

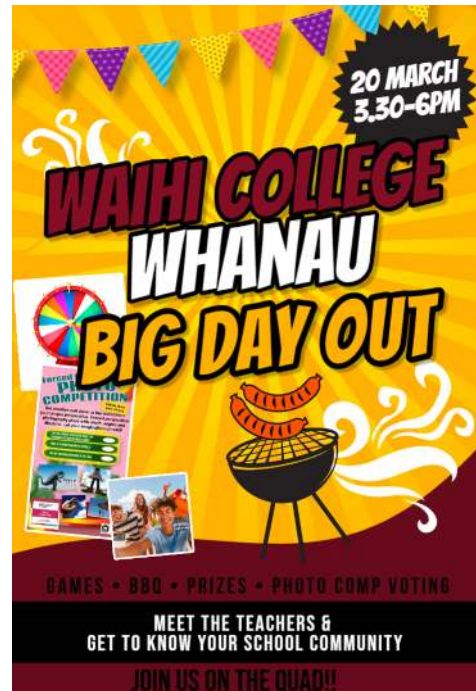
WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 | 2025

WHANAU MEET & GREET - THE BIG DAY OUT: 20th March

Join us for a fun whānau afternoon this Thursday, March 20th, from 3:30pm to 6:00pm!

Come and meet the teachers and staff who work with your tamariki, put faces to names, and find out about their classes. We'll have a free sausage sizzle, games, spot prizes, and fantastic entertainment, including performances from our Music & Drama departments, Kapa Haka group, and a sneak peek of "Mamma Mia" songs. Don't miss out! See you there!



PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora Whanau

This week, I've been reflecting on the strength of our school community and the importance of kotahitanga, unity and togetherness. As we navigate the busy term, I'm reminded of the interconnectedness we share, much like a wolf pack, which I shared about with our students this week, at assembly. Each member plays a vital role, contributing unique strengths to the whole. We have our leaders, our nurturers, our scouts, and our protectors – all working together for the well-being of our young people.

Just as a wolf pack thrives on collaboration and shared purpose, so too does our school. We are a team, and your input is invaluable. We are currently in the process of reviewing and updating our **school vision** to ensure it truly reflects the aspirations and hopes of our whānau for their tamariki. We want to hear from you!



Unfortunately, I also need to address a serious concern. We've experienced a

Please, take some time to consider what you envision for our students' future and share your thoughts with us. Your feedback will be instrumental in shaping the direction of our school. A good question to consider is "what can't we leave to chance?"

On another note, I want to extend a huge congratulations to all our students who represented our school in sports this week. Your dedication and sportsmanship are truly commendable. We wish you all the best for your upcoming competitions. Also, a special shout-out to everyone involved in the production of Mamma Mia! The energy and enthusiasm are palpable, and the rehearsals are looking fantastic. We are all eagerly anticipating a spectacular performance!

significant increase in vandalism on our school grounds after hours. This is disheartening and impacts our ability to provide a safe and well-maintained environment for our students. We are asking for your support in keeping a watchful eye on our grounds. If you see anything suspicious or out of place, please don't hesitate to contact the school immediately. Your vigilance will help us protect our school and ensure it remains a place we can all be proud of. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school. Let's continue to work together, as a strong and unified community, to create the best possible learning environment for our rangitahi to grow and shine in.

Nga manaakitanga,
Briar

SCHOOL WIDE

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are well underway for the upcoming Mamma Mia and a letter was emailed to caregivers and students with a full rehearsal schedule last week. The schedule has also been added to the Mamma Mia Google Classroom. If you're unsure of the schedule or have any questions, please chat to Mr Randell or Ms Berry. **The first Saturday rehearsal is coming up on 29th March. Please contact us if you can help with taking attendance, snacks or running lines.**

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

MAMMA
MIA!



In support of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, we are holding a Forced perspective Photo Competition. We want you to capture a forced perspective photo that challenges the way we see the world. Get creative and show us the world from your unique perspective. Forced perspective

photography plays with depth, angles and illusions. Let your imagination run wild!

Email your entries to Wendy on:
wendys@waihicol.school.nz with
your name and house.



Forced Perspective PHOTO COMPETITION

Entries close
9am, 18.3.25

Get creative and show us the world from
your unique perspective. Forced perspective
photography plays with depth, angles and
illusions. Let your imagination run wild!

