



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This week has, as ever, been a very busy week for both staff and students and parents.

Wednesday saw us have our annual swim sports. As a 'lily-livered Pom' it never ceases to amaze me how students can jump into an unheated pool in April! And they swim their hearts out too! It is good to see that it is a fun day as well as being a seriously competitive series of races. Sport is about enjoyment as well as competition. I remember reading in Andre Agassi's autobiography that there was no enjoyment in the tennis he played because his father was insistent, from the day he **made** him pick up a racquet that it was about skill and winning. Well WAS students proved that you can have both – well done to **all** competitors.

We also had a parents evening this week which allowed staff and parents to discuss progress of their students. It is really important to have these discussions early on in the year. By having them now we have given the students the opportunity to settle in and get a handle on the expectations we have of them. Hopefully those parents who attended are now aware of their son/daughters progress so far and what they have to work on. I cannot stress enough how important Parents evenings are. It is your opportunity as a parent to really engage with your son/daughters learning as well as a direct line of communication with the teacher.

It was strange for me personally this year not to be talking to parents as a 'classroom teacher' but it was enjoyable and enlightening meeting the parents who chose to introduce themselves to me. As I have mentioned before, I think communication between home and school is very important. Hopefully meeting me on Thursday opened some of those channels of communication.

Thursday also saw us have a visitor in school; Ben White from World Vision, who came in to talk with all our students about the upcoming 40 Hour Famine for Malawi. World Vision is a charity that works in countries where poverty and disease are a part of everyday life. As a school we believe it is very important to have a view of 'the big picture' and Ben certainly gave that.

And finally, speaking of 'the big picture'. As Principal I have to maintain focus on the big picture (quite difficult some days when I'm dealing with the minutiae of life at WAS!). 'The big picture' is providing a safe, secure educational environment for **ALL** students. Individuals –

be they students or parents – sometimes feel that their voice isn't heard. Let me assure you it is heard, it is considered, and it is then placed in the context of that big picture.

**\*\* PLEASE READ \*\***

As parents of the more Senior students may be aware, there is a good deal of irresponsible and challenging behaviour going on amongst a small number of students. What we see, hear, and find out about in school, we deal with. Helen Ward (and the rest of the staff) have dealt with a number of incidents over the last few weeks. Every incident has been dealt with according to protocol. Students have spent time on the bench, in detentions, placed in isolation or, on some occasions, stood down. **HOWEVER**, much of this behaviour is going on outside of school. I had two reports of **FACEBOOK** abuse arrive on my desk. Now these comments are bullying but they are happening at home. Texts are being sent – these are being sent on an evening after school.

As a school, we are dealing with this within the powers that we have. This will include some workshops next term around the dangers of social media **BUT PLEASE** as a parent – check what your son/daughter is writing on Facebook, talk to them around what is happening, and discourage them from being involved. Feeding the conflict going on between what is really a small number of students will make situations worse.

Waiau Area School is a safe and healthy environment for learning. As a school community we will take whatever necessary steps are required to ensure that this continues.

*Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal*

## School News

### WELCOME TO NEW ENTRANT

This week we welcomed Ashton Edgerton into Room 1 with Mrs Bennett. Happy School Days Ashton!

### WAS AWESOME CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded certificates at last week's Assembly:



**Jackson Irvine – Yr2** – For all-round progress and increased motivation.

**Brycen Erskine – Yr4** – For an excellent attitude and effort in all learning areas. Very impressive Brycen.

**Flynn McCallum – Yr6** – Flynn has shown exceptional leadership skills in Friday sport and lunchtime

activities. Flynn has also set some high goals that he strives to achieve. Well done Flynn!

**Bruin Roe – Yr7** – For always trying his best in Mathematics class.

**Eric Ward – Yr8** – For excellent Mathematics skills.

**Moon Roe – Yr9** – For working with accuracy and precision.

**Ryan McLellan – Yr11** – For showing commitment to this learning.

**Jackie Friend – Yr12** – For a positive and successful return to Waiau Area School.

**George Hyde – Yr12** – For being focused and productive in Agriculture.

**Coleen Ebron – Yr13** – For overall positive attitude to school life and self-motivation and organisation for distance learning.

**A Reminder to All Drivers**  
When driving past a stationary school bus, the speed limit is 20km.

The last day of Term One (Thursday 17 April) is rapidly approaching.

We thought we would celebrate this day with a wacky hair/crazy hat day.

