

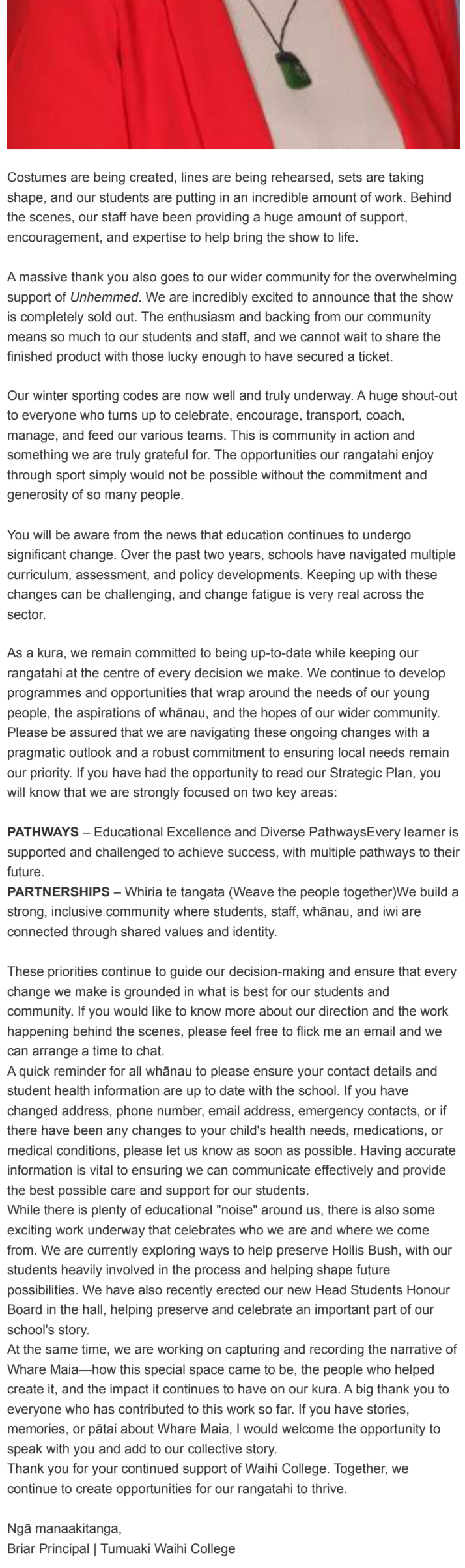
# WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,

There is a real buzz around Waihi College at the moment, and nowhere is that more evident than in preparations for our upcoming play - Revenge of the Amazons.



Costumes are being created, lines are being rehearsed, sets are taking shape, and our students are putting in an incredible amount of work. Behind the scenes, our staff have been providing a huge amount of support, encouragement, and expertise to help bring the show to life.

A massive thank you also goes to our wider community for the overwhelming support of *Unhemmed*. We are incredibly excited to announce that the show is completely sold out. The enthusiasm and backing from our community means so much to our students and staff, and we cannot wait to share the finished product with those lucky enough to have secured a ticket.

Our winter sporting codes are now well and truly underway. A huge shout-out to everyone who turns up to celebrate, encourage, transport, coach, manage, and feed our various teams. This is community in action and something we are truly grateful for. The opportunities our rangatahi enjoy through sport simply would not be possible without the commitment and generosity of so many people.

You will be aware from the news that education continues to undergo significant change. Over the past two years, schools have navigated multiple curriculum, assessment, and policy developments. Keeping up with these changes can be challenging, and change fatigue is very real across the sector.

As a kura, we remain committed to being up-to-date while keeping our rangatahi at the centre of every decision we make. We continue to develop programmes and opportunities that wrap around the needs of our young people, the aspirations of whānau, and the hopes of our wider community. Please be assured that we are navigating these ongoing changes with a pragmatic outlook and a robust commitment to ensuring local needs remain our priority. If you have had the opportunity to read our Strategic Plan, you will know that we are strongly focused on two key areas:

**PATHWAYS** – Educational Excellence and Diverse Pathways Every learner is supported and challenged to achieve success, with multiple pathways to their future.

**PARTNERSHIPS** – Whiria te tangata (Weave the people together) We build a strong, inclusive community where students, staff, whānau, and iwi are connected through shared values and identity.

