

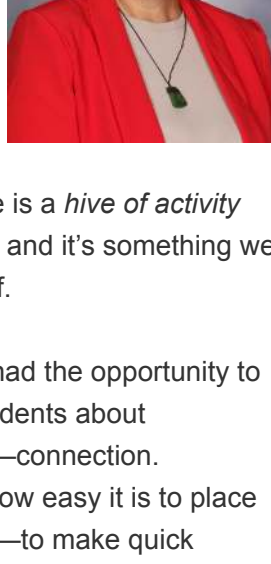
WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau.

There is a real sense of momentum and pride across our kura as we move further into the term. Everywhere you look, there are signs of growth, care, and purposeful activity—our school is humming.



Over the holidays, our property team have been incredibly busy, and the results are already making a visible difference. The new roof on C Block has freshened the space and ensures a warm, dry environment for learning. Our gardens out the front are being restored and beautified, creating a welcoming entrance that reflects the pride we have in our kura. Up at the farm, things are looking equally impressive—tidy, organised, and full of potential for learning and connection.

Our farm projects continue to provide rich, hands-on opportunities for students, and it's an exciting time as our kiwifruit are nearly ready for picking. These authentic learning experiences are a powerful way for our young people to engage with kaitiakitanga—caring for and working alongside our environment. At the same time, winter sports are now underway, and it's fantastic to see so many students out representing the kura with commitment and team spirit. Whether on the field, court, or sideline, there is a real sense of kotahitanga—people showing up for each other and striving together.

Quite simply, there is a *hive of activity* across the school, and it's something we can all be proud of.

This week, I also had the opportunity to speak with our students about whanaungatanga—connection. We talked about how easy it is to place people into boxes—to make quick assumptions about who someone is based on what we see. But our challenge to students was to look beyond that. To recognise that every person in our kura brings their own story, strengths, and experiences—and that often, we have far more in common than we first realise. Whanaungatanga asks us to:

- See each other as precious
- Believe in one another's potential
- Take the time to find common ground
- Walk alongside others, rather than past them

This sits at the heart of who we are. When our young people feel connected, known, and valued, they thrive—not just academically, but as people.

As a community, we can continue to model this every day. In the way we speak to one another, support each other, and take pride in our shared spaces.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of the kura. Together, we are building something special—an environment where our young people feel a strong sense of belonging, purpose, and possibility.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.
Briar Principal | Tumauki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

We're excited to introduce a brand-new weekly feature hitting our newsletter and social media from next week — Did You Know? This is your behind-the-scenes pass to all the awesome things happening in our kura. From student achievements and staff talents to quirky facts and hidden gems around the school, we'll be sharing the stories that make our kura and community so special. There's always more to discover than meets the eye... so keep an eye out — you might just learn something new!

COMING UP

SMART Assessment Tool Information

This term is the first testing window for the new Ministry of Education SMART (Student Monitoring, Assessment & Reporting Tool) assessment tool to take place. SMART assesses a student's reading, writing and mathematics using a digital platform. The information gathered from the assessments will inform teaching and also be used to generate achievement reports for 2026.

The following image has some additional information about the SMART tool. You can also access a practice test that will give you an idea of what the assessment is like ([SMART practice tool](#)).

The test will be completed in school time in English and Mathematics lesson times:

Year Group	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Year 7, 8 and 9	Week 4	Week 4	Week 4
Year 10	Week 3	Week 3	Week 3

The following image has some additional information about the SMART tool. You can also access a practice test that will give you an idea of what the assessment is like ([SMART practice tool](#)).

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A GUIDE FOR WHĀNAU

Navigating school attendance codes can be confusing. Here is a simple breakdown of the Ministry of Education codes that track your child's time and what those marks mean for their attendance.

Present at School

Your child is marked present if they are physically on-site or taking part in an activity the school officially considers "being at school". This includes:

- In-Class
- On-Site Activities
- Approved Off-Site Learning
- Necessary Appointments

Justified Absence

A "Justified" mark means your child is not at school, but the school has reviewed your explanation and accepted it as a valid reason for missing class. Common examples include:

- Health
- Family
- Representation
- Disciplinary

How Absences Affect Attendance Percentages

It is a common misunderstanding that a "Justified" absence doesn't "count" against a student. A justified absence still counts as an absence in your child's overall attendance percentage.

THE BOTTOM LINE

A "Justified" mark tells the school that the reason for the absence is acceptable, but still indicates the student missed out on that day of learning.

