



Waikite Valley School

Developing Learners for Life

1090 Waikite Valley Road, RD 1, Rotorua 3077 Tel 07 3331888

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Weekly Panui Tuesday 2nd February, 2016

Kia ora koutou,

The new school year has started at Waikite Valley School, and the teachers are all geared up! Mrs Dinning is up and running with her class of 5 & 6 year old students - all chomping at the bit to get going I'm sure. Miss Bowman has her classroom humming with the 7 & 8 year old students. Mrs Pearson has revamped and reorganized the senior class to allow for the diverse learning needs of the students within. We are very excited to be starting the year with seven Year 7 & 8 students in the 'Graduate Pathways Academy'. This is the inaugural year for this initiative, ensuring our intermediate students are getting a unique, rewarding and broad program that will ensure they are set up for their high school years. They will be taking part in exciting learning programs where they have an element of choice, they experience music, dance, drama, careers education, budgeting, languages, technology, sport, physical education, education outside the classroom, leadership opportunities and where they are exposed to problem solving with a number of peers from other schools. This will continue to grow, evolve and improve over the year, with our goal to have 10 or more students in the intermediate section of the school for 2017. In 2015 we had 6 students in Year 7 & 8 - which was so great to see and I am confident that the 'worm has turned' and this trend will continue to grow. These kids all had an awesome year, as they and their parents testified to at our parent evening towards the end of the year.

Thank you to those parents who have decided to support our local school by allowing us the opportunity to educate their kids during these important adolescent years. Our staff and school are more than capable of doing an amazing job with this age group. We whole-heartedly believe it is the best thing for them in the long run. The senior years of high school (Year 9-12) will provide them with many of the extra opportunities that they may be perceived to 'miss out' on when they are Year 7 & 8. If you would like to talk with Mrs Pearson or myself about the opportunities these students have or the benefits of staying at a small, rural full primary, please do not hesitate to call in and see us. We also have a prospectus booklet available if you would like to read about this initiative.

We will continue with our After School Club, which runs from 3-5pm after school daily for the families that need it. Our lunchtime clubs will also continue, with the senior students running enjoyable sessions with the younger kids. The entire school will continue with their swimming sessions with Alastair (Swim Rotorua) on Wednesdays in the school pool. We will also all be working with Matua Grant to learn about our local iwi, tikanga, kawa and learn waiata/haka for our kapa haka performance. We will be doing some multi-sport events as a school, including the tough kids challenge at Lakes Ranch. There will be many academic opportunities for the classes also, focusing on reading, writing and mathematics. This year the staff will also be involved in running some parent workshops on reading with your kids, mathematics at home, cybersafety & students use of devices, and the nature of science. These are fun opportunities for our parent community to come into school and learn alongside their kids and show their involvement with their child's education. There are so many things we are excited about this year it is difficult to keep this blurb concise! Suffice to say, Waikite Valley School students, staff, parents and hopefully the wider community are amped about 2016.

Teresa Topp
PRINCIPAL

Waikite Valley School

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"Developing learners for life"



IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 2nd February 2016

- ★ First day back at school

Monday 8th February

- ★ Waitangi Day Observed (NO SCHOOL)

Tuesday 9th February

- ★ Technology at Rotorua Intermediate for Year 7-8 (1-3pm)

Wednesday 10th February

- ★ Swimming lessons with Alastair begins
- ★ BOT meeting 6.45pm

Wednesday 17th February

- ★ WVS swimming sports (PP 26th Feb)

POINTS TO NOTE

- ☺ Mrs Curtis' office hours are Monday, 9-4pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 9-3pm Friday.
- ☺ The Public Library Bus visit **Tuesday 16th February 2016**



To our wonderful and kind families who kept an eye on school over the break. It is great to know that so many of us are caring for the school and making it the beautiful, safe environment we enjoy!



Free to caring family homes: three beautiful black 10 week old kittens—two males, one female.

They are de-flead, de-wormed and partially house trained. Please phone Catherine on 333 2103 or 021 954019

SPORTS NOTICES



Upcoming events!

It is Bikewise month so a lot of these events involve bikes.

Friday 12th February

Go by Bike Day at school If you can't ride to school bring your bike along and ride at playtime and lunchtime. Rm 4 will be using some Maths to try and ride the distance between their house and school over the day. We have bike goodies to give away.

Thursday 18th February

Between 5.30 and 7pm MTB adventure quest for families. Check out www.obop.org.nz

Saturday 20th February

Family Fun Ride 9am at the Telly Tubby Hill (near the museum)

Saturday 26th February

XRace Rotorua. 6pm on a Friday A fun Amazing Race type event for children and parents. Find out more at www.xrace.co.nz

Get the school newsletter e-mailed to you.

Simply email Kelly :
office@waikitevalley.school.nz **OR**

Get onto our school website and enter your address onto the mailing list:
www.waikitevalley.school.nz



Calling all Fruit Tree Owners

We are trying to collect heritage trees to plant in our school gardens. We are looking for trees that have been around for thirty or more years. They are usually found by old farmhouses or on old farms. If you have or know of someone with a heritage tree that produces big fruits or nuts, Please contact the school office.

Need a Babysitter?

Call Alice on 333-1696 or 027-906-8873



After School Club

We will continue to run after school care this term (3-5pm) for our school families. We will be charging \$5 per child, or \$10 per family each day to cover costs. This term it will be run in Room 2. We will apply for a grant to try to cover costs for this in Term 2-3.

Tayla Curtis runs a relaxed program to give the kids downtime after school, and a teacher is always on site. If you need to use this service, please phone the office to let us know and return the form that will be arriving home today.

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Christina Voorend
Phone: 027 836 7714
Email: cvoorend@kce.co.nz

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PTA Fundraiser

Available from the school office.

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