WAIHĪ COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 27 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora e te whānau,

Join Us for Tonight's Spring Concert!

Our annual Spring Concert is happening tonight, with doors opening at 6.00pm. You can be assured of great music, a fabulous atmosphere and incredible students bravely giving up their hair for an important cause—raising funds for cancer support.

My enormous thanks to Mr Randall and Wendy Shave, along with our student leaders, led by Reese Neame, for bringing together what will surely be an epic evening. We would love to see you there!

Celebrating Our Volunteers

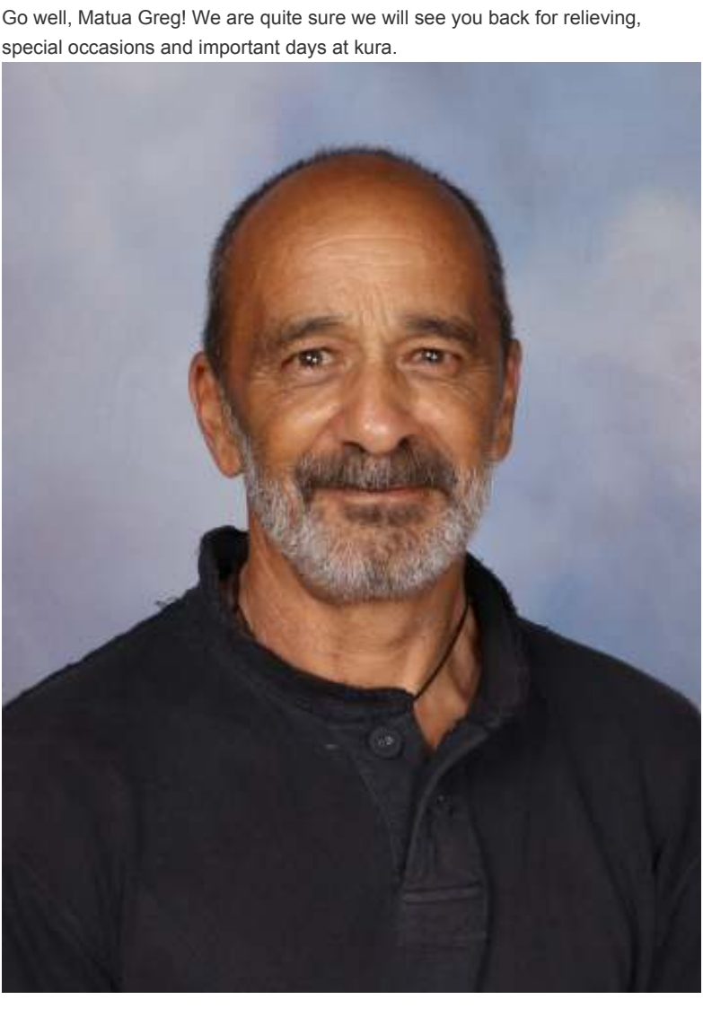
A heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help make amazing things happen for our rangatahi. Although I was sadly unable to attend this year, I hear it was fabulous to recognise many of you at last week's volunteer dinner. We know there are many more generous people who were unable to join us, so we extend our sincere appreciation to every volunteer. Thank you for the time, patience, energy and care you so generously give to Waihi College. Your contribution makes a genuine difference.

Student Representation on Our Board

Congratulations to Anakah on her recent election to the Waihi College Board as our student representative. We look forward to working alongside you and hearing the voice and perspectives you will bring to the Board table.
We also send a huge thank you to Stuart Hartley, who has served on our Board during the past year. We have deeply appreciated his articulate, enthusiastic and caring representation of our student body. Stuart, we wish you every success for the next stage of your journey.

Thank You, Matua Greg

We acknowledge and thank our incredible Matua Greg, our much-loved art teacher, who has spent more than three decades serving our community.
Many of you will have been taught by Matua Greg and may now have your own young person learning under his care. We have been extraordinarily fortunate to benefit from his knowledge, creativity, skill and aroha over so many years. These gifts have been woven into the very foundation of who we are as a kura.
Go well, Matua Greg! We are quite sure we will see you back for relieving, special occasions and important days at kura.