YUMMY STICKERS FOR SPORTS GEAR

Time to COLLECT Yummy stickers for our School's share of **\$200,000 SPORTS GEAR**. Download extra sticker sheets at yummyfruit.co.nz. Eat Yummy Apples & Bring Your Stickers to School!

STICKERS FOR SPORTS GEAR!

We are collecting Yummy stickers to raise funds for sports year. Get your sticker sheet from your ako teacher and start collecting now!

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS: 14TH MAY FROM 2PM-6PM

WAIHI COLLEGE PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
14TH MAY: 2PM-6PM
ONLINE BOOKINGS AVAILABLE NOW CHECK YOUR EMAILS OR GO TO SCHOOL BRIDGE OR OUR WEBSITE TO BOOK YOURS NOW

On 14th May, we will be holding parent/whānau and teacher interviews from 2pm through to 6pm. This is a chance for you to discuss your child's progress over the year to date. Teachers will be located in learning hubs around the school and you can meet with them using the booking system via school interviews. We encourage you to meet with the teacher and the student together.



Prior to the interview day, you will receive an engagement report that teachers have completed to show how engaged your child is in their learning. This might help you to prioritise which teachers to book in to see. There are 3 ways to book an interview slot:

1. Go to his link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/3wpy2>
2. Use your phone's camera app to book in using this QR code.
3. Call Sue in the front office 078638349 who can help you to make the booking over the phone.

BOXING INVITE

Tane Boxing Tuesday & Wednesday 5pm to pm for youth at the Waihi Baptist Youth for ages 12-22 years.

Wednesday 5pm-6pm Box fit readiness AND Youth Group available Wednesday night.

WAIHI COLLEGE UNIFORM AMNESTY
AVOID FEES BY RETURNING YOURS NOW!

WAIHI COLLEGE KURA KAI
DETAILS COMING SOON!

REVENGE OF THE AMAZONS

Rehearsals are under way and it's shaping up to be an amazing play.

We will keep you informed as we get closer to ticket selling time! They will be through Humanitix as per and we will have adult and concession prices, as well as a food stall

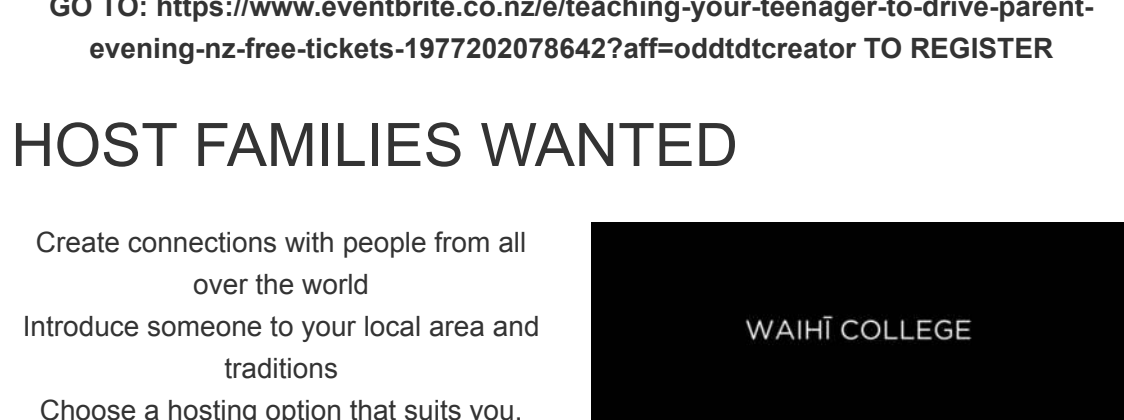
Keep an eye on socials, our newsletter and our website to stay informed.

TICKETS COMING SOON!!!
SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE VIA HUMANITIX
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SALES DATES AND DETAILS!

SPARKLE & SHINE CAR WASH
Saturday 9th May from 12.30 till 5.00
BAKE SALE & BBQ
Support our girls going to Japan!
Where: Waihi Tyre Services: Rosemont Rd
Prices: Cars: \$10 | Utes or larger: \$15-20
Help our girls raise funds for their Japan exchange!

