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Weeks Ahead - Term One 2025

WEEK NINE

Fri 28 Mar SCPSSA Swimming

WEEK TEN

Mon 31 Mar Lit Quiz, Grantlea Downs School

WEEK ELEVEN

Mon 7 Apr Gareth Wood's first day as Waihi School's 8th headmaster

Fri 11 Apr End of Term One

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Sat 12 Apr - Sun 27 Apr

DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Fri 18 Apr GOOD FRIDAY

Sun 20 Apr EASTER SUNDAY

Mon 21 Apr EASTER MONDAY

Mackenzie A&P Show / Agri-Kids competition

Fri 25 Apr ANZAC Day

Sun 27 Apr Pleasant Point 10s Rugby Tournament

Mon 28 Apr Teacher Only Day - No school today
Boarders return to Pyne House from 5.00pm

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Monday 28 April 2025 - No school today

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents,

The last few weeks have been full of memories and emotion for the Short family. On behalf of Kendra, Owen, Evie, Lachie, Leilani and me I wanted to say thank you, not only for the kindness and best wishes we have received at various farewells but also for your support of Waihi, and our family over our time here.

It has been truly humbling receiving messages from parents, staff members, colleagues from other schools, board members and most of all the children, as Kendra and I depart for our new adventure in Vietnam.

It was also a huge pleasure to host Gareth Wood and his family just over a week ago. I wish Gareth every success and happiness as Waihi's 8th Headmaster, and I trust that the Waihi whānau will be as welcoming and supportive to him as they have been to me over the past thirteen years.

When we arrived as a family in April 2012 our children were aged 9, 8, 6 and 4. Our oldest son Owen, joined Waihi and was Waihian number 2361. He was the 92nd boy enrolled that year. Our most recent Waihian Millie only started a couple of weeks ago and is Waihian number 2934, the 573rd student to enrol after Owen.

Nathan Morland got me thinking about this since he mentioned numbers at our family farewell. The result is that I have had the privilege of being headmaster for 665 Waihians or 22.7% of all Waihians since the first three boys arrived on September 5th 1907; and it has been an honour and a joy to do so.

After hearing many kind speeches over the last week or two, and as this is my last newsletter, I have been, as you will imagine, quite reflective since the wonderful whole school haka and guard of honour we received on our last day, Friday, after house music. As part of this reflection I looked back to my first ever newsletter (and the thought for the week below is the same one I used for that newsletter) in April 2012.

I could talk for hours (as many fear when I get up to speak) about my thoughts on Waihi but simply put the best schools, and I believe Waihi to be in this group, put students at the centre of all decision-making. It is the quality of the relationships that exist between children, staff and parents which are the great barometer of success.

A quote from our **Waihi Way** document speaks to what we believe and what we seek to do each day at school.

We believe...by offering every student a broad holistic experience, they will discover their talents and passions – *everyone does everything.*

We believe...that *learning to fail is important*; Tu Igitur Perfer Adversa – our children have the resources, attitude, and resilience to cope with life.

We believe...in expecting every student to give 100% in everything they do – *expect to be your best, not the best.*

~continued over the page~

We believe...in celebrating successes, but not judging people by them, nothing is more important than your Character – our aim is to nurture good young men and women.

At enrolment interviews I distil this down for each child into three simple 'rules to live by': Promise to *Work Hard*, *Get Involved* and *Be Kind*. I look forward to watching the ongoing successes of the Waihi students past, present and future from afar, and to seeing the school thrive under Gareth's leadership.

For those of you who wish to keep in touch, Kendra and I can be reached by email at akoellshort@gmail.com - we have yet to finalise contact details in Vietnam. We look forward to keeping in touch with the many, many friends we have made along the journey.

Finally I want to say thank you to the amazing men and women who make up the Waihi staff team – you are second to none and it has been an honour to walk alongside, lead and serve you all. To the Waihi students, you make everyday worth waking up for. Your determination, humility, kindness, curiosity, loyalty, sense of fun and pride in 'pulling on the jersey' is inspirational – keep being you, you rock!

Waihi has been our life since we arrived with our young whānau in 2012. All of our tamariki have grown up here, and we have had the most remarkable 13 years that we will never forget. It was a privilege to lead the remarkable staff and students at this amazing school. We will miss this place and the people enormously; our hearts, and those of Owen, Evie, Lachie and Leilani, are forever Waihi blue.