Supporting Pathways for 2027

Our senior students are currently in the midst of subject selection for 2027. Thank you to the team facilitating this important process.
Each young person is given dedicated time to explore their individual goals, dreams and future aspirations. From there, pathways are carefully planned to help turn those ambitions into reality. This is a significant and time-consuming undertaking, but one we are proud to provide. It ensures our rangatahi are genuinely heard, supported and guided as they make important decisions about their futures.
We look forward to seeing many of you at tonight's concert as we come together once again as the heartbeat of our community.
Ngā mihi nui,

Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

DID YOU KNOW?

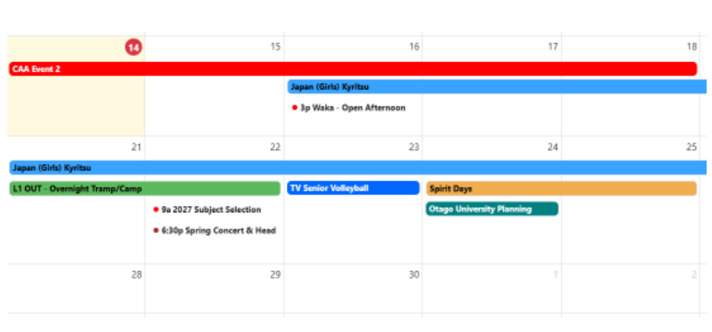
Waihī College has a proud history of helping put meals on the tables of local whānau.
Through **Kura Kai** and initiatives prior, our students and staff have prepared meals that can be quietly passed on to members of our school and wider community when a little extra support is needed.

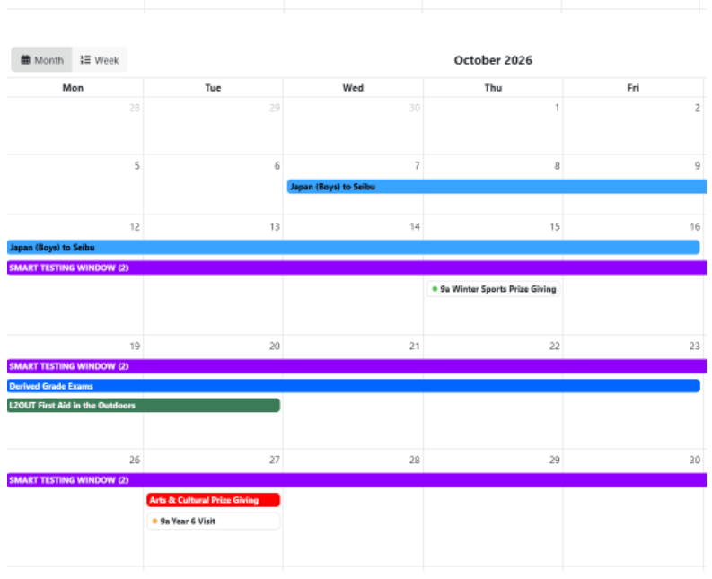
Over the years, our kura has helped provide **hundreds of meals**, with students getting involved in the cooking, preparation and packaging — learning that food is about much more than what's on the plate. It's about **manaakitanga** — caring for others, showing kindness and strengthening the community around us.

We're incredibly proud that something as simple as cooking a meal can give our rangatahi a very real way to make a difference

COMING UP

Here's a snapshot of our upcoming month from the SchoolBridge calendar.





With so many sports fixtures, trips, events, assessments and activities happening throughout the term, our calendar is updated regularly. This snapshot is a great guide, but SchoolBridge is always the most up-to-date place to check what's happening at Waihī College. We encourage all whānau to check the SchoolBridge calendar regularly and download the SchoolBridge app to stay informed wherever you are. You can download the SchoolBridge app easily. Check out the instructions in the Parent Corner section of this newsletter, or head to the Keeping Informed section on our website.

