



waituna creek school

Newsletter #1

2nd February 2018,

Dear Parents, caregivers and friends of Waituna Creek,

Greetings from the Waituna Creek school team. I hope you have had a restful holiday and I'm looking forward to catching up with you all over the coming weeks. Our first newsletter of the year is filled with information to help get us off to a smooth start.

Just a couple of reminders from me

- Please ensure that all clothing is named.
- Make sure your child applies sunscreen in the morning before school (summer months).
- All children have named hats.
- If your child is going to be absent from school please let us know with a brief reason as to why. A message on our phone is the best way to do this, but you can also email us if you like.
- Please tell us via telephone if you intend to pick your child up at the end of the day instead of them going on the bus. We check the phone messages before the bus leaves.

We will aim to have newsletters go out with notices and news about classroom activities every fortnight like last year. These will go home with children, but will also be emailed to parents & caregivers, as well as being available on the Skool Loop App (see further information about this in today's newsletter).

Nga mihi nui, paalam
Tiffany Ottley

OFFICE HOURS

Nicky Caird is now back in the office on a regular basis if you need to enquire about any general school information. She is available from 8.45-11.45am every day, and you may catch her there on a Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday until 1.30pm.

The office email address is office@waitunacreek.school.nz

If your message is urgent please phone and leave a message on the school phone which is checked regularly - 689 7438

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 5th February	School as normal
Tuesday 6th February	Waitangi Day - School CLOSED
Tuesday 20th February	Swimming starts (see notes regarding swimming)
Friday 9th February	Technology starts the the High School for Years 7 & 8
Tuesday 13th February	Subway lunches available
Tuesday 13th February	Life Education Van visiting the school
Tuesday 13th February	PTA Meeting 7.30pm at the school - new members welcome!
Friday 16th February	Assembly at the Waituna Hall 2.30pm
Tuesday 20th February	BoT Meeting 7.30pm at the school

Friday 23rd February	Kiwisport starts for Years 4-8 - Duathlon
Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th February	Teacher & Parent meetings. The opportunity to meet your child's teacher if you haven't already and discuss the year ahead. More details to come.
Wednesday 7th March	Rural Schools Swimming Sports

LUNCH BOXES

Last year we tried to encourage all lunch box rubbish to go home with the students, this year we would like to try and take this the next step and we encourage you and your children to try and go 'rubbish free' with their lunch boxes. Any rubbish from lunch boxes will go home to be disposed of.

We are also encouraging 'healthy choices' in lunch boxes and would like to see children eating fruit or some veges throughout the day. We are lucky enough to be receiving some beautiful fresh fruit from the Community Garden/Harvest group, and children are most welcome to help themselves to this fruit at school. A big thank you to Lily Pay and her mum Kylie for helping with this.

LUCKY BOOK CLUB

The first issue of the year went home with students this week. Please place orders either online at www.mybookclub.scholastic.co.nz or through the school office. Orders need to be made by Friday the 16th of February. Every order earns 20% in rewards points that the school can spend on books and other learning resources.

TERM 1 SWIMMING

Our school swimming programme starts on Tuesday the 20th of February. We will take the bus to the town pool for this. The children will need swimming togs, towel and swimming goggles. Please ensure everything is named and in a swimming bag.

Swimming dates and times

	Tues 20th Feb 11am-12pm	Weds 21st Feb 11am-12pm	Thurs 22nd Feb 11am-12pm	
	Tues 27th Feb 1.30-2.30pm	Weds 28th Feb 1.30-2.30pm	Thurs 1st March 1.30-2.30pm	Fri 2nd March 1.30-2.30pm

KIWISPORT

Raewyn Williams takes the children for Kiwisport throughout the year.

Years 1-3 start 'Fundamentals' Kiwisport at school on Wednesday the 7th of February. This continues throughout the year on most Wednesdays.

Years 4-8 start Kiwisport on Friday the 23rd of February and is usually held at Waimate High School. This runs from 11am-12pm, most weeks of the year. The first session of the year will be a Duathlon held at the town Pool.

We are looking for parents to assist with transporting children from school to the High School on Friday's and then returning to the school again. This would eliminate the need for us to hire the bus which costs \$131 each time we need to use it. If you are able to help, please contact Tiffany or Nicky in the office.

VOMITING & DIARRHEA BUG

Yesterday we received correspondence from Hilary Botting, Civil Defence Emergency Management Coordinator, advising us that there is a fairly vicious strain of vomiting and diarrhea in the Waimate area. Please keep any unwell children at home and we ask that they do not come back to school until free of symptoms for 48hrs.

Please remember to let the office know that your child will be away.

PARENT TEACHER CALENDAR APP - Now called SKOOL LOOP APP

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR SCHOOL APP YET?

NEVER MISS IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION AGAIN!



- * Events
- * Notices
- * Notifications
- * Absentee
- * Newsletters
- * Permission Slips



Simple free download:
In the Play Store and App Store search 'Skool Loop NZ' and choose our school once installed.

