



# Waikite Valley School

*Developing Learners for Life*

1090 Waikite Valley Road, RD 1, Rotorua 3077 Tel 07 3331888  
www.waikitevalley.school.nz office@waikitevalley.school.nz

## Weekly Panui

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016



## THINKING ABOUT 2017.....

We are having an awesome year with our Graduate Pathways kids (Year 7-8) and it has been great to have 6 kids at this level to really get into some exciting, rich programs and learning opportunities. The majority of these experiences & opportunities are provided at no or only very minimal cost to families. This is a real strength of our school – full access to the curriculum and inclusion of all our students with no financial or other barriers.

2017 is extremely promising for our students, staff and community. If we were to retain all of our current senior students for their intermediate years, I can say without reservation that we would have a Year 7-8 class next year. This would change the entire structure of the school, allowing something like the following classes:

- Room 1 – Year 0-2 with Mrs Dinning
- Room 2 – Year 3-4 with Miss Bowman
- Room 3 – Year 5-6 with Mrs Pearson
- Room 4 – Year 7-8 with Mrs Topp

This would enhance our current learning climate, ensuring our children and staff would thrive. The opportunities are unlimited, and with the school van and other resources we have gained through strategic resourcing, your children would be accessing learning experiences that would challenge any school in NZ to equal.

The key part to achieving this is YOU and YOUR children. We openly need your buy-in to ensure we have the numbers in our senior school to work with. This is where the numbers have dropped away in the past few years (prior to my arrival), with a catch 22 created whereby the numbers are not there, so parents have chosen to not leave their children, hence the numbers are not there...etc... A conscious, strategic decision needs to be made by our community to support the staff and school, as well as supporting their neighbours and the kids in our community! If you all chose to school your children locally, we would have a strong senior school.



By staying at Waikite Valley School until the end of Year 8, they will be picked up socially, academically & culturally to ensure they are ready for the transition to high school as a confident and capable Year 9 student. If there is anything we can do to help you with this decision, please let us know how we can better meet your needs before you look elsewhere. The staff are very transparent with their efforts to ensure our Waikite Valley kids are taught in the Valley for the duration of their primary schooling (which includes the intermediate years). Please read the kids thoughts and comments on staying at Waikite Valley School in this newsletter :)

Teresa Topp  
**PRINCIPAL**  
Waikite Valley School  
EMAIL:principal@waikitevalley.school.nz

**"Developing learners for life"**



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Thursday 4th August

- ★ 2pm PTA meeting in staffroom

### Saturday 6th August

**NO HOCKEY GAMES**

### Tuesday 9th September

- ★ Science Workshop for all parents—5-6pm (in Room 3) hosted by Paul Ashman (University of Waikato)

### Monday 15th September

- ★ Student teacher starting in Rm 1 (University of Waikato)

### Tuesday 16th September

- ★ Year 5/6 BOP Seven's Tournament

### Wednesday 17th September

- ★ BOT meeting 6.30pm

**Thank You**

\* To those doing the SLINK RUN—but please remember to put name & date on form :)

Get the school newsletter e-mailed to you.

Email Kelly: [office@waikitevalley.school.nz](mailto:office@waikitevalley.school.nz)

OR

Get onto our school website and enter your address onto the mailing list:

[www.waikitevalley.school.nz](http://www.waikitevalley.school.nz)

## PUBLIC LIBRARY BUS

☺ The Public Library Bus's next visit  
**Tuesday 2nd September**

Blu-suds 4KG laundry powder

**\$20**

**PTA Fundraiser**

Available from the school office.

## SPORTS NOTICES



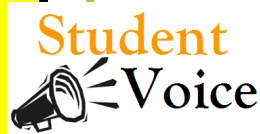
### UPCOMING EVENTS!

#### JuniorTough Guy Challenge:

August 19th (next term) Entry fee \$20. Forms available from Mrs Pearson (Year 3-8)

#### HOCKEY TRAINING TOMORROW (TUES) &

THURS. All players need sticks and mouthguards! Our coaches find it difficult to work with each team when players are not equipped to train.



