WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It has been another busy and positive few weeks at school, and there is plenty to celebrate as we mid term, and heading towards the end of the term.

Firstly, congratulations and thank you to the vast majority of our students who are arriving each day wearing the correct school uniform and wearing it with pride. These everyday things matter. Our uniform helps create a sense of belonging and shows that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. A gentle reminder that if getting the correct uniform is proving difficult for any reason, please reach out. We have uniform items available at school and are very happy to support our whānau where needed.

A huge thank you also goes to our House Leaders, who are busy helping plan some epic Spirit Days for the end of the term. We encourage everyone to get behind these days, participate fully and enjoy the opportunity to come together. As we do so, there is a deeper message worth holding onto: we remember those who have gone before us and helped carve the path we walk today, while celebrating the vitality, opportunities and life we are privileged to have now. Our Spirit Days are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate that connection — past, present and future — while having plenty of fun along the way.

ERO Visiting Next Week

Next week we welcome four members of the Education Review Office (ERO), who will be with us for the first part of the week.

We are looking forward to sharing our school with them — our people, our community, our strengths and, importantly, our story. A school is so much more than what can be captured in data or written on a page, and we are proud of the learning, relationships and sense of community that make our kura what it is. We look forward to sharing with our wider community how the visit goes.

Celebrating Our Students

Congratulations to all of our netball teams, many who are preparing for some big matches coming up fast. It has been a fantastic netball season across the board, with many successes and, as every good season brings, a few valuable learnings along the way. Most importantly, our students have continued to showcase resilience, teamwork and sportsmanship, whether the scoreboard has gone their way or not. We are incredibly proud of the way you represent our school. All the very best for the matches ahead!

And finally, all the best to our rock band, who will be taking the stage next week at the Waikato competitions. Getting up on stage and performing takes talent, preparation and courage, and we are proud to have you representing our school. We can't wait to *hear* how you get on!

As always, my door is open. If there is something you would like to discuss, an idea you would like to share, or something I can help with, please come in for a chat or reach out to me via email. Strong schools are built on strong relationships, and I value the conversations and connections we have with our students, whānau and wider community.

Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

TEACHER ONLY DAY:
28TH AUGUST

STAFF WILL BE FOCUSING ON PLANNING FOR JUNIOR CURRICULUM CHANGES

DID YOU KNOW?

In the latest Ministry of Education school-leaver data, **86.7% of Waihī College students left school with at least NCEA Level 1 – above both the New Zealand and Waikato averages.**

Our students go on to a wide range of pathways, including **university and tertiary study, apprenticeships, industry training and employment**.

We're proud to see our rangatahi leaving Waihī College ready to take their next step – whatever their pathway.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

LET US KNOW OF ANY STUDENTS WHO NEED TO BE CELEBRATED!

EMAIL: WENDYS@WAIHICOL.SCHOOL.NZ

Do you have an ākonga in your whānau who deserves to be recognised for their service? We'd love to hear about students who voluntarily give their time to support our school or wider community. This could be in all sorts of ways – reffing or coaching sport, helping at events, volunteering for a community organisation, supporting others, or simply regularly lending a hand where it's needed.

