

WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Waihi College, Nau mai, haere mai ki tēnei pānui o te kura — welcome to our latest school newsletter. It has been a truly special time for our kura as we continue to reflect on and celebrate 50 years of Waihi College.



Recently, we gathered with distinguished guests, past and present staff, whānau, alumni, and friends of the college to mark this significant milestone. It was a powerful reminder that milestones are not just about the passing of time, but about the people, stories, and shared journey that have shaped our kura.

Our history stretches back well beyond these 50 years — to 1901, when secondary education began in Waihi. Through challenges such as the 1931 fire, and the rebuilding that followed, education has remained a constant and valued part of our community. From the establishment of Waihi College as a full secondary school in 1954, to the move to our current site on Kensington Road, and the return of our Year 7 and 8 students in 1976, each chapter has strengthened the inclusive and connected kura we are today. Most importantly, our story is about people — the leaders, kaiako, support staff, whānau, and above all, our ākonga, whose energy and achievements continue to define Waihi College.

As part of honouring our past, we have begun developing a comprehensive digital archive. This important mahi includes restoring historic photographs, verifying records, and reconnecting stories across generations. We are also creating new Honours Boards to recognise DUX students, head students, and sporting excellence across the years. Alongside this, the addition of the Matariki constellation in our hall reflects both remembrance and renewal — acknowledging where we have come from, while looking ahead with purpose.

Ngā mihi nui to our wider community for your ongoing support of our students. We are incredibly grateful to the many whānau who support our teams to attend competitions, events, and trips — these opportunities make a real difference to student engagement, confidence, and success.

A special acknowledgement to our student leaders for their outstanding work in organising our St Patrick's Day event, led by Reese Neame. It was a fantastic success, full of energy and school spirit, and we are proud to share that over \$550 was raised. These funds will go towards the restoration of Hollis Bush — our own beautiful piece of native environment here on site. This is a wonderful example of kaitiakitanga in action.

We also hosted our first inter house Hobby Horse Olympics! A fabulous spectacle to be a part of! Thankyou to all who made this epic event happen!

Looking ahead, a reminder that Beach Hop Day is this Wednesday. School will remain open for instruction as usual. Students wishing to attend Beach Hop must have permission from home and will need to sign out through the Student Office before leaving.

As always, thank you for your continued support, partnership, and commitment to our kura. Together, we are weaving a strong and vibrant future for Waihi College

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

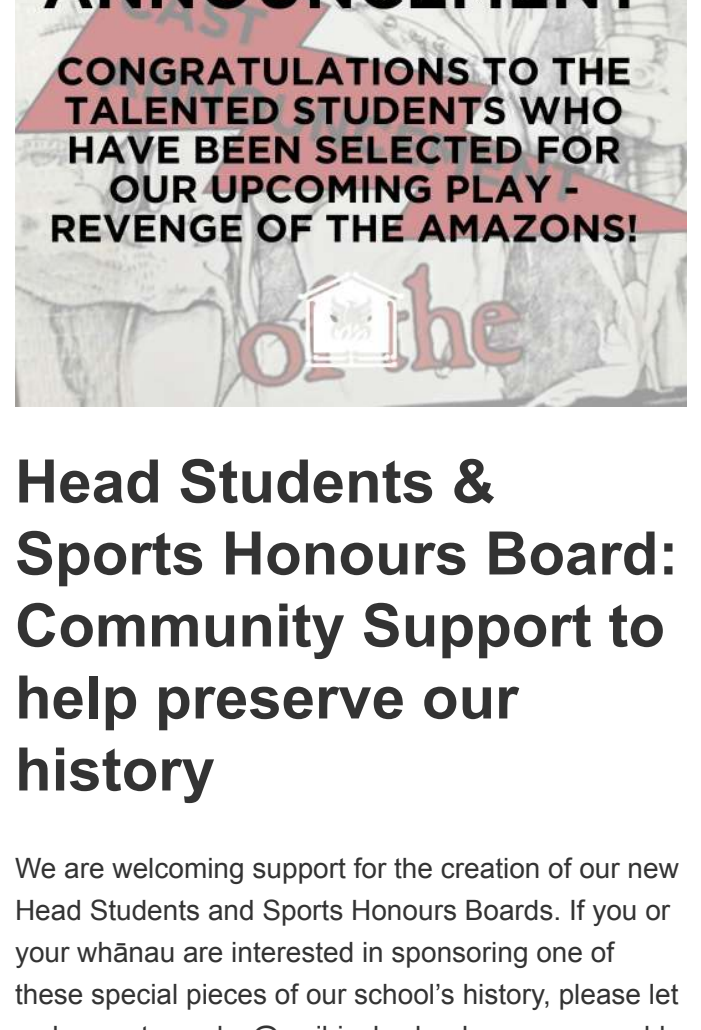
A Morning of Memories and Connection at our Jubilee

What a special day it was at the College Jubilee today. A heart felt thank you to everyone who came along to be part of it. We also want to acknowledge those who had hoped to be with us but couldn't make it - we were thinking of you and missed your presence.

