



From Our Commissioner

I am delighted to report that the Ministry of Education has informed me that I can set a date for Board Elections to be held at Waiau Area School. These elections will be held on 19 June 2014. Three separate elections will be held:

- one for parents and caregivers to elect five trustees,
- one for staff to elect a staff trustee, and
- one for students to elect a student trustee.

My own role as Commissioner will end seven days after the Board elections. At this time, the powers of the Board will move from me to the newly elected Board. Support for the new Board will be provided by New Zealand School Trustees Association in the form of extensive professional development for Board members. Further support for the Board will come from a Specialist Adviser appointed by the Ministry of Education to work with the Board.

Over the past 20 months I have enjoyed working with the Principals and staff of the school, and with members of the local community. Many people have worked very hard for the children of the school. The recent reports from ERO and NZQA, and the 2013 NCEA results, reflect the progress made over this time. Equally, the school is in a strong financial position and, in July, we will be seeing construction start on the renovation of the Technology Block.

With the upcoming Board Elections, the whole community of the school will, once again, find itself represented at the Board table. The new Board will be actively involved in the governance of the school, providing strategic direction to ensure that student achievement is at the heart of all that the school does, and providing oversight of finances, staffing, and assets. This school needs all the members of the school community to think carefully about standing for election. We need people willing to devote their time, energies and skills to ensure that the Board functions well, supporting the work of the Principal and staff.

Over the next few weeks the school will be providing more details on the election process and this process will be run by the Returning Officer, Rachael Poole.

For now I send my best wishes to everyone in the school community and I ask you all to consider standing at these elections. Finally, I ask you all to support those who stand and those who are elected.

Mr Chris Shaw, Commissioner

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Easter has been and gone and we are now up and running in Term 2.

What is Education? I looked this up in the dictionary – *“The act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgement, and generally preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life”*.

Here at WAS we take all aspects of education seriously. Now when I mean seriously I am also including ‘Crazy Hat’ day. WAS students and staff raised \$205 for the Invercargill Cancer Society. This is a cause very close to everyone’s heart at WAS and so it was great to see full participation. The educational value of such an event? Well it certainly develops the key competence ‘participating and contributing’! It also teaches students to think about others and the difficulties they may experience. (Check out the Facebook page if you haven’t already, for some of the photos.)

Another key competency that students had the opportunity to develop at the end of last term was ‘relating to others’. On the very last day our cross-school ‘Easter Games’ were a huge success. Students right across the school worked together on a number of challenges as a team. One member of staff was heard to comment that we don’t often do this as a ‘whole school’ – so watch out for future events. The students had a lot of fun, even more chocolate but most of all they learnt to support and encourage each other – the biggest winners on the day were the students/teams that helped each other the most.

Looking forward to this term those same key competencies will be developed when some of our students PARTICIPATE in the 40 Hour Famine. You can show your support by sponsoring those students. The planning for events leading up to and during 'The Famine' are in full swing!

We also have staff and students psyching themselves up for a head shave early in June – again supporting the local Cancer Society. It's taken me 40 years to grow my hair to the length it is now so I will be 'participating' by donating ☺ and of course taking the pictures!

Now I'm afraid my own education is severely lacking because I haven't heard to "Bad Jelly the Witch" but over the last couple of days I have learnt **lots** about her from our younger students who had a terrifically **good** time at the production in Invercargill ☺.

While all these 'fun' things are taking place our core purpose of 'academic achievement' isn't being overlooked. Our senior students are by now well into full assessment mode. Term 2 is often the term when things appear on the surface to slow down but if students let their work slide now they find Term 3 **very** difficult! So my message to all the senior students is keep beavering away at that work now! ☺

We were fortunate enough on Monday to have John Parsons visit the school for a series of workshops on 'keeping yourself safe'. John talked about the dangers of the digital age we live in. He worked with students, did a staff workshop, and parent/community workshop. Everyone who has been to John's workshops has appreciated their value so it was very disappointing to see so few parents turn up to the session. We hope as a school, to get John back later in the year – so look out for his workshops. He really is worth catching.

