



Waikaia School



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

13th March 2025

Dear Whānau,

Over the past two weeks, our students have participated in the Southern REAP – Water Skills for Life programme. This initiative has provided them with essential water safety knowledge and practical skills to increase their confidence in and around the water.

Many students made excellent progress throughout the sessions, improving their swimming ability, water confidence, and understanding of key safety techniques. It has been fantastic to see their determination and growth over the two weeks.

While great strides have been made, there are still more skills to master to ensure safe water use. We encourage families to continue reinforcing these important skills whenever possible, whether through swimming lessons or simply spending time practising water safety.

A big thank you to our instructors and staff for their support in making this learning opportunity possible!

Our senior students recently participated in our school's internal Epro8 event, where they put their problem-solving and engineering skills to the test. Their builds ranged from constructing an Ironman exoskeleton to designing a Jack-in-the-box and even creating a tennis ball launcher! It was fantastic to see their creativity, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the challenges.

The excitement doesn't stop there—our top teams will now move on to compete in the inter-school Epro8 event at James Hargest on the 26th of March. We wish them the best of luck as they take on the next level of competition!

Go join and view our FB page where we will be sharing our tamariki in action.



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We will be holding Parent-Teacher Conferences in Week 8. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and set goals for the remainder of the year.

The dates and times for the conferences will be shared soon. We encourage all parents and caregivers to attend, as strong home-school partnerships play a crucial role in supporting student learning. Keep an eye out for further details!

We still have couple of spots left for the First Aid training. Email me at principal@waikaia.school.nz

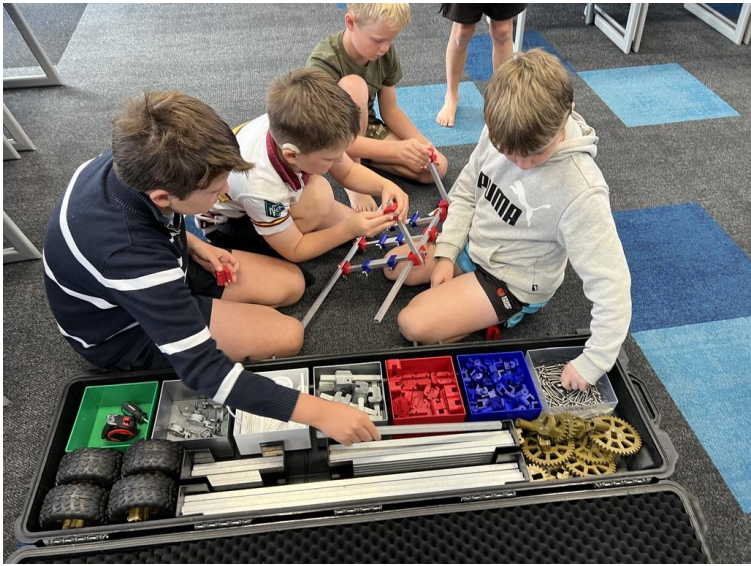
OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is important to your child's success and there is a clear connection between going to school regularly and doing well in the classroom. Making sure students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility. As a parent, you are responsible for making sure your child attends school every day. If your child is going to be absent for any reason it is essential that you let us know as soon as possible. It is important that you [phone us/send us an email/message us on (app)] to confirm your child's absence and provide us with the reason. We acknowledge that there are genuine reasons students may occasionally be absent. However, without regular attendance your child will struggle to make progress. If your child is absent regularly, or for extended periods, we will reach out to you to discuss the situation. We are committed to supporting your child to attend school. If you're having difficulty getting your child to school, you can ask for support by:

- speaking with your child's teacher,
- sending us a message, or
- calling us on 0272027729 and ask to speak to Phillipus Gerber

We can work with you to develop a support plan that addresses any barriers to regular attendance. More information on attendance, including your rights and responsibilities as parents or caregivers, is available on the Ministry of Education's webpage: [Attendance](#).

Ngā mihi,
Phillipus Gerber



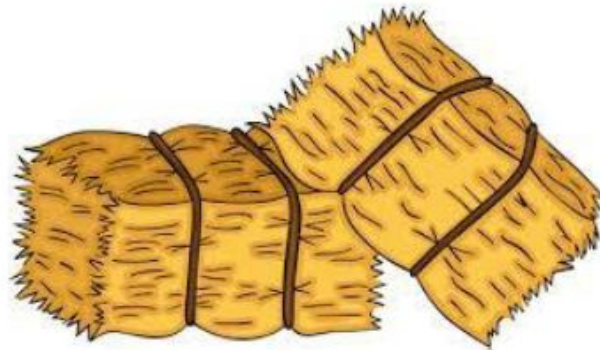




WAIKAIA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

PEASTRAW FOR SALE

\$10 per bale

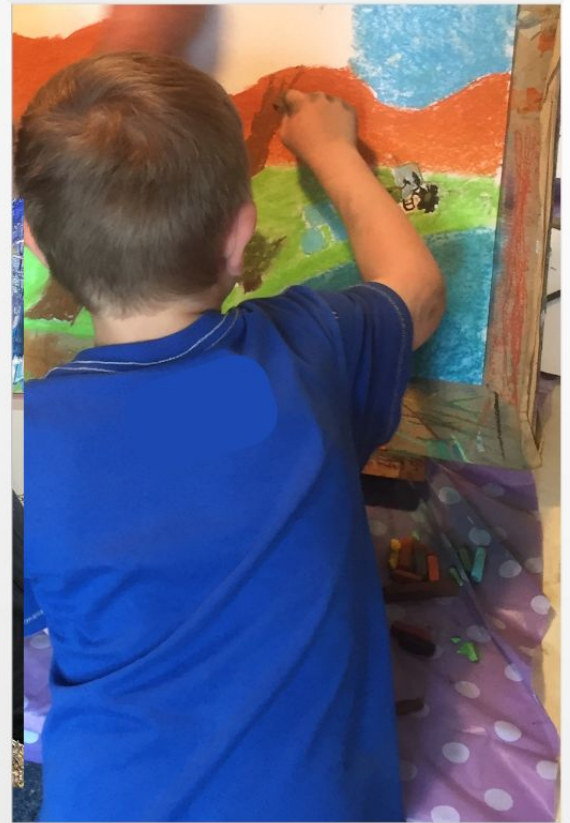


Pre order now for mid-March delivery or pick up

Conventional small sized bales

Text or call Tessa 0274268207

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO WAIKAIA HOME AND SCHOOL



Open Art Sessions, fortnightly 6pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, at the Riversdale Arts rooms. All welcome, work on your project or learn something new with others. Drop in or contact riversdalearts@gmail.com or Christine O'Connor 0272010375 for details



Riversdale Arts