



Principal's Portal

Dear Parents/Guardians

Here we are at the end of week 3 and we are watching the dust settle as we overcome the flurry of starting a new year.

School Charter

Waiau Area School's 2012 Charter has been submitted to the Ministry for review. The Charter is the blueprint for our school and underpins our vision, goals, beliefs and aspirations. The front end of the document was compiled last year. Each year however schools review their current needs and develop strategic annual aims to meet these needs. They are imparted as implementation annual plans. These plans are tentative and through regular review we will adapt these. In the interim they offer a guide on how best to achieve better outcomes for students.

The targets set this year are listed as follows:

Writing:

- Year 9 boys who were below the standard will make more than one year's progress (accelerated progress) in relation to the writing.
- 100% of Year 7 students will make accelerated progress in writing.
- 80% of all Year 6 students will be achieving at or above the national standard for writing.

Reading:

- 50% of Year 6 students will make accelerated progress and achieve above national standard for reading.
- The Year 9 students moving into Year 10 will make 1 year's progress (accelerated progress) in relation to the expected level in reading.

NCEA:

- To sustain or accelerate performance on NCEA pass rate at or above the national performance.
Level 1 76.1%, Level 2 81.4%, Level 3 74.5%
- To sustain or accelerate performance in NCEA Literacy and Numeracy achievement at or above national performance: **80%, 79.2%**
- To perform at or above the national average for external exams; for those eligible.

Attendance Concerns

There is great concern regarding the start some students have made to their academic year. Coming to school late in the morning or not at all for reasons that do not align with excusable absence is not acceptable. Missing school sets students off on the back foot when they return. Playing catch up is really difficult for some and for some it is easier to give up than to persevere.

School Athletics

Next Tuesday students will be participating in the School Athletics Competition. It is a pleasure as always to be hosting Hauroro Valley School and Blackmount students. The student council is running a best dressed House competition to lift House Spirit and Mrs Tania Egerton is well underway with the final organisation for this event. We look forward to seeing parents and supporters for a great day.

Have a great week everyone.

Noho ora mai (stay well).

Maryse Anderson-Kereti

Principal

From the Office

Student of the Week Awards

Congratulations to the following students:

Rm 2 – **Amyee Gutsell** – Amyee has made a fantastic start to her learning in 2012. Keep up the awesome learning. Well done.

Rm 3 – **Courtney Erskine** – For being a hard working student in Room 3. Courtney is a great team player and is ready to help others.

Rm 4 – **Ruth Bennie** – Room 4 Award: Ruth is a polite, enthusiastic and dedicated learner. She is highly organised, contributes well to class discussions and displays mature work habits. Well done Ruth!

Year 7/8JQ – **Maddison Hampton** – Amazing attitude towards new learning and giving everything a go.

Year 7/8HW – **Jordan Erskine** – A great start to the year, working well and being a positive role model.

Year 9/10SP – **Olivia Hammond** – For an excellent start to the new year.



Year 9/10AC – **Eleanor Carey** – For a positive start to the year.

Year 11PM – **Marissa Johnston** – For being prepared for class and for showing a strong commitment to academic success.

Relief Teacher Aides & Cleaners Wanted

We would like to build up our pool of relievers for the above two positions here at school. If you would be at all interested in being on call to relieve please register your interest with Gillian in the School Office. We look forward to hearing from you.

School Assemblies

Full Assemblies will be held every second Friday at 8.50am in the Hall – **next one 2 March 2012.**

Syndicate Assemblies will be held alternate Fridays –
Junior Syndicate at 2.40pm
Senior Syndicate at 8.50am

School Canteen

A reminder to all that the **Canteen will be closed on Monday 20 February** – reopen for business as usual from Tuesday 21 February. *Many thanks, Mrs Murch*

From the Student Council

Well, another year with a new name and new beginnings. Three weeks gone by and everyone seems to be settling in just lovely. With the school athletics on the horizon, Mr Bennett the PE teacher has been working everyone to the bone, so they can compete at the highest level at the first ever Waiau Area School athletics.

Head students and Prefects will be looking out for those with their uniform in top form and there will be prizes for the lucky ones for a voucher for the school canteen.