A gold coin is requested from participating students. Proceeds will be donated to the Invercargill Cancer Society.

### STUDENTS GOING OFF-SITE

We have had a number of students taking themselves down the street for whatever reason during school time. When you send your child to school, we as a school then become responsible for them; this means we need to know where they are.

Our school rule states, a parent/caregiver must write and request permission for their child to go down the street. This has to be used only in an emergency and a reason must be given. This note should be given to either Mrs Ward or Mrs Cleaver at the beginning of the day. It is the child's responsibility to do this. The note will then be counter-signed and must be handed in to the school office when the child signs out. Example:

*Dear Mrs Cleaver or Mrs Ward  
Jimmy has a Drs appointment at 10.40 this morning.  
Yours sincerely  
Mrs Bloggs*

To go and buy their lunch is not a valid reason for students to go off-site as a canteen service is available at school four days a week.

## From Our Sports Coordinator

### SWIMMING SPORTS RESULTS

Full results will be brought to you in the final newsletter for the term (Thursday 17 April).

### SOUTHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL'S ATHLETICS

Well done to our seven students who participated in the above a couple of weeks ago. While none placed within the top five of their events, some did get very close. You all performed to the best of your ability on the day and you can all be very proud of yourselves!

*Miss Rachael Poole, Sports Coordinator*

## Canteen News

The Canteen will be CLOSED on MONDAY 7 APRIL but OPEN on WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

Canteen will be OPEN on WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL (LAST DAY FOR CANTEEN.)

I would like to thank all the Parents and Children who have supported the Canteen in the 10 years I have been running it. I will miss you all and the mischief you got up too, but we did have some good chats over the years.

*Mrs March (aka Marchie)*

## 2014 Timeline

Mon 3 Feb to Thurs 17 Apr	TERM 1
Thurs 17 April	Yr1-13 Wacky Hair / Crazy Hat Day
Mon 5 May to Fri 4 July	TERM 2
Mon 3 June	Queen's Birthday
Mon 21 July to Fri 26 Sept	TERM 3
Mon 13 Oct to Thurs 11 Dec	TERM 4
Mon 27 Oct	Labour Day

## From Our Teachers

### MALAYSIA 2015

On Monday 7 April we will be holding the initial meeting for Malaysia 2015. It will take place in the School Library at 7:30pm and should last for approximately an hour or so. Feel free to come along if you are fully prepared to become involved in the trip or even if you only want to know more and have only just heard of our plans. Please read the proposed Agenda below and feel free to contact me if you have any concerns, queries or suggestions.

### Agenda

1. Welcome and review of the trip (review as necessary dependent upon interest).
2. Key issues around the trip highlighted.

3. Discussion of fundraising and possible sticking points/solutions.
4. Formation of fundraising committee (possible)
5. Commitment to trip and fundraising.
6. AOB – concerns and queries.

As you can see this is really the laying out of agreed ground rules and setting of conditions for participation and ways in which we can make the event happen. I will be more than happy to see you there and at this stage all input will be valued.

*Mr Simon Pearce*

### KAYAK KINGS MAKE A SPLASH!

Over the last week or so we have begun to use the new school's fleet of kayaks. They are awesome! Perception Torrent Whitewater sit on tops, they are pretty much unsinkable and are capable of tackling grade 3 rapids with comfort. We are really lucky to have got these boats for such a great price (\$2400) and even better is the support that Aaron and Lisa from the Tuatapere 4 Square have given us so that the school did not have to contribute a cent!



The students here are really enjoying using them: we've been into the lagoon; in the pool and are building up for a journey down the Waiau in the next week or so. What's even better is that the kayaks will be made available for community use; give us a week or two to sort out legalities and health and safety and hopefully just like the Film Club they will be available for all to use for a koha.



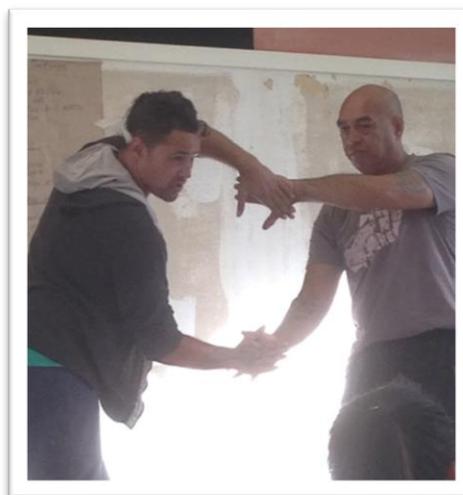
It's great to have these as a facility for everyone in the town and we're feeling really buoyant about the opportunities for outdoor ed in the school for the future.