These priorities continue to guide our decision-making and ensure that every change we make is grounded in what is best for our students and community. If you would like to know more about our direction and the work happening behind the scenes, please feel free to flick me an email and we can arrange a time to chat.

A quick reminder for all whānau to please ensure your contact details and student health information are up to date with the school. If you have changed address, phone number, email address, emergency contacts, or if there have been any changes to your child's health needs, medications, or medical conditions, please let us know as soon as possible. Having accurate information is vital to ensuring we can communicate effectively and provide the best possible care and support for our students.

While there is plenty of educational "noise" around us, there is also some exciting work underway that celebrates who we are and where we come from. We are currently exploring ways to help preserve Hollis Bush, with our students heavily involved in the process and helping shape future possibilities. We have also recently elected our new Head Students Honour Board in the hall, helping preserve and celebrate an important part of our school's story.

At the same time, we are working on capturing and recording the narrative of Whare Maia—how this special space came to be, the people who helped create it, and the impact it continues to have on our kura. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work so far. If you have stories, memories, or pātai about Whare Maia, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and add to our collective story.

Thank you for your continued support of Waihi College. Together, we continue to create opportunities for our rangatahi to thrive.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

## DID YOU KNOW?

♥ Did you know we have Free Period Products Available for Students at School? ♥

We've had this service available for quite some time, but we want to make sure everyone knows it's there and feels comfortable making use of it. If you need period products, simply take what you need, whenever you need it.

- Products are available from:
- 📍 The Student Centre
  - 📍 The School Nurse
  - 📍 Various teachers around the school
  - 📍 Wendy and Jess's office

Please make the most of this service and always spread the word to friends who may not know it's available. There is help plenty, so take enough for at school and at home!

## COMING UP

🎉 **IT'S SHOW TIME!**  
UNHEMMED hits the runway this Thursday at 6pm in the Waihi College Hall — and we're excited to announce that tickets are now SOLD OUT! 🎉

A huge thank you to everyone who grabbed a ticket. Our students have been working incredibly hard, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic night of creativity, talent, and wearable art. Remember, we will have sausage rolls, brownies and caramel slice for sale - so grab a treat while you enjoy the show!

See you Thursday!



## MINE EDUCATION CENTRE: YEAR 7 TOITOI AND KOURA

Year 7 Toitoi and Koura classes are going to the Mine Education Centre this week.

- Toitoi is going on Tuesday 12.30-2.30.
- Koura is going on Thursday 9.10-11.10

Both classes still need parent help for a couple of hours. If parents are able to help, please email the classroom teacher to offer assistance. Inanga will be going during Week 10.

## DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SEE REVENGE OF THE AMAZONS



Tickets are selling fast, and with a huge cast and crew of Waihi College students bringing this hilarious comedy to life, you won't want to leave it until the last minute.

From the actors on stage to the students working behind the scenes on props, makeup, stage management, and front of house, this production showcases the incredible talent and dedication of our rangatahi.

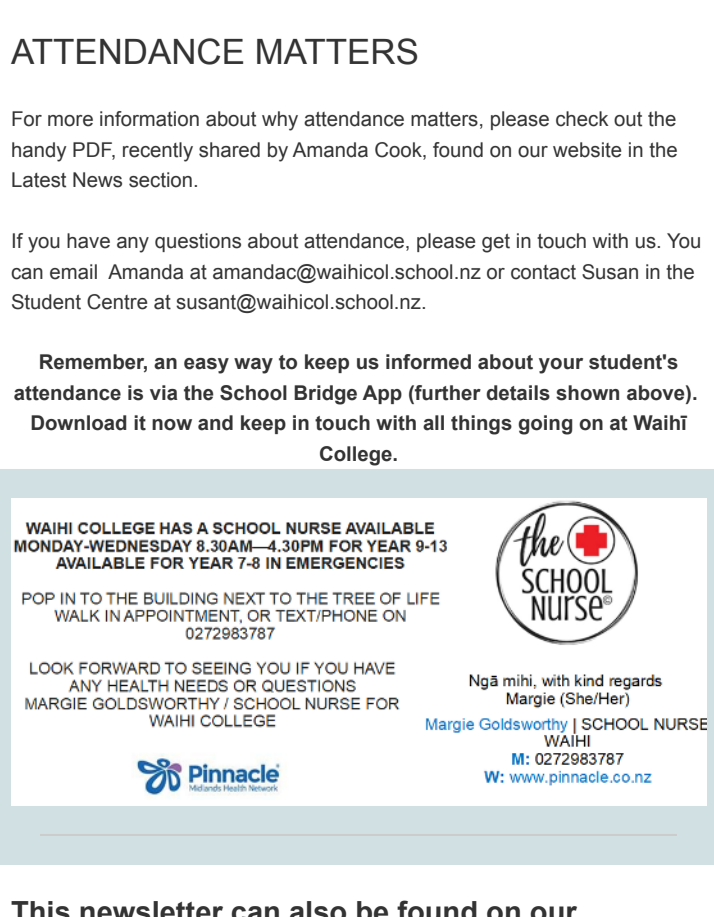
- 📅 24–26 June
- 📍 Waihi College Hall
- 🕒 7pm nightly