There will be a big assembly involving the whole school every second week.

*Kind regards, Simon, Danza, Max, Hollee,
Nicola, Logan & Jessica (Student Council)*

From the Lead Managers

From Mr Mustor ...

It's difficult to believe that we have already had 3 weeks back at school. Most of the Y11-13 courses are well underway, so it feels like a good time to remind everyone about student tracking, attendance, study periods and NCEA.

1 to 1 meetings

All Y11-13 students will have a 20 min meeting with me each fortnight to check on their progress. These meetings allow students to discuss their successes, challenges and next steps in their classes and assessments. This is a new initiative to the school, aimed at monitoring student achievement, identifying barriers to learning and reporting this quickly to parents and other related people (careers, guidance, teachers etc). Several students have already had these meetings. The meeting notes will be made available to parents at the end of the week of the meeting (usually by email).

Attendance and study periods

One of the major focus areas for the Y11-13 students is attendance. I thought it might help to outline the expectations I have around this. All Y11-13 students are expected to be at school (with the obvious exception of illness or prearranged trips / visiting the doctor etc). This includes Y12 and Y13 study periods. If you cannot attend school, it is important that the school knows. A parent should ring school to explain the reason for the absence in the morning.

A study room has been allocated each period and students are expected to use this time to work on any set work from their regular classes. All Y11-13 classes have a level of independent work set for this time. Students that have online or correspondence courses must complete their work for these subjects in the designated study room. Students are not able to work at home during their study periods.

Currently agriculture students have extra study periods due to the delay to the start of this course. We are hoping that by Monday this course will be underway. Y11 students will have study timetabled in an existing class, rather than having independent study. Study is an important part of any senior programme. We are monitoring how the students use this time, and will make changes as needed.

Careers

Miss Quinn is the new careers advisor at school. Over the year she will be working with all Y11-13 students around potential career pathways. We will keep you posted on some of the opportunities and courses available to Y11-13 students as they come to hand.

NCEA level courses

Teachers of Y11-13 courses will be providing all of their students with a course booklet that outlines the assessments that are on offer in that course over the year. Students should read these booklets thoroughly as they will help them with working out where they can get credits.

Steven Mustor, LM Yr11-13

From Mrs Ward ...

We have had a very settled start to learning in the middle school and it is lovely to see happy faces around the school. If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning please contact the school office to make an appointment with the homeroom teacher in the first instance. All staff welcome family involvement in students learning. I would like to bring your attention to the following.

Cell Phones – while it is ok for students to bring their cell phones to school they are not to be used during classes. If you wish to contact your child during class time please call the office and a message will be passed on.

Homework – is set to encourage students to develop independent learning skills. This should be a task that they are able to complete without assistance although we do encourage families to ask about home work. For yr 7/8 students this should be no longer than 40 minutes a night and part of this time should be used for reading. Yr 9/10 students are encouraged to complete an hour's homework each evening.

Uniform – If you are having problems accessing the necessary components of the uniform please send a note to school with your child. We encourage students to wear sun protection but discourage the wearing of caps in the incorrect manner.

HPV Vaccine is offered to girls in yr 8. Information regarding this vaccine will be sent home. I encourage you to read this. If you require further information please contact the Southland Immunisation Coordinator – details on information sent home.

Alternative Afternoon Programme - This term we are trialling a new program for the afternoon where students are able to experience more hands on learning. Students are timetabled as a class to learn about Mythology with Miss Thompson Hopwood, Drama with Mr Muster, Soft Materials with Mrs Ferguson, the yr. 7/8 classes are engaged in a Get Growing programme with Miss Collet. She is also taking the 9/10 students for Music appreciation. Mr Pearce is working on a programme called Market Day. It is hoped that this afternoon programme will provide students with wider experiences out of the classroom utilising all school facilities such as the agriculture block and the sewing machines etc.

We are also investigating ways to incorporate practical music into this programme.

On Friday afternoon we bring all year levels together for organised sport. This is to encourage greater participation in physical activities as well as build positive relationships between students from different year levels.

