

Waikaka School Newsletter ~ published fortnightly on Friday

Friday 14 February 2025 ~ Term 1 Week 3

SCHOOL MOTTO - LEARNING FOR LIFE

Waikaka School cultivates a culture that inspires all to achieve beyond what they thought possible

E hara taku toa i te takitahi, he toa takitini

My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective

Co-operation - Noho Tahi Be compassionate and respectful to each other

Collaboration - Mahi Ngatahi We're in this together, work as a collective

Competition - Tauwhāinga By giving your all, your excellence will show



Kia ora koutou,

Athletics practice is in full swing at Waikaka School! Our tamariki are having fun, building confidence, and improving their running, jumping, and throwing skills. It's exciting to see their enthusiasm grow each day. Athletics is a big event on our school calendar, and a lot of hard work goes into making it happen. A huge thank you to teacher Lisa Miller for her dedication in organising the event and making sure everything runs smoothly for our children and visiting schools Knapdale, Otama, Waikoikoi and Pukerau. Also, a special thanks to teacher Emma McKay for her work with junior athletics, creating a fun experience for our youngest tamariki. This event requires careful planning, and we're also so grateful to our PTA for providing delicious food and refreshments. Thank you to everyone who helps make this a great day of competition, fun, and school spirit! Let's bring home the shield! The 2024 defending champions are Pukerau!

UPCOMING EVENTS ~ Alongside athletics and swimming sports, we have lots of wonderful opportunities coming up for our school community to connect, celebrate, and learn together. Mark your calendars with these events—we'd love to see you there!

Community Connection Afternoon – 27th February at 2:00 PM

Come along and join us for a relaxed afternoon of connection and conversation! Enjoy a cuppa and some delicious afternoon tea provided by Sugar & Spice. We would love for new and existing families to pop in and say 'hi'. Feel free to move around classrooms, see the children and have a chat with our team. Also, if you're not already on our **HERO app**, we'll be happy to help you or to answer any questions you may have about **HERO**.

Goal Setting Interviews – 11th March, 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Our 'Goal Setting Interviews' are a fantastic opportunity to check in on your child's progress in reading, writing, and maths, as well as discuss how they are demonstrating our school values and developing critical capabilities. Book a **10-minute slot** to chat with your child's teacher—this is a great chance to work together to support their learning journey. You can book your interview time on **HERO**. The button to press on your phone app is the **SCHOOL BOOKINGS** button and this should take you to the right place (all going well). School will remain open on this day with buses running as normal from 3pm. Children will be supervised by myself and some support staff to allow for teachers to be able to conduct their interviews from 1pm.

Fat Lamb Competition – 2nd March, Sunday afternoon

A great fundraiser event for our rural community organised and run by our amazing PTA.

Grandparents' Morning – 3rd April, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM PLUS School Market - 1.00pm onwards

We are excited to invite grandparents for a special morning at school. Grandparents will have the opportunity to spend time with their Grandchildren from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by the chance to browse our student-run market, where children will be selling a variety of handmade items.

After Grandparents Morning, all parents and families are welcome to come in for a picnic with their children before exploring the School Market, which opens at 1:00 PM. This is a fantastic opportunity to support our young entrepreneurs and enjoy a lovely afternoon together.

Farm Safety Day – 9th April, School Day at Heriot School

We've been invited to participate in a Farm Safety Day in Heriot! This is a hands-on, engaging experience where children will rotate through 10-minute learning modules alongside students from other schools. Modules include Firearms Safety with NZ Police, Road Safety, Powerline Safety, Trucks, Tractors, Motorbikes, St John First Response, Fire and Emergency NZ, Chemical Handling & Safety, and much more. Parents and volunteers always enjoy this day as much as the kids, and it's a fantastic way to bring our community together while learning important safety skills. There will be more information and details to come on this fabulous event as we learn more.

We look forward to seeing you at these events—our school community is at its best when we come together!

Government Education Priorities for 2025:

In 2025, the New Zealand Government is focusing on key areas to improve education:



Clearer Curriculum – A knowledge-based curriculum that guides teachers and helps students succeed.



Literacy & Numeracy – Evidence-based teaching to strengthen skills in reading, writing, and math.



Assessment & Reporting – Clear ways to track student progress for better accountability.



Attendance – From Term 1, 2025, schools must report daily attendance using new codes, highlighting the importance of being at school every day.