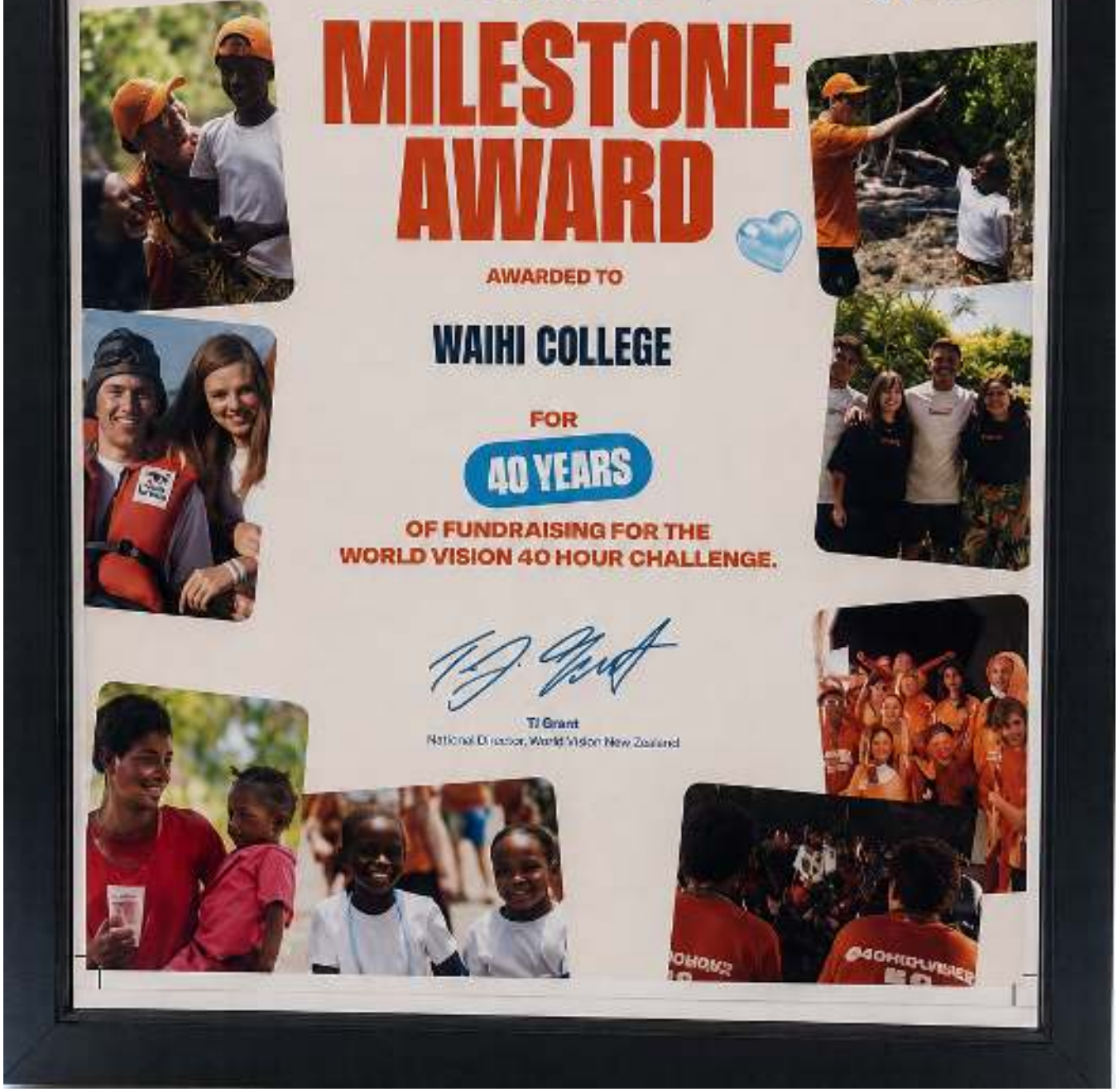
We want to make sure these awesome young people are recognised at our Service and Endeavour Prizegivings at the end of the year. If you know someone who deserves recognition, please get in touch and let us know what they've been doing.

Email at: wendys@waihicol.school.nz

40 YEARS WITH THE 40 HOUR FAMINE

Last week we were delighted to welcome Lily from the 40 Hour Famine team to Waihi College. Lily visited to congratulate our students and community on another fantastic year of fundraising, and to recognise an incredible milestone – Waihi College has now been supporting the 40 Hour Famine for 40 years!

We are so proud of everyone who has taken part over the years, giving up their time and working hard to raise funds for young people around the world. Your generosity and commitment continue to make a real difference. Well done, Waihi College – what an amazing achievement, and here's to continuing this wonderful tradition for many years to come!



COMING UP

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

DAFFODIL DAY

PERFORMING ARTS TASTER DAY

Once we know how many kids may like to join, we can book in a date.