Helen Ward, LM Yr7-10

Note from the Bus Monitor

This is just a friendly reminder that if your student is being picked up from school instead of taking the bus home, that the parent must contact the office beforehand or sign the student off the bus roll.

Thanks, The current bus monitor

Congratulations on Your Achievements ...

We have been informed of four students who have been selected on the basis of talent to partake in extracurricular activities! We celebrate with the community the achievement of the following:

- **Lewis McKay, Bryan Hall, and Iain Hall** – for being selected to play with the Waimatuku Southern Scenic Highland Pipe Band at the National Pip Band Contest in Tauranga in March – well done guys we are all proud of you.
- **Tui Waihape** – for being selected for the Under 13 Murihiku Maori Netball squad to participate in a netball competition in April in Rotorua. What a great achievement Tui we are so proud of you.

Transition to School Classes

The transition to school classes for 4 year olds will be starting up again for the year in 2 weeks' time which is Friday 2 March. The class will run for one hour from 2pm until 3pm every second week. Please note that the day and time has changed from last year's classes. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards, Gemma Edgerton

Teacher Aide Wanted

Applications are sought for the position of Teacher Aide for a high needs student. The work involves working on a one on one basis and supporting the student in class. The applicant must have an ability to maintain firm boundaries and support the student in transitioning to school life. The position is for 15 hours per week, Monday to Friday, term time only. There could be a possibility that the appointee may be granted 10 extra hours to work as a teacher aide in other areas of the school.

There are no specific requirements to become a teacher aide, but a relevant qualification such as a certificate in teacher aiding or learning support, and relevant experience, may be preferred.

Please register interest by submitting a letter of application and CV at the school office. Position closes Tuesday 28 February 2012.

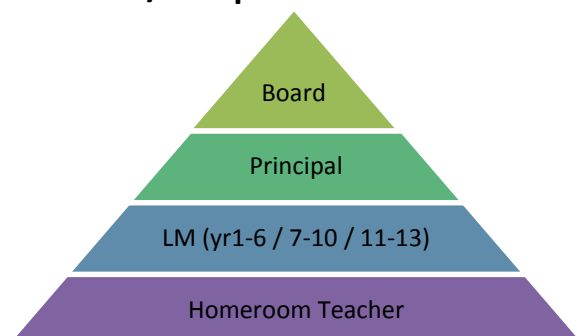
Library News

Welcome to our new student Librarians who have been very keen to learn about how the Library works. The students are Gabrielle, Kirsten, Hannah, Ruth, Georgia, Joseph, George, Leila, Thomas, Judith, Cody and Dylan. Their duties include issuing and returning books, displaying of books, and reading and sharing books with other students.

The Library has been very busy with books been issued on a daily basis. We now have computers in the Library that can be accessed by the students for study.

A cool Website to help with spelling homework is www.spellingcity.com

Concerns/Complaints Portal for Parents



The diagram above illustrates parents' first point of contact should they have concerns or queries with regard to their child's learning.

The first point of contact for parents should ALWAYS be the Homeroom Teacher, then appropriate Lead Manager, before being referred on to the Principal/ Board as the final means of clarification/resolution of any issue.

Creative Arts Department

I would ask parents and community members to pass on any unwanted "Resource Materials" to use in construction of creative projects. Such items may include: material, wool, threads, zips, darning, lacing wire, bubble wrap, soft furnishing fabric, trims, carpet pieces, knitting needles, and any other bits and bobs 'hanging around'. Items can be delivered with the students or dropped off at the Art Room. Thank you.

Kind regards, Annette Ferguson, Arts Teacher

WAS Athletics – Notice to Competitors

The age of each athlete is taken as at 1 January 2012. Therefore, if you were 11 years old on this date you are an Under 12 (U12), if you were 12 years old on this date you are an Under 13 (U13), 13 yrs = Junior, 14 yrs = Intermediate, 15 yrs and above = Senior.

In the Primary Athletics section, the competing groups are also labelled according to age as at 1 January 2012,

e.g. if you were 10 years old on 1 January, you are in the 10 yr old group.

Good luck to all competitors, see you next Tuesday!