All good wishes

Allan and Kendra

Headmaster's First, and Last, Thought for the Week

***“Those who think they can,
and those who think they can't,
are both right!”***

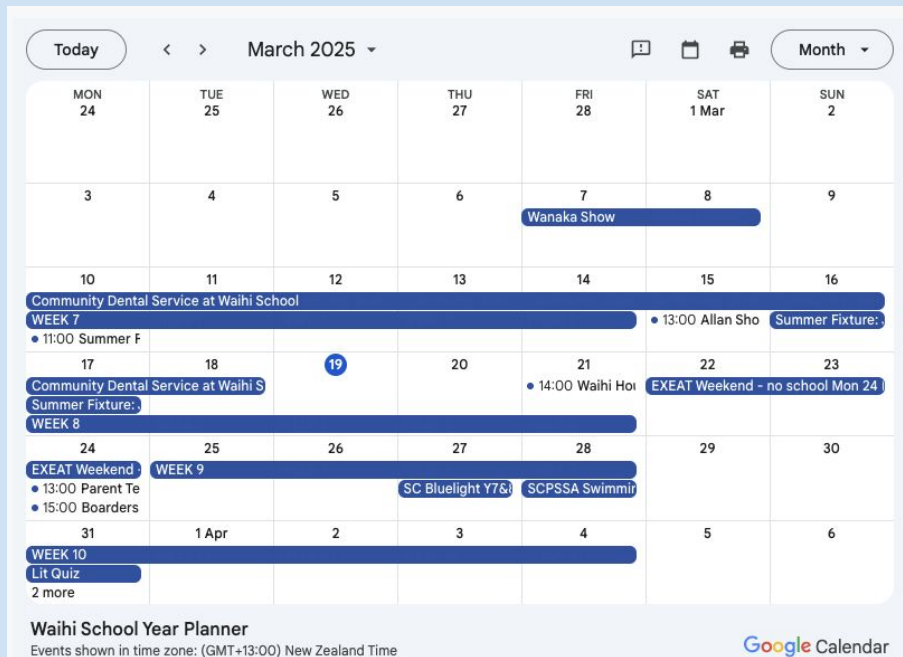
WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

School Calendar

We have moved to using a Google Calendar, integrated into our Waihi School website. This is a 'live' document, it will be the most up to date calendar reference, and can be located at:

<https://waihi.school.nz/our-calendar/full-calendar/>



2025 House Singing Competition

This year's House winners are:



WAIHI STEM CLASS

Learning | Information | Updates

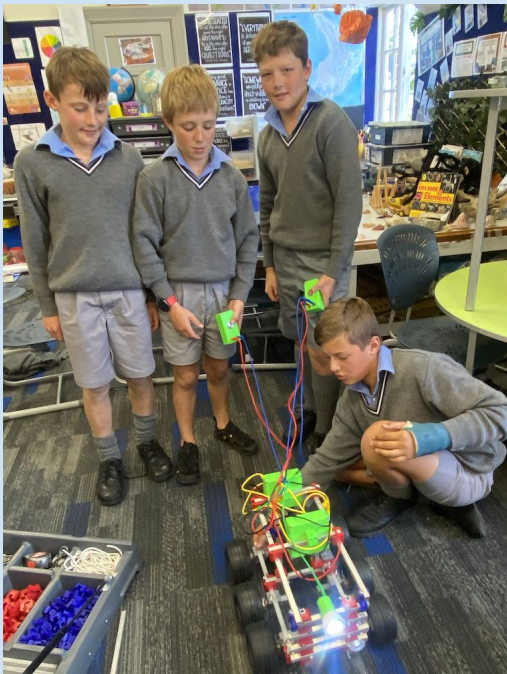
STEM : Term One 2025 Overview

Students have launched straight into STEM and we have had a busy couple of weeks.

Year 8s and Year 7s have been looking at atomic structure and unpacking how an atom is made up, followed by using red cabbage juice as an indicator to test for substances to see whether they are an acid (turns red), base (turns green) or neutral (stays purple).

Year 5/6 have been looking at solids, liquids and gases and how the particle arrangement relates to density and why objects float and sink - our dancing raisins experiment was a huge hit!

The junior classes and year 8s have also been using the EPRo8 equipment to construct and build objects.



WAIHI STEM CLASS

Learning | Information | Updates

Term One : Week 8

These photos were too good not to share!

Years 7 and 8 are looking at neutralisation this week (an acid is added to a base to bring the pH back to 7 neutral).

They tried this with orange (citric acid) dipped in baking soda (a base); water and salt are formed and in this case bubbles of carbon dioxide too - think their faces say it all what it tastes like!