And finally – further on in the newsletter you will see that there is now a timeline for the Board elections. Can I just reiterate what it says in the statement from Chris Shaw the Commissioner: The school is in a good position – financially, academically, and 'emotionally'. We have a dedicated, professional staff and a well-resourced school. We now need people from the community to stand for the Board, to work with us in this new era. If you want to come and talk to me about the role, feel free to call in for a chat.

Ms Elizabeth Hannah, Principal

School News

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

This week we welcomed Aidan Scott into Miss Dickson's class. Aidan is year 5 and comes to us from Invercargill. We also welcomed back Jarred Middlemiss to the yr9/10 class. We hope you enjoy your time here with us boys!

IMPORTANT DATE
Teacher Only Day
Friday 30 May

SCHOOL ACTIVITY FEES

A **BIG** thank you to those parents/caregivers who have paid their fees (or have set up Automatic Payments to pay them off). This is much appreciated!

Activity fees have been kept to a minimum, i.e. only \$25 annually per yr1-10 student. This fee helps meet some of the extracurricular costs incurred in our yr1-10 part of the school. Non-payment of this small fee could see students miss out on non-curriculum activities/resources.

Yr11-13 students have not been charged an activity fee due to the number of incidental costs that occur throughout the year.

Payment of fees can be made as follows:

- Cash or cheque (made payable to Waiau Area School);
- Internet Banking: **03-1750-0350602-00. Ref: Student's name.**
- Setting up an automatic payment.

I will be sending out follow-up invoices/reminders in the next week or two. Ignoring these invoices won't make them go away ... Any queries, my door is always open ...

Many thanks, Gillian Hammond

WAS Cross Country
Now to be held on Wednesday 4 June

QUIZ NIGHT - DATE FOR DIARY

7.15PM REGISTRATION FOR A 7.30PM START

THURSDAY 15 MAY - WAIAU HOTEL

FUNDRAISING FOR THE UPCOMING

AREA SCHOOLS SPORTS TOURNAMENT

“TUI TRAX” – KIWISPORT APPLICATION

Our School recently made an application to Kiwisport for funding towards the cost of developing a BMX track here in Tuatapere. We're pleased to announce that we have been granted \$3000 towards the project. Stay tuned for these exciting developments.



SCHOOL BLAZER FOR SALE

Size 104cm, Excellent Condition, \$60.
Contact the School Office if keen on buying.

REQUEST FROM PARENT

Please check your school jersey for one with the name Craig Diack on it and please return it to the Office.

BOT Election Timeline

Call for Nominations by	22 May
Nominations Close	5 June
Voting Papers Sent by	10 June
Voting Day	19 June
Count Votes	25 June
Board Takes Office	26 June

Parents/caregivers will be receiving information in due course. If you have any queries about this timeline, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Miss Rachael Poole, Returning Officer

2014 Timeline

Mon 3 Feb to Thurs 17 Apr	TERM 1
Mon 5 May to Fri 4 July	TERM 2
Wed 21 to Fri 23 May	Yr7-13 Area Schools Sports Tournament – Roxburgh
FRI 30 MAY	TEACHER ONLY DAY
Mon 2 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

School Lunch Service

This service is available to **ALL** students from year 1 through to year 13 and operates as follows:

- Students are to hand in to the School Office an envelope with their order and correct money;
- This must be done by 10.30am *at the very latest*;
- The bagged and named order will be delivered to school just on lunchtime (12.50pm);
- Students are to collect their order from the Library foyer before 1.00pm.

We have spare copies of the Four Square's Lunchtime Menu at the School Office if needed.

From Our Deputy Principal

AMERICANA CARS

On Saturday 5 July there will be a tour through Tuatapere of the Americana Cars group. They have asked if we would be interested in providing lunch for their group as they travel through Tuatapere on their way to Te Anau. The staff feel that this is a great opportunity to raise funds for the school and have accepted the challenge of providing lunch for a significant number of people (perhaps up to 500 people!).

They will be here on school grounds for two hours with their cars parked up on the field – the general public are welcome to attend for a gold coin donation. We envisage this being a fun and entertaining two hours and encourage your attendance.