More details to follow!

WAIHĪ 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.**

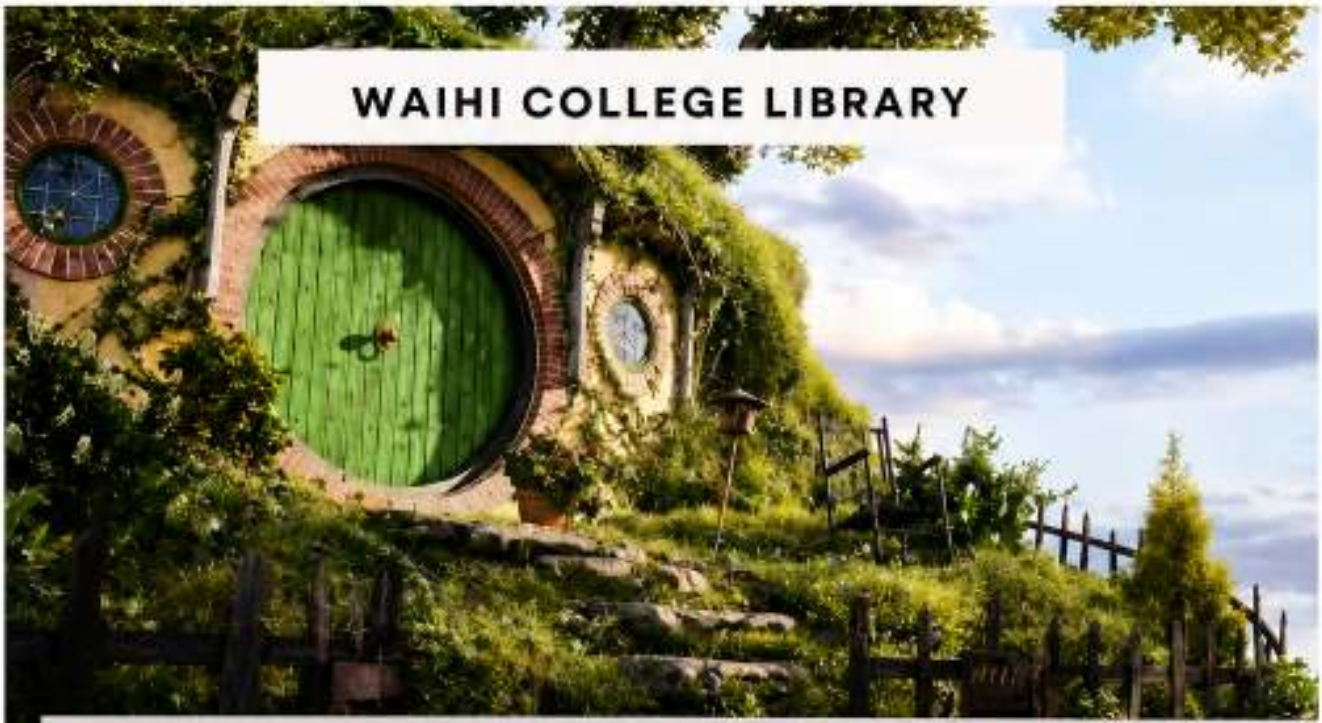
Interested? Put your name down with Mrs O as soon as possible!

SCHOOL WIDE

Library Competition – Just Listed!

Think you've got what it takes to crack the case? A famous house from a well-known book has just been "listed" for sale... but can you work out which one it is? Visit the library, study the clues, and submit your guess to earn house points.

The competition is open to all students and staff, so everyone can join the fun. Get involved and see if you can solve the mystery before the listing closes!



WAIHI COLLEGE LIBRARY

Just Listed

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Doc entry

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

First time on the market in 130 years!