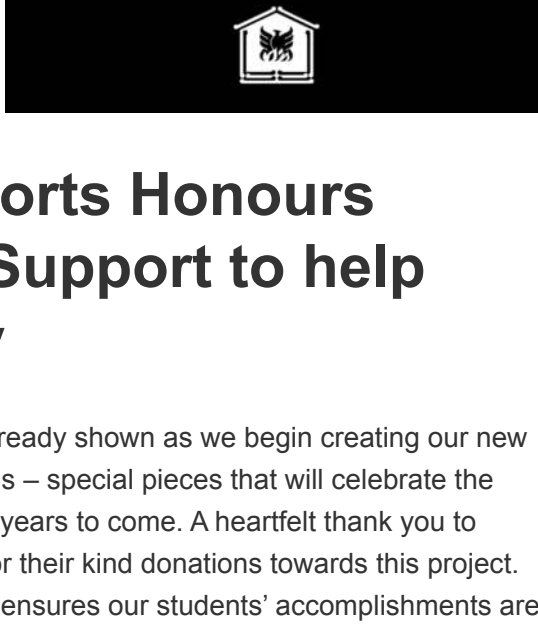
SENIOR GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Year 13 Geography students recently enjoyed an exciting trip to the South Island, where they were able to experience key geographical features and processes firsthand. Throughout the journey, students explored glaciers, plate tectonics, and erosion in real-time environments, bringing their classroom learning to life. Everyone had a great time while gaining a deeper understanding of New Zealand's unique landscapes. Highlights of the trip included seeing the stunning autumn colours in Arrowtown, visiting the glaciers at Mt Cook, exploring the Blue Pools in Wānaka, climbing Roys Peak, and enjoying an adrenaline-filled jet boat ride in Queenstown.



WAIKATO UNI DAY

Over the holidays several senior students were fortunate enough to attend Waikato University Student for a Day experiences for Marine Science and Engineering. They attended some talks in lecture theatres, got to do hands on practicals in the lab, and learnt more about uni life. One of our students, Jessica, was in a team of three for the MOLA Structure station and won building the highest structure that could stand on an earthquake simulator.



SCHOOL WIDE

DRIVER COACH

We're excited to invite your community to our **FREE online event** happening tomorrow evening 29th April 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (NZDT). But we need your support in helping us spread the word. Would you be able to please share these details with your school community either on your Facebook page or parent portal. If you happen to know anyone else that might benefit from this course we would really love for you to also let them know. Your community will learn how to:

DRIVER COACH
Helping you support your main drive
ONLINE: 29th April 2026
Free teaching your teenager to drive parent evening

- Unlock the Mysteries of the Teenage Brain: What Makes Driving a Challenge?
- Decode Risk Factors for Young Drivers
- Learn the art of Coaching a Learner Driver
- Help you support the transition to solo driving
- Set a plan for collaborating with Driving Instructors
- And much more

GO TO: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/teaching-your-teenager-to-drive-parent-evening-nz-free-tickets-1977202078642?aff=oddtcreator> TO REGISTER

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!

WAIHI COLLEGE HOST FAMILIES WANTED

Head Students & Sports Honours Board: Community Support to help preserve our history

We're incredibly grateful for the generosity already shown as we begin creating our new Head Students and Sports Honours Boards — special pieces that will celebrate the achievements and legacy of our kura for years to come. A heartfelt thank you to Margaret-Ellen Pipe and Mary Carmine for their kind donations towards this project. Your support helps bring this vision to life and ensures our students' accomplishments are recognised and remembered.

We warmly welcome further community support for these honours boards. If you or your whānau, business, or organisation would like to be part of preserving this important part of our school's history, please get in touch at wendy@waihicollege.school.nz. Every contribution, big or small, is truly appreciated.

Massive thanks to Margaret-Ellen Pipe and Mary Carmine who have stepped forward and kindly donated some funds towards this important project!
Ngā mihi nui Margaret and Mary.

PARENT CORNER

SCHOOL BRIDGE APP: Stay connected. Stay informed. Keep it simple

We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

Getting started is easy:

- Mark absences in seconds
- Check notices and updates
- Stay in the loop wherever you are

STEP 1: download the SchoolBridge App
Either scan the QR code or download via App Store or Google Play
STEP 2: Sign in with your school registered email

For caregivers, this is the email address you used when enrolling your student and for students, it is your school email address. If you are unsure, use the 'Request a Magic Sign-in Code' option

It's quick, convenient, and we'll be adding even more features as we go. Jump on board today and make school communication smoother for everyone!

Download Our App
• Scan the QR Code to download. Or
• Search "SchoolBridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

WAIHI COLLEGE SCHOOL NURSE
1600MM HIGH X 1750MM WIDE

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 Goldsworthy / SCHOOL NURSE WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our website: www.waihicollege.school.nz