



Waihi News

4 September 2020

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From the Headmaster

Dear Parents

As mentioned in previous newsletters, despite the interruptions that this year has brought, the board and staff have been considering our future strategic direction. This has included looking at how the best of educational research around the globe can impact the learning experiences of our boys here at Waihi.

According to Paul Tough, author of the book *How Children Succeed – Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character*, establishing a school environment “where students feel a sense of belonging, independence, and growth”, helps children to develop key non-cognitive abilities, such as resilience, perseverance, and self-control. His views echo the sentiments shared in our discussions here at Waihi and in many of the resources I have referred to in previous newsletters.

Tough calls this a “different paradigm,” but one that more accurately represents what happens in today’s successful classrooms: “Teachers create a certain climate, students behave differently in response to that climate, and those new behaviours lead to success.” One of the most compelling findings of researchers, according to Tough, “is that for most children, the environmental factors that matter most have less to do with the buildings they live in than with the relationships they experience, the way the adults in their lives interact with them, especially in times of stress.” Certainly with all that 2020 has thrown at us in this time of global pandemic, never have these relationships been more important.

We believe that the quality of the relationships developed between our staff and boys is the foundation of success here at Waihi. We often state that an important goal for each of our boys is ‘to feel comfortable in their own skin’. That means understanding who they are, their own strengths and weakness, and understanding how to make the most of every situation. Boys who trust and respect their teachers respond positively to the encouragement, guidance and challenges presented to them, particularly when these challenges involve taking a risk. Equally when adults show a genuine interest in, and give boys the opportunity to discover, and engage in, activities that ignite their passion, you find boys striving to achieve even greater success.

With the sad death, two weeks ago of one of the world’s great education thinkers, *Sir Ken Robinson, I was drawn again to considering his words. In his book, *The Element*, he discusses the concept of natural talent meeting personal passion. He insists that we are all born with tremendous natural capabilities, but somehow many people never connect with their true talents.

Picasso is quoted as stating that, “*Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.*” The quality of our children’s wonderful imagination and personal confidence is beautifully captured by Robinson’s opening paragraph relating a story from a primary school classroom.

'A teacher was giving a drawing class to a group of six-year-old children. At the back of the classroom sat a little girl who normally didn't pay much attention in school. In the drawing class she did. For more than twenty minutes, the girl sat with her arms curled around her paper totally absorbed in what she was doing. The teacher found this fascinating. Eventually she asked the girl what she was drawing. Without looking up the girl said, "I'm drawing a picture of God." Surprised the teacher said, "But nobody knows what God looks like." The little girl said, "They will in a minute."

The Element by Sir Ken Robinson

I never tire of the unique perspective that children give us. Their views of the world might seem simplistic, unrealistic or ill-informed to an adult's eyes and ears, but are they any less valid or valuable? That is why I love my job as a teacher and parent - day after day the boys bring smiles, surprise and wonder to our world, long may they continue to do so.

* Sir Ken Robinson – If there was a single individual whose thinking and words have impacted me in my role as an educator more than any other, it would be Sir Ken Robinson. He is the embodiment of the prestigious TED Conference and its commitment to spreading new ideas, and he is the most watched speaker in TED's history. His first, and most famous talk in 2006, "[Do Schools Kill Creativity](#)" has been viewed online over 60 million times and seen by an estimated 380 million people in 160 countries. Just like New Zealand's own Celia Lashlie, he was prepared to be both provocative and challenging, in seeking a new view of education and learning, to ensure a better future for our children. I'd encourage any parent to take the time to watch or read the thoughts of both Sir Ken Robinson and Celia Lashlie, you won't be disappointed.

Kind regards

Allan Short
Headmaster

There is no passion to be found
playing small - in settling for a life
that is less than the one you are
capable of living.

Nelson Mandela



You are cordially invited to attend our

Mother & Son Lunch

To be held in the Waihi Hall on
THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 1.00-2.00PM

This is a great opportunity to socialise with the other Waihi mothers and their sons, whilst enjoying being treated to a delicious lunch

Guest speaker – Jo Taylor (Former Founder of Latitude Media)

\$35 for Mothers
Boys free

RSVP to Penny Clark on 05 687 8014 or
pc@waihi.school.nz



SAVE THE
DATE

Father & Son Dinner

SATURDAY
17 OCTOBER 2020

More details to come

Summer Uniform

The start of Term 4 sees the return of our summer uniform. If you require any extra uniform items, it would be appreciated if this could be done before the end of term or over the holidays. Please phone the office to arrange a time to come in.

