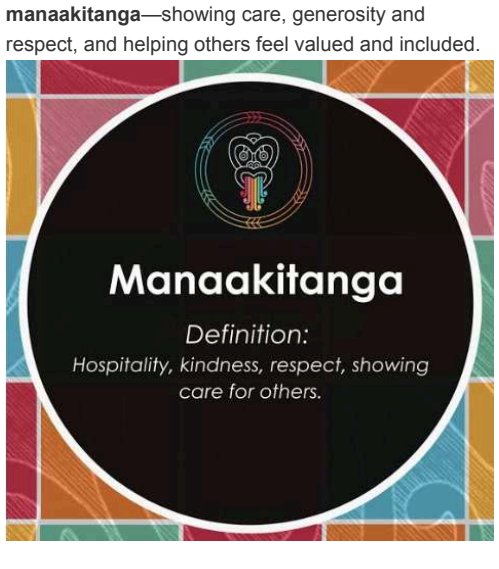
WAIHĪ COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 33 2026

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENT

Kia ora koutou,
This week, I spoke with our Year 7–10 students about **manaakitanga**—showing care, generosity and respect, and helping others feel valued and included.


Manaakitanga
Definition:
Hospitality, kindness, respect, showing care for others.

At school, manaakitanga comes to life through everyday actions: greeting someone by name, making room for them, inviting them into a game, helping with their learning or checking in when they seem upset. These small gestures send a powerful message: **you matter, and you belong here.** My challenge to our students is to notice someone, welcome someone and help someone, without expecting anything in return.
Congratulations to everyone who participated in the recent Agricultural Day, especially those who came away with awards. Your commitment, preparation and care for your animals deserve recognition. Thank you to the whānau and supporters who helped make this possible.

NCEA examinations continue over the next few weeks. We wish our students well as they maintain their preparation and focus, and thank whānau for supporting them through this important time.
Our Year 10 students head to camp next week. We wish them and their accompanying staff a safe and rewarding experience, with opportunities to try new things, strengthen friendships and show manaakitanga in action.
Please keep an eye on the school calendar for upcoming events as we move through a busy end to the year. We look forward to sharing these occasions with you.

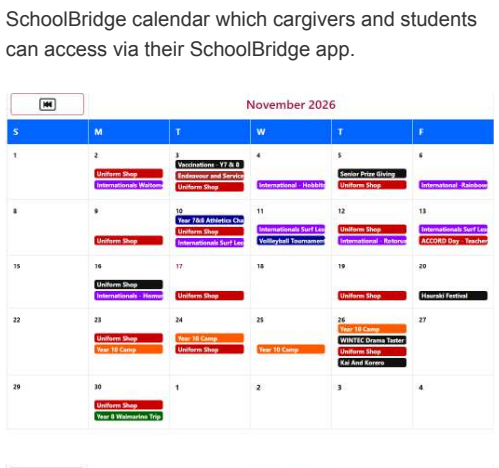
Ngā mihi nui,
Briar Principal | Tumuaki Waihi College

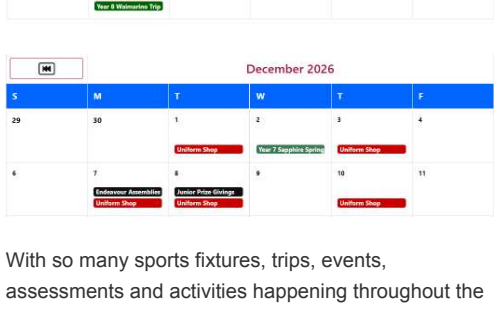
DID YOU KNOW?

Waihī College has its own mountain bike track!
You might be surprised to learn that our College grounds have included a dedicated mountain bike track, providing another opportunity for students to develop their skills outside the classroom.
Mountain biking has also been an important part of our Outdoor Education programme, helping students build confidence, fitness and practical riding skills.
It's another example of how learning at Waihī College goes well beyond the classroom!

COMING UP

Here's a snapshot of our upcoming months from the SchoolBridge calendar which cargivers and students can access via their SchoolBridge app.





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.