### What do the kids say?

We asked a few of the students who know they are staying next year, and a couple who have spent this year in the Graduate Pathways Academy to comment on their learning journey at Waikite Valley School. Here are their thoughts:

*"I'm staying because in a big school, if you struggle you fall behind, but here if you struggle, people help you."*

*"My biggest challenge in the past 2 years has been fitting in socially. The teachers have helped sort it out and it is not a problem for me now."*

*"At Waikite Valley School I have been able to be the best leader I can be, we have gone on leadership trips and road trips."*

*"I think if you stay at W.V.S. it will give you great confidence and ability to be great at High School."*

*"There's way more opportunities here and remember, the grass is not always greener on the other side."*

*"W.V.S. has offered lots of learning and encouragement. Oh! And friends!"*

*"Camps happen every year at W.V.S. This is the only school I've been to that has let me go to a camp."*

*"W.V.S. is developing a food forest, has lots of technology and farm life. I really enjoyed doing the CREST project."*

*"Definitely stay. The longer you stay, the more friends and things you will get!"*

## Food Forest at Waikite Valley School

Over the past year room four has been studying a variety of topics about the environment, in the preparation to plant a food forest. Although they have been able to get their hands dirty keeping the native area tidy and spreading mulch to help our natives outcompete the grasses, they are ready to get started planting the fruit and nut trees we have been planning on for so long now!

### What is a food forest?

"A food forest is basically a forest made out of everything edible (heathy things). There are seven layers in a food forest they are Canopy, Understory, Shrub, Herb, Root, Ground cover and Vines. There are many different varieties of fruit and nut trees used to supply food." Gabriella & Kasey

### Why a food forest at Waikite Valley school?

"A food forest, because low work is involved (other than the initial planting) and we will get lots of fruit out of it. Also we get to provide food for the community, kindy and the school." Michael & Tegan

### What should you expect to see?

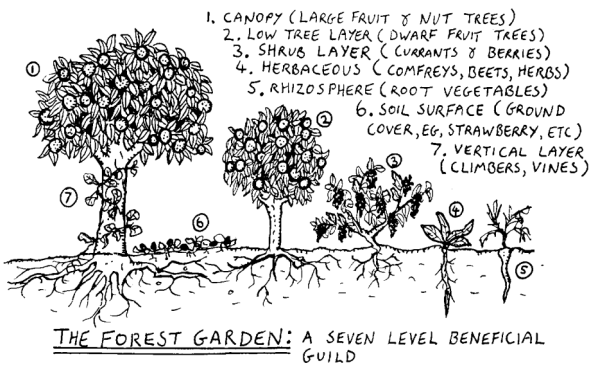
"The work we have put in, a diverse garden, it should look wild." Matthew & Jen

Our Food forest should look wild, overgrown at times, and not in nice neat lines.

The food forest is a long term school project. It will include 3-5 year planting phase where we start with the largest trees and ground cover and work our way down to the smaller trees and shrubs. The whole idea behind the food forest is to mimic a real forest by planting a diverse range of plants. The forest is made mostly of edible species but also involves support species that accumulate nutrients

for the forest (everything planted has a purpose in the forest). It will be sustainable and provide for many years to come. The food forest is an excellent learning resource that has endless possibilities for lessons from the planning of to the planting of, to studying of blossoms to fruit 50 years from now. As the trees mature, it will also become an area for students to explore and make their own observations.

**Expect to see big changes between the native area and the big slide, as this area transitions into the Waikite Valley Food Forest.**



We are happy to welcome 2 new students who started last week — Trisanaly & Ronnie McCormack (Room 3).



### Community Kindy Waikite Valley

We invite you to join us for **FREE Play and Stay every Friday, 9.30am-11am**, for morning tea and coffee. This is a great way to meet new and local families in area. Everyone welcome!

- Catering for children aged 2 to 5 years old
- Morning and afternoon teas provided daily
- Fun and friendship for children
- Teachers from the local community



**OPEN: 7.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri**

Get in touch

Phone: (07) 562 4623

Email: [ck.waikite.manager@best-start.org](mailto:ck.waikite.manager@best-start.org)

### PET DAY DATES

All lambs and calves for pet day & group day must be born after 20 July & before 25 Sept.



# FRIENDS OF WAIKITE VALLEY SCHOOL



*Funding Your Community*



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