

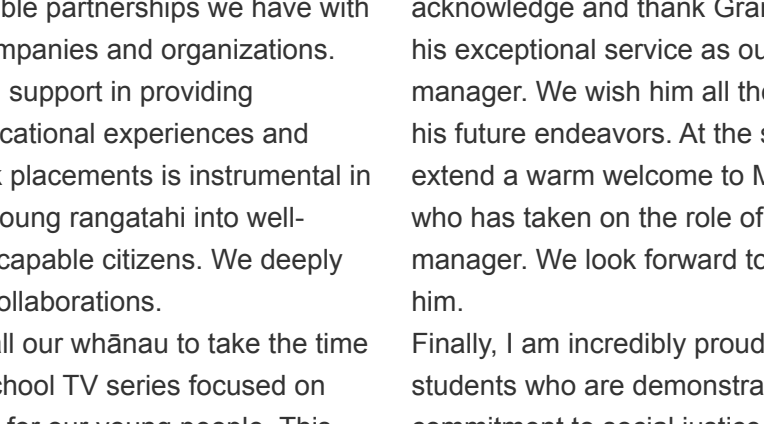
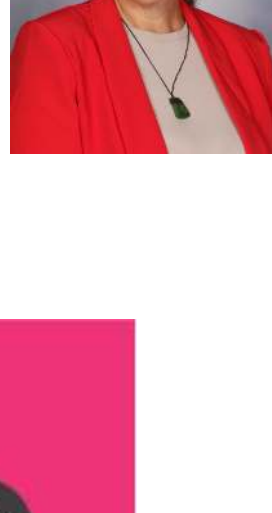
# WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12 | 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora Whānau

As we navigate through May, I want to take this opportunity to connect with you and highlight some truly inspiring aspects of our Waihi College community. This week, our kura is proudly participating in Pink Shirt Day, a significant day dedicated to raising awareness about bullying prevention and fostering kindness. This collective effort underscores our commitment to **kaitiakitanga**, where we actively care for one another, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.



I also want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible partnerships we have with numerous companies and organizations. Your amazing support in providing enriching educational experiences and valuable work placements is instrumental in shaping our young rangatahi into well-rounded and capable citizens. We deeply value these collaborations. I encourage all our whānau to take the time to view our school TV series focused on mental health for our young people. This resource offers important perspectives and support during these formative years. Our student leaders have been championing the message of reaching out for help. Their passionate voices and inspiring messages are being shared on our school's social media platforms, and doing the ice challenge! I encourage you to take a look and spread the word! A few of our staff and Board have been inspired to take up the challenge and have joined in the movement of spreading the word!

On behalf of the entire kura, I want to acknowledge and thank Grant Watson for his exceptional service as our property manager. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavors. At the same time, we extend a warm welcome to Mike Watson, who has taken on the role of property manager. We look forward to working with him. Finally, I am incredibly proud of our students who are demonstrating a strong commitment to social justice. Their enthusiasm for raising awareness for World Vision and the exciting student-led initiatives are inspiring. It is wonderful to see their passion ignite and their desire to make a positive impact on the world. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of Waihi College. Together, we are empowering our young people to thrive.

Nga manaakitanga,  
Briar

**It's really important to remind people that it's okay to be different from others and it's not okay to bully people because they are not the same as you.**

## SCHOOL WIDE

**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 rangatahi 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 rangatahi experience the world, inspiring their future pathways.

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

## PINK T-SHIRT DAY: 16TH MAY

On Friday 16th May we will be hosting a full school mufti day in honour of Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day is all about raising awareness around anti-bullying and how we can stick up for ourselves and each other. Please bring a gold coin for your ako teacher on Friday morning and all money raised will go towards the Pink T-Shirt Anti-Bullying Campaign.

### ABOUT BULLYING

#### What is bullying?

It isn't uncommon to hear someone say something insensitive or mean to someone else. Although these comments or actions are not okay, bullying has some specific features that make it much more serious and harmful.

- Bullying is deliberate – harming another person intentionally.
- Bullying involves a misuse of power in a relationship.
- Bullying is usually not a one-off – it is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time.
- Bullying involves behaviour that can cause harm – it is not a normal part of growing up (Ministry of Education, n.d.).

#### What does it look like?

Bullying can be:

- PHYSICAL** – hitting, tripping up.
- VERBAL** – insults, threats, – called names, teasing.
- SOCIAL** – spreading gossip or excluding people.
- CYBERBULLYING** – bullying online, via the internet, mobile phones and social media. It's a common form of bullying, especially among young people (Steiner-For, 2016).

