



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It has been a frenetic start to 2015 for both staff and students at Waiau. Last week our year 7-13s spent three days on team-building activities in a school based 'camp'. We had students kayaking, tramping, swimming, playing gym games as well as creating videos and posters for our PB4L launch later this year. Both my staff and myself were impressed with the overall commitment and enthusiasm shown by students. It was quite noticeable that the students were much more positive in their approach to the start of the year. We are starting to see the fruits of all the work done last year to create a positive and purposeful environment. We still have a long way to go but we are moving in the right direction.

A couple of concerns have been passed on to me re some decisions made within the school that perhaps weren't clearly passed on to you, the parents.

1. The change in our timetable: Waiau now has a 2-2-1 timetable. Two hour long lessons before a 30 minute break, followed by two more hour long lessons, lunch break, then another hour long lesson. There are a number of educational and curriculum reasons for changing to this structure. Pretty much all the research shows that we as humans are more productive in the mornings. Students are much more focussed and thus more open to learning. Secondly, it allows for 'double' lessons if required for practical subjects that may need more than an hour.

Now I do appreciate that this means some students (and staff!) will initially struggle to hold back the hunger pangs until 10.50am and then 1.20pm, but having experienced this change before I can assure you that our bodies do adjust! Students need to make sure that they eat something at interval as well as at lunchtime. They now have an extra 10 minutes at interval to do so.

2. The second decision is a curriculum decision. We are required as a school to provide a wide curriculum for our students (which we actually do very well) but of course there has to be a focus on the core curriculum of English, Maths and Science. Due to staff leaving last year, the school had to appoint a Deputy Principal who was also able to teach English. We appointed an excellent teacher who is proving to be an even more excellent DP. The downside of this is that there is only so much room on her timetable for English – and this was best utilised with year 9-11s.

Before becoming a Principal I had had some experience teaching English – so I was timetabled for Senior English. And in fact, I see year 12-13 English five

times a week. I felt however that irregular absences due to being a Principal would be detrimental to students and so, their English work is supplied by Te Kura. Please let me stress – they still have me to work with them with their English.

Can I also put a plea out there to parents and other members of the community that if you have a concern about the school, that you make an appointment – or pop in to see me. If you have a specific issue about your son/daughter then you approach their teacher first but if it is a general concern, feel free to see me. I will listen – the outcome may not always be what you want but your views are valued and respected.

At the back of the newsletter is a diagram of all the things that your son/daughter had the opportunity to participate in in 2014. Almost all of these activities were planned, organised and supervised in some way by the staff of Waiau Area School – many of them out of school time. Other schools, especially bigger schools **do not** go that extra mile for such small numbers of students, or their students at all. My staff do it on top of a **very** full teaching load and 2-4 meetings after school per week. I think the school community as a whole need to be made aware of this fact and bear it in mind when things go slightly wrong. We communicate to you as parents through newsletters, letters home and occasional phone calls etc. Please ask your son/daughter whether they have letters/newsletters. Also for parents of those in year 7-13, they now have planners that may have important information in.

Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

School News

WAS AWESOME CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded certificates at Assembly:



- Hunter Devery – Yr3** – For developing some very impressive self-management skills in all learning areas. Well done Hunter, I am proud of you.
- Tahlia Kennedy – Yr3** – Four outstanding skills in writing. Tahlia's stories include lots of descriptive language and always paints wonderful pictures for her audience.
- Bruin Roe – Yr8** – Bruin has proven to be a caring and compassionate learner and class member of the year 7 and 8 class. He considers others in the making of decisions.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

This week House Captains were voted for by their house (Year 6-13). Congratulations to the students voted by their peers. We look forward to seeing these students lead their houses with enthusiasm and being an excellent example to others.

DEAN: House Captain – Anna Hammond

ROWALLAN: House Captain – Travis Swann

LONGWOOD: House Captain – Lyall Egerton

We look forward to appointing our School Prefects soon.

ADMIN STAFFING CHANGES

You may have noticed that the lovely Rachael Poole is no longer with us in the office block. Rach is now working full-time in Invercargill at SIT in a role similar to the STAR/Gateway position she held here at school. We at school have been really sad to have Rach leave us; with her cheerful, helpful, enthusiastic nature she will be greatly missed. We wish you well Rach in your new endeavours.

In the meantime, we are really fortunate to have Melissa Poole return to WAS for two days a week to keep the finances in order. We are in the process of recruiting another part-time team member to do STAR/Gateway coordination, and Sports Coordinator roles.

NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

An information evening for NCEA students and their parents will be held on **Wednesday 4 March in the library at 7.00pm**. The short presentation will outline how NCEA works and how we plan to track our students' achievement this year.

Mr Paul Maloney, Principal's Nominee

MEET THE TEACHERS EVENING

To run alongside the NCEA Information evening, all teachers will be on site on this date to give parents / caregivers the opportunity to meet their son's / daughter's class / subject teacher and have a wander around the school. Refreshments will be available.

