

WAIHI COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 21 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,

At a recent school assembly, I spoke with our students about a simple but powerful idea: leadership starts with you.

Leadership is not only about having a title, wearing a badge, being a prefect, captain, coach, or principal. Leadership is shown in the everyday choices we make — how we treat others, how we respond when things are difficult, how we support our friends and whānau, and how we choose kindness even when no one is watching.

We reflected on the idea of the Kindness Boomerang — that one small act of kindness can create a ripple that travels much further than we may ever see. A smile, a helping hand, including someone, encouraging a friend, or standing up for what is right can all make a real difference. I encouraged our young people to think about the values they want to be known for, the people they surround themselves with, and the kind of person they are becoming. Whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, courage, integrity and service help guide us when the path ahead is not always easy.

Leadership is also about knowing your purpose, building your village, looking after yourself, and having the courage to do hard things. One of the messages I shared with students was a phrase that I shared with me for many years: "You can do hard things." Not because hard things are easy, but because challenges often teach us the most about who we are becoming. Our young people continue to give us so many reasons to be proud. Every day we see creativity, courage, kindness, humour, determination and potential. Often the most important acts of leadership are the quiet ones — the student who helps someone without being asked, includes someone who is on their own, encourages a friend, or admits when they have made a mistake and works to put it right. These moments matter. They shape the culture of our kura.

A Warm Farewell to Our Friends from Japan

It has also been a real pleasure to welcome our new friends who have travelled all the way from **Siebu, Japan**. Thank you to everyone in our school community who helped make their time with us so welcoming and memorable. We hope our visitors leave with many positive memories of our kura, our community and Aotearoa. We wish them a very fond farewell and safe travels home, and we look forward to reconnecting later in the year and continuing to strengthen this special relationship.

Teacher Only Day — 28 August

A reminder to whānau that we have a **Teacher Only Day on Friday, 28 August**. There will be no classes for students on this day. Please ensure you have made the necessary arrangements for your child. This day provides important professional learning and planning time for our staff as we continue to strengthen teaching and learning across the school.

Property Developments

There are also some exciting discussions taking place around the future development of our school property. We are currently exploring upgrades to classrooms and a number of possible modifications, with planning and discussions already in progress. There is still work to be done before we can share the full details, but there are some positive developments ahead.

Watch this space.

We look forward to keeping our community updated as these plans progress.

ERO Visit — Week 6

In Week 6, we will also be welcoming the Education Review Office (ERO) to our kura. We are looking forward to the opportunity to share the many success stories that make our school special — our learning, our community, our relationships, and most importantly, our amazing young people.

An ERO visit provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing well, the progress we are making, and the areas where we can continue to grow.

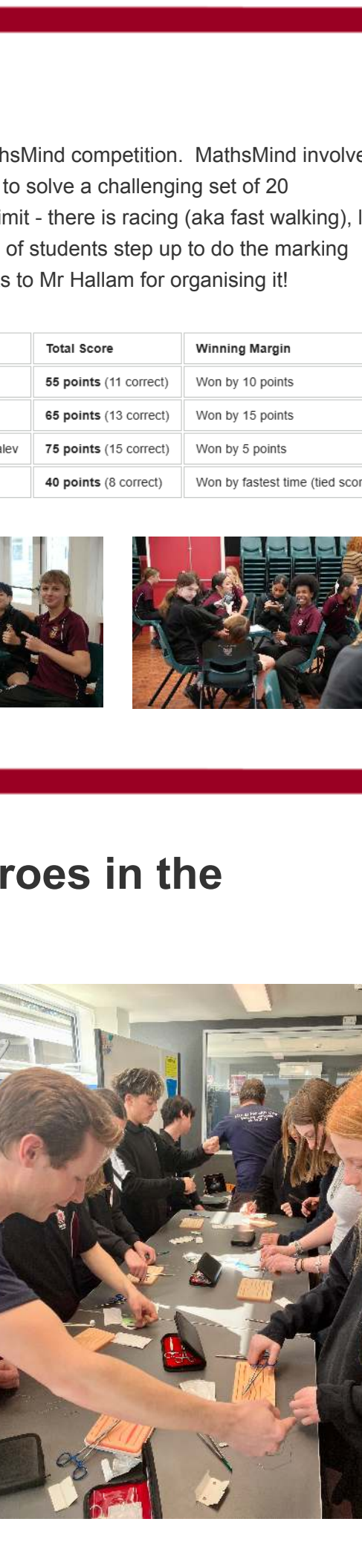
We are proud of the work happening across our kura and look forward to sharing that story. As we move through the term, I encourage everyone — students, staff and whānau — to remember that we all have a role to play in creating the kind of school and community we want to be part of.