#### Why do some people get bullied?

We know people are more likely to be bullied if they seem different from their peers in some way. This might include differences in race, sexual orientation, sex characteristics, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, religion, disabilities and abilities, weight or height.

That's why it's so important to celebrate diversity and embrace our differences – we aren't all the same and that's a great thing!

#### Why do some people bully others?

Just as there are many reasons someone might experience bullying, there are also many reasons why someone might bully someone.

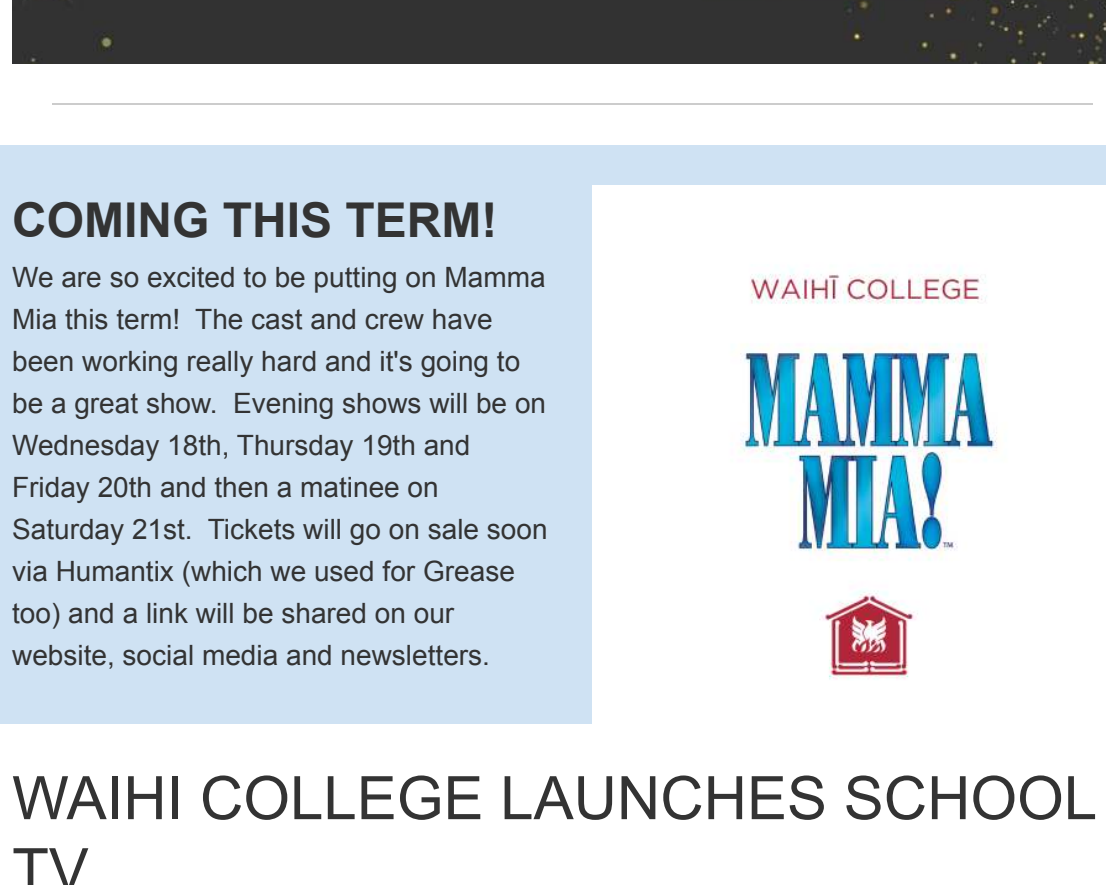
- They feel unhappy, or have recently experienced a stressful or traumatic situation.
- They have been the target of bullying themselves.
- They want to feel important or powerful.
- They don't realise how their behaviour harms others.
- They believe being different is a bad thing.

Labelling someone who bullies as a "bad person" isn't right or helpful. While the bullying behaviour isn't okay, someone who bullies others often needs our help and whi/support too.

## MOE PARENT PORTAL

The Ministry of Education have launched a new Parent Portal – an online resource designed to support families to play their part in their child's learning.

Education is a partnership of what happens in the classroom and what happens at home. Parents, caregivers, and whānau play an important role in supporting their child's learning and development. The new webspace is designed to make it easier for parents, caregivers, and whānau to access clear and up-to-date information on the school curriculum, assessment practices, and ways they can complement their child's learning.