Mr Bennett

Waiau Area Schools Athletics Day

Yr 1-13 will compete for the Athletic Champions on **Tuesday 21 Feb**. Postponement: Thursday 23 Feb

- **8.45am**. Briefing in quad
- **9.00am. Start**

First events: 800m - Yr 7-13

Field Events - Yr 1-6

Proudly Support your House by wearing House colours on Tuesday. Best Dressed House will win prizes!!!

We are DESPERATELY in need of track time keepers and field event helpers; without help we are unable to run this event so please contact the school or Tania if you are able to help.

PTA Meeting

Is being held on Wednesday 29 February at 7.30pm in the School Staffroom. All welcome. *Christine Murch*

2012 Term Timeline

Tuesday 31 January to Thursday 5 April	Term 1, 2012
Monday 23 April to Friday 29 June	Term 2, 2012
Monday 16 July to Friday 28 September	Term 3, 2012
Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December	Term 4, 2012 (tentative end date)

Community Notices

Winton Football Club Inc

Calling all adults – mums, dads, big brothers and sisters, staff and neighbours

Anyone considering being part of the Winton Football Club Inc senior teams for the 2012 season are requested to make contact with either: Wendy Boniface 2217 417; 027 427 0447;

wwboniface@woosh.co.nz or Mike Green 2361 058, 021 272 2669, emgreen@vodafone.co.nz

We cater for both men and women. Experience is not necessary but the ability to take on a challenge, if new to football, a willingness to get fit and learn, as well as enjoy the camaraderie of being part of a team sport. Practices will commence in late February 2012.

Junior players are also catered for – keep an eye out for March registration dates soon – anyone interested in coaching can also make contact with Wendy as listed above.

Western Zone 9 Hole Golf Series

Wednesday 22 February at Riverton Golf Course.

4.00pm Coaching if you can come early.

4.30pm Tee Off 9 Hole Series

\$5 for Juniors \$10 for Adults

PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS AND ADULTS!

HCP AND NON HCP DIVISIONS.

MEMBER OR NON MEMBER; EVERYONE INVITED!

COME AND HAVE A GO AND HAVE SOME FUN!

To Enter please contact Jenna on 027 4888 037 or 03

9310082 or at gdmssouthland@gmail.com

Jenna Gainford

Golf Development Manager, Golf Southland

Waiau Star Rugby

Registrations 2012 Season

Registrations for the upcoming 2012 season for Waiau Star Schoolboy Rugby will be held:

WHEN: Tuesday 21st February 2012 from 2.15pm

WHERE: Waiau Area School Athletics (outside gym area)

We look forward to seeing all new and current players.

If you are unable to make it or know of someone interested in playing, or are willing to give up your time to coach or manage a team give Debbie a buzz on 2255052 or d.fowle@xtra.co.nz

Cost \$20.00 to register (this also includes a free mouth guard).

Tuatapere Community Baths

As from now to the end of the season the Tuatapere Baths hours will be

Thur, Fri , : 3.15pm-4.30pm

Sat , Sun : 2.00pm-4.00pm

Also Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Mornings from 8.30am-9.30am

Thanks to all those people who have given up their precious time to help out at the pool. If you are able to help supervise we as a committee would be very grateful. Give Leona a buzz on 2266394.

Te Ara Reo Maori – Opening Night

All people interested in the above classes are invited to attend the opening night celebrations on Tuesday 21 February at 6pm at SIT, Tay Street. You'll need to bring along your marriage certificate / birth certificate /

passport. Ring Tina on 2266720 if you have any further queries about the course.

Note that we still have available at the School Office application forms for the above. 25 PEOPLE ARE REQUIRED TO ENROL IN COURSE BEFORE IT CAN RUN.

Mark your Calendars Now

**THE GREAT
TUATAPERE
PLAYCENTRE BAKE
SALE**

Friday 9th March 2011

 **Time: 10am – 12noon**

**Where: In front of the Toy
Library** 

Get in quick for some yummy home-made cakes,
scones, slices and biscuits.

☺ See you all there ☺

Disclosure: Information published in this newsletter is at the discretion of the editor.