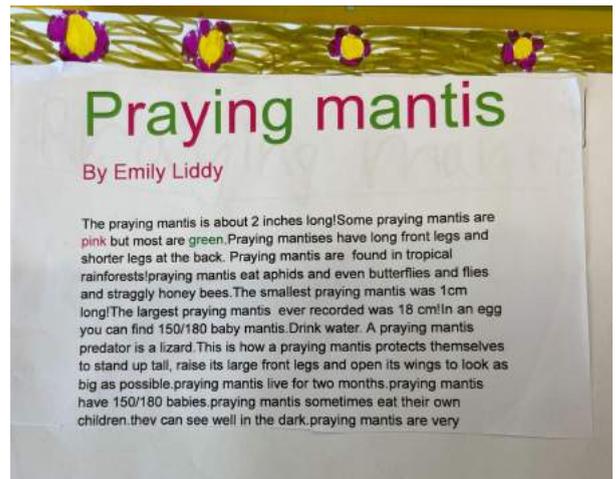
We are after whatever grocery donation you can gift - canned

food, wine or fizzy, jars, biscuits, chocolates, sweets.

Please drop off your donated goods to the school office during

this week. A big thank you to Shelley Hill who is taking the lead on this fundraiser. Raffle tickets will be available soon and we hope to be at the Christmas Farmers & Artists Waitati Market, Sunday 12th December, 2 - 6pm. If you can volunteer to help on this day, please let Laura know or message the [Waitati PTA Facebook Page](#)

Donations are always welcome and can be paid directly into our PTA account 03-1726-0008823-000



NOTICES

Blueskin Nurseries & Cafe School Lunch This Term school lunches from the cafe will be delivered every other week. If you are ordering week by week, then please remember the deadline is midday Tuesday for a Thursday delivery. You can place your order at the cafe and pay there in the usual ways. If you cannot make it to the cafe then you can drop an order form and cash payment into the office and we will pass it on for you.

This week's menu is: sausage rolls \$4.50, vegetarian sausage rolls \$4.50, raspberry and white chocolate muffin \$3.50.

The last Scholastic Book Magazine is out this week. Deadline for orders is 8th Dec. Please order through scholastic.co.nz/loop or through the Loop app.

