



WAIKAIA SCHOOL

NURTURE, ENRICH, INSPIRE

29 April 2026

The first two weeks of the term have certainly flown by, and it has been pleasing to see such a positive start across the school. Students have settled quickly back into familiar routines, setting a great tone for the weeks ahead.

It was wonderful to see so many of our students attend the ANZAC service. Their presence reflected a strong sense of respect and community spirit, and we were incredibly proud of how they represented the school. Our artwork on display at the Community Centre also looked fantastic and was a real highlight.

On 28 April, students from Switzers Room took part in the EPro8 inter-schools final. Both teams performed exceptionally well, making significant progress with their projects throughout the event. A special congratulations to the MAD_T team—Monty, Aaron, Darcy, and Tom—who achieved joint first place on the day. An outstanding effort and a great accomplishment.

A big thank you to Kenneth, who generously gave his time to mark out the paddock across the road. Thanks to his efforts, we now have clearly defined running lanes, ki-o-rahi pitches, and a touch rugby field for our students to enjoy. This is a fantastic addition to our outdoor spaces and will provide great opportunities for both structured activities and play. We really appreciate your support, Kenneth!

Another big thank you to Mairi, who has been generously transporting our manual students to and from Lumsden since Term 1. Your ongoing support and commitment make a real difference, and we truly appreciate the time and effort you put in to help our students access these opportunities. Thank you, Mairi!

**“One day away from school a fortnight,
means a month missed each year”**

Together with our community and whanau lets help change that

SOUTHERN REAP ATTENDANCE SERVICE

Policies up for review

With a new term comes a new round of policy reviews. These are an important part of ensuring our school's practices remain up to date and reflect our community's needs.

You can access our policies through the school website by clicking on the Policies and Procedures tab. This will take you to our SchoolDocs page—once there, click on Current Review to see which policies are open for feedback.

Warmest regards,
Phillipus Gerber

School Website



School Facebook



Upcoming events

- Friday 1st of May - school assembly at 9am
- Friday 15th of May - school assembly at 9am
- Friday 22nd of May - Waimea cross country at Hazeldine Road

Important Community Notices

6th May 2026

Harvest Festival Service

Inverlochy at 11am

Lunch to follow

All welcome

Harvest Gifts accepted

Email Helen Christie for numbers please

13th May 2026

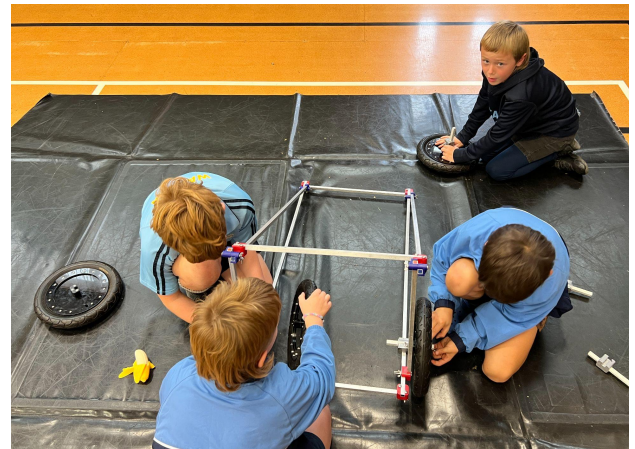
Meeting at the Church at 10am

Discussion on future of the St Mary's building

All welcome

Written by Emelia Nguyen and Evie Christie

On Tuesday 28 April, Switzers Room went to Epro8 in Invercargill. The names of the Waikaia teams were MAD_T and A_BOT. MAD_T stands for Monty Aaron Darcy and Tom. A_BOT stands for Axl Blake Owen and Toby. MAD_T and A_BOT both built Mariokarts. Halfway in they were both very close on points. A_BOT had 80 points and MAD_T had 100 points. Blake and Toby said, "I am stressed." Owen said, "I am stressed but confident." Axl said, "I am confident." The other team said that they were nervous but confident. Unbelievably, MAD_T blew 17 fuses. Both teams were able to build a remote control for their karts. MAD_T got further and added a conveyor belt with a laser sensor. When a banana falls out, the laser senses it and stops the kart. MAD_T ended up scoring 180 points and finished first with another team.



Aaron, Monty, Darcy, Tom