Charming grass roofed rammed earth house

- Round doors
- Round windows
- Welcoming kitchen with large pantry
- Earth construction means thermally stable
- Romantic country garden with mature trees
- Attractive road frontage

2 BEDROOMS

1 BATHROOM

1 KITCHEN

PHOTO COMP

We had some amazing entries in our recent Environment Photo Competition, judged by Ms Kingston, with lots of votes coming in!

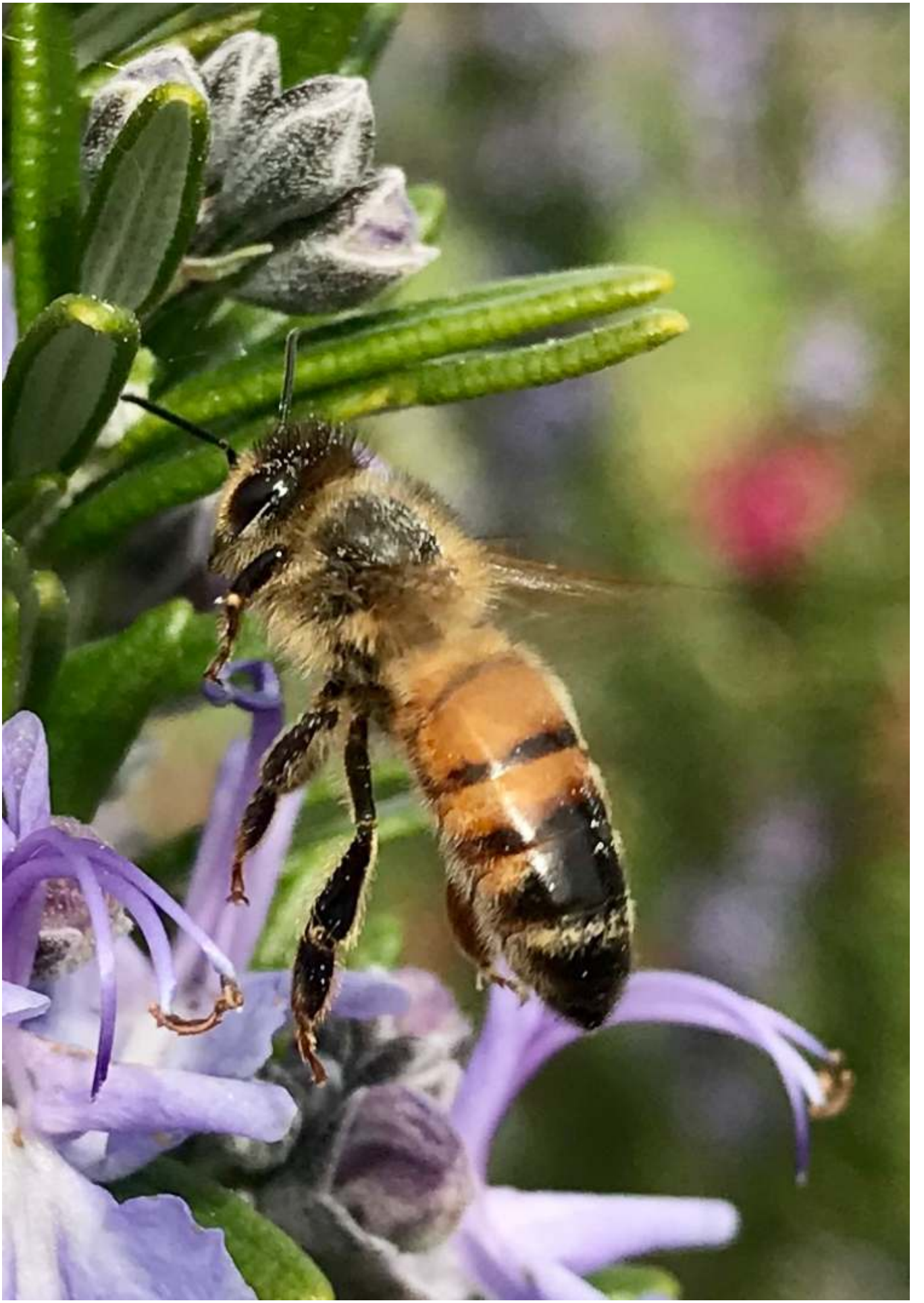
All of the photos were absolutely beautiful and did a wonderful job of capturing our sensational local environment.

