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Contact the school office for details
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admin@waitoki.school.nz

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Waitoki School NEWSLETTER

TERM 4

14 DECEMBER 2023



WAITOKI SCHOOL

1119 Kahikatea Flat Road
Waitoki, Auckland
09 420 5244
admin@waitoki.school.nz
www.waitoki.school.nz



Waitoki School

Adaptive, curious,
creative lifelong
learners.

Grit - Niwaha

Waitoki School believes our inclination to revere natural talent is misguided; in terms of achievement, the effort we put in and our reaction to set-backs count for far more. Grit is something that can be learned and offers a new formula for individual and collective success.

Tēnā koutou Whanau,

We only have a few more days until the end of term but we will be squeezing in a few more things before the summer holiday begins. "Christmas in the Country" is tomorrow from 5pm. The children will be sharing their Christmas songs from 6pm. Please come along with a picnic and enjoy the festivities. School Prize giving will be on Tuesday 19th December at 8.45am and we anticipate it will last at least one and a half hours. You are most welcome to join us and there will be tea and coffee available in the hall.

School reports are due to go home tomorrow. In the envelope along with the report will be an information sheet explaining the new report format, a 2024 class placement letter and instructions for purchasing stationery for next year. If you have ordered a Yearbook this will also be sent home tomorrow with the report. The Yearbook is amazing, so thank you very much to Katrina Selfe, Amy Hawkins and Belinda Tustin for your mahi.

Students returning to Waitoki School in 2024 will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and classmates on Monday 18th December. A great deal of thought has gone into all class placements to ensure our classes are as balanced as possible. We request that you trust our robust process and that you allow time for your child to settle in their new class and build a relationship with their teacher before requesting any changes.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts this year. Collectively we have raised over \$29,000 which is fantastic. Special thanks to Chantelle, Sara, Katrina, Melissa and Donna for all your hard work, we greatly appreciate it. Over \$8,000 was raised at Country Fair and this money will be used to purchase 24 new chrome books for the Y4 - Y8 classrooms.

As you are already aware, we have renovations happening in Ruma Tahi, Rua, Toru, and the Library during January 2024. In preparation for this furniture and resources will be moved to the hall on Tuesday 19th December, after prize giving. To meet Health and Safety requirements, the builders will need to 'cone off' some areas of the school. Please could you and your children stay away from these areas if you are using the school pool or playground during the holidays. Thank you.

Thank you to those that filled in the AG Day & Country Fair 2024 survey. Out of all the responses we received over the week, 71.6% said you would like for the events to be held on a Saturday, and for the day to be counted as an official school day. Therefore, in 2024, Ag Day and Country Fair will be held on a Saturday. More details to come next year!

Lastly, our final whole school assembly for the year is tomorrow, Friday 15th December at 8.45am. You are welcome to come and join us.

Ngā mihi nui

Jules McCourt

[Upcoming events to add to your diary:](#)

Reports & Yearbook go home—Fri 15th Dec

Christmas in the Country—Fri 15th Dec 5pm—8pm

End-of-year Prize giving—Tues 19th Dec 8.45am—10.30am

Last Day of term—Wed 20th Dec (close at 12pm)

[In other news](#)

We're looking forward to our Christmas in Waitoki event tomorrow, Fri 15th December at 5pm, and celebrating the year that's been! Make sure to bring along a picnic blanket, extra savory food and some cash.

Garden to Table Restaurant

Last week and this week our Year 6 and 7 students were involved in a new initiative to Waitoki School — the Garden to Table Restaurant. Caregivers of the students were invited to enjoy a four course meal with a beautiful set up in the hall. The students had to design a menu based on what produce they had in the school garden, and there were many creative ideas.



Some skills learnt with the restaurant included how to harvest, prepare and share great food with whanau, time management, working under pressure, and teamwork.

Donations for Rumo Ono

Do you have any toys or games that your children have grown out of? Our new set up class is looking for any good quality toy and game donations for the room for next year. If you do have anything you would like to donate to the Year 1 class, can you please pass these on to Mrs Hartley by Tuesday 19th December.

Congratulations

St John Youth Parade Cup—Leo Medwin



Ka pai to Leo Medwin for winning the St John Youth Parade Cup for 2023! St John Youth is a community service that teaches youth skills such as first aid, health and safety, caregiving, leadership, communication and other life skills. Leo showed exceptional skills during Parade, showcasing his strong values and caring nature, following in his brothers' footsteps. We're incredibly proud of your mahi Leo!

TAG Junior Nationals—Eden Sweetman, Piper Stubbs, Carter Sweetman and Travis Sweetman

Eden, Piper, Carter and Travis competed in the TAG Junior Nationals on the 2nd and 3rd of December for the Hibiscus Coast Raiders. Eden and Piper competed in the U11 Girls Division, and throughout the season their team remained undefeated which is an amazing result!



[End of Year message from the Waitoki School Board of Trustees](#)

Tēnā koutou katoa. Seasons Greetings to our Waitoki School community.

On behalf of the Waitoki School Board, thank you to all of our learners, staff, families and supporters for a very productive, collaborative and positive year for our school.

Congratulations to all Waitoki School students on your achievements during 2023. Waitoki's ambitious ākongā/learners have impressed the board with their Grit and Ownership and their support for one another to be their best.

Thank you to all families for your cooperation and participation in school activities this year. It has been great to see so many people connecting and strengthening the school's positive, learning culture.

Thank you also to those in our community that have helped the school in some way this year. "It takes a village" as the saying goes.

As we look ahead to 2024, there is plenty to be excited about including Waitoki School's centenary anniversary. A more detailed update from the board will be emailed in the next few days with information about next year, including our new Strategic Plan.

As part of planning for next year, the board has reviewed the recommended annual School Donations. School Donations are a vital part of helping to fund the operations of the school and this support from families is highly valued. The board recognises that living costs continue to be challenging for many. We have therefore kept School Donations at the current settings.

On behalf of the board, I commend and thank Principal Jules McCourt, Deputy Principal Chelsea Brown, Assistant Principal Sharon Hartley, kaiako/teachers and staff for their commitment to our ākongā/learners during 2023. The professionalism and positive attitude of Waitoki School's staff is a huge asset for our kura/school.

I also extend a big thank you to my fellow board members David Cooper, Bree Atkinson, Melissa Estinel, Paul Roest, Katrina Selfe and Principal Jules McCourt for their collaboration and commitment to the school in our governance role.

In closing, the board wishes all of our school community a happy and safe holiday season. We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year for the school in 2024.

Mā te wā.

Paul Heagerty

Presiding Member—Waitoki Board of Trustees