Student Spotlight: Rylee Estreich

Year 11 | Gateway Placement: Ormsby Built, Waihī
A positive attitude, a willingness to learn and the ability to work as part of a team can go a long way in the workplace.
Year 11 student Rylee Estreich has been completing his Gateway placement with Ormsby Built, a local whānau-owned and operated construction company, where he has been making a great impression on the team.
Director Kini Ormsby says Rylee has shown maturity and initiative right from the beginning.
"From Day 1, Rylee has shown a great attitude and willingness to learn and is always on time. He has shown good initiative and is able to problem solve when needed, showing he can take in information and apply it in his day to day tasks."
Rylee has also had the opportunity to work alongside different members of the Ormsby Built team, gaining valuable practical experience while developing his confidence and communication skills.
"Rylee has good team working skills as he has spent time working with each member of our team. This is helping him with his communication which is getting better each day he spends with us," Kini says.
And it looks like this experience has helped Rylee find a pathway he is keen to pursue!
He is already looking forward to continuing and expanding his work experience with Ormsby Built next year, alongside completing Level 3 Building and Construction through the Trades Academy.
It's a fantastic example of how Gateway can help students explore career pathways, develop practical skills and build relationships with local employers.
A huge thank you to Kini and the team at Ormsby Built for welcoming Rylee into their workplace, sharing their knowledge and investing their time in helping him develop his skills and confidence.
It is partnerships like these that make our Gateway Programme possible – our local businesses helping our rangatahi take their first steps into the world of work.

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS REAL OPPORTUNITIES
Gateway
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Rylee Estreich
YEAR 11 | GATEWAY PLACEMENT: ORMSBY BUILT
ORMSBY BUILT LTD

Kai & Kōrero – Year 7 & 8 Whānau, You're Invited!

Following the success of our first Kai & Kōrero evening with our Year 9–13 whānau and community members, we're excited to do it all again – this time inviting our Year 7 & 8 parents and caregivers! Kai & Kōrero is all about bringing people together in a relaxed, informal setting to share some kai, make connections, exchange ideas and have open conversations about how we can best support our young people. There's no formal agenda – just good food, great conversations and an opportunity to strengthen our school community.

- Thursday 26th November
- 5.30pm – 7.30pm The Hub, Waihī College

Please RSVP to Wendy at wendys@waihicol.school.nz by 20th November so we can make sure there's plenty of kai for everyone! We'd love to see you there!

WAIHĪ COLLEGE JUNIOR PRIZEGIVINGS 2026

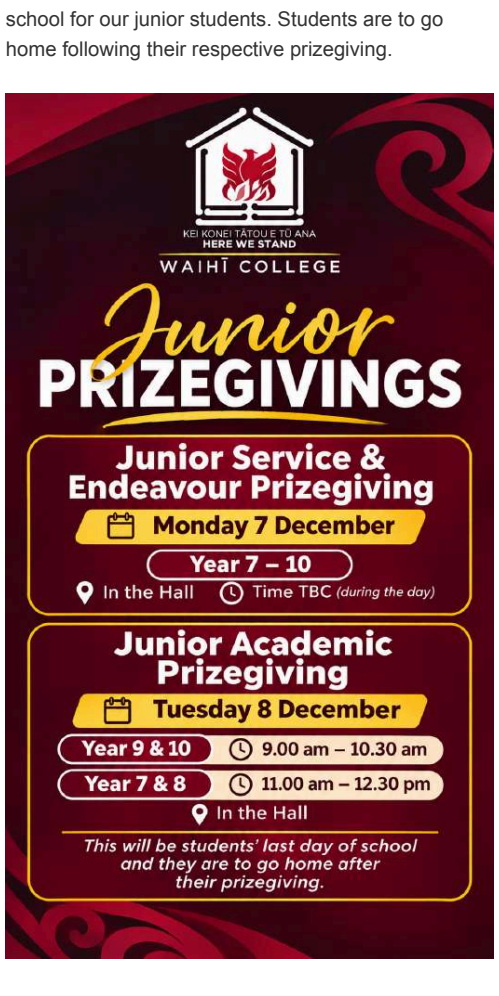
We're looking forward to celebrating the achievements, hard work and dedication of our junior students as we wrap up the school year!

🌟 **Monday 7 December – Service & Endeavour Prizegiving**
Years 7–10 | School Hall
Time TBC (during the school day)

🎓 **Tuesday 8 December – Academic Prizegiving**
School Hall

- **Years 9 & 10:** 9.00am–10.30am
- **Years 7 & 8:** 11.00am–12.30pm

📌 **Important:** Tuesday 8 December is the last day of school for our junior students. Students are to go home following their respective prizegiving.



Year 10 Camp

Planning and preparation is well underway for this year's camp at Opoutere Coastal Camp for 23rd November till 26th November.

Parents & Caregivers, please check your emails for the permission slip from Chantelle Archer.

