

WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 32 | 2025

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa e te whānau o Waihi College,

It is the time of the year when preparation for next year is well underway.

The principal with the support of the board are currently working through teaching and learning programmes, subjects and staffing for 2026. To move forward, we need to also reflect on what has made 2025 such a success for so many, including celebrating this...

What an incredible week lies ahead for our kura — a week of celebration, reflection, and immense pride. Over the next few days, we will gather for five prizegivings, each one shining a light on the unique talents, efforts, and spirit of our rangatahi. From sports to service, from endeavour to academic excellence — this week is about recognising the mahi, the growth, and the collective strength of our community.

These occasions are more than ceremonies — they are moments to connect, to give thanks, and to celebrate what happens when whānau, kaiako, and students work together in the spirit of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and kaiakitanga.

Winter Sports Prizegiving

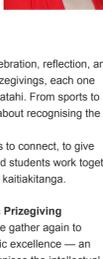
Our celebrations began with the energy and spirit of our Winter Sports Prizegiving, where we honoured our athletes, coaches, managers, sponsors, and whānau who make sport at Waihi College possible.

As I said in my opening remarks:

"Tēnā koutou katoa, nau mai, haere mai e te whānau o Waihi College. It's wonderful to see you all gathered here to celebrate our Winter Sports Prizegiving — a time to honour the incredible mahi, teamwork, and dedication shown by our rangatahi throughout the season."

We acknowledged the dedication of our volunteers — the ones cheering on the sidelines, driving vans, washing uniforms, and ensuring every student could play their part. Our heartfelt ngā mihi nui goes to our sponsors — including Oceania Gold, Waihi Beach RSA, Rainie & Horne, and Paper Plus Waihi. Dynasty from Eve's, Meares Construction, and so many more — for their continued lautoko.

And with pride, we acknowledged our 2026 Sports Leader, Rylee Morgan, whose passion and leadership will carry our sporting waiura into the future.



Senior Academic Prizegiving

Later this week, we gather again to celebrate academic excellence — an evening that recognises the intellectual, creative, and personal growth of our students.

We celebrate more than grades. We celebrate resilience, determination, and self-belief. Every assignment completed, every challenge faced, has shaped who our students are becoming.

We'll acknowledge the courage it takes to strive for leadership, the perseverance that fuels success, and the belief that learning is a lifelong journey.

Endeavour and Service Prizegiving

As the week continues, we turn our focus to the heart of our kura — Service. The Endeavour and Service Prizegiving is where we honour those who give of themselves for others, who volunteer, lead, and live our values every day, and continually put their best foot forward, showing up each day, to do their best. This is what success looks like to us.

We will acknowledge our rangatahi who give their time to community initiatives like Keep Waihi Beautiful, Leo Club, hospitality, and countless others. They remind us that true leadership begins with service, and that every act of kindness strengthens our collective culture.

SCHOOL WIDE

PRIZEGIVING PHOTOS



It's Prizegiving time!!

We take photos at every event - these are available for you to download from our website from the School Photos page under Keeping Informed.

<https://www.waihicol.school.nz/keeping-informed-%c2%b7-parongo/school-photos-%c2%b7-nga-whakaahua/>

CULTURAL PRIZEGIVING

Last night Waihi College celebrated their students who shine in the areas of Kapa Haka, Art & Media Design, Music, Culinary Arts, Drama, Hall Tech & Digital.

Congratulations to all our award recipients, especially our Supreme Cultural Winner, Bayley Goddard, who has been a wonderful role model in all the Arts throughout her entire school journey.

Kapa Haka

Kaitiaki Wahine: Moana George
Kaitiaki Tane: Sam Bjerring
Kaiawhina: Brea Peka
Maori Performer of the Year: Hirini Leaf

Art & Media Design

Principals Certificate for Commitment to the Visual Arts: Madi Muir
Most Outstanding in Media Design: Bella Paulsen
Most Outstanding in Painting: Zara Davies-Young

Music

Most Improved Performer: Maddie Oliver
Contribution to Music: Erana Telekolo
Music Producer Award: Mahsaiah Stockman and Lincoln Alexander
Music Composition Award: Mace Harries
Most Outstanding Musician: Jack Carpenter
Musician of the Year: Cade Tucker

Culinary Arts

Barista of the Year: Zenith Gresley
Creative Flair: Bayley Goddard
The Culinary Arts Rising Star: Clarisse Mercader
Manaakitanga: Maike Kwast
Commitment to Culinary Arts: Aliya Smith
Culinary Arts Student of the Year: Clarisse Mercader

Drama

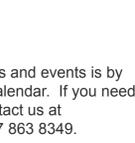
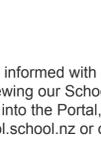
Best Self Devised Act: Bayley Goddard, Piper Dixon & Rose Morley
Principal's Certificate for Excellence in Acting (School Production): Hoani Pollock-Wilson
Most Improved Performer: Harry Cameron
Most Outstanding Performer: Piper Dixon
Dramatic Performer of the Year: Bayley Goddard

Tech & Digital

Hall Tech of the Year: Connor Peters
Most Improved in Digital Media: Erana Telekolo

Supreme

SUPREME CULTURAL AWARD: Bayley Goddard



Extra Curricular Activities Strike - 29th October

This letter went home via email to all caregivers yesterday:

Kia ora e te whānau o Waihi College, This is an important notice regarding confirmed strike action by the Post Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA) this week.