These changes will take time, and we are committed to implementing them properly. At our school, it's business as usual with amazing teachers providing excellent learning in reading, writing, maths and all other curriculum areas. We're also updating our systems to align with these changes, including using the HERO attendance software, adding new math resources like Oxford Maths and Numicon, and offering professional development for our teachers. For more information, [education.govt.nz](https://www.education.govt.nz).

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is key to success in learning. Did you know?

- If a child misses **one day per week**, that adds up to **40 days per year**—which is **8 weeks of school lost!**
- If a child is **late by one hour per week**, that equals **40 hours per year**—which is **one whole week of learning missed!**

Every day and every hour at school makes a big difference. Let's work together to support regular attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

PB4L ~ At Waikaka School, we're focusing on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) to help our students grow into kind, respectful, and responsible individuals. To encourage positive behaviour, we give out tokens when children show our school values, cooperation, collaboration, and competition. When students collect enough tokens, the whole school gets to enjoy a special reward. We are currently taking a poll for the reward with suggestions by the children like pyjama day, sports day, or a pizza party. It's all about celebrating the good things our students do, from helping others to respecting each other and looking after our school environment. Together, we're building a positive and supportive school community!

I hope you have a lovely weekend. Kind regards, Nicola Millar Tumuaki/Principal

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Jessica Cleland	Being an incredible member of our class. Jess, you always aim to help others, including the teacher, and role model appropriate behaviour to your peers.
Stevie Lamb	For being a great role model and motivator of the younger students during athletics practice.
James Curley	Making a huge effort to look after your belongings and putting things away after use.
Reggie Cross Evie Miller	Showing amazing leadership in Mahi Ngatahi and helping his peers. Being a helpful member of class and helping everyone seen needing help.
Hazel Steel	Amazing problem solving in Maths when working out patterns and relationships.
Scarlett Chittock	You are a team player, always focused and contributing positively to all class discussions.
Alfie Bell	You are always ready to tackle any task with a bright smile and a can-do attitude.
Alice Turua	Wow, you are a superstar reader Alice! Keep up the hard mahi blending sounds together.
Caitlin Paulsen	You have made a fantastic start this year in Noho Tahi. Wowzers, keep up the amazing reading, writing and maths.
Nina Stringer	For showing leadership and resilience in Noho Tahi. You have a wonderful attitude towards learning and being a leader.
Gus Bould	Gus, well done for your kind caring attitude and for your wonderful dedication to try your best.

Cooperation: Alec Duff - Well done Alec. You have started the year by being a super role model, making good choices and being helpful when your peers need help. You are showing our school values and trying really hard to be a better version of you. You have been giving your best at Athletics practice by competing with yourself to improve and setting a good example for others. You are including others at break times and being considerate and thoughtful.

Collaboration: Briar Reeves - Briar you have quickly shown you can collaborate well with your classmates in Waikakahi. You are responsible, kind and caring to all. You consistently demonstrate a strong work ethic, completing all tasks in a timely manner and to a high standard. You are a valued friend and supportive classmate. Your ability to work effectively with everyone and your willingness to lend a hand along with your positive attitude, make you a wonderful role model for others. Keep up the great work. Mrs Eade.

Collaboration: Jack Stewart - Jack has a clear understanding of the rules and expectations of our class and School and leads by example. Jack is great with younger students, taking them under his wing and explaining what to do when they need help. Jack is able to help himself and his peers by listening carefully to problems and coming up with solutions to solve the conflict. Well done Jack, we love seeing you shine and take on responsibility!

Competition: Georgia Bell - You epitomise the Competition Value here at Waikaka School by always striving to be the best version of you. Already this year it is evident that you are keen to show leadership and kindness to others; this was pointed out by a teacher from another school at your recent PAL's training, she summed up your leadership by expressing how impressed she was with your inclusive language and how you led by explaining tasks gently to others and then asking their thoughts rather than taking over. You are a motivator and role model for our younger students, helping with athletics and assembly prep have showcased these skills. Thank you Georgia, well done and keep displaying your excellence!

Waikaka Wonders

Mrs Millar was walking through Waikaka School and found...

Max, Kaitlyn, Holly, James, Zac, Laura, Helena and Natalie from Room Tauwhinga eating relish that they had made. They had written out the method step by step and made the relish as they went. The relish is absolutely delicious, well done team!