Any questions, please contact her on chantellea@waihicol.school.nz

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
Year 10 Camp!
Opoutere Coastal Camp
23rd – 26th November
Parents & Caregivers, please check your emails for the permission slip from Chantelle Archer.
Any questions, please feel free to contact her at chantellea@waihicol.school.nz

WAIHĪ COLLEGE
Year 7 Trip to Sapphire Springs
Wednesday 2 December (Week 8)
$10 per student
Payment due by Friday 20 November (Week 6)
We're also looking for some parent helpers to join us for the day!
If you're available, or have any questions, please contact Angela Edwards at angelae@waihicol.school.nz.

Year 7 Trip to Sapphire Springs

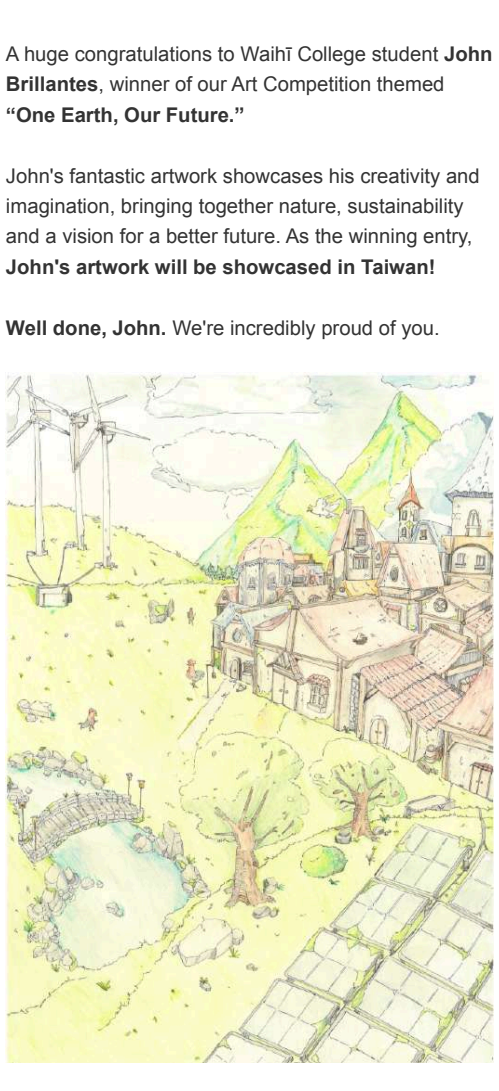
Our Year 7 students are looking forward to a fun day out at Sapphire Springs on **Wednesday 2 December (Week 8)**! The cost is **$10 per student**, with payment due by **Friday 20 November (Week 6)**. We are also looking for some parent helpers to join us for the day. If you are available and would like to come along, please contact Ange on angelae@waihicol.school.nz. We're looking forward to a great day!

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN BRILLANTES!

A huge congratulations to Waihī College student **John Brillantes**, winner of our Art Competition themed **"One Earth, Our Future."**

John's fantastic artwork showcases his creativity and imagination, bringing together nature, sustainability and a vision for a better future. As the winning entry, **John's artwork will be showcased in Taiwan!**

Well done, John. We're incredibly proud of you.



WAIHĪ COLLEGE
CALLING ALL CREATIVE STUDENTS!
Are you artistic and keen to put your talents to good use while earning a little extra money?
We have a PAID OPPORTUNITY for a creative student to paint a mural on a fence panel here in Waihi!
Fence panel approximately 2m x 1m
All paint will be supplied
The client is thinking of something a little abstract, perhaps a jungle-inspired scene, but is open to creative ideas!
This is a paid job!
Interested in finding out more?
Pop into Wendy's office and have a chat with her, or email her on wendys@waihicol.school.nz.

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We have a **paid opportunity** for a creative student to paint a mural on a fence panel here in Waihī!

The details:

- Fence panel approximately 2m x 1m
- All paint will be supplied
- The client is thinking of something a little abstract, perhaps a jungle-inspired scene, but is open to creative ideas!
- **This is a paid job!**

This could be a fantastic opportunity to showcase your artistic skills, get creative and earn some money along the way!
📩 **Interested in finding out more?**
Pop into Wendy's office and have with her, or email on WendyS@WaihiCol.school.nz.
We'd love to hear from our talented young artists!