PRIZEGIVINGS

Our end-of-year prizegivings are always an exciting time at Waihī College! With our students shining in so many different ways, we hold a number of prizegivings to make sure their achievements, talents, service and hard work are recognised and celebrated. Here are the dates confirmed so far:

- Sports (Teams & School Champs) Prizegiving: 15th October
- Cultural Prizegiving & Art Exhibition: 27th October
- Sports (Top Awards) Prizegiving: 29th October
- Senior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving: 3rd November
- Senior Academic Prizegiving: 5th November
- Junior Service & Endeavour Prizegiving:7th December
- Junior Academic Prizegiving: 8th December

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVINGS

Please keep an eye on the SchoolBridge calendar for further details, including times, as they are confirmed. We look forward to celebrating our ākonga and all they have achieved throughout the year!

MUFTI DAY
16 OCTOBER
WEAR YOUR MUFTI AND BRING A GOLD COIN DONATION
ALL MONEY RAISED WILL GO INTO THE HARDSHIP FUND ACCOUNT AND GO TOWARDS SPORTS COSTS AND FEES FOR STUDENTS

MUFTI DAY – Friday 16 October!

Ditch the uniform, wear your mufti and bring along a **gold coin donation**!

All money raised will go towards our **Hardship Fund**, helping support students with sports costs and fees.

Every gold coin helps our students get involved!

Thanks
Indie, Kayla, Kylia, Ashleigh

...

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
ART COMPETITION
Theme:
One Earth, Our Future
Express your dreams, creativity, & hopes for a better world
Criteria:
A3
Any medium is welcome
AI-generated artwork is not accepted.
Prize:
Winning art showcased in Taiwan
Deadline: October 30th, 2026
Entries to Mrs Cook

THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
WAIHI COLLEGE

Term 4 Open Hours 2026
12 October - 15 December

Monday	8.00am - 9.30am
Tuesday	8.00am - 9.30am
Thursday	2.30pm - 4.00pm

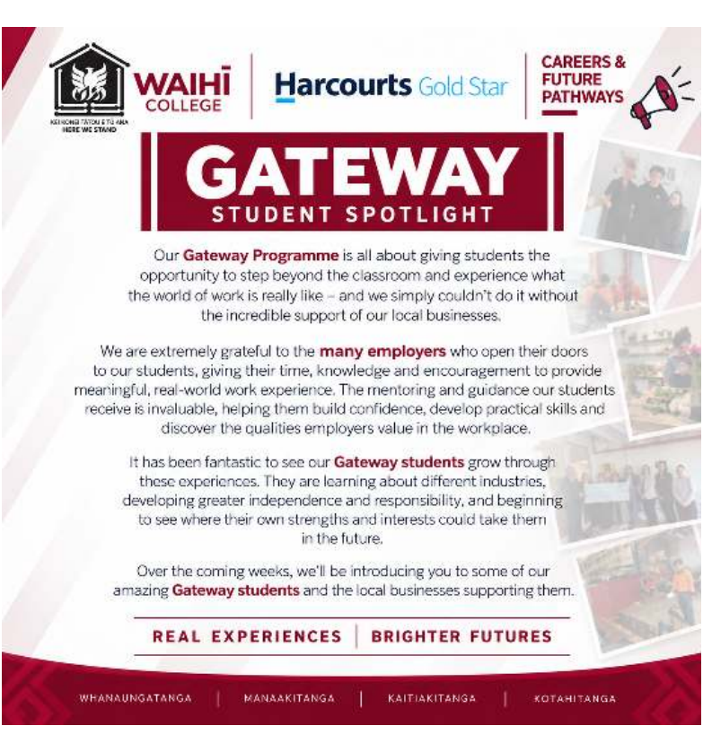
Closed on Public Holidays.
Open Hours may be subject to change.
Visit for more info: www.wcol.uniformgroup.co.nz

UNIFORM GROUP CREATING IDENTITY
THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP

SCHOOL WIDE

WAKA HOURUA

9 Whio created waka hourua in social studies - this is a photo from testing day!

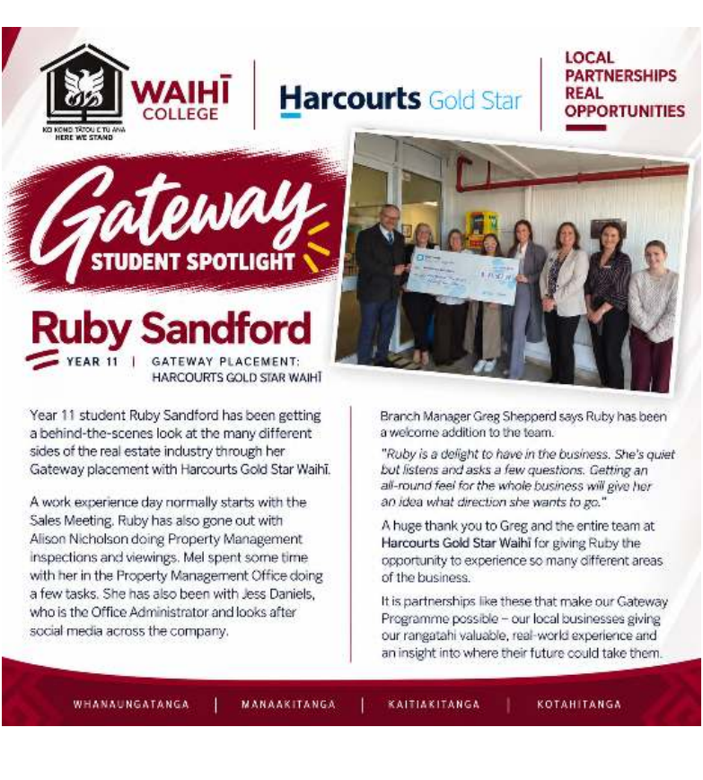

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
Harcourts Gold Star
CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS
GATEWAY
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
REAL EXPERIENCES | BRIGHTER FUTURES
WHANAUNGATANGA | MANAAKITANGA | KAITIAKITANGA | KOTAHITANGA

Our **Gateway Programme** is all about giving students the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and experience what the world of work is really like – and we simply couldn't do it without the incredible support of our local businesses.

We are extremely grateful to the **many employers** who open their doors to our students, giving their time, knowledge and encouragement to provide meaningful, real-world work experience. The mentoring and guidance our students receive is invaluable, helping them build confidence, develop practical skills and discover the qualities employers value in the workplace.

It has been fantastic to see our **Gateway students** grow through these experiences. They are learning about different industries, developing greater independence and responsibility, and beginning to see where their own strengths and interests could take them in the future.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be introducing you to some of our amazing **Gateway students** and the local businesses supporting them.


WAIHĪ COLLEGE
Harcourts Gold Star
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS REAL OPPORTUNITIES
Gateway
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
WHANAUNGATANGA | MANAAKITANGA | KAITIAKITANGA | KOTAHITANGA

Ruby Sandford
YEAR 11 | GATEWAY PLACEMENT: HARCOURTS GOLD STAR WAIHĪ

Year 11 student Ruby Sandford has been getting a behind-the-scenes look at the many different sides of the real estate industry through her Gateway placement with Harcourts Gold Star Waihī.

A work experience day normally starts with the Sales Meeting. Ruby has also gone out with Alison Nicholson doing Property Management inspections and viewings. Mel spent some time with her in the Property Management Office doing a few tasks. She has also been with Jess Daniels, who is the Office Administrator and looks after social media across the company.

Branch Manager Greg Shepperd says Ruby has been a welcome addition to the team.

"Ruby is a delight to have in the business. She's quiet but listens and asks a few questions. Getting an all-round feel for the whole business will give her an idea what direction she wants to go."

A huge thank you to Greg and the entire team at **Harcourts Gold Star Waihi** for giving Ruby the opportunity to experience so many different areas of the business.

