



# WAIKAIA SCHOOL

**NURTURE, ENRICH, INSPIRE**

*We are kind / We are responsible / We do our Best*

8 May 2025

Dear Whānau,

It's been great to see our students quickly settling back into their routines this term. With clear expectations and positive habits in place, they're well set up for continued success in their learning.

Our duck hunters had a lovely weekend out enjoying the start of the season! Some even returned to school on Monday still half camouflaged and full of stories. It's always special to see local traditions woven into our students' experiences.

In Social Science, we've been diving into Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, and it's been both fascinating and meaningful. Students have been learning about significant events such as WWI, WWII, and other armed forces deployments—and it's been especially powerful to hear the personal connections many Waikaia families have to these moments in history.

We were also fortunate to host Southland legend Lloyd Esler at school on Wednesday. He shared a wealth of information about the Māori Wars and New Zealand Wars, bringing the past to life in a way our students will not forget. A real highlight was getting to hold a patu made from whale jaw bone—an unforgettable hands-on experience!

## Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



**Learn**



**Build friendships**



**Develop life skills**

*Southern REAP Attendance Service*





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**“80% of success is showing up & never giving up”**

Attendance everyday matters

**SOUTHERN REAP ATTENDANCE SERVICE**





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## **Helping at home – reading and writing examples**

Tell me stories about whānau events, and then ask me to retell them in my own words. (My teacher says it doesn't matter if I miss some things).

Tell me stories about people and events that are important to our hapū and/or iwi and help me to think about how and why they are important today.

Help me see that reading and writing go together by leaving notes for me to reply to. Share the pūrākau of our tīpuna. Help me see the messages these carry.

Ask me to write short messages (for example, e-mails and texts to my nana and grandad).

When the reading book I choose seems a bit hard, take turns reading it with me and talking about the story. Ask me things like: What do you think will happen next? Do the characters remind you of anyone you know?

Help me see that words can be organised in different ways on a page by helping me to read bus timetables, maps, and recipes. Give me experiences with both digital and paper-based writing.

When we visit our marae, help me to 'read' each pou to understand their meaning. Help me to write for different purposes, like a shopping list, menu, or thank you message.

Talk to me about the books I am reading and the authors I like. It would be great if you could take me to join the local library to find more books by the authors I like.

Talk to me about your understanding of whakataukāki. Ask me how these ideas might apply in our lives.

Talk with me about the Bible passages I have memorised and what I am learning at Sunday School.

Talk to me about interesting new words and what they mean. Take turns with me to find a new word to discuss each day.

Help me to write to elders in my family in te reo Māori (or other home language) to find some information about where I come from.

Watch kapa haka with me. Talk with me about how meaning is made and communicated with an audience through words, actions, and facial expressions.

When you are reading to me, pause occasionally and talk with me about what's happening in the story and any new or interesting words.

Tell me about a TV programme or movie you liked when you were my age and ask me to tell you what I like about the characters in my favourite TV programme or movie.

Talk to me about the steps you are taking as you make dinner or as you fix something. Tell me about the steps you take to make a hāngī or karanga to manuhiri. Ask me why particular steps are of importance.

Talk about the things we see when we travel together, interesting signs, cars, buildings, etc.

Ask me to help you plan our next trip. We could use a device to make lists and research places to go.

Take turns reading with me. We could take one page each.



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## **Helping at home – mathematics examples**

Teach me a new card game we can play together.

Let me show you my favourite app with some maths in it.

Help me learn to estimate things, like how much things weigh, how long they are, the cost of our groceries, or how long it will take to travel to a certain place. Set up a reward system at home to encourage me to remember what I need to do.

When we are driving or walking, play Launchpad with me. Spot a number, then use it as a launchpad for seeing how many combinations we can make with that number (for example, there's a 12 on a letterbox, that's  $3 \times 4$ ,  $2 \times 6$ ,  $10 + 2$ ,  $100 - 88$ , and its half of 24).

Play online maths games with me.