With this big a commitment we would love the support of our school community. We will be calling for offers of help and donations of food closer to the date. A meeting will be held for this in early June.

AREA SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

How quickly has this come around? We are away on Wednesday 21 May. It's good to see permission slips coming in so early – this is absolutely necessary because we need to confirm the billets with Roxburgh.

To help us with our funds for this trip, we are having a quiz night on Thursday 15 May, 7.15pm registration for a 7.30pm start. Your child will bring home a letter around this. On Monday 12 May the final letter around gear, times etc will go home. Please ask to see this.

SENIOR STUDENTS

As always around our students learning, to get the best possible outcomes for our students, home and school need to work together. I encourage you as parents to talk to your child around their learning. Ask them about the credits they have achieved so far this year. Ask them if they are making the best use of their time. If any

concerns arise from these conversations, please contact the school; either their curriculum teacher or myself.

ABSENCES

I think it's really important for parents/caregivers to understand that if the school is not given a **justifiable** reason for a student's absence or lateness, then we are required to mark them as **Tuant**. The Ministry of Education has access to our school database. If your child is not going to be at school, **please ring school**. If you ring before 8am you can leave a message on the answerphone.

TERTIARY OPEN DAY

On the afternoon of Sunday 11 May Miss Quinn and myself will travel to Dunedin with our yr12-13 students. On the Monday we will be investigating study and career options through various providers, such as Otago Polytechnic, University of Otago, Aoraki Polytechnic, etc. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to gain information around further study or career options.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS

During terms 2 and 3 a number of our senior students will be travelling one day a week to Invercargill to take part in vocational pathways training for a variety of different trades at SIT. If your child is one of these students, please encourage them to attend all the days the training is held.

THANKS TO STAFF

On a more general note, Term 2 is shaping up to be as busy as Term 1. I would like to take this opportunity to mention how supportive staff are towards the students achieving their learning goals and how they go the extra mile around ensuring our kids are given opportunities.

Often the extracurricular activities our teachers offer to our students go unrecognised; such as Volleyball in Invercargill, Touch in Otautau, coming home at 5pm from an activity to have given students more time on the water (Waka Ama), running Quiz Nights to fundraise for students, Film Club evenings, travelling with students in the weekend to allow students to experience events that they otherwise may not have been able to attend. These are all an integral part of school life that do not happen unless the staff drive it. So Thank You Staff!

Mrs Helen Ward, Deputy Principal

From Our Teachers

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Here is a piece of writing I would love to share with you all. It is based around a picture book in our school library called *Colour the Stars* by Dawn McMillan. We were trying to use more description in our writing to make the reader build a picture in their mind.

Congratulations Angela – this is a great piece of writing!

Miss Jasmine Quinn

Yellow

I want you to climb up a hill in the morning while facing the rising sun. Shut your eyes and think of the colour yellow, feel it, taste it, hear it and smell it.

Yellow is a great colour. Yellow always makes me feel happy the colour lifts my spirits up all the time. Yellow is warm. In the winter when I'm cold I think about yellow and then I feel warm. Yellow feels safe. If you think about yellow for a while you might feel safe. Yellow is smooth and silky.

Grab the colour yellow and put it in your mouth. It will taste sweet like honey and sugar. Yellow tastes like pastry that's light and fluffy fresh from the oven, cooked to perfection.

Listen to the sound of yellow. When I listen to the sound of yellow I hear laughter that's among the bright rising sun in the morning. I hear yellow as stars that are twinkling in the night sky.

Now smell yellow. It smells sweet. When I smell yellow I smell sunflowers waving around in the wind. I can also smell bananas. Really sweet bananas that have fallen down from a banana tree.

So sit back and relax on a chair. Can you see yellow now?

By: Angela Pierce

Library News

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Issue 3 2014 is now out. Extra copies are available in the School Library. Orders can be left at the office.