Winner: Stella Shave

After hours of climbing, the summit reminded me that some of life's greatest rewards can only be earned one step at a time.

3rd Equal: Cade Tucker

The path led me to where I needed to be. At last, I am finally home.



3rd Equal: Ms Clare

The weight of tomorrow on a heartbeat of wings, sustaining the fragile connection of all living things.

2nd Place: Logan Prouting

A brisk morning walk, fog enveloping all around, cold and grey. But up ahead, light, radiant sunshine dispersed into glowing rays by the trees ahead, inviting you onward.

Thanks to everyone who entered and voted:
A huge congratulations to our winners!

Spirit Days 2026 – Let the Shenanigans Begin!

Get ready, Waihī College – Spirit Days 2026 are coming, and this year the word is SHENANIGANS! Expect all the usual amazing activities, crazy dress-ups, challenges, competitions and plenty of opportunities to get involved, have a laugh and show your school spirit. There’s lots more to be revealed, so keep an eye on our socials and an ear on the notices – you won’t want to miss what’s coming!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE

WANT TO BE A STUDENT REP?

Call for Nominations:
Tuesday, 18 August 2026

Nominations Close (12:00 pm):
Monday, 24 August 2026

Election Day: Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Do you want to make a difference in your school?

Then why not stand for election as the Student Representative on your School Board?

As a board member you'll bear new skills, be able to have your say on student issues and make a positive contribution to your school and community.

For more information, go to www.waihiocollege.co.nz

KEI KONEI TĀTOU E TŪ ANA
HERE WE STAND

WAIHĪ
COLLEGE

Help Shape the Future of Waihi College

Ākonga Success & Future Pathways Hui

WHĀNAU OF WAIHI COLLEGE STUDENTS

Date: Wednesday 26th August

Time: 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: The Hub

We want to create a document similar to a graduate or learner profile, describing the values, skills and qualities we want Waihi College students to leave school with. This hui gives whānau the opportunity to help shape what is included and ensure it reflects our community.

We are seeking just 20 people. To register, email kater@waihicol.school.nz

To thank you for your time,
you will receive a $20 fuel voucher.

Session will be recorded. Feedback will be anonymised.

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

Wāhine in Trades and Engineering event

Join the Centre for Trades and Hospitality and the Centre for Engineering and Industrial Design whānau for an inspiring session celebrating wāhine who are making their mark across a range of trades and engineering careers. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to hear real stories, ask questions, and explore future career pathways.

Event details:

Date: Wednesday, 26 August 2026

Please see Mrs G at Gateway office or email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz

Scholarship Applications

Make sure you know when applications close for scholarships you intend to apply for. Get your applications in early to avoid panic later!

School Leaver Scholarship application closing dates are as below:

FOR ALL SUBJECT SPECIFIC, COMMUNITY OR INDUSTRY BASED SCHOLARSHIPS, KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON INDIVIDUAL CLOSING DATES AND GET APPLICATIONS IN EARLY.

- University of Waikato - Monday 31st August
- Massey University - Tuesday 1st September
- Auckland University of Technology - Tuesday 1st September
- Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University - Tuesday 1 September

For all subject specific, community or industry based scholarships, keep a close eye on individual closing dates and get applications in early.

Interested in a Career in Aviation Engineering?

The **New Zealand Certificate in Aeronautical Engineering (Pre-Employment Skills) (Level 3)**, offered through the Air New Zealand Academy of

Learning, is a fantastic hands-on pathway for students interested in a career in aviation engineering.
This practical programme is designed to build foundational knowledge, develop practical engineering skills, and prepare students for further training and career opportunities within New Zealand's aviation industry. It's ideal for students who enjoy problem-solving, working with their hands, and learning in a practical environment.
If you'd like to find out more, please see **Mrs G** in the Gateway Office or email **carolyng@waihicol.school.nz**.