SCHOOL WIDE

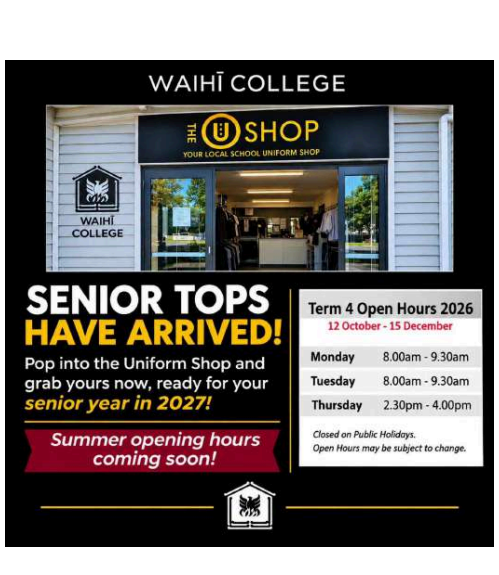
HOST FAMILIES WANTED FOR 2027!

Would you love to welcome an international student into your home? Waihī College is looking for friendly, welcoming host families for the 2027 school year! Hosting an international student is a wonderful opportunity to share our Kiwi way of life, learn about another culture, and make lasting connections. Interested in finding out more? Rochelle and Magdeleen would love to hear from you and can tell you all about what's involved! Email on **rochellek@waihicol.school.nz** or **magdeleeng@waihicol.school.nz.** You can also find more information on our school website: https://www.waihicol.school.nz/international/hosting-%c2%b7-manaakitanga/ Help us give our international students a warm Waihī welcome!

SENIOR TOPS HAVE ARRIVED!

Heading into Year 12 or 13 in 2027? Your senior tops are now available at The U Shop!

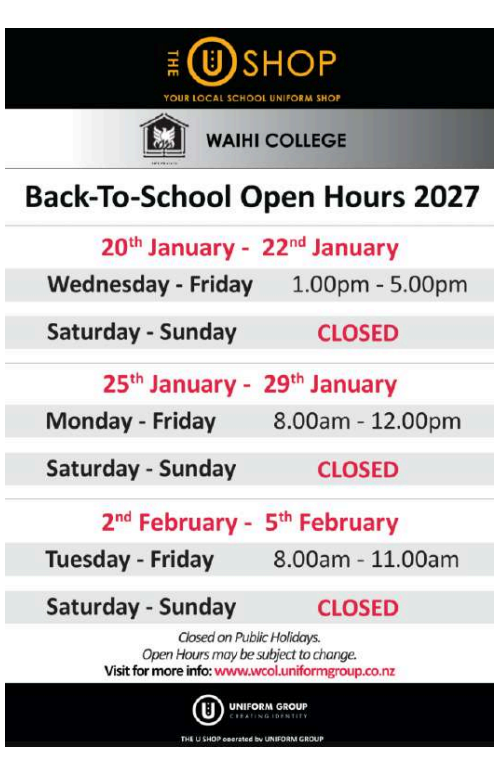
Pop in and grab yours now so you're all sorted and ready to start your senior year!


WAIHĪ COLLEGE
THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
SENIOR TOPS HAVE ARRIVED!
Pop into the Uniform Shop and grab yours now, ready for your senior year in 2027!
Summer opening hours coming soon!

Term 4 Open Hours 2026
12 October - 15 December

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

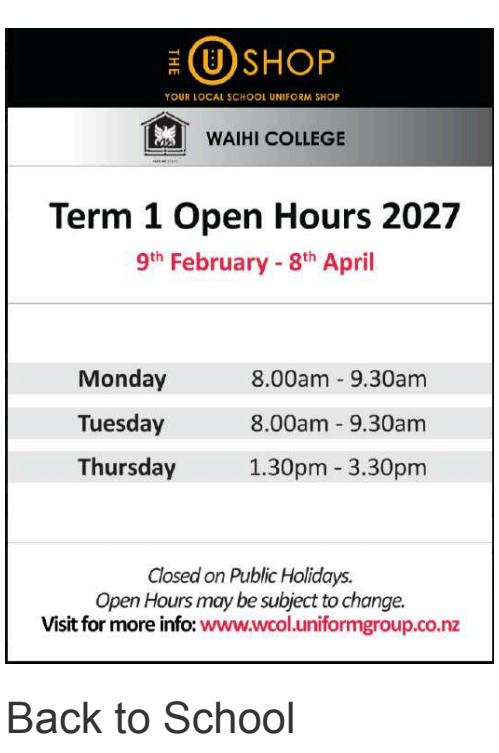
Closed on Public Holidays.
Open Hours may be subject to change.


THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
WAIHI COLLEGE
UNIFORM GROUP
THE U SHOP operated by UNIFORM GROUP

Back-To-School Open Hours 2027

20th January - 22nd January	
Wednesday - Friday	1.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturday - Sunday	CLOSED
25th January - 29th January	
Monday - Friday	8.00am - 12.00pm
Saturday - Sunday	CLOSED
2nd February - 5th February	
Tuesday - Friday	8.00am - 11.00am
Saturday - Sunday	CLOSED

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


THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
WAIHI COLLEGE

Term 1 Open Hours 2027
9th February - 8th April

Monday	8.00am - 9.30am
Tuesday	8.00am - 9.30am
Thursday	1.30pm - 3.30pm

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

Back to School Stationery – 2027!

Our 2027 stationery lists will be ready soon! They will be uploaded to our school website and shared with Paper Plus Waihī and the Back to School Store. As always, we encourage our Waihī College whānau to shop local and support our local Paper Plus Toyworld store when purchasing stationery for the new school year. Shopping locally not only helps keep money circulating within our community, but also helps our local businesses continue to support Waihī College and our students.

Of course, the choice is yours as to where you purchase your stationery, and the items on our lists are available from most stationery retailers. By supporting local businesses, you're also supporting our school and wider community! Thank you for shopping local where you can!

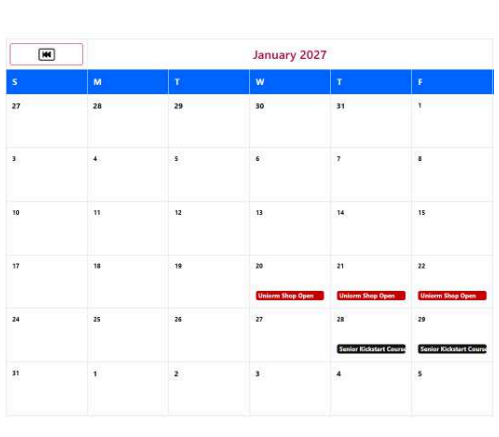
Getting Ready for 2027 at Waihī College!

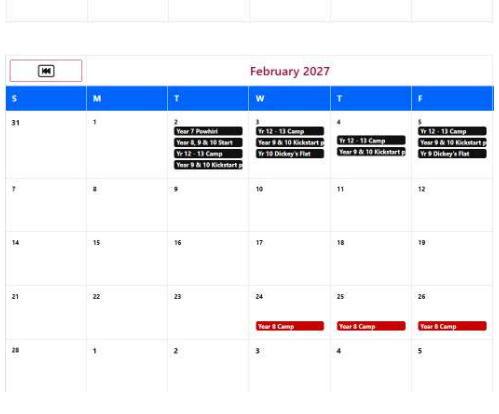
With the new school year fast approaching, we want to make sure our students and whānau have everything they need for a smooth start to 2027! We've put together some handy links to all the important information on our website:

- School Uniforms – Uniform information and requirements.
- School Buses – Bus routes and transport information.
- Stationery Lists – Our 2027 stationery lists are coming soon!
- Staff Directory – Find contact details for our staff.

Important Back-to-School Dates

We've included our January and February 2027 calendars below to help you plan ahead.
For the most up-to-date information, we recommend checking the School Bridge app. This is updated in real time, so it's the best place to keep track of any changes to dates or events.
The calendars below are a snapshot of our school calendar as at **18 November 2026.** For the latest dates and any changes, please refer to School Bridge.





WAIHĪ COLLEGE
GET READY FOR 2027
Head to our website for useful links
Don't forget to download the School Bridge app

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/read-online/

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free Counselling Support Available

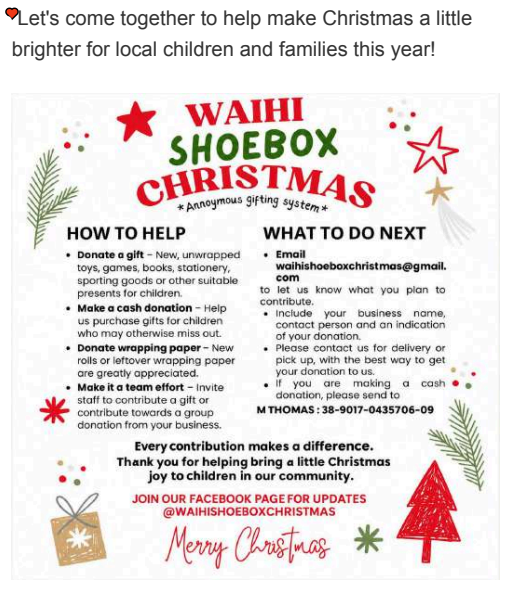
Did you know that free counselling support may be available through your local GP? Eligible young people and adults can access funded mental health support, with some services offering up to four free counselling sessions.
Whether you're experiencing anxiety, stress, low mood or other challenges, support is available. Contact your local GP practice to find out what free counselling services are available in your area and how to access them.