CAPTURE A FORCED PERSPECTIVE PHOTO THAT
CHALLENGES THE WAY WE SEE THE WORLD

EMAIL IT TO WENDYS@WAIHICOL.SCHOOL.NZ

INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND HOUSE IN THE EMAIL

Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week

**We're
supporting!**

March 17 - 23, 2025
www.neurodiversityweek.com

WAIHI
COLLEGE

Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2025 Events

| Monday 17 | Tuesday 18 | Wednesday 19 | Thursday 20 | Friday 21 |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 09:00 - 10:30 Celebrating Different Minds: An Introduction to Neurodiversity | 09:30 - 10:30 Neurodiversity at Work Q&A: Products & Customer Services | 08:30 - 10:00 Neurodiversity and Nutrition - Food For Thought | 09:00 - 10:30 Is Neurodiversity a Community? Exploring Identity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality | 09:00 - 10:30 Late Diagnosed Neurodiversity in Women |
| 11:30 - 13:00 Breaking Barriers: The Power of Language in Neurodiversity | 11:30 - 13:00 Neurodivergence & LGBTQIA+: A Conversation on Identity, Intersectionality & Empowerment | 10:30 - 12:00 Shaping Neurodiversity through Innovation & Technology | 11:00 - 12:30 Building the Neuroinclusive Classroom of Tomorrow...Today! | 11:30 - 13:00 Parents & Carers - Supporting Children Through Times of Transition |
| 13:30 - 15:00 Neurodivergence Seldom Travels Alone: The Unexplored World of Co- Occurring Conditions | 13:30 - 15:00 Empowering Neurodiversity in the Workplace | 13:00 - 14:00 Neurodiversity at Work Q&A: Designing Neuro- inclusive Working Environments | 13:30 - 15:00 Workplace Burnout: How to Reclaim Your Energy as a Neurodivergent Woman at Work | 13:30 - 15:00 Is the Business World leading society on Neuroinclusion? |
| 15:30 - 17:00 Neurodiversity: Where can HR Professionals make a difference? | 15:30 - 17:00 Neurodiversity & Mental Health - Acquired Neurodivergence | 14:30 - 16:00 Person-Centered Management for Neuroinclusion | 15:30 - 17:00 Navigating Neurodiversity & the Criminal Justice System | 15:30 - 17:00 Celebrating Different Minds: Future Directions and Continuing Conversations |
| 19:00 - 20:30 Perspective of Young People on Neurodiversity | 19:00 - 20:30 Navigating Neurodiversity: Parental Perspectives, Professional Insights, and Policy Changes in 2025 | 16:30 - 18:00 What makes spaces and places neuroinclusive in education? | 19:00 - 20:30 Neurodiversity around the World | |

Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week
March 17 - 23, 2025

COMMUNITY NOTICES

HUGE THANKS TO OCEANA GOLD!!

Oceana Gold has donated \$5,000 for to the music department for new music equipment!
Students had a great time this week unpacking and trying out the new gear. We would like

to thank them for this amazing gift that will inspire and encourage our students into music performance. The gear that was bought was: 1 saxophone, 1 electric guitar, 1 bass guitar, 1 semi acoustic guitar, 1 guitar amp, 1 keyboard amp ,1 loop pedal AND 2 microphones



COMING UP

Beach Hop is coming! The 26th of March, promises to be an amazing community event. Waihi College will be open for instruction, but we do realise that many whanau will wish to support this. We will mark the role accordingly, with E for explained.



WAIHĪ COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE

Waihi College Ball
17th May

More info coming soon!

www.waihicol.school.nz

Teacher Only Day: Don't forget that our last day of the term, Friday 11th April, is a Teach Only Day. Students are not to come to school that day.

PARENT CORNER

Lessons from Learning Support Neurodiversity Celebration Week

At Waihi College, we are excited to celebrate Neurodiversity Week, an important event dedicated to recognizing and appreciating the diverse ways people think, learn, and experience the world.

What is Neurodiversity? Neurodiversity is the concept that brain differences—such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Tourettes syndrome—are natural and valuable aspects of human diversity. Instead of viewing these differences as deficits, neurodiversity encourages us to recognize the unique strengths and perspectives that neurodivergent individuals bring to our communities. Many well-known figures, from scientists like Albert Einstein to entrepreneurs like Richard Branson, have been neurodivergent. Their contributions to society highlight the importance of embracing different ways of thinking.

Why We Celebrate Neurodiversity Week :Neurodiversity Week is about building a culture of inclusion, respect, and understanding within our school. As students grow and prepare for the world beyond school, learning to appreciate neurodiversity helps them develop essential skills such as empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving. Throughout the week, our school will be hosting various activities, including: Workshops and discussions about neurodiversity and the strengths of different learning styles, Guest speakers and student-led presentations sharing personal experiences and insights, Interactive activities and challenges designed to help students step into the shoes of their neurodivergent peers and Creative projects that celebrate the talents and contributions of neurodivergent individuals. <https://www.neurodiversityweek.com>

How Parents Can Support Inclusivity :Parents play a vital role in fostering a culture of acceptance and inclusion at home and in the wider community. Here's how you can help:

- Encourage Open Conversations – Talk with your child about neurodiversity and the importance of respecting differences. If they have questions, explore answers together.
- Model Inclusivity – Show your child how to be accepting and supportive of those who learn or communicate differently. Encourage patience, kindness, and a growth mindset.
- Challenge Stereotypes – Help your child understand that intelligence and success come in many forms. Celebrate different strengths, whether in academics, creativity, social skills, or problem-solving.
- Promote Neurodiverse Role Models – Read books or watch movies featuring neurodivergent characters or successful individuals who have embraced their differences.
- Support School Initiatives – Participate in Neurodiversity Week events, discuss what your child has learned, and encourage them to be an ally to their neurodivergent peers.

By working together, we can create a school community where every student feels valued, understood, and empowered to thrive. Thank you for supporting Neurodiversity Week and helping us build a more inclusive future for all!

**WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM—4.30PM FOR YEAR 9-13
AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 7-8 IN EMERGENCIES**

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF LIFE
WALK IN APPOINTMENT, OR TEXT/PHONE ON
0272983787

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IF YOU HAVE
ANY HEALTH NEEDS OR QUESTIONS
MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY / SCHOOL NURSE FOR
WAIHI COLLEGE



Ngā mihi, with kind regards
Margie (She/Her)

Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE
WAIHI

M: 0272983787

W: www.pinnacle.co.nz