LEAVING SCHOOL MAGAZINE LINK

To check out the current issue of the Leaving School Magazine, please head to this link:
https://oliverlee.co.nz/leavingschool-issue36/

Auckland University of Technology

(AUT) **Scholarships:**

- Applications for the AUT Knowledge That Works Scholarships are currently open and close on 1 September 2026.

- International Scholarship applications are expected to open later this month. Further information will be shared once confirmed.

Accommodation:

- Application dates are still being finalised. In previous years, applications have typically opened in early August and closed in late September. We'll let you know as soon as the confirmed dates are available.

Events:

- AUT LIVE is happening on **29 August**. More details will be shared soon, but you can join the journey now, register through the AUT LIVE link to stay updated on everything AUT LIVE related like the app, the schedule, and how to plan your day: https://www.aut.ac.nz/live. We would love you to share this with your students and their whanau so they can make the most of this opportunity.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DOORS OPEN
6.30PM

QUIZ STARTS
7.00PM

FISHING CLUB

THE NIGHT

COURTESY
VAN AVAILABLE

Come support
our tamariki!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

0275 786 766 | julie-ann@athenreemontessori.co.nz

Funds go towards...

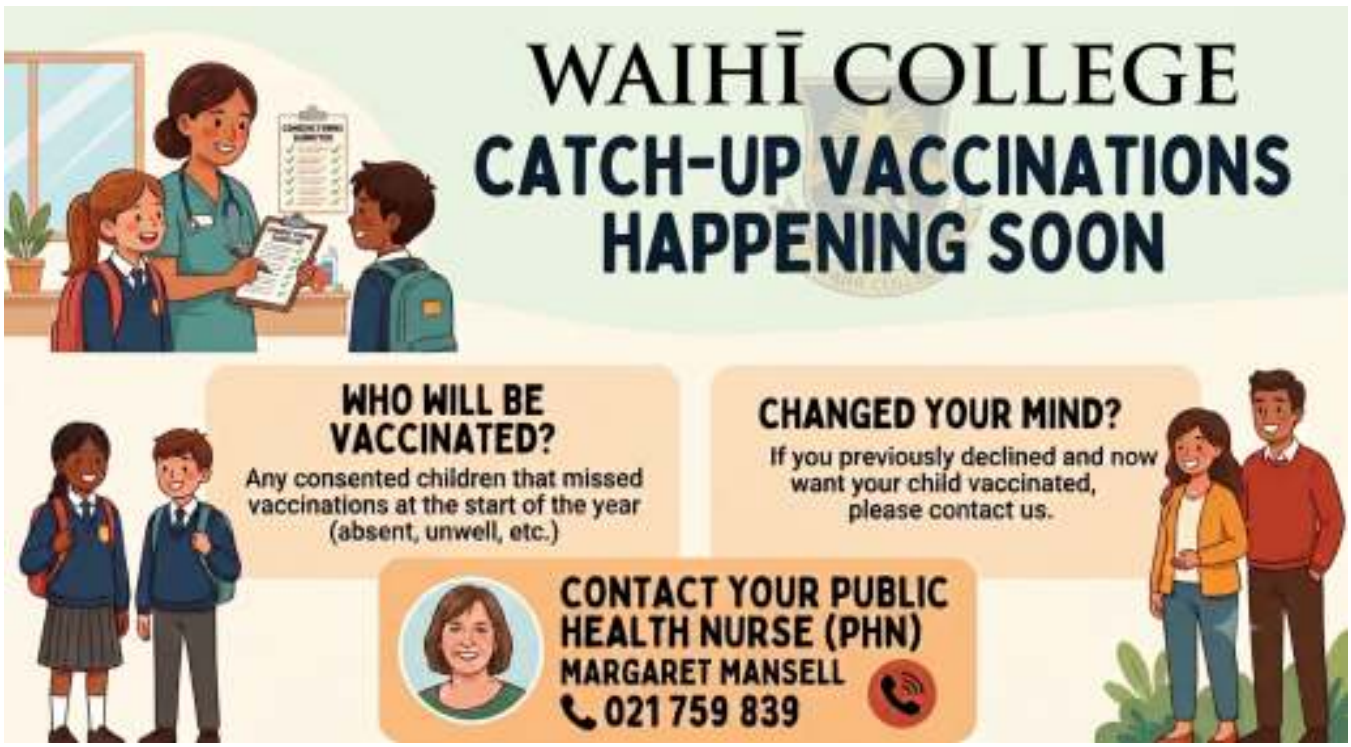
NEW OUTDOOR
AREA & EQUIPMENT

Great night out • Great cause • Great memories

ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS RESOURCES & EXPERIENCES
FOR OUR TAMARIKI AT ATHENREE MONTESSORI

WAIHI INTERSCHOOL AGRICULTURAL DAY

— 22/10/2026 —



PARENT CORNER

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

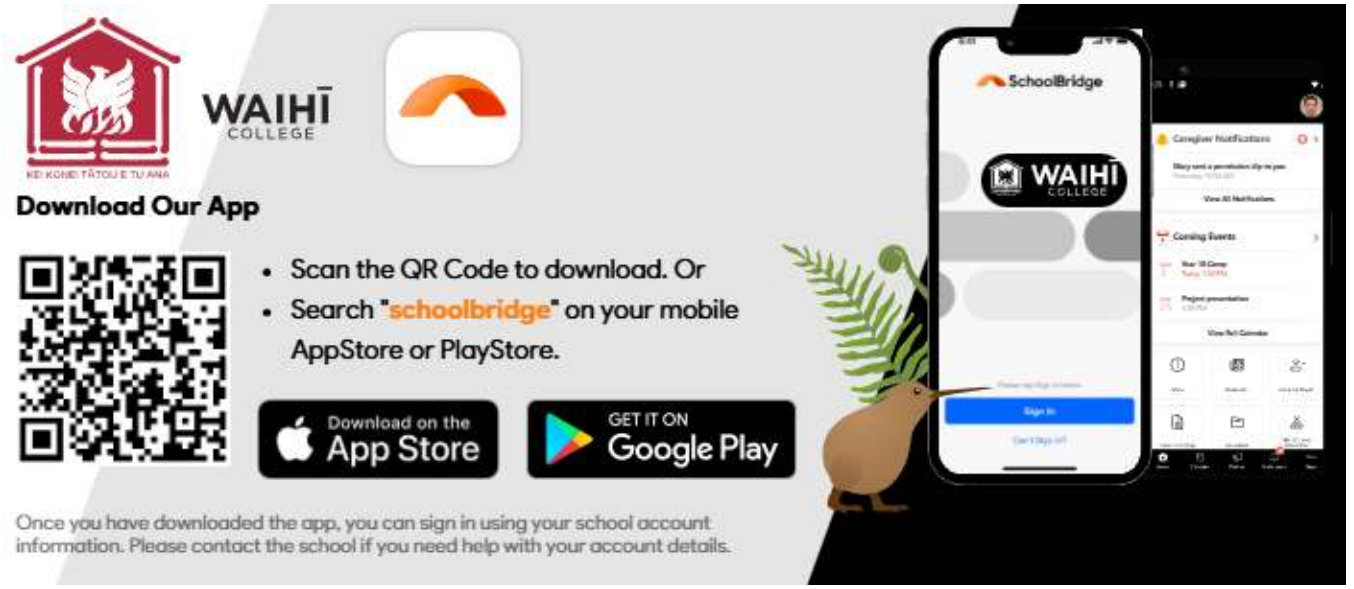
We’re encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

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

Getting started is easy:

STEP1: 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.



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.

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 or contact Susan in the Student Centre at 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 Waihī College.

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

Pinnacle
Midlands Health Network

the SCHOOL Nurse

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

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

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