Leadership begins with the small choices we make each day.
Be kind. Make a difference. Support others. Start the ripple.

Kia kaha. Kia māia. Kia manawanui.

Ngā mihi nui,

Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College



WAIHI COLLEGE TEACHER ONLY DAY: 28TH AUGUST

STAFF WILL BE FOCUSING ON PLANNING FOR JUNIOR CURRICULUM CHANGES



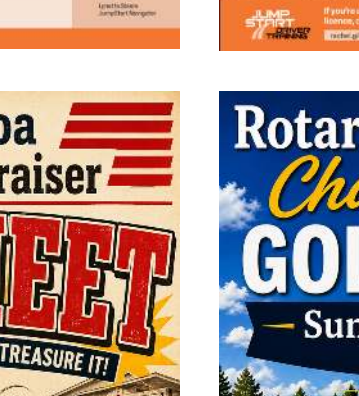
DID YOU KNOW?

The outdoors is one of our classrooms. Waihi College students have opportunities to explore New Zealand's natural environment through outdoor education, building confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership while developing practical life skills.

MATHSMIND

We'll come to all our students for last week's MathsMind competition. MathsMind involves teams of 3 or 4 students working collaboratively to solve a challenging set of 20 mathematics problems within a 45 minute time limit — there is racing (aka fast walking), lots of thinking and a ton of fun. We also had a heap of students step up to do the marking which helped make for a really fun event. Thanks to Mr Hallam for organising it!

Year Level	Winning Team	Total Score	Winning Margin
Year 8	Raewyn Hiley, Hannah Sanderson, Ella Pratt	68 points (11 correct)	Won by 13 points
Year 8	Marian Vandi, Janissa Danchuk, MacKenzie Bell	68 points (11 correct)	Won by 13 points
Year 8	Jack Hayes, Ami Randell, Elgi de Ocampo, Konstantin Opatov	78 points (15 correct)	Won by 9 points
Year 10	Bradley Crowe, Jacob Jackson, Tere Clay, Luke Maheti	40 points (8 correct)	Won by fastest time (best score)



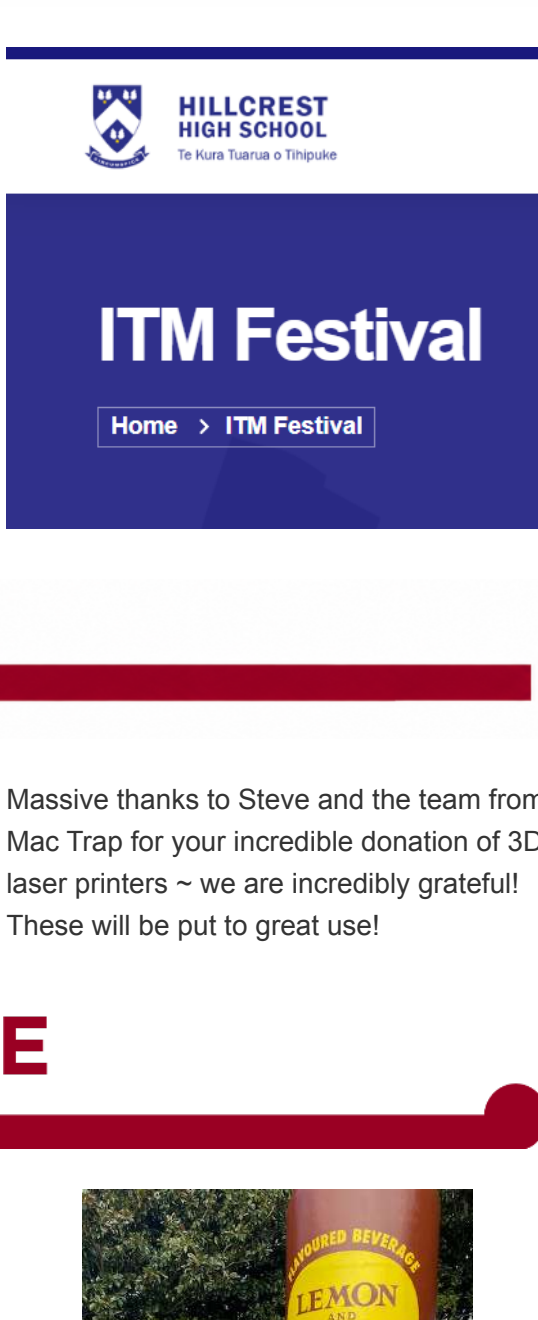
Future healthcare heroes in the making!

22 Waihi College students got an incredible hands-on taste of medicine today with the University of Auckland's Rural Medical Immersion Programme (RMIP)!

Our students got right into the clinical action—practicing suturing, testing stethoscopes and reaction tools, and using real ultrasound tech to look at hearts, kidneys, arteries, and veins!