Boys will be required to have:

- Light blue Aertex shirts
- Light grey shorts
- Jersey
- Sandals (black or brown)
- House polo shirt
- White polo shirt
- White shorts
- White sports socks (with blue stripes)
- Swimming shorts
- Sunhat or cap
- Summer boarders blues polos and shorts (boarders only)

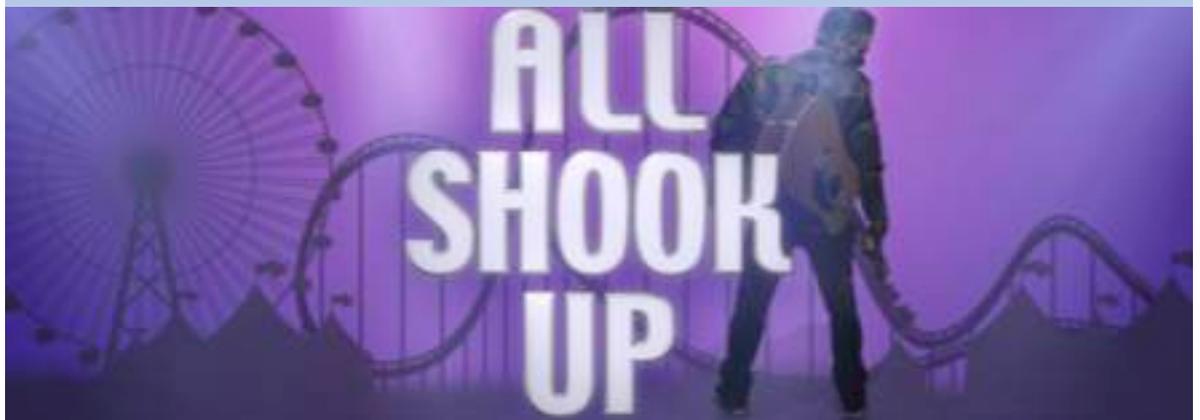


All day boys will still need to wear their blazers to and from school.

Can you please check all your son's uniform during the school holidays for any extra items that may not be his. We would appreciate it if any clothing you find not belonging to your son could be returned to the School Office at the beginning of next term.

It would also be a good idea to check that all your son's uniform is still labelled. With wear and tear the name labels on clothing can come off unnoticed. It is imperative that all boarders clothing has labels so we can ensure these are returned to the correct boy after washing. Likewise for day boys, if clothing is left lying around school unlabelled there is no way of knowing who this belongs to. Thank you.

Save the date Waihi School's annual production 23 – 26 November



St Andrew's College Sports Fixture

It was a beautiful day in Christchurch for our annual St. Andrew's College exchange.

After an early morning start from Waihi the Hockey players were first up at 10.30am. An amazing game, which really deserved a crowd (if we weren't at level 2 conditions), saw an 11 goal thriller. Both teams looked incredibly dangerous going forward and the defences and both goalkeepers had much to do. Waihi held on for a nail-biting 6-5 victory in a game that neither team really deserved to lose. Congratulations to all the players for their skill, commitment and passion.

A quick trip from the hockey turf to St. Andrew's; lunch and then on to our football and rugby games.

Waihi battled bravely against a very strong St. Andrew's 1st XI football team and despite some good individual performances lost to the better team.

The 1st XV started slowly and were 21-0 down in a short space of time. However in an extraordinary turn around they then fought back to be 21-22 ahead at halftime. In the second half Waihi's line remained unbreached and the team ran in several more tries to finish the game with a victory.

We were fortunate that St Andrew's College sent us some photos of a very successful day however, most of the photos were of St Andrew's in action rather than Waihi which is understandable.

Hockey player of the Day
Ricco Peauafi-Symonds

Rugby Player of the Day
Logan Connolly

Football player of the Day
Bobby Stewart

Photos courtesy of St Andrew's College





Family Ski Day – Tuesday 8 September

Our annual Family Ski Day will now be on Tuesday 8th September 2020. This is a fantastic day for boarders, day boys and their parents to socialise and have a great time on the slopes.

All boarders will be transported to Roundhill by the school unless parents wish to take them. Day Boys who do not wish to attend Ski Day may stay home that day, for those day boys who do wish to attend they may travel to and from the mountain with parents; and any day boys who are not attending with family and need transportation can be taken up too. Transport from Waihi will leave at 7:30am.