We have received formal notification from the PPTA that its members will be engaging in a ban on all extra-curricular activities on Wednesday, 29 October 2025.

This means that PPTA members will not be supervising or participating in any activities that take place outside of regular timetabled classes. This includes:

- All sports practices, games, and fixtures.
- All cultural activities (e.g., kapa haka, music, drama).
- All extra-curricular clubs and school trips.

The school day will run as normal, and all scheduled classes will proceed. The industrial action only affects activities beyond the classroom.

We suggest that whānau assume all extra-curricular activities are cancelled or postponed on Wednesday, 29 October. Students must make alternative arrangements for being on time if they usually rely on a teacher or school vehicle for a PPTA during.

This ban is partly of nationwide industrial action by the PPTA acting through collective contract negotiations with the Ministry of Education regarding teacher pay, workload, and conditions.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate this national issue. We will update you if we receive further information.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Briar Carden-Scott
TUMUAKI

The best way to keep informed with dates and events is by using the Portal and viewing our School Calendar. If you need help logging into the Portal, contact us at office@waihicol.school.nz or on 07 863 8349.

WAIHI COLLEGE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

A letter went home recently with important information regarding our seniors. Please see a copy below. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ms Howell via email on job@waihicol.school.nz or by phone on 07 863 8349:

We are approaching the last few weeks of timetabled classes for students who are in Year 11-13. The senior prize giving will take place on the 30th October and, after that, there will be no more timetabled lessons for senior students as the NCEA examinations begin. Please read through the information below to find out about the organisation for these last few weeks:

Senior Academic Prize Giving and Graduation

I would like to take the opportunity to invite all parents, whānau, friends and community members to the Senior Prize Giving on **Thursday 30 October at 6pm** in the Waihi College school hall. During the prize giving we will celebrate the learning achievements of students who have gained a 1st in class award, 1st in Year award, scholarships, student leader positions and the prizes for special character. Students in Year 13 who are graduating will also be presented with their certificates.

If your student is receiving an award for this prize giving, or if they are involved in the Year 13 Graduation, you will receive an email from me in the next few weeks. Students will be expected to be in school at 5.40pm so that they can be seated at 5.50pm for the 6pm start.

Year 13 will go straight to the hall

Year 12 will meet in B9 with Mr Budgen (Kaia-rahi)

Year 11 will meet in B8 with Whaea Tracy (Kaia-rahi)

Students in Year 11 and 12 will need to wear school uniform (no jackets or jerseys as it gets very hot in the hall). Year 13 students need to wear formal dress.

For students who are receiving a placing in class (2nd or 3rd) or an endeavour award, these will be presented during the Endeavour and Service Prize Giving assembly on **Wednesday 29th October which will be held in the school hall at 12.15pm**. Service awards will also be presented during this assembly as well as the Year Trophy. Parents, whānau and caregivers are welcome to attend this prize giving if they would like to.

Study Leave

All students in Year 11-13 are eligible for study leave from **Friday 31st October**. This means that students will not be required to attend school unless they are completing an NCEA examination (timetable for exams is attached to this email). The senior hub will be open from **Monday 3rd November** for students to study for their exams or to complete internal assessments that are still outstanding. Students who are attending school will need to be wearing school uniform (Year 11 and 12)

Leavers Breakfast and Last day of School (Year 13 only)

On the morning of Thursday 30th October, we will host the traditional Year 13 Leavers Breakfast in the school hall. This will start promptly at 8.00am. Following the breakfast all Year 13 students are invited to attend a final Year 13 trip to Tauranga completing a range of activities together. Students will leave after the breakfast and return to school by 3pm. Students will go in school transport and are not permitted to take their own vehicles. You will receive a permission slip and more information about this trip from Mrs Morley soon. There will be no timetabled lessons for Year 13 on this day.

A reminder that students are not permitted to complete pranks. Over the last few years students have been very respectful of this and it has ensured a pleasant last day for everyone.

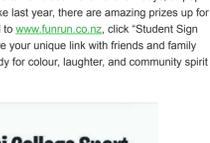
MAGAZINE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

Leaving School Magazine – Issue #34

There is plenty of interesting information in this magazine that will help senior students as they prepare for life after school, whether they go on to further study, start an apprenticeship or join the workforce.

The magazine is now available to read online –

<https://ollivreee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue34/>



YEAR 7 & 8 ATHLETICS



WAIHI COLLEGE ATHLETICS SPORTEES YEAR 7 and 8



Meet:
Liam - Basketball
Liam - Soccer
Liam - Rugby
Liam - Basketball

JUNIOR ATHLETIC SPORTS

TRACK EVENTS

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