NEW BOOKS

The Last Thirteen books 13, 12, 11 & 10 are now in the Library – <http://www.thelast13.com/>

Spirit Animals Series Books 1 & 2

<http://spiritanimals.scholastic.com/>

Fly Guy presents space, Fly Presents Sharks, Freak Street Aliensons, Humansons, Wizardsons, Zombiesons on Holiday <http://www.freakstreet.com.au/>

Canterbury Quake Christchurch 2010-11

Catching Fire Illustrated movie Companion

Vampire Academy Series

I am the Messenger, The Book Thief and the Underdogs Trilogy by Markus Zusak

COOL WEBSITES

<http://anyquestions.co.nz/> offers online schoolwork help to NZ school students, you can log on between 1-6pm

Monday-Friday and talk to a **real** person about your schoolwork. Librarians are specially trained to help you find the answers you need (without giving you the answers). When Librarians are offline, you can visit <http://manyanswers.co.nz/> which has answers to commonly asked questions on. Adults can check out the Info for Adults page, which has useful info about the service and how it operates.

Miss Joanne Fraser, Librarian

Community Notices

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



**LET'S TURN TUATAPERE PINK
PINK RIBBON BRUNCH**

Last Light Lodge

Sunday 26 May @ 9.30am

\$25 (includes \$5 donation to NZBCF)

Guest Speaker: Pip Egerton

Dressing up is not Essential... But is so much fun!

Reservations essential. RSVP to Last Light Lodge

2266667

or Karen 2266082 or Kirsty 2266570

Pink Ribbon items will be for sale.

Spot Prizes • Raffles • Best Dressed Prizes

BABYSITTER WANTED

Monday—Friday, must have own transport.

Phone 2266259 or txt 027 2707703.

WAIAU VALLEY VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

Would like you to support them on their upcoming Quiz night. This will be held at the Waiau Hotel on Wednesday 30 June at 7.30pm. Any donations will be gratefully accepted.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be at 5.30pm — also on the same day — 30 June .

With thanks, Ann Sutherland, Secretary

NATHAN MIKAERE-WALLIS SEMINARS

Southern REAP is excited to be once again hosting Nathan Mikaere-Wallis to the region talking on Brain Development and how it relates to our children and their learning. He is speaking in Frankton, Gore, Winton and Lumsden on various points throughout our children/adolescents' development.

PARENTING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS with Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

In these 2.5hr seminars Nathan introduces the "Structure of the Brain" and the overall relevant research findings from the last 15 years that relate to directly parenting, and "brain based" tips for successful parenting.

Monday 9 JUNE at the James Cumming Wing, GORE

TIME ONE: 1pm - 3:30pm, \$25

TIME TWO: 7pm - 9:30pm, \$25

Please phone Tracey or Lynley at Southern REAP to enrol 0800 111 117 or 03 2366008

THE TEENAGE BRAIN with Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

Nathan explains the massive changes the teenage brain undergoes and covers;

- "brain based" tips to help you understand the Teenage Brain
- "brain based" tips for successful parenting
- the effects of drugs and alcohol on the adolescent brain.

Tuesday 10 JUNE 6pm - 8:30pm at the City Impact Church, FRANKTON \$25. Please phone Tracey or Lynley at Southern REAP to enrol 0800 111 117 or 03 2366008

Wednesday 11 JUNE 7pm - 9:30pm at the Memorial Hall, LUMSDEN \$10. This seminar has been kindly offered in conjunction with the Northern Southland Community Worker - Lynley Soper and supported by the NSCRCCCT. Please note: it is not necessary to enrol to attend Nathan's seminar in Lumsden - pay on the night.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT with Nathan Mikaere-Wallis

Join Nathan as he walks you through;

- an introduction to the structure of the brain and the overall relevant research findings
- brain based tips for successful parenting
- the role of hormones and how these relate to practice.

Nathan will cover;

- an overview of research that relates directly to teaching and parenting with more depth for the practitioner
- how to use "brain based" practices to help heal children from early trauma background with more specific application to the classroom.

Wed 11 JUNE at Southern REAP, WINTON \$40. 10am-2:30pm with half an hour for lunch, please bring your own. Please phone Tracey or Lynley at Southern REAP to enrol 0800 111 117 or 03 2366008.