It is partnerships like these that make our Gateway Programme possible – our local businesses giving our rangatahi valuable, real-world experience and an insight into where their future could take them.

FUTURE PATHWAYS WITH MRS GRAVESON

CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS

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/

Secondary School Update
Rerenga

From 2027, eligible students who were enrolled in Years 12 or 13 at any New Zealand secondary school during 2026 will be able to undertake their first year of study at Toi Ohomai's Rotorua (Mokoia) campus with **zero course fees***.

The initiative applies to all qualifications at Level 3 and above offered at the Rotorua campus and is available to students studying either full-time or part-time. At Toi Ohomai, students can choose from qualifications across a broad range of industries, including: Business Construction Engineering Information Technology Nursing and Health Teacher Education Tourism and Hospitality Agriculture Hairdressing and Beauty For more information about eligible programmes and enrolment options, please visit: https://www.toiohomai.ac.nz.

Getting ready for Subject choices, Trades Academy and Gateway 2027:

I am available each day between now and next Tuesday to discuss Career Pathways and options for subjects, Trades Academies and Gateway placements for 2027. Please email carolyng@waihicol.school.nz or call me on 021 105 2702 or 07 863 8349 for an interview time between 9am and 6pm.
Carolyn Graveson
Future Pathways Co-ordinator

COMMUNITY NOTICES

💻 FREE ONLINE SAFETY WEBINAR

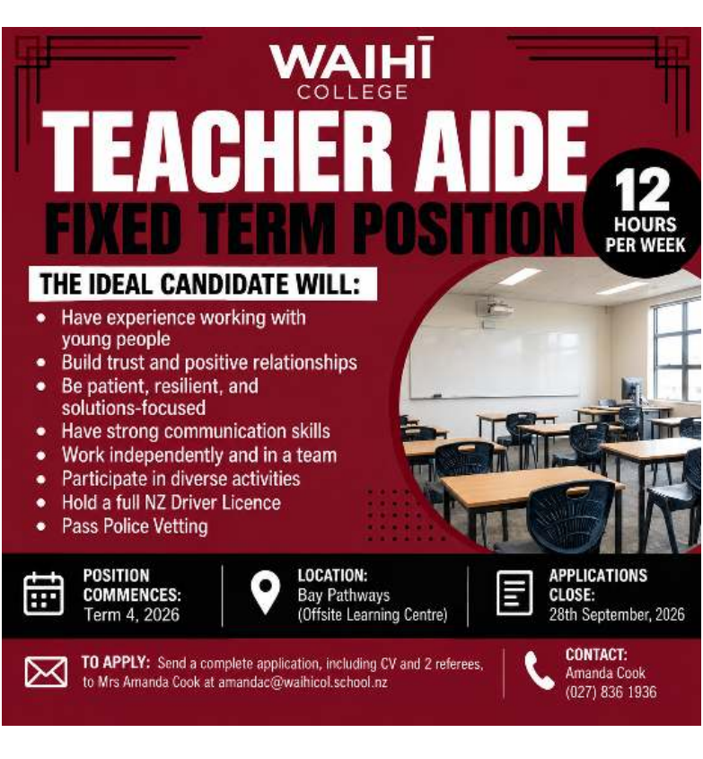
Parents, caregivers and whānau are invited to tune in to a **FREE online webinar on Wednesday 4 November from 7.00–8.30pm**.
The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm, presented by Tūturu in conversation with **The Light Project**, will explore the online world our young people are navigating today.
The webinar will offer practical, evidence-based information to help whānau better understand **online safety, digital wellbeing and the challenges young people may encounter online**, as well as how we can support them with confidence.

Wednesday 4th November 2026
7-8.30 pm
FREE Online Webinar
Whānau Online Safety Webinar
The Digital Sexual Landscape and Online Harm
Understanding and supporting young people with navigating their online world.
THE LIGHT PROJECT
The online sexual landscape has dramatically changed how young people in Aotearoa learn, explore, and engage sexually.
The Light Project provides evidence-based presentations for parents and communities to help equip them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to understand and support young people in today's online world.
Tūturu in conversation with The Light Project
Join us for a kōrero exploring online safety, digital wellbeing and supporting rangatahi.
Link for Webinar
THE LIGHT PROJECT
tūturu.