It was extra special to highlight college alumni Kate Dunstall (Class of '23) to help inspire our next generation of rural doctors!

A huge thank you to the UoA RMIP team for bringing this STEM opportunity to our school!



COMING UP

WAIHI COLLEGE

PERFORMING ARTS
TASTER DAY!

Interested in acting, theatre or performing?
Join us for a **Performing Arts Taster Day** from
10:00 am–2:00 pm here at Waihi College
for just a gold coin donation!

Work alongside theatre students to
develop your performance skills through:

Theatre games

Script work and scene creation

Movement and choreography

Voice, body language and stage presence

Q&A about the Bachelor of Music and Performing Arts

This is a great opportunity to experience what
studying Performing Arts is like after school.

Interested? Put your name down
with Mrs O as soon as possible!

Fry Bread anyone??

You can PRE-ORDER YOUR FRY BREAD!
Support our Waihi College Senior Girls Development Netball Team as we fundraise for our Kurangaituku Netball Tournament in Rotorua (11–13 September)! Tuesday 18 August First Break Pre-order your fry bread packs now: Pack 1 – 3 for \$5 Pack 2 – 5 for \$8 Pack 3 – 10 for \$15 We'll also have: Sausage Sizzle \$3 Cold Drinks \$2.50 Home Baking From \$2Combo - Drink & Sausage Sizzle \$5

Every purchase helps our team get one step closer to representing Waihi College at the Kurangaituku Tournament in Rotorua.

<https://forms.gle/DmmZt4X9uJ82k826>

Thank you for your support—we appreciate every order! Please make your payment to: WAIHI COLLEGE BOARD 12-3171-0263271-00 PLEASE REFERENCE: SNR DEV NETBALL / FBREAD