WAIHI HEALTH CLASS

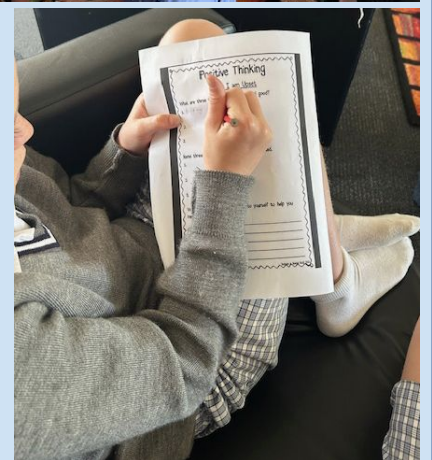
Learning | Information | Updates

Health and Wellbeing Programme

The last couple of weeks children have been covering the topic of Positive Thinking with Mr Clayson.

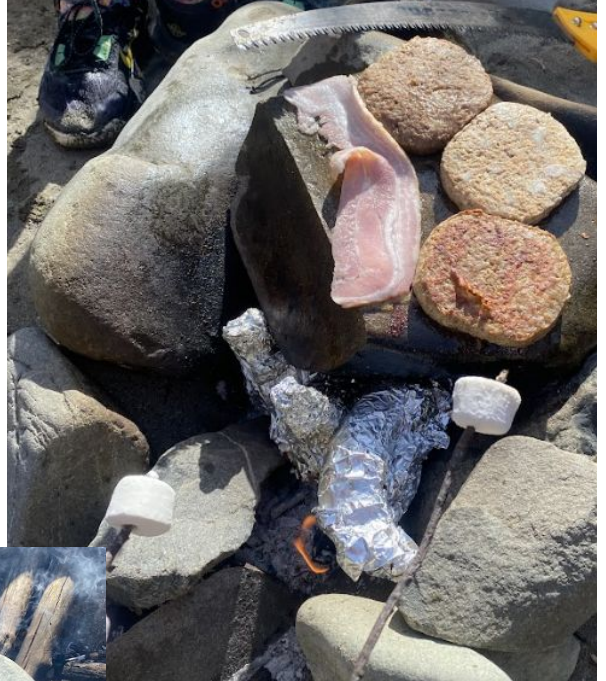
We all know this is a daily challenge and it has been great to be able to help children with their thoughts and mindsets. We have listened to each other, challenged ourselves physically and mentally, learnt from some experts, reflected, and watched some individuals push themselves to their limits through the use of YouTube.

Enjoy the pics from a combined Year 6 lesson.



6AR EXPEDITION DAY

Monday 17 March 2025



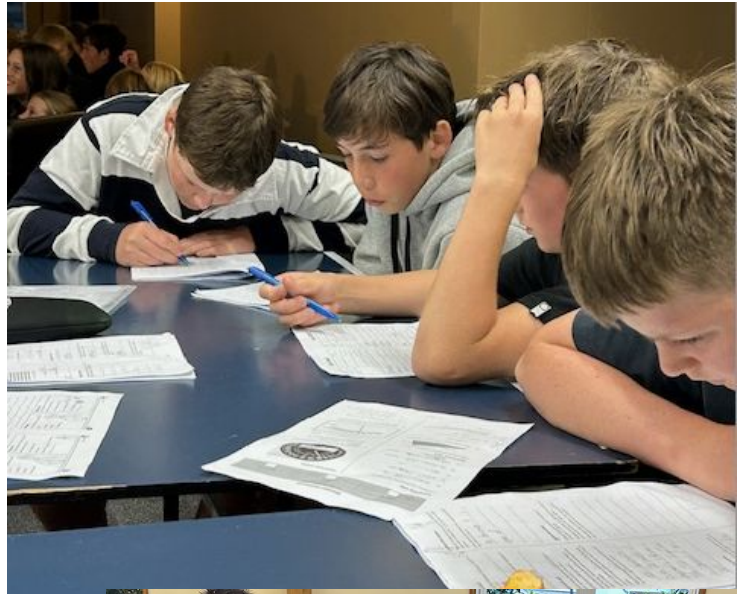
John McGlashan Fixture

Sun 16 Mar 2025 - Mon 17 Mar 2025



PYNE HOUSE

Through the lens of the camera... capturing some boarder activities





CAN YOU HELP?



URGENT ITEMS NEEDED

2 1/2 MONTHS IN TO 2025 AND WE HAVE DELIVERED OVER 700 PACKS ALREADY. TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND HEADING INTO WINTER, WE ARE NEEDING ONGOING HELP WITH ITEMS PLEASE.



We have none or almost none of the following...

Boys & Girls Clothing Sizes 3-7

- Jackets
- Long Pants
- Shorts
- Hoodies/Jerseys
- Long Sleeved Tops/T Shirts
- Pyjamas (esp Winter)
- Thermals/Singlets
- Underwear/Socks/Hats



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

Donations can be dropped into the school office, or contact Charlotte Steetskamp on 027 232 9199
<https://www.clothedinlove.org.nz/>