Gus and Charlie (along with all of Noho Tahi) practising their Long Jump skills out by the front pit. The jumps were huge and each and every child is developing great jumping skills. Nice work Noho Tahi.

Zara, Leo and Alfie who were out by the skip putting rubbish away. What was impressive here was that they didn't walk away and leave all of the rubbish that had fallen out of the skip. They persevered and tried to put it all in. Congratulations team, we are proud of you and all of Mahi Nga Tahi who are trying to keep our place tidy.

Mrs Rufford! She and other teachers have been out and about on duty wearing a colourful bum bag full of PB4L tokens and their pink duty vest. We are all out looking for children showing their values, caring for each other and the environment! You're looking great there Mrs Rufford!



Sports Updates

Cricket & Touch Rugby - Links below! Important for registration



SMASH PLAY

SMASH PLAY CRICKET
TERM 1 2025
TUESDAYS - GORE

YR1/2 BOYS & GIRLS

STARTING TUES 25TH FEB FOR 6 WEEKS

4PM START EVERY WEEK
@ HAMILTON PK

\$25 COST PER PLAYER

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!



SUMMER SMASH

SUMMER SMASH CRICKET
TERM 1 2025
TUESDAYS - GORE

YR3/4 BOYS & GIRLS

STARTING TUES 25TH FEB FOR 6 WEEKS

4PM START EVERY WEEK
@ HAMILTON PK

\$25 COST PER PLAYER

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!



Smiths City girls SMASH

GIRLS SMASH CRICKET
TERM 1 2025
TUESDAYS - GORE

YR3-YR8 GIRLS

STARTING TUES 25TH FEB FOR 6 WEEKS

4PM START EVERY WEEK
@ HAMILTON PK

\$25 COST PER PLAYER

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!



FRIDAY CRICKET
TERM 1 2025
EASTERN SOUTHLAND

YR4-6 & YR7/8 GRADES

STARTING FRI 28TH FEB FOR 6 WEEKS

4PM START EVERY WEEK
@ EASTERN SOUTHLAND VENUES

\$25 COST PER PLAYER

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

Please see below the Waikaka online registration link for this term's cricket

<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/org/waikaka-school/995c8085/register>

Here's a link for parents to register their children to play touch.

<https://forms.gle/zJrwdqSTAGwETQHJ9>

Thanks

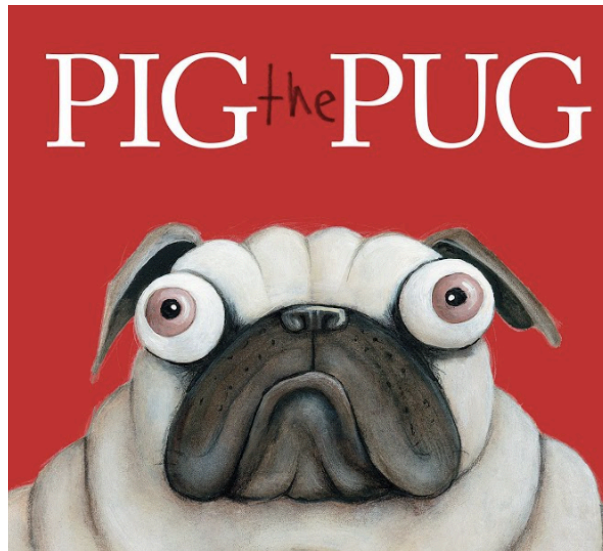
Lisa

Waikāka Writers Spotlight on Noho Tahī...

Pig the Pug is a robber because he cheats and cheats. He takes things. By Alex Eade