📅 **Wednesday 4 November 2026**
⏰ **7.00–8.30pm**
💻 **FREE online webinar**
We encourage parents, caregivers and whānau to take advantage of this valuable opportunity. **Grab a cuppa, tune in from home and join the kōrero!**
👉 Scan the QR code on the flyer to access the webinar.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!
SUICIDE AWARENESS
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Come Together to Remember, to Connect and to Learn about Supporting Each Other ♡
WAIHI EVENT CENTRE
1:30pm - 4:00pm
12TH SEPTEMBER, 2026.
- KAI - FREE BBQ
- KŌRERO
- INFO AND SUPPORT SERVICES
- HEALING SPACE AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
- SPOT PRIZES FOR ALL
- REMEMBRANCE TABLE
- A DAY TO REMEMBER (BRING A PHOTO)

FOR MORE INFO ♡
027 388 4041 (TEXT)

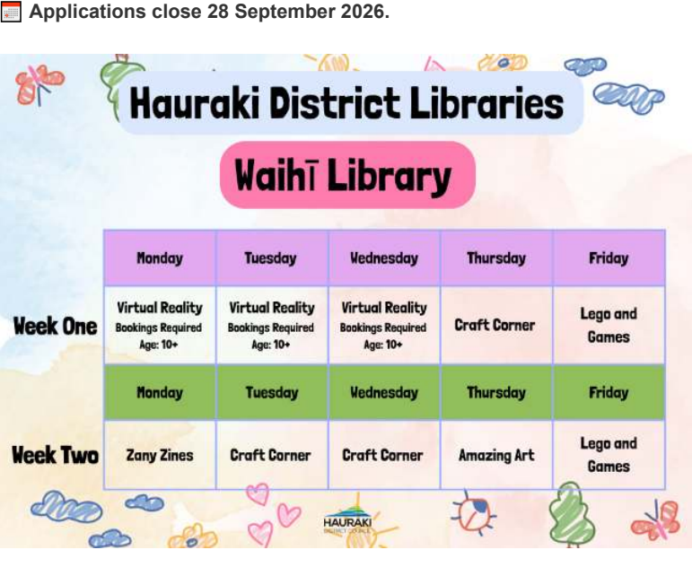

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
TEACHER AIDE
FIXED TERM POSITION
12 HOURS PER WEEK

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL:
- Have experience working with young people
- Build trust and positive relationships
- Be patient, resilient, and solutions-focused
- Have strong communication skills
- Work independently and in a team
- Participate in diverse activities
- Hold a full NZ Driver Licence
- Pass Police Vetting

POSITION COMMENCES: Term 4, 2026
LOCATION: Bay Pathways (Offsite Learning Centre)
APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 28th September, 2026
TO APPLY: Send a complete application, including CV and 2 referees, to Mrs Amanda Cook at amandac@waihicol.school.nz
CONTACT: Amanda Cook (027) 836 1936