Come early and grab a bite to eat! We'll have delicious sausage rolls, brownies, and caramel slice available for purchase on the night. Gather your friends and whānau, secure your tickets now, and join us for an evening of laughter, entertainment, and local talent before it's too late! 🍌 Tickets available: <https://events.humanitix.com/revenge-of-the-amazons>

## The Purākau of Matariki - a journey through kai: 24th July

Celebrate Matariki Through Kai, Culture and Connection!  
Join us for Purākau of Matariki – A Journey Through Kai, a unique evening created by our talented Year 12 and 13 Hospitality students and Ms Siobhan Fitzgerald.

Enjoy a specially curated menu inspired by the stars of Matariki, alongside waiaata, storytelling, and reflection as we celebrate the Māori New Year. This memorable event showcases the creativity, skill, and heart of our rangatahi.



Scan the QR code or follow the link.  
**ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
Tickets available now at <https://events.humanitix.com/purakau-of-matariki-a-journey-through-kai/tickets> or by scanning the QR code above

## GET BEHIND THE 40 HOUR FAMINE: 19th - 21st JUNE

Waihi College is proud to be supporting the 40 Hour Famine again this year from 19th June till 21st June. If students would like to get behind this important cause, they can follow these few easy steps to sign up and join the Waihi College team.



**Step 1:** Go to 40HOUR.ORG.NZ or scan the QR code.  
**Step 2:** Click "I AM A PARTICIPANT"  
**Step 3:** Create your own personal page, set a goal and join the Waihi College team page.  
**Step 4:** Share with friends and whānau to get your first life-changing donation.

This year, our Head Students are working alongside our Year 8 Leaders to make this fundraiser better than ever — a great example of leadership and service across our kura.

## CHESS TOURNAMENT: 16TH JUNE @ Waihi College



Waihi College is hosting a Chess Tournament on 16th June in the school hall. Please chat to Mrs Sutton if you'd like to join in!

## SCHOOL WIDE

### MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Over the next few weeks, we're excited to introduce you to our amazing Board of Trustees by sharing a little about each of them and the passion they bring to our kura.

**Waihi College Board of Trustees**  
**MEET THE TEAM**

Stuart Hartley — Student Representative

Kia ora, my name is Stuart, and I am the Student Representative on the board of trustees. I am really enjoying branching out into the rest of the student body to develop a strong understanding of their needs.

I was born in Waihi and have gone through my entire secondary schooling here at Waihi College. I enjoy taking on new roles and this has been my favorite one yet.

I am looking forward to building bonds with my fellow students and growing into my leadership role further.

As you know, our Board of Trustees for 2026 consist of: our Presiding Member, Tineke Iverson, our Parent Representatives Victoria Menary, Gemma Barden, Cat Sole and Karyn Williams, our Staff Representative Tracy Te Wake, and our Student Representative, Stuart Hartley.

It will be great to get to know them all better and support their visions for our kura.

## CROCS ARE OUT...

From the last day of this term, we will no longer be allowing crocs as part of the school uniform. Please check out our uniform policy on our website or contact us if you have any questions



## CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS

University Information Hui for Parents/ Caregivers and Students  
If you are intending on attending any of these events, please see Mrs Graveson in the Gateway Office for the registration form.

