



From the Principals Desk

It's hard to believe another year has flown past and we have 8 school days left for the 2023 year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given to Waihao Downs School throughout the year. We are very fortunate to belong to a very supportive community.



Prize Giving – Thursday 14th December

All parents/caregiver's, whanau and our wider community are invited to attend the Waihao Downs School Prize Giving to be held at the Waimate High School Hall (Paul Street) starting at 11.30am followed by a shared lunch. Please bring a plate of food to share. All children are to attend school prior to the prize giving.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Ngā Mihi

Kere Adams



Extra-Curricular Activities

Congratulations to Zoe Goodwin, Baxter Flett, Alfie Mckerchar, Maisie McKerchar and Archie Davis for representing Waimate in the Year 5/6 Basketball competition in Timaru.

Archie, Maisie and Alfie's teams all made it to the finals last night. Maisie's team lost by just 1 point in a very exciting final. Archie's team also lost after an amazing season of many wins. Finally, Alfie's team came out victorious. Well done to all the children I know you have improved so much over the season. Congratulations also to Fergus who has been refereeing in Timaru each week and received a refereeing trophy.

Photo consists of some of the team members from the winning team.



Congratulations to Louella Harborne who had her ballet production last Saturday in Oamaru. Her academy put on the show 'The lion the witch and the wardrobe'. Louella was a bird and also a fawn.



Activities Day

Friday 8th December

Thank you to the parents that have offered to transport children to Waimate for our activity's day. All parents that have volunteered to transport children must have a **current warrant of fitness, registration and a full license**. These will be checked on Friday morning at school, so please arrive by 10.20am.

We will travel to the town pool, while there a BBQ lunch will be provided by the PTA.

If you and your child have any dietary requirements, please let the school know asap.

After lunch we will travel to the Event Centre for a fun afternoon of activities. We will need to return to school by 2.45pm for the buses.

If parents are wanting to pick their children up from the Events Centre, please leave a message on the pick-up messenger page by 2.00pm on Friday 8th December. Please don't send a messenger before Friday because the chances are it will be missed.

Children are to bring Swimming Togs and Towel in a bag. Drink Bottle, Morning Tea. School uniform to be worn, including bus vest.

Colour Run

Pihinga and Rakau students will be travelling to Waimate Main School on Thursday 7th December to participate in the Colour Run.

Children are to

- Wear old clothes to school
- Bring a towel
- School uniform to change into.
- Bus vest to be worn.
- Water bottle

All children are to attend school prior to this event.

South Canterbury Primary Schools Athletes

Congratulations to:

Dudley Robertson who was placed 3rd in the U9 Long Jump

Otis McKerchar who was placed 1st in the 11+ Discus and 3rd in the Softball throw.

Claudia Studholme, Scarlett Harborne, Georgie Johnston, Maisie McKerchar and Ellie Bell-Higinbottom all competed respectfully in their age groups.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair is on this week, Perfect time to buy presents and in turn helps the school get more books for our School Library.

A lot of children have bought home wish lists, you do not have to purchase these books.

But we do invite you to come before 9am or after 3pm to look at what's available in the School Library/Classroom.

Children are also welcome to bring their own cash if they wish to buy something. Or mark on their wish list what they are allowed and either put Credit card details on the back of the list or put a payment through to the school bank account, with Book Fair and child's name as reference.

Book Fair closes Friday 8th December.

Kids Art Orders

These will go out as soon as they have arrived and are sorted.

School Photos Orders

Same as above, as soon as these arrive and are sorted, they will be sent home.

Rākau Camp

What an awesome camp! The kids had an absolute blast with many surprising themselves at what they could do, particularly when it came to climbing macrocarpa trees, conquering their fear of heights and stepping right out of their comfort zone.

The highlight for many was the Archery tag activity on the first day. The game was essentially the same as paintball - but with bows and foam tipped arrows. The objective was to be first to eliminate the target or shoot your opponents. The kids had a blast!



I was really impressed with the support and encouragement everyone gave to each other to work through the activities. The teamwork they showed to complete the various tasks was commendable to all which ensured that everyone had a fun, enjoyable and successful camp.

A big shout out and thank you needs to be said for the parents (and Clare) that came on camp, helped and guided the students, helped with meals and comforted those that needed it. You were all amazing.

Stationery for 2024

Back to school stationery – order now!

We've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back-to-school shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5 \$1000 cash prizes*.

Your child's class list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm — and OfficeMax will get your delivery underway with free delivery on orders over \$70.

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Laybuy* is also available, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free payments and still get your order right away. Plus, you'll be helping our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1.

So go ahead and beat the back-to-school rush, order today and give them the best start possible.

*Terms and Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details. ^Exclusions apply, see myschool.co.nz/delivery for details.

We will send home 2024 class lists early next week.

Christmas Parade

On Saturday the 2nd of December Positive Waimate held their annual Christmas Parade. It was to be around a kiwi/summer Christmas. So, a paddling pool, deck chairs, BBQ, tent, boogie boards etc. adorned our float. Great to see as many children as we did, worked out to be a perfect number and to all the Waihao Downs children that participated in other floats you all help to make the event possible. To top it off you all behaved appropriately. Thanks to Harry Wallace for providing the Heather-Downs Makikihi truck for us to use and to everyone that provided resources to make the dream a reality.



Term 3 Calendar

Term 4 Monday 9th October to 15th December

Week 9 Term 4 2023

Monday 4 December	Book Fair
Tuesday 5 December	Book Fair
Wed 6 December	BOT meeting Book Fair
Thursday 7 December	Book Fair
Friday 8 December	Book Fair Whole School Activity

Week 10 Term 4 2023

Monday 11 December	
Tuesday 12 December	Subway
Wed 13 December	
Thursday 14 December	Prize Giving
Friday 15 December	Last Day (Half Day)

2024

Term 1 Wednesday 31st January to Friday 12th April

Week 1 Term 1

Wed 31 January	First Day of 2024 Hot Lunch
Thursday 1 February	
Friday 2 February	Hot Lunch

Week 2 Term 1

Monday 5 February	Teacher Only Day
Tuesday 6 February	Waitangi Day
Wed 7 February	Hot Lunch
Thursday 8 February	
Friday 9 February	Hot Lunch



17th December – Zoe Goodwin
23rd December – Mac Farley
7th January – Aashis Gautam
11th January – Wyatt Boyd
13th January – Leo Trebula
19th January – Pyper Zwies
21st January – Madeline Zwies

OfficeMax
MySCHOOL

Beat the rush and order back to school stationery now!

Class lists are ready to shop at myschool.co.nz