Keep playing with me, and encouraging me, in the games I'm learning, even though I'm not very good yet.

Talk to me about the maths you use every day and at work.

Show me the family budget and explain how you pay all the bills and save.

Ask me to figure out how much change you should get back from a purchase. If I get the amount right, you might sometimes let me keep the change!

Help me memorise facts (for example, forwards and backwards from 100, the 7 times tables or doubling and halving numbers up to 20).

Ask me to help make dinner and talk about any maths involved, like halves, quarters, litres, grams, and temperatures. Get me to do any measuring or weighing that is needed.

Show me graphs and tables in our newspaper and talk with me about what they mean.

Tell me about games you played with your brothers and sisters, where you needed to use your maths skills.

Have a games night at home where we play a board game together, like Monopoly, chess, backgammon or mah-jong.



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## **Helping at home – key competencies examples**

Help me learn that time and effort pay off. For example, when I say, “This is too hard,” say, “That’s great because now you have an opportunity to learn something new.”

Help me see my problems are temporary. If I make a mistake, celebrate it as an opportunity to learn. Help me to understand that making mistakes will help me learn.

If I feel like giving up, encourage me to stick at it a little longer or try another way to do it.

When I say, “That’s good enough,” encourage me to ask if it is my best work. Encourage me to apply the ‘can do’ attitude I have in rugby to my writing goals.

Talk to me about how other people might see issues in our community. Help me see different perspectives.

Help me to role-play so I can see other people’s views as clearly as possible.

Give me responsibilities. I could feed the cat, empty the rubbish, or help with dinner.

Help me to take responsibility for my school things. For example, I could put a cardboard box near the door of my room. Every afternoon, I put my school things in the box. When my reading is done, it goes in the box, too. I check the box before I leave for school.

Help me to understand and experience the consequences of my choices.

Help me break down big tasks (cleaning my room, getting ready) into smaller steps.

Encourage me to do small things that will help others.

## TOD - School closure

On Thursday 31 July, school will be closed for instruction as our staff will be attending a PLD day in Invercargill.

Best wishes,  
Phillipus and team

## Waimea Cross Country 2025

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 May 2025 (Postponement date - 22 May 2025)  
**Starting Time:** 1pm  
**Where:** David McKee's and Clarke Horrell's paddocks (Will be signposted on the Riversdale Waikaia Road at the Hazeldine Road Turn off).

The following would be very helpful on the day;

- Students will have lunch at school and then they need to be collected from 12:30pm onwards.
- If you are not able to transport your child/ren to the cross-country please contact school, no later than 9am Thursday morning. There will be no buses running after the cross country.
- We could require Parent field marshals.
- Races will run consecutively and students must be ready.
- Toilet facilities: port-a-loo and there are toilets in the township next to the store. (see map below)
- The cross country is at the properties of David McKee's and Clarke Horrell's paddocks (Will be posted on the Riversdale Waikaia Road at the Hazeldine Road Turn off).
- Please bring a water bottle for your child/ren.
- Gym shoes must be worn. No Sprigs, Spikes, Socks or Bare Feet
- Uniforms will be given out to each child, please return unwashed asap.
- Race order: 5 years, 13 years, 6 years, 12 years, 7 years, 8 years, 9 years, 10 years, 11 years

Kind Regards  
Phillipus Gerber





# Community Health Day

10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

9am – 5pm

## *Switzers Museum*

We have a fantastic initiative in support of rural family health

This is a free service

### What's on offer.....

1. The Woman's Health Bus for more information see [www.womanshealth.nz](http://www.womanshealth.nz)

Please register before 8 May for this service so that any specific queries can be prepared for.

go to:

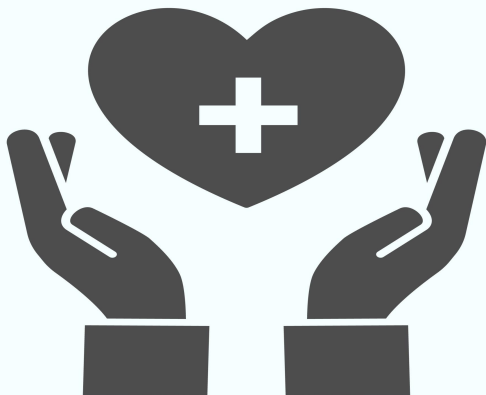
[www.womanshealth.nz](http://www.womanshealth.nz)

click on *Contact* (top right of screen) scroll down to *Contact Form*

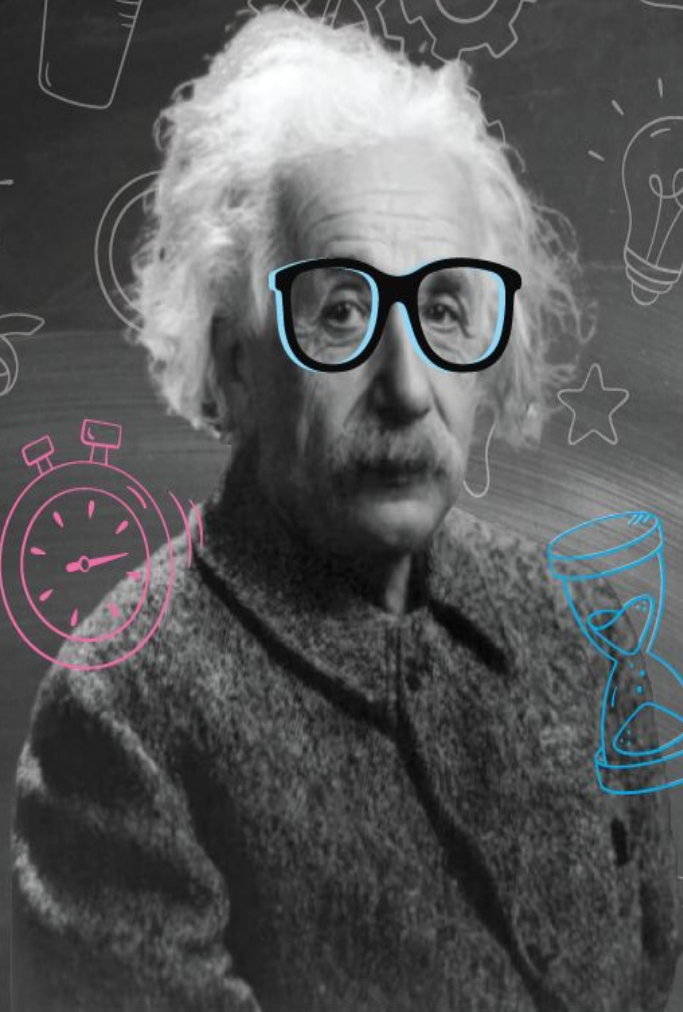
On the contact form it's important to state that you wish to be seen at the  
Waikaia Community Health Day

2. Dave Cox Long-Term Conditions nurse for Well South  
Specialising in Diabetes and Gout

**Come along and share a cuppa and sandwich**



PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT QUIZ NIGHT 21ST MAY



# QUIZ NIGHT

**7.30PM**  
WAIKAIA HOTEL

PROCEEDS TO WAIKAIA SCHOOL  
HOME & SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY**  
**21 MAY**





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# BRENNY & THE BUSHWHACKERS

## THE GREAT SOUTHLAND HALL PARTY

Lachie Hayes & the Tokonui Chainsaw Massacre

**TICKETS \$30 AVAILABLE ONLINE  
@ I-TICKET**

OR FROM THE ST JAMES (61 IRK ST GORE)  
& SOUTHLAND BUSINESS CHAMBER  
(25 DON ST INVERCARGILL)

**FRIDAY 9 MAY  
DOORS OPEN 7:00**

RIVERSDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

18+ EVENT

CASH BAR

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE WAIKAIA  
FOREST TRAILS



**waikaia forest trails**