Pig the Pug is very annoying because he touches you. By Quinn Duff

Pig the Pug wasn't letting anyone win because he is naughty. By Oaklyn Cross



Events Calendar

14/02/25 Assembly 2.15pm
14/02/25 Week 3 Newsletter
18/02/25 School Board Meeting ~ staffroom
20/02/25 WCD Athletics held at Waikāka School
24/02/25 WCD Athletics postponement date
27/02/25 Community Connection Afternoon 2pm
28/02/25 Week 5 Newsletter
02/03/25 Fat Lamb & Calf Competition (Sunday)
04/03/25 Eastern Athletics
11/03/25 Goal setting interviews 1pm - 5.30pm (10 minute slots)
14/03/25 Assembly 2.15pm
14/03/25 Week 7 Newsletter
17 - 21 March REAP Swimming lessons
18/03/25 Country Schools Technology at Māruawai College
22/08/25 Southland Athletics
25/03/25 Country Schools Technology at Māruawai College
28/03/25 Week 9 Newsletter
01/04/25 Country Schools Technology at Māruawai College
03/04/25 Grandparents Morning / School Market
04/04/25 Assembly 2.15pm
08/04/25 Country Schools Technology at Māruawai College
09/04/25 Day at Heriot School ~ Farm Safety (TBC)
11/04/25 Week 11 Newsletter
11/04/25 End of Term 1

Thankyou ~ Nga Mahi

-Aron Miller - For marking out and oiling all of the athletics lines. Thank you Aron, this takes a great deal of time!



-Pauline Weir and Jess Hall - For volunteering their time to come and support our athletes with High Jump, Shot Put and Discus. You are both very skilled teachers! It is good to chat to you both and hear you speak about the progress that our children are making in these events!

-Joy Cleland - For noticing that our pits were lacking sand and for organising them to be filled by two local businesses. Thanks Joy! Also to Fulton Hogan for the top quality sand and Peter Cocoran for a top quality delivery. Thank you.



Alex enjoying the new sand

Ngā mihi nui to everyone for your help—it makes a real difference in our school. We can't do this on our own, please accept our gratitude.

Contact

Waikaka School

22 Matheson Road

Waikaka 9773

Ph: 03 207 2887

Email School Office

Helen ~ office@waikaka.school.nz

Website

Facebook

School Loop App

Nicola Millar

principal@waikaka.school.nz

Text an absence 027 2072027

USE THE HERO APP to report an absence

The Waikaka Golf Club is holding another fun series of "She Loves Golf" starting next week. For further information and to register an interest, please phone Lois Byars 021 03 29 281 or 2072 707.



SAUSAGES

We are selling sausages and saveloys again this term for Friday lunches. Please have all orders to the school office by Thursday lunchtime with your money. They are \$3.00 per sausage / saveloy.

To Give Away

Piano - Free. In good tidy condition.
phone Diane 0272375349

HAY DAY FUND

Next meeting to consider grant applications will
be held in March so please get applications in by 28 February to
paulandfrances@xtra.co.nz.

Individual grants are considered for Under 18's

achieving in sporting, cultural or educational activities. Grants are also available for medical needs. Email Frances Calvert at the above address if you require more information.

SAVE THIS DATE !!

50th Anniversary

Hay Day

27th June 2025

We use School Docs as a way to manage our policies. Policies are always open to consultation in our school community. Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz - Click search for your school. Start typing Waikaka and select from the dropdown list.

Username: waikaka Password: matheson

You will see which policies are under review and you can respond to them as well.

P T A Meeting

19th March 2pm

Nāku noa, nā Caitlin Donnelly



Waikaka School PTA

On behalf of the Caterers for PTA we are asking for a donation from families to go towards slices/cakes for the upcoming Athletics Day.

We are buying BID food slices and cakes for ease of cutting and serving and for health and safety reasons to sell on the day.

\$20 per family

Either:

· cash to the office in a named envelope
"donation to athletics food"

or//

· Deposit into PTA bank account with
"donation to athletics food" and your family name in reference.

Thank you so much for your support.

Bex and Nicola

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school -

- Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
- Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
- Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side.
- Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
- Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
- Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.



ABLE MINDS INVITE
YOU TO JOIN OUR
GROUP FOR PARENTS
AND WHĀNAU WHO
HAVE A CHILD IN
THEIR LIFE WITH
ADHD OR AUTISM

WE AIM TO
EMPOWER, EDUCATE
AND CONNECT
PARENTS WITH FREE
SUPPORT FROM
ABLE MINDS

**5.30PM-7PM FIRST MONDAY
EVERY MONTH - 1ST GROUP ON
3RD MARCH 2025**

**CONNECTED EASTERN SOUTHLAND,
1 CHARLTON LANE, GORE**

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:
ZAVANA@ABLE.ORG.NZ OR 021360096



Mobile Hoof Trimmer
Servicing West Otago and Southland.
Call Nathan to get your lame cows
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hooves balanced to help prevent
lameness.