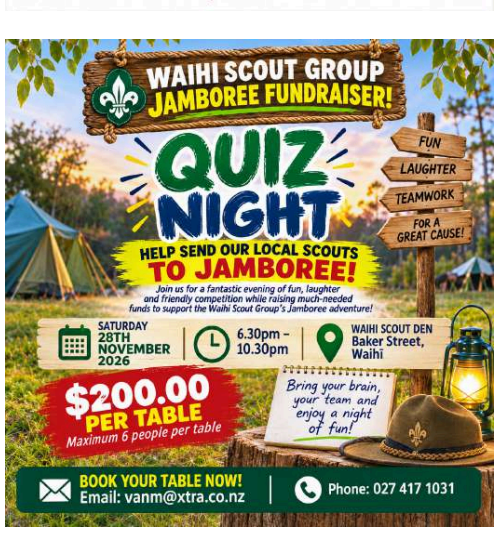
Free Counselling Support
available through your GP
Eligible young people and adults can access funded mental health support.
Some services offer up to four free counselling sessions.
Contact your local GP practice to find out what services are available in your area and how to access them.
TĀTAUTOKO
TŪHONO
WELLBEING
It's okay to ask for support.

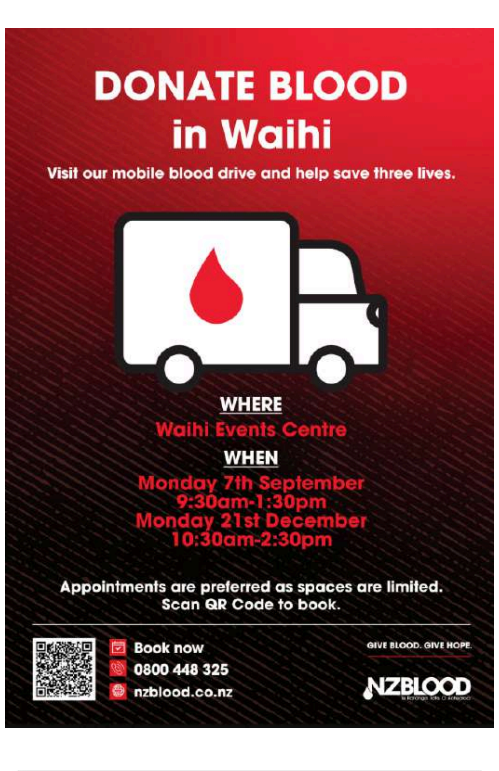
For more information, visit: https://www.healthnz.govt.nz/health-topics/mental-health/where-to-get-help/wellbeing-support

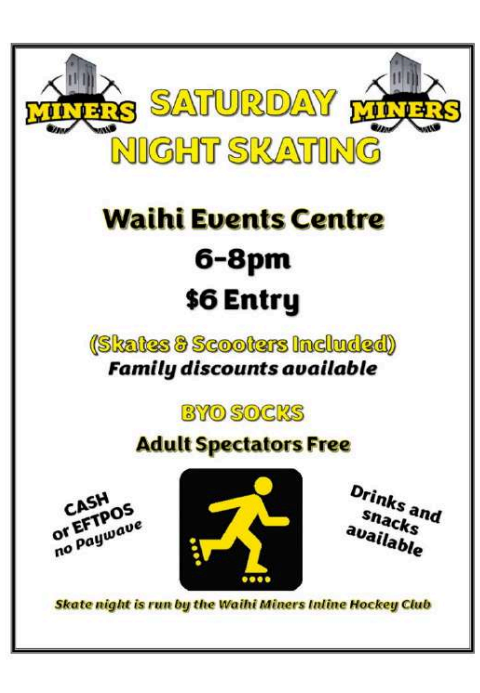
WAIHI SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS – HELP SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!