## COMING UP

## WAIHI COLLEGE BALL: THIS SATURDAY!

The Ball is nearly here and it's going to be an amazing night!!

All forms are now in - but chat to Wendy or Ms Howell if you didn't get yours in on time or have any questions. Tickets are on sale now from the front office and are collected at the time of payment (or shortly thereafter if Sue is too busy to hand out immediately).

Remember if you are bringing a partner from outside of Waihi College (even ex students), they must arrive with you and are your responsibility while at the Ball. Any questions around this, please chat to Wendy or Ms Howell. The Ball starts at 7pm at the Waihi Beach Surf Club, with the doors opening at 6.40pm and closing at 7.40pm. The Ball finishes at 10.30pm and guests can leave as early as 10pm if they wish but need permission from caregivers to leave any earlier. Getting home is the responsibility of yourselves and your caregivers.

Remember, this is a school event so the usual rules apply around drinking, drugs, smoking and vaping. We will have security guards as usual to keep the event running smoothly who will be checking the premises throughout the night and checking guests upon entry.



## 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 Humantix (which we used for Grease too) and a link will be shared on our website, social media and newsletters.

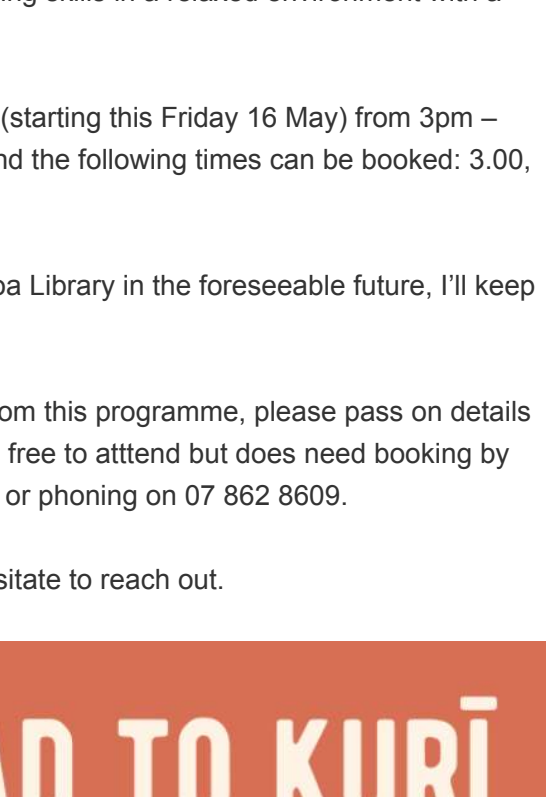
WAIHI COLLEGE

MAMMA MIA!



## 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://waihicollege.schooltv.me>

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**Waihi College - International**  
Connectivity | Learning | Wellbeing | Empowering

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED**

Waihi College is Seeking Host Families to Host International Students in 2025/26

**You Receive Weekly Payments for Hosting!**

**INTERESTED?**  
Contact: [Magpie@waihicollege.schooltv.me](mailto:Magpie@waihicollege.schooltv.me) or [maggie@waihicollege.schooltv.me](mailto:maggie@waihicollege.schooltv.me)

**WAIHI COLLEGE BALL**  
**May 17th**

**Purchase any 2 products from SHE or CORAL COLOURS & receive your choice of a FREE gift:**

- SHE or CORAL Mascara
- CORAL Nail Polish
- Slim Line Hydro Lipstick

## LIONS FUN RIDE

**Russell Player Memorial**  
in support of the Cancer Society's "Lions Lodge" Hamilton

**Sunday 25th May 2025**

**Four different rides all finishing at the Railway Reserve Paeroa**

- 10am start - **Waihi to Paeroa** (25km) Start at Goldfields Railway Waihi
- 10am start - **Thames Kopu to Paeroa** (26km) Start at Placemakers Kōpu
- 10am start - **Te Aroha to Paeroa** (21km) Start at Old Te Aroha Railway Station
- 11am start - **Karangahake to Paeroa** (7km) Start at old Karangahake Hall site

**Major Spot Prizes**

**\*\*PRE PAID REGISTRATION\*\***

- 1. PRIMARY SCHOOLS teams of 6 people - ENTRY \$50 (Must include 2+ Adults)
- 2. COLLEGE/BUSINESS teams of 6 - ENTRY \$80 (ALL TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDED IN INDIVIDUAL ENTRY)
- 3. ADULTS \$15 - CHILDREN \$5 - FAMILY \$35 (2 Adults + 2 Children)