2015 Timeline

Wed 4 Feb to Thurs 2 Apr	TERM 1 (8 weeks)
Fri 6 Feb	Waitangi Day
Wed 4 March – 7pm	NCEA Information / Meet the Teachers Evening
Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 July	TERM 2 (11 weeks)
Mon 27 Apr	ANZAC Day observed
Mon 1 June	Queen's Birthday
Mon 20 July to Fri 25 Sept	TERM 3 (10 weeks)
Mon 12 Oct to Tues 15 Dec	TERM 4 (9½ weeks) (Tentative end date)
Mon 26 Oct	Labour Day

From Our Teachers



Teresa and Harold from the Life Education Truck came to visit us. I learnt how to look after my body. *Guy McClure*

Harold and Teresa came to visit us in the big truck. I learnt that I need to eat healthy food. *Luca Unahi*

Harold the giraffe and Teresa taught me how to be a good friend. The big truck was cool. *Tanāe Diack*



MENTORING DAYS – YR7-13

Students in Years 7-13 took part in three days of exciting activities to develop team-work and co-operation skills whilst exploring Waiau Area School's PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) theme of "Respect".

Each day, students in their House groups participated in a new activity: Kayaking at Te Wae Wae Lagoon, Tramping at the Alton Valley and PB4L activities at school.

Miss Quinn led the PB4L day at school and helped the students plan, film and edit a video to teach others about a specific area of behaviour that we have been focussing on for Weeks 1 -3: Eating lunch correctly, Moving around school and Talking to Others. These videos involved actors from across the school and were screened for the first time to an appreciative audience at the Junior School Assembly last week!

In all of the activity areas, the House Groups attempted to work together to demonstrate:

- Respect for Self
- Respect for Others
- Respect for the Environment

The Houses were given a score for each area of Respect and were allocated higher scores for the greater number of team members displaying that behaviour. For example, the students demonstrated "Respect for Self" by being prepared for each activity and following the gear list: bringing the right equipment/clothing and enough to eat and drink for the whole day.

Students scored highly in the "Respect for Environment" category if they picked up other people's litter and took their own rubbish home with them.

These points were totalled after the three days and will go towards the overall House Competition that runs throughout the year. As we head towards our first whole-school sports day (Athletics on Friday 20 Feb), it looks like Rowallan are off to a flying start and are in the lead! House Points:

Dean	116
Rowallan	127
Longwood	101

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff involved for making these days so successful, and a special thank you to Nichole Saunders from the Southland Canoe Club who assisted with the kayaking session on Thursday.



Photos:
Longwood House at the Alton Valley lookout (above).

Cheyenne Waihape performing a "seal launch" at the lagoon (left).

Community Notices

If you have a Community Notice to advertise, please email it through to the school at newsletters@was.school.nz.

Tui/Orawia Netball Notice 2015

The Tuatapere and Orawia Netball Clubs are working together this year to put forward teams in as many grades possible, to compete in the Central Netball Competition, played at Winton.

Could all players wishing to play in either Orawia or Tuatapere teams, please register by contacting either Wendy Adams (phone 2266383 or 021 02749936) or Trudy Slee (phone 2258899) with your name, date of birth and year at school, if applicable, by 1 March 2015. We will then have our first trials on 6 and 7 March.

We would also like to hear from any interested coaches and managers for all grades.

Over the last couple of years, there has been a lot of discussion about the possibility of our two clubs combining. If there is no objections to this, we will be looking at going through this process in the 2015 season, with a view of starting with a brand new club at the start of the 2016.

There will be an opportunity for people to have their say on what they think netball in the Waiau Valley could look like in the future, at a meeting on 30 March at the Waiau Hotel Lounge Bar at 7.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you all at trials. Let's make this a truly memorable season for our two clubs.

Tuatapere President: Wendy Adams

Orawia President: Trudy Slee

Waiau Swimming Club

Meeting Wednesday 25 February at 7.30pm at the Waiau Hotel. I hope to see you there.

Dale Egerton

Children's Day at the Fire Station

Sunday 1 March — 11am-2pm

Jed Street Invercargill

Loads of fun FREE activities for the family such as; Mini Jeeps, face painting, Fire safety, arts and crafts, healthy eating, colouring in competition and much more.....

Come along and spend nothing but time with your family.

For more information you can contact:

Rhonda Hoffman 027 312 3085

Bush Track clearing
 REAP Art Club
 Aurora Sports Exchange
 Gold Tournament
 Surfing
 Shave for a Cure
 Jump Jam
 Pet Show
 Hangi
 Attitude
 Cross Country
 Speech Competition
 Area Schools Tournament - Roxburgh
 Have a Go Day
 Book Week

Kapa Haka
 Internet Safety - Keeping ourselves safe
 School trip - 'Night at the Museum' - Dunedin
 Community Garden
 Guitar lessons
 Hangi
 Life Education Bus
 Mavora Camp
 PolyFest
 Rakesh Pardey - motivational speaker

Elwing Discoveries yacht adventure
 Tennis coaching
 Cross Country
 Reading with Dogs
 Swimming Sports
 Football Tournament
 Southland Athletics
 Otautau Touch
 Reading Together programme
 Basketball
 Rakesh Pardey - motivational speaker

Kids 4 Kids
 Rocky Shore day trip
 National Youth Training - Auckland
 Western Athletics
 South Island Secondary Schools Netball Tournament
 High Ropes Course
 Reading Recovery
 Camp Columba
 Cricket Tournament
 Area Schools Nationals Tournament - Nelson
 School Garden