Day boy bus services on this day will run if there are enough boys wanting to use these. If they do operate, pickups will be 60 mins earlier in the morning and departure from Roundhill in the afternoon will be at 2:30 pm, hopefully putting us at school at 4:30pm for the bus runs. Please note they may be slightly later than normal. There is also the option of boys being picked up from Pleasant Point at 8:00am enroute to Roundhill and dropped off there again on the way home.

Boys and their parents who are travelling together are to meet us at Roundhill at 9:30 m. A barbeque lunch for all will be provided, but please bring your own snacks and drinks for parents and any siblings.

Please keep an eye on your emails and Seesaw for any updates.



CANCELLATIONS

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions the school has been advised that the Christchurch Independent Schools Ski Championship meeting at Porters on Wednesday 9 September has been cancelled.

The SCPSSA Swimming Sports on Friday 11 September have also been cancelled

Waihi Speech Competition

During the first half of the term, all of the boys worked hard on putting together and delivering a speech. There was a range of topics for the boys to choose from, including *The driving age should be lowered to 14; warning labels should be on fast foods; technology is making kids lazy* etc. One of the most popular topics for the Year 7/8s was based around the proposed Tahr cull - there were plenty of opinions put forward regarding this from the boys!

There are some extremely talented speakers among the boys and the standard continues to improve year upon year. It was a difficult decision for the judges in both competitions, but in the end, Jonty Leary (Year 7/8) and Percy Haughey (Year 5/6) were crowned as the overall winners of their respective year groups. It is unfortunate that due to Covid, the South and Mid-Canterbury competition has been cancelled as both of these boys would have no doubt performed with credit.

Well done to all the boys for the effort put into these over the past few weeks.

Year 7/8

1st Jonty Leary
2nd Freddie Saunders
3rd Harry Holmes

Year 5/6

1st Percy Haughey
2nd = Sam Hurst
2nd = Alex Harrison



School Photos

Monday 14 September

Starting at 8.30am on Monday 14th we will be having the last of our school photos for 2020 taken. These include the whole school, winter sports teams and other groups. There will also be catchup individual photos for those boys that missed these in March.

Please ensure you son is in his number one uniform, clean shoes, and brings with him his winter sports kit, full tracksuit, sports shoes, and his normal winter uniform to change into after photos.

Calendar – next two weeks

Sunday 6 Sept	Waihi Ski Club - Roundhill
Monday 7 Sept	Dental van at school this week
Tuesday 8 Sept	Waihi Family Ski Day - Roundhill
Wednesday 9 Sept	Christchurch Independent Schools Ski Championship - CANCELLED
Thursday 10 Sept	Maths Problem Solving Challenge Round 5
Friday 11 Sept	SCPSA Swimming Sports - CANCELLED
Sunday 13 Sept	Waihi Ski Club last outing - Roundhill
Monday 14 Sept	School Photos
Tuesday 15 Sept	Canterbury Chess – away in Christchurch
Wednesday 16 Sept	SC Rugby Day (Year 7) tbc
Thursday 17 Sept	Mother and Son Lunch
	End of Term for Year 8 boys at 2pm
	2021 New Boarders Evening
Friday 18 Sept	2021 New Boys Day
	End of Term for Years 5 – 7 at 3.00pm
Sunday 20 th Sept	Aoraki MTB Championships at Herbert Forest



**Free Dental Care for Children -
including special information regarding Year 8 students**

One of our Community Dental Service vans will be making a visit to your school soon.

- **Only the children who currently require a check-up will be seen at this visit.**
Please do not be concerned if your child is not called for a check-up this time.
- The dental therapist will provide a regular check-up and preventative care which may include:
 - Cleaning/Scaling (to remove plaque from teeth)
 - Dental x-rays (to check for decay in teeth, or presence and position of teeth)
 - Fluoride Varnish (painted on teeth to help prevent decay)
 - Fissure Sealants (coating put on teeth to prevent decay) if required.
- If your child requires any other dental care, they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required.
- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care.
- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back)
- **Year 8 students:** all year 8 students enrolled with the Community Dental Service are transferred from the Community Dental Service to a FREE private dentist from year 9 until their 18th birthday. To help with this transition please ensure you have informed your child of their family dentist (not orthodontist). This will enable us to transfer your child onto the correct dentist for year 9 onwards. More information will be sent home after their year 8 check-up.

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983 / email commdental@cdhb.health.nz