- June 18 University of Waikato On Campus Evening Hamilton Campus, 6pm Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato, Hamilton Campus
- June 23 University of Canterbury Tauranga Information Evening, 6.00 - 8.15pm Mercury Bay/Park Stadium Tauranga
- June 24 University of Canterbury Hamilton Information Evening, 6.00 - 8.15pm FMG Stadium Hamilton
- July 1 University of Auckland Tauranga Information Evening. See Mrs Graveson for more information
- July 2 University of Auckland Hamilton Information Evening. See Mrs Graveson for more information

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### KINDLING AND COAL FOR SALE

Agri-Forestry Team have bags of kindling for \$10 and 10 kg bags of coal \$10 for sale. The coal is West Coast NZ coal and is surplus to requirement due to school boiler system being decommissioned. Can deliver Waihi/ Waihi Beach area. Please contact Carolyn Gravesom 02111052702

## PARENT CORNER

### UNDERSTAND TEEN BEHAVIOUR: What Science Tells us - Part 5: Lending your Calm

Have you ever found yourself being pulled into an argument with your teenager?

Nathan Wallis reminds us that when a teenager's frontal cortex (their thinking brain) goes offline, they need an adult whose cortex is still online. When emotions are running high, your teenager may struggle to think logically, solve problems, or consider consequences. This is not the time for a lecture or debate.

- Instead,
- **Regulate yourself first.** Make your first word a deep breath, followed by a long, slow exhale.
  - **Lend them your calm:** Lower your voice, slow your pace, and relax your posture.
  - **Validate the emotion:** "I can see you're really frustrated right now."

Remember to press pause if you feel yourself getting triggered, use a holding statement such as: "Let's come back to this when we're both calmer."

Every good interaction needs at least one cortex, so stay calm, stay connected, and become the thinking brain until your teen's cortex comes back online.

## Three tools to regulate yourself so you can lend your calm

**1 A CONVERSATIONAL BREATH**

Your first word be a deliberate, controlled breath. *Inhale quickly twice, and then exhale slowly for a longer duration through your nose* to ground yourself and keep your mind clear.

**2 A PHYSICAL CHECK-IN**

Do a quick scan of your physical and mental state to release tension, staying calm and focused.

**3 POSITIVE SELF-TALK**

Empower your mindset with an internal cue. Remind yourself that you have control over your response and your online cortex is what they need.

Inspired by the Communication Tools of Jefferson Fisher and the Teen Brain Science of Nathan Wallis. [jeffersonfisher.com](http://jeffersonfisher.com) and related works.

For more information: Read this article. <https://www.nz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonon/audio/2018792625/a-journey-into-the-teen-brain>

In Part 6, we will explore the value in creating moments of tolerable stress for our teenagers.

## 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.

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

Getting started is easy:

**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! Head to the Latest News section of our website for handy links.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**WAIHI COLLEGE**

### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: A GUIDE FOR WHĀNUA

**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

**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.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For more information about why attendance matters, please check out the handy PDF, recently shared by Amanda Cook, found on our website in the Latest News section.

If you have any questions about attendance, please get in touch with us. You can email Amanda at [amandac@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:amandac@waihicol.school.nz) or contact Susan in the Student Centre at [susant@waihicol.school.nz](mailto:susant@waihicol.school.nz).

**Remember, an easy way to keep us informed about your student's attendance is via the School Bridge App (further details shown above). Download it now and keep in touch with all things going on at Waihi College.**

**WAIHI COLLEGE HAS A SCHOOL NURSE AVAILABLE**  
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 8.30AM – 4.30PM FOR YEAR 9-13  
AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 7-8 IN EMERGENCES

POP IN TO THE BUILDING NEXT TO THE TREE OF LIFE  
LOOK IN APPOINTMENT, OR TEXT/PHONE ON 0272953787

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY  
ANY HEALTH NEEDS OR QUESTIONS

MARGIE GOLDSWORTHY | SCHOOL NURSE FOR  
WAIHI COLLEGE

**the SCHOOL NURSE**

Ngā mihi, with kind regards  
Margie (She/Her)

0272953787  
WAIHI COLLEGE  
W: [www.pinnacle.co.nz](http://www.pinnacle.co.nz)

## This newsletter can also be found on our