*Mr Simon Pearce*

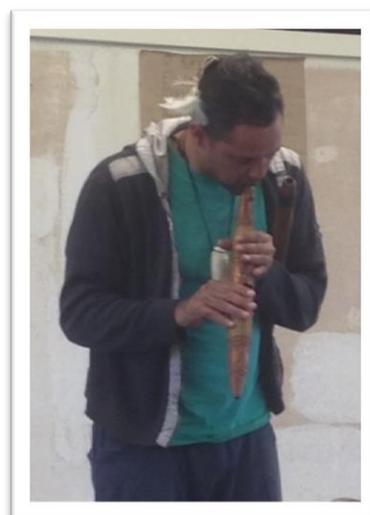
### TAONGA PUORO AND HAKA WORKSHOP

We were super lucky to have Jerome Kavanagh visit our school last week with his helper Pauly. Hailing from the small town of Taihape, Jerome is one of the younger members of "Haumanu", the taonga puoro community of New Zealand, dedicated to the preservation and renaissance of Taonga Puoro (traditional Maori musical instruments) for the last 10 years.

Jerome and Pauly came to talk to the students (Years 1-13) about a variety of Maori musical instruments. He explained what they were made of, how they were made and even played them for us. He has an amazing gift and passion for what he spoke about.



Jerome couldn't praise our students enough and was amazed by the way they listened and how engaged they were.



As part of the year 9 and 10 languages programme they attended this presentation and created their own musical instrument (purerehua) the following day. They now have a greater appreciation of Jerome's skills.

*Miss Jasmine Quinn, 7/8JQ*

## FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

In Room 1 we have been learning about foods from around the world as part of our integrated topic study. Last week we learnt all about England and the foods they eat there, we also had an English guest speaker. We finished off this learning by having an English tea party with homemade scones and cups of tea!



This week we have been learning about Italy; we celebrated by making delicious pizzas and tasting olives!



We can't wait to learn all about Japan next week and make sushi!  
Mrs Gemma Bennett & Room 1

## Library News

Scholastic Book Club Offer 2 is now out. Books from \$2. Spare copies are available from the Library. Students have been enjoying using <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>. Also worth a look is <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/> and for the

little ones

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/littlekids/>

The magazines that go with the websites have been very popular too.

Two beautiful books have been generously donated by Wharariki Publishing: *Song of the Waitaha*. *The Histories of the Nation* and *Whispers of Waitaha*. *Traditions of a Nation*. Waitaha: rare and unique books of Pre Maori Folklore, Traditions and Oral Histories of the Waitaha people which casts light on the culture, scientific and natural wisdom of the early peoples of NZ. For more information go to <http://www.waitaha.org/>

*The book to read is not the one that thinks for you but the one that makes you think*

Miss Joanne Fraser, Librarian

## WAIJU AREA SCHOOL FORMAL BALL

Theme: Narnia  
Where: WAS Hall  
When: 12 April  
Time: 7.30-11.30pm

Tickets now available  
at the School Office



## Community Notices

If you have a Community Notice to advertise, please email it through to the school at [newsletters@was.school.nz](mailto:newsletters@was.school.nz).

### FREE BUDGETING AND HOMEMAKING SESSIONS

Where: 'Much More on Main', 57 Main Road, Tuatapere

When: 7.30pm every Thursday

Cost: FREE

#### Upcoming Sessions:

10 April Health juicing and foot spas

17 April Easter — no session

24 April Easter — no session

1 May Technology-free games (bring the children or grandchildren)

8 May Chocolate and treats

15 May Survival awareness and preparation

22 May Power costs — how to keep them lower

29 May Recycling, re-purposing, repairing

5 June Skin care and body hygiene products

For more information contact Elizabeth Chittock on 03 2266301 or at [elizabethchittock@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethchittock@hotmail.com)

### EXPERIENCED DRESSMAKER AVAILABLE

For this year's FORMAL BALL. I have a small selection of patterns for you to choose from, or bring your own. I also offer a service for repairs and alterations. Rips, Zips and other bits that need mending. Reasonable charges. Phone Margaret on 03 2348680.