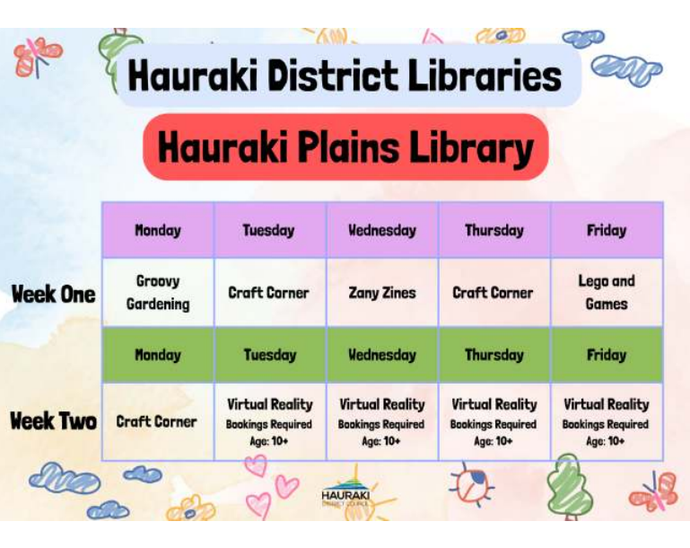
TEACHER AIDE WANTED

We're looking for a **Teacher Aide** to join our Waihī College team in a fixed-term position at **Bay Pathways**.
This role is **12 hours per week**, commencing Term 4, 2026. If you enjoy working with young people, building positive relationships and helping students succeed, we'd love to hear from you.
📅 **Applications close 28 September 2026.**



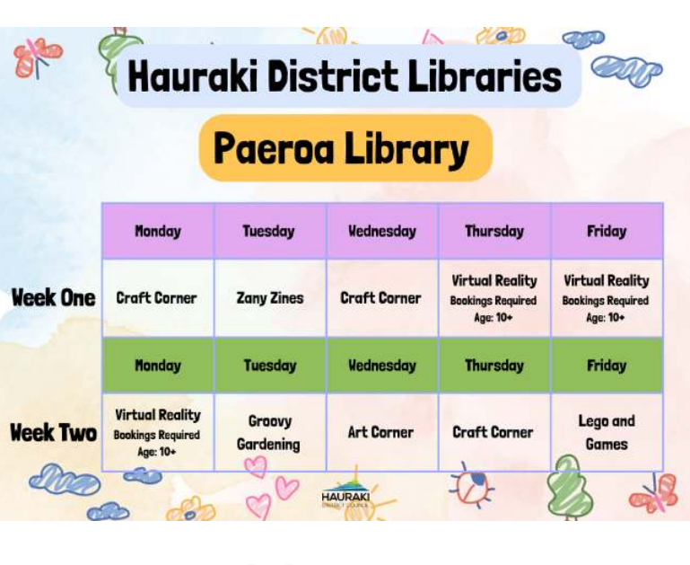
Hauraki District Libraries
Waihī Library

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Craft Corner	Lego and Games
Week Two	Zany Zines	Craft Corner	Craft Corner	Amazing Art	Lego and Games



Hauraki District Libraries
Hauraki Plains Library

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Groovy Gardening	Craft Corner	Zany Zines	Craft Corner	Lego and Games
Week Two	Craft Corner	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+



Hauraki District Libraries
Paeroa Library

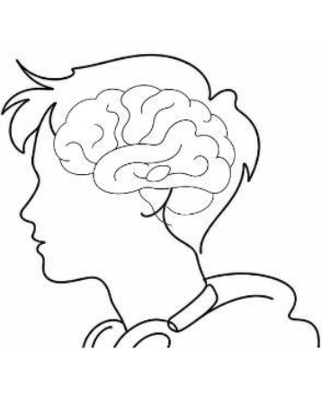
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Craft Corner	Zany Zines	Craft Corner	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+
Week Two	Virtual Reality Bookings Required Age: 10+	Groovy Gardening	Art Corner	Craft Corner	Lego and Games

PARENT CORNER

from the providers of RYDA
ROAD SAFETY Education
One day they're on training wheels. The next they're behind the wheel.
DRIVER COACH
Helping you support your teen driver
free webinar

Free Webinar for parents and carers: Tuesday 22 September, or Wednesday 9 December From 7pm

This practical workshop, supported by Toyota New Zealand, updates parents on latest research and road safety approaches, outlines some of the conversations and strategies our facilitators share with their teens at Ryda, and provides an opportunity to ask questions and get advice from the experts.