WAIHI COLLEGE

Senior Girls Development

WAIHI FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST

1ST BREAK

6:00-6:30pm

6:30-7:00pm

7:00-7:30pm

7:30-8:00pm

8:00-8:30pm

8:30-9:00pm

9:00-9:30pm

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FRY BREAD PACKS

10-15-20-25-30-35-40-45-50-55-60-65-70-75-80-85-90-95-100-105-110-115-120-125-130-135-140-145-150-155-160-165-170-175-180-185-190-195-200-205-210-215-220-225-230-235-240-245-250-255-260-265-270-275-280-285-290-295-300-305-310-315-320-325-330-335-340-345-350-355-360-365-370-375-380-385-390-395-400-405-410-415-420-425-430-435-440-445-450-455-460-465-470-475-480-485-490-495-500-505-510-515-520-525-530-535-540-545-550-555-560-565-570-575-580-585-590-595-600-605-610-615-620-625-630-635-640-645-650-655-660-665-670-675-680-685-690-695-700-705-710-715-720-725-730-735-740-745-750-755-760-765-770-775-780-785-790-795-800-805-810-815-820-825-830-835-840-845-850-855-860-865-870-875-880-885-890-895-900-905-910-915-920-925-930-935-940-945-950-955-960-965-970-975-980-985-990-995-1000-1005-1010-1015-1020-1025-1030-1035-1040-1045-1050-1055-1060-1065-1070-1075-1080-1085-1090-1095-1100-1105-1110-1115-1120-1125-1130-1135-1140-1145-1150-1155-1160-1165-1170-1175-1180-1185-1190-1195-1200-1205-1210-1215-1220-1225-1230-1235-1240-1245-1250-1255-1260-1265-1270-1275-1280-1285-1290-1295-1300-1305-1310-1315-1320-1325-1330-1335-1340-1345-1350-1355-1360-1365-1370-1375-1380-1385-1390-1395-1400-1405-1410-1415-1420-1425-1430-1435-1440-1445-1450-1455-1460-1465-1470-1475-1480-1485-1490-1495-1500-1505-1510-1515-1520-1525-1530-1535-1540-1545-1550-1555-1560-1565-1570-1575-1580-1585-1590-1595-1600-1605-1610-1615-1620-1625-1630-1635-1640-1645-1650-1655-1660-1665-1670-1675-1680-1685-1690-1695-1700-1705-1710-1715-1720-1725-1730-1735-1740-1745-1750-1755-1760-1765-1770-1775-1780-1785-1790-1795-1800-1805-1810-1815-1820-1825-1830-1835-1840-1845-1850-1855-1860-1865-1870-1875-1880-1885-1890-1895-1900-1905-1910-1915-1920-1925-1930-1935-1940-1945-1950-1955-1960-1965-1970-1975-1980-1985-1990-1995-2000-2005-2010-2015-2020-2025-2030-2035-2040-2045-2050-2055-2060-2065-2070-2075-2080-2085-2090-2095-2100-2105-2110-2115-2120-2125-2130-2135-2140-2145-2150-2155-2160-2165-2170-2175-2180-2185-2190-2195-2200-2205-2210-2215-2220-2225-2230-2235-2240-2245-2250-2255-2260-2265-2270-2275-2280-2285-2290-2295-2300-2305-2310-2315-2320-2325-2330-2335-2340-2345-2350-2355-2360-2365-2370-2375-2380-2385-2390-2395-2400-2405-2410-2415-2420-2425-2430-2435-2440-2445-2450-2455-2460-2465-2470-2475-2480-2485-2490-2495-2500-2505-2510-2515-2520-2525-2530-2535-2540-2545-2550-2555-2560-2565-2570-2575-2580-2585-2590-2595-2600-2605-2610-2615-2620-2625-2630-2635-2640-2645-2650-2655-2660-2665-2670-2675-2680-2685-2690-2695-2700-2705-2710-2715-2720-2725-2730-2735-2740-2745-2750-2755-2760-2765-2770-2775-2780-2785-2790-2795-2800-2805-2810-2815-2820-2825-2830-2835-2840-2845-2850-2855-2860-2865-2870-2875-2880-2885-2890-2895-2900-2905-2910-2915-2920-2925-2930-2935-2940-2945-2950-2955-2960-2965-2970-2975-2980-2985-2990-2995-3000-3005-3010-3015-3020-3025-3030-3035-3040-3045-3050-3055-3060-3065-3070-3075-3080-3085-3090-3095-3100-3105-3110-3115-3120-3125-3130-3135-3140-3145-3150-3155-3160-3165-3170-3175-3180-3185-3190-3195-3200-3205-3210-3215-3220-3225-3230-3235-3240-3245-3250-3255-3260-3265-3270-3275-3280-3285-3290-3295-3300-3305-3310-3315-3320-3325-3330-3335-3340-3345-3350-3355-3360-3365-3370-3375-3380-3385-3390-3395-3400-3405-3410-3415-3420-3425-3430-3435-3440-3445-3450-3455-3460-3465-3470-3475-3480-3485-3490-3495-3500-3505-3510-3515-3520-3525-3530-3535-3540-3545-3550-3555-3560-3565-3570-3575-3580-3585-3590-3595-3600-3605-3610-3615-3620-3625-3630-3635-3640-3645-3650-3655-3660-3665-3670-3675-3680-3685-3690-3695-3700-3705-3710-3715-3720-3725-3730-3735-3740-3745-3750-3755-3760-3765-3770-3775-3780-3785-3790-3795-3800-3805-3810-3815-3820-3825-3830-3835-3840-3845-3850-3855-3860-3865-3870-3875-3880-3885-3890-3895-3900-3905-3910-3915-3920-3925-3930-3935-3940-3945-3950-3955-3960-3965-3970-3975-3980-3985-3990-3995-4000-4005-4010-4015-4020-4025-4030-4035-4040-4045-4050-4055-4060-4065-4070-4075-4080-4085-4090-4095-4100-4105-4110-4115-4120-4125-4130-4135-4140-4145-4150-4155-4160-4165-4170-4175-4180-4185-4190-4195-4200-4205-4210-4215-4220-4225-4230-4235-4240-4245-4250-4255-4260-4265-4270-4275-4280-4285-4290-4295-4300-4305-4310-4315-4320-4325-4330-4335-4340-4345-4350-4355-4360-4365-4370-4375-4380-4385-4390-4395-4400-4405-4410-4415-4420-4425-4430-4435-4440-4445-4450-4455-4460-4465-4470-4475-4480-4485-4490-4495-4500-4505-4510-4515-4520-4525-4530-4535-4540-4545-4550-4555-4560-4565-4570-4575-4580-4585-4590-4595-4600-4605-4610-4615-4620-4625-4630-4635-4640-4645-4650-4655-4660-4665-4670-4675-4680-4685-4690-4695-4700-4705-4710-4715-4720-4725-4730-4735-4740-4745-4750-4755-4760-4765-4770-4775-4780-4785-4790-4795-4800-4805-4810-4815-4820-4825-4830-4835-4840-4845-4850-4855-4860-4865-4870-4875-4880-4885-4890-4895-4900-4905-4910-4915-4920-4925-4930-4935-4940-4945-4950-4955-4960-4965-4970-4975-4980-4985-4990-4995-5000-5005-5010-5015-5020-5025-5030-5035-5040-5045-5050-5055-5060-5065-5070-5075-5080-5085-5090-5095-5100-5105-5110-5115-5120-5125-5130-5135-5140-5145-5150-5155-5160-5165-5170-5175-5180-5185-5190-5195-5200-5205-5210-5215-5220-5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