Nathan Seed - 027 479 6942

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Phone Jason - 0274 392 838 A/H 03 207 2611

Saturday 1st March
Donovan Park



SCARECROW
Creations

Sections include: 0-4 Years, 5-11 Years and 12-17 Years.
Check out our schedule of classes online to see further details!



HOME
Industries

Be sure to check out the schedule of classes, there is literally something for everyone to be involved in!



COLOURING Competition

Our colouring competitions are on our website for children to complete if they wish.



Find us on Facebook

admin@southlandapshow.co.nz

Waikaka School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:



Paul Herron
Automotive Painters

2 Ontario Street East Gore
03 208 9363 or 027 210 4131

If you would like to advertise on the Waikaka School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com

like to

To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.



WAIKAKA SCHOOL

22 Matheson Road
RD 3
Waikaka



Our Values

- ✓ Co-operation
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Competition

www.waikaka.school.nz



Enrol Now for 2025

Call: (03) 207 2887
Email: office@waikaka.school.nz

Why Choose Us?

Waikaka School is a small rural school that offers small classroom sizes with experienced and dedicated teachers. We are currently running 3 classrooms ranging from New Entrants to Year 8. We have a supportive community and offer quality education and experiences. We would love to welcome you to our community. If you would like to find out more about Waikaka School or arrange a visit, please give us a call or email Helen in the office.



READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by
following these steps

1. DOWNLOAD THE HERO APP

Once downloaded, click 'Sign In'

2. ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Select 'Next'

3. SELECT "NEW USER"

Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children, use this address to request a password.

4. SELECT "SUBMIT"

Hero will send you an email with a link to follow.

5. CHECK YOUR EMAIL

You should receive an email within five minutes.

6. FOLLOW THE LINK

This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password.

If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.



MOORE FROM GORE!

MOVIE FUNDRAISER FOR SOPHIE MOORE

'BRIDGET JONES -
MAD ABOUT THE BOY'

23 FEB - 3PM - \$20 P.P
ST JAMES THEATRE GORE

BAKE SALE FROM 1PM
RAFFLES & WISHING WELL

Available now at La Hoods the Chemist





- Tea/Coffee/Milo Gold coin donation
- Sausage in bread \$ 3 each
or 2 for \$5
- Variety of Slices \$ 3 each
- Variety of Cakes \$ 3 each
- Juice Gold coin donation
- Home-made Ice Blocks \$ 3 each

Thank you for supporting Waikaka PTA

Waikaka School PTA – Fat Lamb & Calf competition

This is an annual fundraiser with all funds raised contributing to the ongoing cost of technology for the school. Our students are very fortunate to have individual devices provided by the school to use as part of their learning.

Please encourage any local farmers to support our fundraiser by entering their prime lambs or calves.

Lambs: 3 prime lambs – of which 1 is to be donated to the Waikaka School PTA and the remaining two can either also be donated or you can opt for a cash payout for them.

Calves: 1 or more calves donated which are then on-sold as a combined line.

If you are unable to donate animals there are other ways to contribute to the day...

- consider making a cash donation to the PTA account 03-1355-0666164-00
- approach a business you are a customer of for a contribution towards our prizes for the day (please refer to 'Waikaka School PTA' Facebook group for the list of business's that people are asking)
- Help on the day with:
 - o picking up animals
 - o penning animals up for judges
 - o cooking BBQ
 - o supervising kids in the pool
 - o buying our line of calves

All members of our school and the wider community are welcome to attend from 3pm for the prizegiving, bbq and kids pool party – you don't have to have entered an animal to attend, our aim is for this to be a fun family-friendly community event.

To enter your animals or for more info please contact:

Lambs: Steph Paterson (027) 567 4424

Calves: Debra Wilson (027) 479 4075

Incredible Years



Incredible Years

Incredible Years is a free programme designed for parents/caregivers of child/children/tamariki aged 2½ to 8 years who would like to strengthen their parenting skills and learn how to manage challenging behaviour.

We acknowledge that parenting is one of the most important jobs adults can do and this programme aims to encourage positive and strong family relationships.

Incredible Years will start in Gore on the 4th March,
every Tuesday from
10am – 12.30 pm

Gore Baptist Church 23 Ardwick Street

T 03 211 8272 T 0800 707 808 ext 272

M 027 223 1417

E iy@familyworkssld.nz



Ngā Tau Mīharo
The Incredible Years Aotearoa