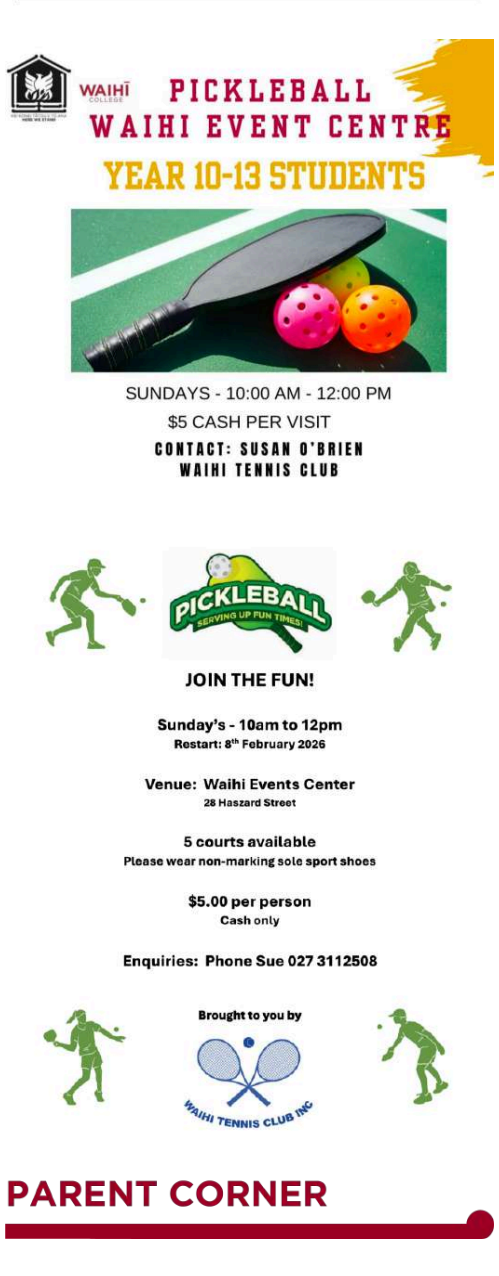
Christmas is just around the corner, and **Waihi Shoebox Christmas** is once again helping bring a little joy to children in our community who might otherwise miss out on receiving gifts this festive season.
This wonderful local initiative relies on the generosity of our community, and there are plenty of ways you can help!
Donations of **new, unwrapped toys, games, books, stationery, sporting goods and other suitable gifts** for children are greatly appreciated. Donations of wrapping paper are also welcome, along with cash contributions that will go towards purchasing additional presents.
Families, businesses and community groups are encouraged to get involved – whether it's donating a single gift or joining together to make a bigger contribution. Every little bit makes a difference!
Want to help? Email waihishoeboxchristmas@gmail.com to arrange a donation or find out more.
You can also follow their Facebook page **@waihishoeboxchristmas** for updates.
❤️Let's come together to help make Christmas a little brighter for local children and families this year!


WAIHI SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS
Anonymous gifting system
HOW TO HELP
Donate a gift - New, unwrapped toys, games, books, stationery, sporting goods or other suitable presents for children.
Make a cash donation - Help us purchase gifts for children who may otherwise miss out.
Donate wrapping paper - New rolls or leftover wrapping paper are greatly appreciated.
Make it a team effort - Invite staff to contribute a gift or contribute towards a group donation from your business.
WHAT TO DO NEXT
Email waihishoeboxchristmas@gmail.com to let us know what you plan to contribute.
Include your business name, contact person and an indication of your donation.
Please contact us for delivery or pick up, with the best way to get your donation to us.
If you are making a cash donation, please send to M THOMAS : 38-9017-0435706-09
Every contribution makes a difference.
Thank you for helping bring a little Christmas joy to children in our community.
JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES @WAIHISHOEBOXCHRISTMAS
Merry Christmas


WAIHI SCOUT GROUP
JAMBOREE FUNDRAISER!
QUIZ NIGHT
HELP SEND OUR LOCAL SCOUTS TO JAMBOREE!
Join us for a fantastic evening of fun, laughter and friendly competition while raising much-needed funds to support the Waihi Scout Group's Jamboree adventure!
FUN
LAUGHTER
TEAMWORK
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2026
6.30pm – 10.30pm
WAIHI SCOUT DEN Baker Street, Waihi
$200.00 PER TABLE
Maximum 6 people per table
Bring your brain, your team and enjoy a night of fun!
BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW! Email: vanm@xtra.co.nz
Phone: 027 417 1031




MINERS
SATURDAY NIGHT SKATING
MINERS
Waihi Events Centre
6-8pm
$6 Entry
(Skates & Scooters Included)
Family discounts available
BYO SOCKS
Adult Spectators Free
CASH or EFTPOS no Paywave
Drinks and snacks available
Skate night is run by the Waihi Miners Inline Hockey Club



PARENT CORNER

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

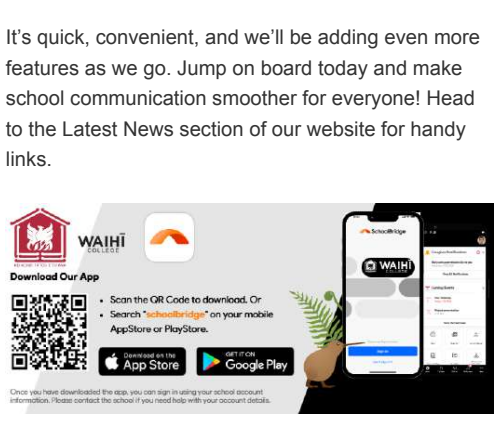
We're encouraging all students and caregivers to download the SchoolBridge app — your new first port of call for all things school-related.