Please download the SKOOL LOOP APP to your smart-phone as we use this for important notices and notifications. It also contains our school calendar and a link to our latest newsletter.

Make sure you "allow" notifications from this app.

Once you have the App downloaded please go into the 'Notices' tab, choose the drop down menu and tick 'General', your child's class, and 'Bus' to ensure you get all applicable notifications.

A big thank you to the wonderful local sponsors who help fund this app and keep it free for us to use!

SUBWAY

Subway lunches will be available again this year. Every fortnight, beginning Tuesday the 13th of February, students are able to purchase Subway for lunch.

Prices are \$6 for a 6 inch and \$9 for a footlong, and include a cookie and an apple.

There are choices of Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Salami, Tuna or Veggie Delite with cheese and the choice of lettuce, tomato, cucumber, onions, topped off with either honey mustard, mayo or BBQ sauce.

Optional extra is the Primo 98% fat free chocolate milk for \$2.

Please drop your order (see attached form) and money off at the school office before the first bell at 9am.

TECHNOLOGY

The Technology programme at Waimate High School is set to begin for our Year 7 & 8s on Friday the 9th of February. This runs throughout the school year. This year there will be fee for technology of \$80 to be paid to Waimate High School. (This equates to \$2.30 per student per lesson)

Next Friday students are asked to meet on the seats outside the High School Hall at 9am where they will be guided to their classroom. The roll will be taken each Friday by the teacher in charge of the technology session and any absences will be passed onto us at Waituna. Once the class has finished at 11am students will be collected by us and taken to Kiwisport, or back to school.

Could all students please wear covered shoes and no loose clothing for safety reasons in the specialist rooms. Mr Bruce Carlaw takes the students for their Hard Materials classes, and Mrs Rose Bell takes the students for Food Technology.

If you have any questions please contact us at the school in the first instance and we can put you in touch with the High School if required.

YEAR 7&8 FUTURE LEADERS RANGATIRA CHALLENGE 2018

It is very exciting to be able to offer this new leadership challenge to the Year 7&8 Waituna Creek children. The challenges are in five areas Community & Leadership, Environment and Sustainability, Physical Activity and The Outdoors, Personal Inquiry and Creativity. Along with the challenges the children will also take part in six outdoor activities in the Waimate area provided by Youthtown Oamaru. These will be confirmed soon.

We are looking forward to building stronger relationships between our school and our community through this programme, and giving our children different opportunities to follow different pathways. This challenge will get them outside their comfort zone and making them do things they wouldn't normally do.

Students participating in the Future Leaders Challenge must complete, and have checked off by their teacher, a minimum of four challenges by the last Friday of each term.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL: Ministry of Education

Under the Education Act 1989, parents are legally obliged to enrol their children in school from the age of 6 to 16, and to ensure that their children attend school every day the school is open for instruction, unless there is a justifiable reason for their absence (e.g. illness, family bereavement). It is an offence if parents refuse or fail to do so.

If your child is going to be absent for reasons other than medical, please follow the procedure below and hand these documents into school office in an envelope addressed or email to the Principal/office:

- A formal letter or email addressed to the Principal, stating the reason and the dates the student will be absent. *This should be received at least a week before the absence takes place.*
- If the reason for the absence is to participate in a sporting or cultural event, please include with the parent/guardian letter, official documentation from the organisation/club. (This may be a letter of invitation or confirmation sent to the student).

The Principal is unable to justify the absence without official documentation.

To minimise the impact absences have on a student's education, holidays scheduled during the term breaks would be appreciated.

Absence Definitions:

Justified Absence - approved by the Principal to cover the following:

- National/local representation in a sporting or cultural event in New Zealand or overseas.
- Bereavement leave or exceptional family circumstances, at the Principal's discretion.

In the case of justified absence, teachers have a responsibility to assist the student to catch up on missed work or assessments.

Unjustified Absence - where the Principal has been notified by the parent/guardian that the student will be absent, but the reason for the absence does not fit within the school's policy as a justifiable reason to take the student off school. In the case of unjustified absence, the **responsibility rests with the parent and student**. Teachers are not required to make special arrangements for students to catch up on missed work or assessments.

Absence due to medical reasons:

If your child is absent due to illness, please email the office, ring or provide them with a hand-signed note the day your child returns to school.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Waituna Mobile Kindergarten

The Waimate Mobile Kindy team hold Kindy sessions every Wednesday of the school term from 9am to 1pm at the Waituna Creek School. Education for the whole family, from birth to 6 years.

Our program is based on the Kindergarten movement's philosophy of free play, with the addition of some teacher directed group learning experiences which your children may participate in if they wish. We are unique in that we cater for the whole family from babies to young children. We are chartered but not licensed, therefore Parents/Caregivers are required to stay with their children for the session.

Come and see us on Fridays at Waituna Creek School, or contact us via the John Street Kindergarten on 689 8961 or at mobilekindergarten@xtra.co.nz