- Unlock the mysteries of the teenage brain: What makes driving a challenge?
- Decode risk factors for Young Drivers
- Setting up the first driving lessons
- 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

Powered by TOYOTA

Event Title:	Driver Coach Webinar for supervisors of learner and restricted drivers
Dates:	Tuesday 22 September 2026 Wednesday 9 December 2026
Time:	7.00pm to 8.15pm including question time (NZST)
Cost:	This is a free event
Registration:	Via Eventbrite 22 September 9 December

REGISTER HERE: https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/o/73401568303

Parents & Caregivers – We'd love your feedback!

Know My Child is gathering feedback from parents and caregivers whose child may learn, think, process or experience the world a little differently — whether or not they have a diagnosis or formal assessment.

PARENT & CAREGIVER RESEARCH
Does Your Child Need Something Different?

We want to hear from parents and caregivers who have ever wondered whether their child may learn, think, process or experience the world differently.

The anonymous survey takes approximately 12 MINUTES and asks about your experience and what would have helped.

Your feedback will help inform the development of Know My Child and contribute parent evidence to upcoming conversations with the Ministry of Education.

Questions or want to know more? Contact Kas at kas@knowmychild.org

COMPLETE THE ANONYMOUS PARENT SURVEY HERE:
https://surveymars.com/q/71kbVKogu

Know My Child
Understanding. Supporting. Together.

The anonymous survey takes around **12 minutes**, and the more families who take part, the more valuable the findings will be. Your experiences could help shape future support for children and whānau.

👉 **Complete the survey here:**
https://surveymars.com/q/71kbVKogu
Please feel free to share with other parents and caregivers who may be interested.

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

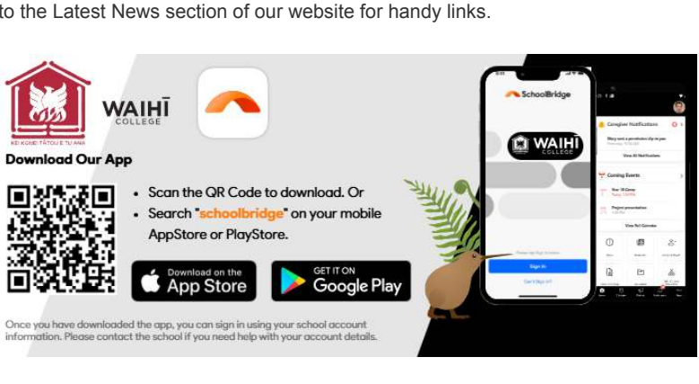
We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

- 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.



- Scan the QR Code to download. Or
- Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.

Once you have downloaded the app, you can sign in using your school account information. Please contact the school if you need help with your account details.

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.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For more information about why attendance matters, please check out the handy PDF, shared by Amanda Cook, and also 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.

Kia Ora Koutou 👋
Just a few notes about SORE THROATS!
Every Sore throat needs to be checked.
This can be done at your own Doctors clinic OR easier still at the school nursing clinic. (Not during school Holidays)
Please see me in the school clinic. (Mon–Wed 9.3)
FYI – WE HAVE HAD A FEW CASES OF POSITIVE STREP THROAT INFECTIONS AT SCHOOL LATELY

Rheumatic fever starts with a sore throat that is known as 'strep throat' – a throat infection caused by a bacteria called Group A Streptococcus.

Most sore throats get better on their own after about four days. But if strep throat is not treated with antibiotics, it can cause rheumatic fever in at-risk children and in young people. Rheumatic fever is a serious condition that causes problems with joints, skin, nerve function and heart valves and heart function.

Having an assessment with the nurse is a preventative measure against serious complications caused by rheumatic fever.

If your child's throat swab comes back positive for Group A strep throat, they will be given oral antibiotics, in consultation with parents/caregivers. It is important to take all the oral antibiotics for the full 10 days (about 1 and a half weeks), even if they are feeling better.

Please see link for further information – https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/rheumatic-fever

Parents and Caregivers for sore throats please ask your young person to see me in the school clinic.

Margie Goldsworthy/Reg nurse for Waihi College
PH/Txt 027 298 3787
Email:margie.goldsworthy@pinnacle.health.nz

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