Register for the ride at [lionshaurakifunride.co.nz](https://lionshaurakifunride.co.nz)

Every rider will be allocated a number to participate in Spot Prize Draws at each line

**Prizegiving at 12.30pm - Must be present to claim prize**

**Run by the : Combined Lions Clubs of Ngatea, Paeroa, Te Aroha and Waihi**

## NEW READING PROGRAMME

Kia ora koutou,

We are very excited to announce a brand new reading programme at Waihi Library! Working in collaboration with Canine Friends, Read to Kuri provides an opportunity for tamariki aged 5-12 years to practise their reading skills in a relaxed environment with a canine friend!

This programme will run on Friday afternoons (starting this Friday 16 May) from 3pm – 4pm. Session times run in 10 minute blocks and the following times can be booked: 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50 and 4.00pm.

We are hoping to run this programme at Paeroa Library in the foreseeable future, I'll keep you posted on when this launches!

If you know of any tamariki who may benefit from this programme, please pass on details to their caregivers/teachers, the programme is free to attend but does need booking by emailing us at [hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or phoning on 07 862 8609.

If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to reach out.

**READ TO KURĪ**  
At Waihi Library

10 minute slots available for booking from 3 - 4pm every Friday

**BOOK NOW!**

Email us at [hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz](mailto:hdc-library@hauraki-dc.govt.nz) or phone us 07 862 8609 to book your slot

## PARENT CORNER

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

Lessons from Learning Support  
**Dyspraxia**

As parents, we're always looking for ways to understand and support our children's unique challenges. If your child seems **unusually clumsy, struggles with tasks like writing or tying shoes, or has trouble organizing themselves at school**, they might be experiencing **dyspraxia**—a condition that affects movement and coordination. While it can be confusing at first, knowing what dyspraxia is and how to support your child can make a world of difference. **Dyspraxia**, also known as **Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)**, is a **neurological condition that impacts physical coordination**. Children with dyspraxia have **difficulty planning and executing motor tasks**. This can affect both **gross motor skills** (like jumping, running, or catching a ball) and **fine motor skill** (like writing, buttoning a shirt, or cutting with scissors). It's not caused by muscle weakness or intelligence deficits—it's more about **how the brain communicates with the body**. Kids with dyspraxia often have average or above-average intelligence, but their brain processes movement and coordination differently. **Dyspraxia affects school life** in a variety of ways: a student may **struggle with handwriting or holding a pencil**. Difficulty with physical education (PE) activities. Finds it **hard to organize schoolwork or follow multi-step instructions**. Avoids fine motor activities like **cutting, drawing, or using small tools**. **Tires easily** or seems **slow to complete tasks**. Has **poor posture or balance**. Experiences **social challenges** due to clumsiness or low confidence. These challenges can impact academic performance, self-esteem, and peer relationships. Without understanding and support, kids with dyspraxia might feel frustrated or left out.

**How Parents Can Help** **Get a formal diagnosis** :Start by discussing your concerns with your child's teacher or doctor. A formal assessment (often by an occupational therapist or pediatrician) can confirm dyspraxia and guide support strategies. **Work with the school**. Share the diagnosis with your child's teacher and request appropriate accommodations. These might include: Extra time for written tasks. Use of a laptop or voice-to-text software. Simplified instructions. Breaks during physical activities **Encourage physical activity** While PE can be challenging, regular movement helps improve coordination. Look for low-pressure activities like swimming, martial arts, or yoga that build confidence and body awareness. **Use tools to support fine motor skills** Chunky pencils, pencil grips, scissors with spring assistance, or Velcro shoes can make daily tasks easier and less frustrating. **Break tasks into steps** Give short, clear instructions one at a time. Visual aids and checklists can help your child stay organized and understand what's expected. **Celebrate small wins** Even small improvements—like learning to fasten a button or improving legible handwriting—deserve recognition. Praise effort over perfection. **Promote confidence and self-esteem** Children with dyspraxia often feel "different." Help your child see their strengths and remind them that many successful people have learning differences. **Consider therapy or support services** Occupational therapy and physical therapy can make a big difference. These professionals can help your child build strength, coordination, and confidence in a fun, encouraging environment.

**WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE**  
**MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 9.30AM – 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

Nga mihi, with kind regards  
Margie (She/Her)  
Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE  
WAIHI  
M: 0272983787  
W: [www.pinnacle.co.nz](http://www.pinnacle.co.nz)