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

Getting started is easy:

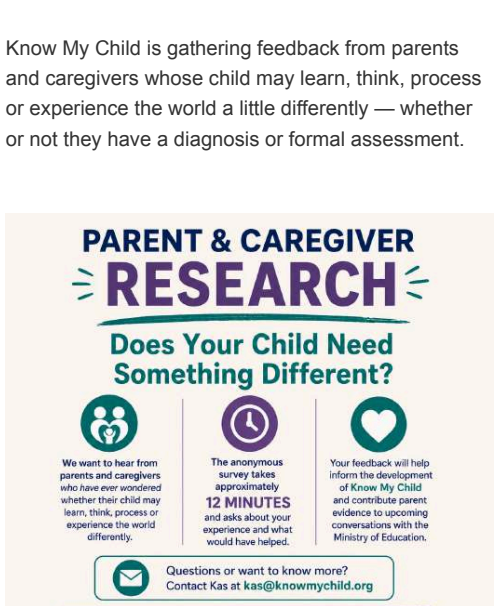
STEP1: download the Schoolbridge App
Either scan the QR code or download via App Store or Google Play
STEP 2: Sign in with your school registered email
For caregivers, this is the email address you used when enrolling your student and for students, it is your school email address. *If you are unsure, 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.


WAIHĪ COLLEGE
Download Our App
Scan the QR Code to download. Or
Search "schoolbridge" on your mobile AppStore or PlayStore.
App Store
Google Play

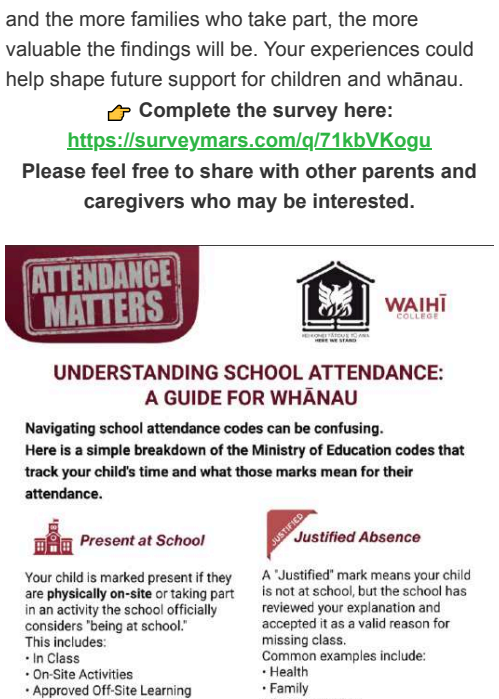
Parents & Caregivers – We'd love your feedback!

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

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.


ATTENDANCE MATTERS
WAIHĪ COLLEGE
JUSTIFIED
THE BOTTOM LINE

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.

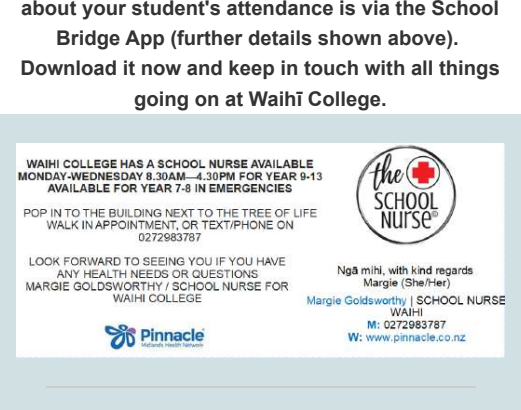
THE BOTTOM LINE
A "Justified" mark tells the school that the reason for the absence is acceptable, but still indicates the student missed out on that day of learning.

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.


the SCHOOL NURSE
Pinnacle

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 (She/Her)
Margie Goldsworthy | SCHOOL NURSE
WAIHI
M: 0272983787
W: www.pinnacle.co.nz

This newsletter can also be found on our website: