



Monday 23rd July 2018 - Term 3 Week 1

Principal's Report

Hi Parents, Caregivers, Students and Community members.

I trust all our school families have had a relaxing break away from WAS: No school lunches to prepare; numerous sleep ins; no mad moments of getting uniform ready, books in bags and signing permission slips etc. Sounds so easy and I appreciate it's business as per usual in some households! Nevertheless, I hope our students have been able to re-charge their batteries for a busy Term Three.

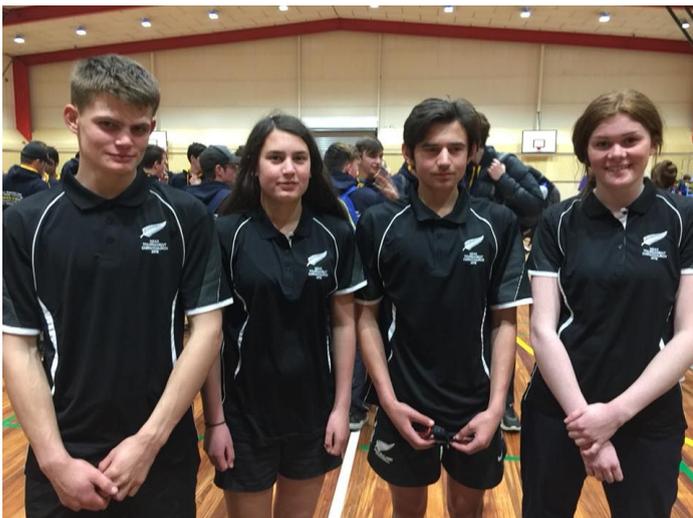
Last term we farewelled Mr Paul Burke. For those who missed the headlines, Paul is safely in Wellington looking to further develop his teaching career and experience the bright lights. We naturally wish Paul the very best and he is always welcome back at WAS. Paul will be missed by us all.

Currently the Primary Teachers' Union are in negotiations with the MOE/government re pay increases and more funding for our schools. There could be some strikes coming up. This is pretty much where we're at: *'At packed paid union meetings in June, primary principal and teacher members of NZEI Te Riu Roa expressed their anger at the Ministry of Education's pay offers. Principals and teachers had asked for more time to teach and lead, more support for children with additional learning needs and a pay jolt to stem the teacher shortage. A recent survey found widespread community support for a significant pay rise for teachers. NZEI announced it will be meeting with the Ministry in further negotiations over the coming weeks to try and reach a settlement that addresses the issues that principals and teachers have raised.'* Snippets taken from the latest media statement:

"We want to be able to give every student a quality education that meets their needs, and our parent communities understand that," said Ms Green. "Primary teachers have not taken industrial action in New Zealand since 1994 and the fact that we are taking such a step shows the grave concerns we have for the future of quality public education. The Government needs to take some courageous decisions now for the sake of children and their learning."

Southern Area Schools (SAS) Tournament: Congrats to our students who did themselves and WAS proud in CHCH. Many thanks to Miss Quinn and Mr Bennett for giving up their first week of the holidays to be with them. Thanks to Cheryl, Rachel, the Hutchby family, Destiny and Megan for supporting them all throughout. Check out our Facebook photos. Holly (netball), Brooke, Moon and Bruin (football) were selected for the NZ National team. Another extremely special milestone to acknowledge and treasure. In the next newsletter

there will be a report from some of the students who attended.



Mid Year Student Reports: You should all have a copy of your child's report. Please make a time to catch-up with your child's teacher to go through your child's achievement and their next steps of learning. Your help at home makes a huge difference to the progress your child can make. It's a partnership.

Mid Year Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews: Is coming up in week three - Tuesday and Thursday from 3-6pm. Please make a booking at the office. Again your support is needed, and the teachers certainly appreciate you making the time to come in

to work with them. Interview format: Briefly look over mid year report if required; look at your child's achievement to date, identify next steps and how you can all work together to accelerate progress. It is expected the students attend and have a voice.

Ski Trip: This is on Thursday next week. Please pay at the office prior to your child going. If this is going to be an issue then make contact with me or Catherine in the office. It's not ok to say nothing - keep us in the loop thanks. The same applies to needing gear - let us know what your child needs if you can't organise the gear yourself.

Last year, the WAS students had an amazing time skiing and we know experiences (when we're all experiencing these moments together - no child is missing out) like this does wonders for our school morale and student well-being. There should be no barriers or excuses. The BOT are providing a bus and subsidising student/adult costs per person. Please return permission slips etc asap. Students look forward to this experience. More info will come out towards the end of the week. Basically we'll be leaving WAS by 5:15am and back around 7:30pm. Attendees will need to bring plenty to eat and drink for the day. Appropriate clothing (t-shirt and Warriors jacket is not sufficient) will be required as per usual. I'll be driving a large coach and a few vans will take the rest. The Year 1&2's will be at school as per usual with Mrs Cleaver and Mrs Stanning. Again please remember to get your permission slip in early this week.

Reminder - Cell phones and uniforms: Another reminder to ensure your lovely child leaves the house in the mornings wearing the correct uniform. It's expected they come to school in uniform unless you have informed us directly otherwise- communication is the key here. We need to continue to work together to ensure all our children are respecting the WAS values and taking pride in themselves.

Cellphones are allowed to be at school. However, if they become a problem for some individuals then we'll work directly with you as parents/caregivers to resolve the problem. Reminder - if a staff member asks for the student to put their phone away, then we expect the student to do this straight away. Students don't need to be on their phones during class unless they've asked for permission. We acknowledge they can be a great tool if used appropriately. We don't want a low percentage of students ruining it for the majority.

Rationalisation Property work: We have been officially notified that the end of C Block is due to be demolished over the next four weeks.

Attendance Awards: These students have had 95%+ attendance for the first half of this year:
95% = Liam Parsons, Liam Pierce, Alisha Parsons, Di-Anne Keast, Emily Templeton and Angela Pierce.
96% = Lukcas Byron, Sofie Templeton, Lachlan Parsons, Ashton Edgerton and Meere Bakura.
97% = Zeke Erskine, Kirsty Rutland and Kiara Baldwin.
98% = Fraser Henry-Hewson, Abbey Erskine, Tyler Kennedy and Deacon Erskine.

Well done to these 18 students. Something special (a wee surprise will occur!) will happen to you this term!



Blinds in classrooms: Thanks to the WAS PTA for organising blinds for Room's One and Three. Colourplus (Russell) has installed them already and they look great thanks.

Gardens/Grounds: Massive thanks to Elaine and Judith for all their hard work towards making our gardens and grounds look amazing. Also to George for helping out too.

The BOT are committed to making improvements to our school facilities and environment. We all want our students and teachers to work & learn in an environment we're proud of. We're chipping

away and thanks to all the positive feedback - I know as parents & caregivers you want the best for your child too.

Job opportunities: There has been several people who have expressed an interest in the caretakers and library positions. If interested in being considered - it's expected you hand in/email your intentions (CV would be ideal) to me. Closing date was Monday. However, I will accept more by this Thursday. Shortlisting and interviewing will occur next week.

Community meeting: Is on Monday 27th August. 6pm in the Library. All welcome.

Careers Fest: Is on this Thursday - all the very best to our senior students who are involved in this.

Futsal on Mondays: Well done to the girls and Mr Bennett who have been turning up on Monday evenings in the Invercargill comp. It's great that we can represent, have a diligent teacher and keen students to give these types of experiences a go. Well done for testing your skills and staying active.

Western Hockey - Years 1-8: Hosted by WAS on Friday 08th August. Information will go out this week to those who will be involved.

Chess: The Year 1-6 Southland Tournament is on Tuesday 07th August in Invercargill. Information has gone out to those students concerned.

Netball for Year 5&6 and 7&8 students: These two tournaments are also coming up and information to those students (boys and girls) will go out soon.

Surveys: There has been a number of surveys handed out. We appreciate your feedback and I urge you to complete them and send them back to the office.

Congrats to Jasmin Hutchby who competed at the South Island Secondary Schools Swimming Championships in Blenheim during the holidays. She was 1st place in all events for her age (13) and in the under 15 category she placed 2nd fastest in the South Island for 50m backstroke, 4th for 50m butterfly, 4th for 100m backstroke and 5th in the 100m individual medley. Well done Jasmin - what an amazing accomplishment and good luck for your next meet representing Southland.



Take care
Andrew PB

Board of Trustees Update

As the Waiiau Area School Board we would like to update you on the discussions/decisions that have been occurring at a governance level. As always our main focus is the students.

The student achievement mid year results have come through. There are now 71% of our students (compared with 53% this time last year) reading at or above their expected level. In writing there are now 66% at or above their expected level (42% last year) and in maths there are 65% of our students at or above their expected level (38% last year). This is a result of the hard work put in by the staff, parents and most of all the students themselves - everyone should be proud of the journey that WAS is on.

A proposal has been presented to the Board for a overseas school trip to Tokyo in 2019. The Board has agreed with the proposal in principle and the school now requires feedback and commitment from prospective Year 7 and up families. We are not in favour of students younger than Year 7 attending however it can be looked at on a case by case basis. Look out for more information from Mr Bennett on this consultation process.

The Board have had discussions around the standard of wearing the approved uniform at school. We would like to remind parents that there is a requirement for all students to be wearing the approved uniform and if this is causing an issue then please contact Andrew to discuss further. We have decided that the KidsCan Warriors jacket is no longer an acceptable piece of uniform and will be gradually phased out. What we are wanting from the families is some feedback on whether a plain black jacket is acceptable as a replacement or whether we need to design a new jacket that has the WAS logo etc on it. Please text Andrew with any feedback that you have on this subject. There will be communication on the final decision on a replacement and end date for wearing the warriors jacket once feedback has been received.

If you ever have any questions concerning the school and its governance then please don't hesitate to contact one of the Board of Trustees members.

Term Happenings

Thurs 26th July	Careers Fest - Invercargill - Seniors
Thur 02nd Aug	Ski-trip, Years 3-13
Tues 07th Aug	Lion's meeting - 6:30pm - Seniors to present
Tues 07th Aug	Parent/Teacher/Student interviews - 3pm-6pm Chess tournament - Invercargill
Weds 08th Aug	Tracks opening with students and community - 10am
Wed 08th Aug	Parents Maths Night with Averil - 6:30pm - 7:30pm
Thurs 09th Aug	Parent/Teacher/Student interviews - 3pm-6pm
Thurs 09th Aug	St Johns sessions - primary school
Fri 10th Aug	Western Hockey Year 1-8 - 10am - 2pm
Tues 14th Aug	Secondary Schools Target Shooting - Invers - 7pm
Tues 14th Aug	Year 5&6 Western Netball - 10am - 2pm - Aparima College

Weds 15th Aug	Teachers strike day/afternoon? - TBC
Thurs 16th Aug	Year 7&8 Western Netball - 10am - 2pm - Takitimu Primary School

Students of the Week

Students of the Week at this morning's assembly went to Abby Unahi and Amelia McPherson. Abby you are always striving to do your best in all curriculum areas. Mrs Cleaver is very impressed with your growing confidence and your willingness to try new things. Amelia you are also always striving to do your best in all curriculum areas. Mrs Cleaver admires and appreciates your enthusiasm for learning. You are a fantastic role model for others in our classroom. Well done to both of you!

Notices

We are on the hunt for some items of uniform that are still in a tidy state so if you have some that you no longer require then please drop them off at the office.

The wacky wig mufti day held in Term 2 raised \$81.00 for the team going to National Area Schools - well done to those that dressed up, you looked great!

Cheeseroll Fundraiser - We would like to thank everyone who supported the Cheeseroll Fundraiser this year. Together we made 837 dozen cheeserolls and a profit of \$3600.00. The profit will be divided into the 3 groups; Waiau Area School PTA, Tuatapere Plunket and Tuatapere Playgroup. The WAS PTA profits are going towards window blinds for Rm1 & 3. These will hopefully be installed in time for the start of term 3. Thank you to the parents/caregivers, the teachers and students and the members of the community who helped with orders and/or came in on the day to help make them. Many hands made the day fun and light work and we were able to finish all the orders and clean up at a reasonable hour of the evening.

A BIG THANK YOU!! to **Open Country Dairy**, who donated some cheese to support us in our fundraiser, great appreciation for this, and thank you Mr PB for your work behind the scenes. To those who ordered cheeserolls, we hope you have enjoyed them as much as we enjoyed making them. All your support is valued.

Thank you,
Vicki Unahi, Helen Hammond and Alice Harris

Waiau Swimming Club - Swimming Club will commence in Term 4 this year. If anyone is interested in coaching can you please let Kaylene know so we can arrange some courses or if you are interested in joining the committee. Call Kaylene on 032266904, text 0274327156 or email kaylene@beachvalley.co.nz

Applications are invited from tertiary and secondary school students Year 9 onwards for the Hokonui Endowment Fund. The Hokonui Endowment Fund is an education fund for applicants who can trace their whakapapa to the original Maori Owners of Rakiura/Stewart Island. Applicants must be a Southland resident. For more information contact either: Christian Fife – (027 225 0086 Laina Niha – (03) 212 8962 Ricky Topi – (03) 212 8556 Louise Fowler – (03) 212 8577 Karen Johnson – (03) 212 7384 A copy of the Application Form for the 2018 academic year is attached. All applications received must use this form and need to have all relevant sections completed, including verified bank account details, whakapapa and essay. A hardcopy of the completed application form needs to be received for processing by Sunday, 30 September 2018. For further information, a Facebook page has been set up via the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/foveauxstrait/>