

WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora Whanau

Welcome back to Term 2!

Oh my, how the year is speeding by!

This term, we will continue to lean into our values, with a zoom up on Kaitiakitanga.

This guardianship and protector role, can be big or small - a guide for communities, a focus on your own whanau whakapapa (ancestry), and looking to keep these lessons and stories alive, through to the care and protection of our whenua (earth).

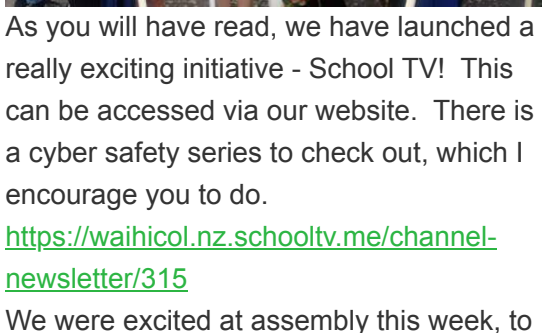
We are all called to show some kind of kaitiakitanga - the generations to come rely on us to do so.

As a whanau, if you have the opportunity to discuss what this looks like for you, it would be wonderful to do so. In my own whanau, this continually evolves and changes.

A part of Waihi College's commitment to caring for our students, and internet safety, I wanted to let you know that

Waihi College google education accounts are actively monitored through N4L and Linewise. If there are concerns about content we will let you know, as it provides a great opportunity for whanau discussion.

If things pop up for your young person online, a member of our team will be in contact to discuss this with you, and talk about ways we can support them, together.

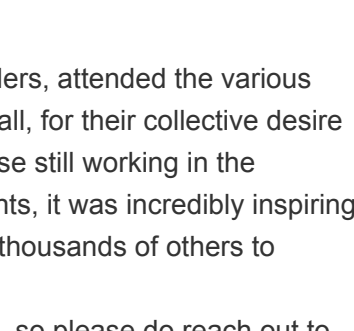
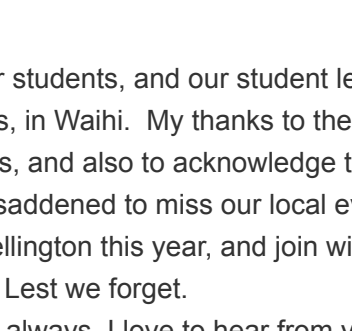
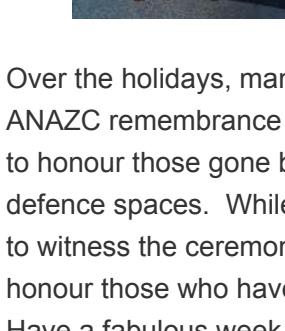


As you will have read, we have launched a really exciting initiative - School TV! This can be accessed via our website. There is a cyber safety series to check out, which I encourage you to do.

<https://waihicol.nz.schooltv.me/channel-newsletter/315>

We were excited at assembly this week, to share about our Positive Vibes only campaign for the coming sports season.

As a community, let's wrap around our young people, and celebrate effort and success on the field/courts, and fill this space with positivity! We know that sports brings out our collective passion, and channeling this well, is a massive goal for Waihi College. Thanks so much for your support in advance!