It was truly wonderful to reconnect with so many familiar faces, and to welcome back those who have played an important role in the life of our kura over the years. There was a real sense of warmth and belonging as stories were shared, memories revisited, and laughter echoed through the spaces that hold so much history for our community.

Guests enjoyed a tour of the newer spaces of our kura, along with the much loved Hollis Bush, as well as exploring our new archiving system, which beautifully preserves the stories and milestones of our school.

It was also a highlight to look through old Reo Māno publications, sparking conversations and memories that bridged generations. The morning was not only about looking back, but also about looking ahead. It was a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the journey of the College and the importance of weaving together our past and present as we continue to shape a strong future for our students and community.



Ngā mihi nui to everyone who joined us and helped make the occasion so memorable.

CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

ACCOUNT: WAIHI COLLEGE BOARD
NUMBER: 12-3171-0263271-00



CHANGE OF BANK DETAILS

Please check that you've updated our kura bank account details.

Should you have any questions, please contact the office on 07 863 8349 to discuss payment options.

Our old school account is due to close at the end of this month, so please update ASAP

COMING UP

WAIHI COLLEGE

FOOD DRIVE

DROP OFF AT WAIHI COLLEGE
FROM 23RD MARCH TILL 31ST MARCH

ALL FOOD GOING TO
LOCAL FAMILIES VIA THE
SALVATION ARMY

Help us support our local community with our upcoming Food Drive and Mufti Day!

Next Tuesday (31st March) we are having a full school mufti. Instead of bringing a gold coin for your ako teacher, please bring in a can of food, a bag of pasta or anything non-perishable to donate. All food will be going to the local Salvation Army to support people in our community.

The ako with the most food donated will get a wee something to share the following week!

Members of the community are welcome to drop food items to the front office or student center any day this week.

KIDS CLOTHING SWAP

Donate your preloved children's clothing that your kids have outgrown or no longer need. These items are then available for others in the community to take for free.

It's a sustainable way to upcycle and refresh your kids' wardrobes without spending money.

All sizes welcome from newborn to teenagers

Little Tykes to Teens will be open from 1-3pm.

First drop in space is the 12th of March 2026 and then every second Thursday.

Feel free to come and drop off any donations to reception at the Waihi Community Resource Centre.

If you have any enquiries, please contact kiri 0272064368

netsafe

Netsafe host free parent webinars each term at <https://netsafe.org.nz/parents-and-caregivers/webinar-series>.

Their next session is scheduled for **26 March at 6:30pm**.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Create connections with people from all over the world

Introduce someone to your local area and traditions

Choose a hosting option that suits you, short or long term.

You Receive Weekly Payments for Hosting!

INTERESTED?

Contact: Magdeleen 021 0277 8120 or magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz

WAIHI COLLEGE

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Understanding Teen Behaviour: What Science Tells Us

Part 1: Why Teenagers React So Fast

Have you ever wondered why teenagers can go from calm to furious in seconds?

Well, the **teenage brain is actually undergoing** what Kathryn Berkett calls a **“software upgrade”** where connections are remodeled. During this upgrade, the part of the brain (**Green Brain**) that helps humans stay calm and make good choices can be **slower to respond**. However, at the same time, the survival part of the brain (**Red Brain**) is **fast, strong**, and always looking for threats.

When a teenager feels something is unfair, embarrassing, or threatening, to them, the **red brain takes over** and initiates fight, flight, or freeze. As a result, the teenager could **end up reacting very quickly**, resulting in them snapping, yelling, shutting down, or storming off.

What helps in these moments?

- **Lend them your calm** - slow your voice, lower your volume, and relax your body posture.
- **Connect before you correct** - you don't need to agree, but you can show them you see them. *“Hey, I can see this is really frustrating.”*
- **Help them feel safe** - consider how you can reduce the sense of threat. Give them time and space to regulate.

Once their **green brain has come online again**, then you can **work together to reflect and repair**. It is at this point that a consequence could be put in place.

For more information: Kathryn Berkett or Nathan Wallis Podcast.

In Part 2, we will be looking at why belonging matters so much.

PODCAST LINKS

Kathryn Berkett: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YAysdmibP4>

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