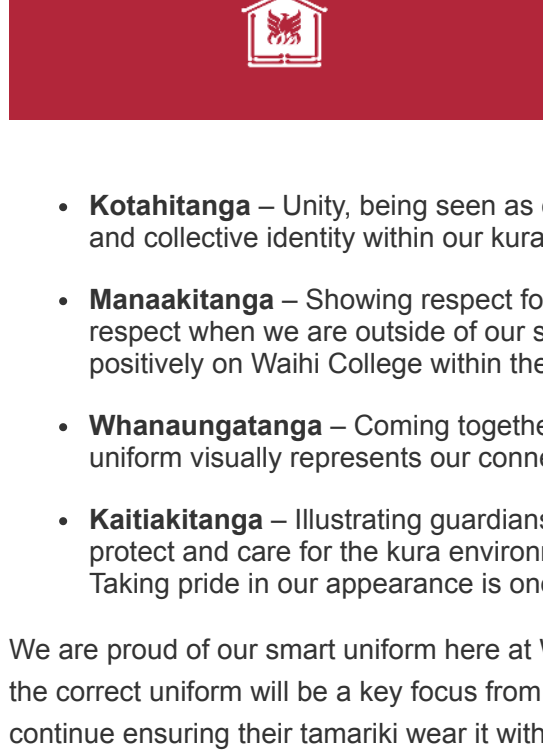


Over the holidays, many of our students, and our student leaders, attended the various ANAZC remembrance services, in Waihi. My thanks to them all, for their collective desire to honour those gone before us, and also to acknowledge those still working in the defence spaces. While I was saddened to miss our local events, it was incredibly inspiring to witness the ceremony in Wellington this year, and join with thousands of others to honour those who have fallen. Lest we forget.

Have a fabulous week, and as always, I love to hear from you, so please do reach out to share what is working well for you and yours.

Nga manaakitanga,
Briar

SCHOOL WIDE



Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whanau,

I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your ongoing efforts in ensuring your child wears the correct Waihi College uniform. Your support in this area is invaluable and contributes significantly to the positive tone and identity of our kura. The wearing of our school uniform is deeply connected to our school values, which we aim to instill in all our ākonga:

- **Kotahitanga** – Unity, being seen as one. Our uniform fosters a sense of belonging and collective identity within our kura.
- **Manaakitanga** – Showing respect for our kura, what we stand for, and gaining respect when we are outside of our school. A smart and consistent uniform reflects positively on Waihi College within the wider community.
- **Whanaungatanga** – Coming together as a whānau unit, to show who we are. Our uniform visually represents our connection as a school whānau.
- **Kaitiakitanga** – Illustrating guardianship and emphasising the responsibility to protect and care for the kura environment and resources for future generations. Taking pride in our appearance is one way we show care for our kura.

We are proud of our smart uniform here at Waihi College, and ensuring all ākonga are in the correct uniform will be a key focus from Term 2 onwards. We encourage all whānau to continue ensuring their tamariki wear it with pride each day.

As the seasons change here in Aotearoa, so too does our school uniform to ensure our tamariki remain warm and comfortable.

During the **summer** months, ākonga are permitted to wear regulation polo shirts with regulation shorts, skirts, sports track pants, or long trousers. Please note that trousers should **not** be jeans, cargo pants, or sweatpants. Footwear should be flat, plain black sandals with a strap.

As we transition through **autumn**, we understand that some students may wish to wear additional layers underneath their uniform. This can be in the form of a plain black or white thermal worn discreetly under their school shirts.

In the **colder months**, the school sweatshirt is available, along with a jacket. Please be aware that **hoodies** (including sports hoodies with the Waihi College logo) and **puffer jackets** are not part of the school uniform. Shoes should be flat, plain black shoes (any material) with plain black or white socks.

Please see the attached document for an illustration of our school uniform.

We understand that on occasion, a student may not have a part of their school uniform. In such instances, a note from you, the caregiver or whānau, is required. Your tamariki will then be provided with a suitable alternative uniform item from our spares for that day.

If uniform issues become a consistent problem, Waihi College will work with Whānau to find a solution.

Please contact the kura if you have any concerns about uniform for your tamariki.

All uniform items are available for purchase from our Uniform Shop, <https://wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz/>, which is open, both during term time and holidays, as follows:

Tuesday: 8.00am – 9.00am

Wednesday: 1.40pm – 3.40pm

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support in ensuring all our students stay warm, comfortable, and correctly attired throughout the changing seasons. Together, we can continue to foster a sense of pride and unity within our Waihi College whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,

Amanda Cook

TERM ONE HOUSE POINTS

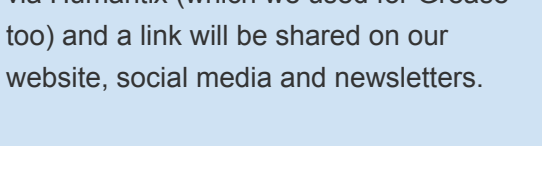
It was a good first term dominated by sporting activities. Interesting statistic from attendance data (that all contributes to house points) is that over 50% (50.325%) of our students were sitting at 90% or above for their attendance in Term 1. There were 253

Recognitions awarded for our school values and 189 Learning Recognitions.

Looking forward to seeing some more lunch time sporting/cultural competitions in term 2! Here are the standings for Term 1 (lots of tied positions but that is to be expected at the start of the competition).

HOUSE COMPETITION 2025					TERM 1 LEADERS
Competitive Sport	Cultural and Sporting Activities	Learning and Achievement	School Values and Service	Staff Activities	
Amaranth/Empire	Royal	Amaranth	Amaranth	Royal	Amaranth
Royal	Amaranth	Empire/Royal /Dominion	Royal	Dominion	Royal
Dominion	Dominion		Empire	Amaranth/Empire	Empire
	Empire		Dominion		Dominion

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR WAYS TO HELP US REACH OUR \$30K TARGET



To showcase and spread Waihi College Manaakitanga to our sister schools in Taiwan and to help our rangitahi experience the world and inspire their future pathways

TAIWAN FUNDRAISER

We are looking forward to sending twenty of our students overseas later in the year to showcase and spread Waihi College manaakitanga to our sister schools in Taiwan and to help our rangitahi experience the world, inspiring their future pathways.

If you think you can help, please get in touch.

COMING UP

WAIHI COLLEGE BALL

The upcoming Waihi College Ball is on 17th May at the Waihi Beach Surf Club from 7pm till 10.30pm. All Year 11 and 12s wanting to attend the Ball need to return this forms by this Friday (2nd May) and any Year 13s need to add their name to the list at the office by the same date. Tickets go on sale from 5th May and can be collected from the office at the time of payment.

If we have any issues with your application form, we will contact you.

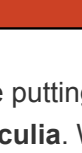


COMING THIS TERM!

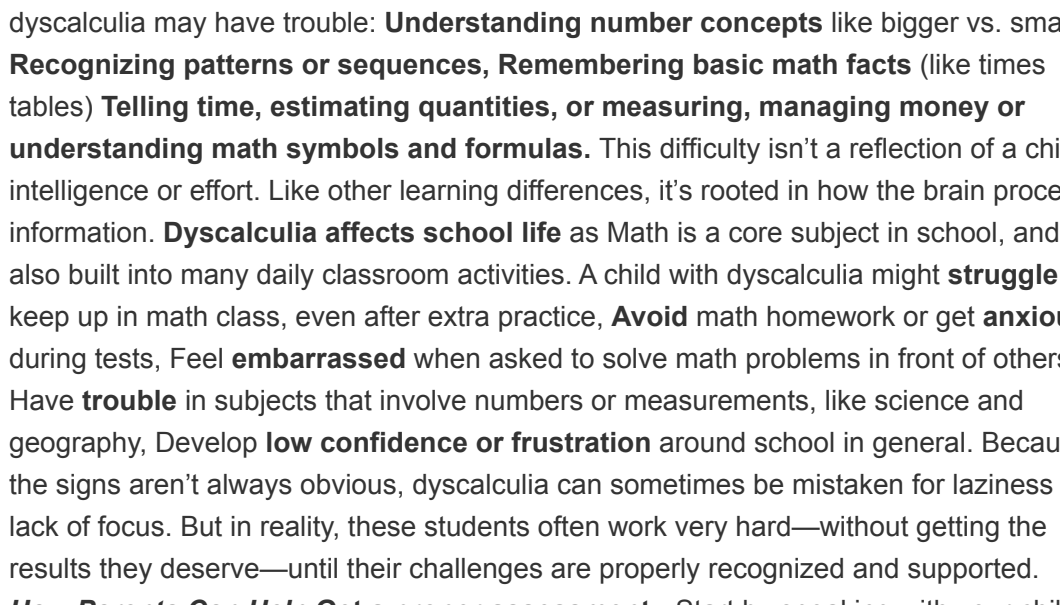
We are so excited to be putting on Mamma Mia this term! The cast and crew have been working really hard and it's going to be a great show. Evening shows will be on Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th and then a matinee on Saturday 21st. Tickets will go on sale soon via Humanix (which we used for Grease too) and a link will be shared on our website, social media and newsletters.

WAIHI COLLEGE

MAMMA MIA!



COMMUNITY NOTICES



PARENT CORNER

Providing information to parents on topics and resources that support students learning

Lessons from Learning Support

Dyscalculia |

If your child struggles with math far more than their peers, despite putting in the effort, they might be dealing with a learning difference known as **dyscalculia**. While not as widely recognized as dyslexia, dyscalculia is just as real—and it can have a significant impact on a child's school experience and self-esteem. The good news is that with the right support, children with dyscalculia can thrive. Dyscalculia is a **specific learning difficulty** that affects a person's ability to understand numbers and learn math facts. It's sometimes referred to as "math dyslexia," although it's a distinct condition. Kids with dyscalculia may have trouble: **Recognizing patterns or sequences, Remembering basic math facts** (like times tables) **Telling time, estimating quantities, or measuring, managing money or understanding math symbols and formulas.** This difficulty isn't a reflection of a child's intelligence or effort. Like other learning differences, it's rooted in how the brain processes information. **Dyscalculia affects school life** as Math is a core subject in school, and it's also built into many daily classroom activities. A child with dyscalculia might **struggle** to keep up in math class, even after extra practice, **Avoid math homework or get anxious** during tests, **Feel embarrassed** when asked to solve math problems, like science and geography. Develop **low confidence or frustration** around school in general. Because the signs aren't always obvious, dyscalculia can sometimes be mistaken for laziness or lack of focus. But in reality, these students often work very hard—without getting the results they deserve—until their challenges are properly recognized and supported.

How Parents Can Help Get a proper assessment : Start by speaking with your child's math teacher about your concerns. A formal evaluation can confirm whether your child has dyscalculia and help guide the next steps, including accommodations at school. If your child is diagnosed with dyscalculia, they may be eligible for classroom support like extra time on tests, the use of a calculator, or alternative ways to demonstrate understanding.

Focus on strengths : Kids with dyscalculia may excel in areas like reading, creativity, or problem-solving. Celebrate their achievements in those areas and help them see that math struggles don't define them. **Use visual and hands-on tools :** Visual aids (like number lines or color-coded charts) and tactile tools (like counting blocks or measuring cups) can help make abstract math concepts more concrete. **Incorporate math into everyday life:** Practice real-world math in low-pressure ways: cooking (measuring ingredients), shopping (adding prices), or playing board games involving dice and counting.

Break tasks into smaller steps : Simplifying instructions and working through problems one step at a time can help reduce overwhelm and boost comprehension.

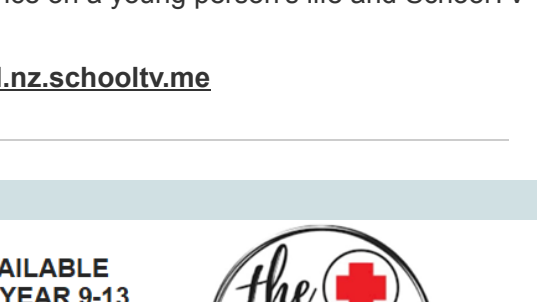
Consider tutoring or specialist support : A tutor experienced in working with learning differences can provide individualized instruction tailored to your child's learning style.

Promote a positive mindset : Encourage effort over perfection. Phrases like "It's okay to make mistakes" or "You're learning in your own way" can help build resilience and reduce anxiety

WAIHI COLLEGE LAUNCHES SCHOOL TV

Because parenting doesn't come with instructions, SchoolTV is a wellbeing resource implemented at our school to help support you in the challenges of modern-day parenting relating to youth mental health and wellbeing. Parenting is a learning journey and SchoolTV supports families by providing credible information from trusted sources with practical strategies to help alleviate some of the challenges being faced by young people today.

Watch video interviews with leading wellbeing specialists and browse a library of resources. Each topic is accompanied by factsheets, podcasts, books, articles, apps and other videos.



This award-winning resource helps families build relationships, foster connections, enable understanding and break down barriers to navigate a pathway towards better mental health and wellbeing for young people. It will assist you in starting those conversations on topics that can sometimes be awkward or difficult to tackle. Parents and caregivers are the greatest influence on a young person's life and SchoolTV focuses on empowering confident parenting.

Explore SchoolTV today at <https://waihicol.nz.schooltv.me>

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

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