



Tauite Nurture    Whakamanawa Inspire    Whanake Grow

# WAIWERA SOUTH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16 May Street, Waiwera South RD 2, Clinton 9584

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Issue 3 - 11th March 2026

# WATER SAFETY *day*



What a fabulous day we all had at Kaka Point on Tuesday – we didn't let the chilly wind get in the way of good learning!

## EFFECTS OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is ...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 mins per day	1 hr 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

### EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful in life, then, YES, attendance does matter!

Attendance continues to be a focus for us. As you can see, even small absences add up to have a significant effect.

## Kei kā kupa mai i te tumuaki

Kia ora e te whānau o Waiwera South,

Kua pahure ētahi wiki anō, ā, kua ohorere ahau i te taenga mai o te ngahuru – tae atu ki ngā hukapapa! – A few more weeks have passed, and I've been surprised by the arrival of autumn – including frosts! Like many of you, I feel we are still waiting for summer to arrive.

It is hard to fathom that we have already passed the halfway point of the term. The weeks are certainly flying by, and there is plenty happening around our school to keep us all busy.

Over the last few weeks, our focus has been on learning and practising water safety skills during our swimming sessions. It was great to see the children put that learning into action during our day at the beach. Being confident and safe around water are vital skills for our tamariki to have. A huge thanks to Steph Sinclair for sharing your knowledge with us all – it is great to have an ex surf-lifesaving educator on the staff!

Last week, we had Carole Clark from ERO on-site to check in on our progress and see how we are operating as a kura. It was a positive experience, with Carole providing quality feedback and having some great things to say about our wee school and the positive culture we have. We are now just waiting for the official report to be finalised and sent through to us—but it is heartening to hear an outsider affirm that what we are doing is working. There are always 'work-ons' from these reviews, and we look forward to getting these back from Carole so we can continue ensuring we are doing the best we can for our ākonga (learners).

A big thank you to everyone who got behind the Westgold butter fundraiser. It has been a very successful effort, and the money raised has gone a long way toward paying for the new sand for the Waiwera Wee Ones play area and topping up the long jump pit. We really appreciate the community support that makes these improvements possible.

At the end of this week, I am heading to Wellington to represent South Otago at the New Zealand Principals' Federation meeting. It is important for us to stay in the loop with what is happening at a national level and ensure our small rural schools are part of the conversation.

Have a good few weeks and enjoy the continually variable weather we've been having.

Noho ora mai rā, take care

Kaz Bissett



Kia ora everyone,

Can you believe how quickly the weeks are flying by already?

It's been great to see our tamariki settling back into school routines with such big smiles. There's been plenty going on, from Small Schools Athletics and the Waiwera Wander to a valuable Beach Ed Day to keep everyone busy!

ERO Visit Last week -

We had the pleasure of hosting Carole from the Education Review Office (ERO). Everyone was super proud to show off our awesome school. The kids did an amazing job welcoming her with a mihi whakatau (traditional welcome), which was a really special touch. Carole's initial feedback was very positive, and we look forward to receiving her full report. We'll be sure to share the highlights with you once it arrives!

Every Day Counts -

Attendance levels continue to be a strong focus for us in 2026. Even the odd missed day here and there has a large impact on your child's outcomes. Please check out the info on the impact of these missed days over the page; every day your child is at school makes a massive difference to their progress, both academically and socially.

Upcoming Board Fundraisers -

A few of our annual fundraisers are approaching, and someone from the Board will be in touch soon to seek donations for our balage drive. Our ever-popular duck feed sale is also coming up. These are always so well supported by the wider South Otago community, so we look forward to another great success!

Thank you for being such a supportive community and making the start of this year so good. Enjoy the rest of Term 1.

Larney Miller & the Board of Trustees

# WATER SAFETY

## day

Despite the biting wind and "refreshing" water temperatures, our students showed great spirit during our recent Water Safety Day at Kaka Point. We were very lucky to have ex-lifeguard Steph Sinclair lead the way, teaching us the vital rules of the beach, from spotting dangerous rips to understanding wave patterns. We enjoyed taking part in beach games, creating sand sculptures, and had a brave dip in the ocean. A massive thank you to the parents who braved the cold to support us.





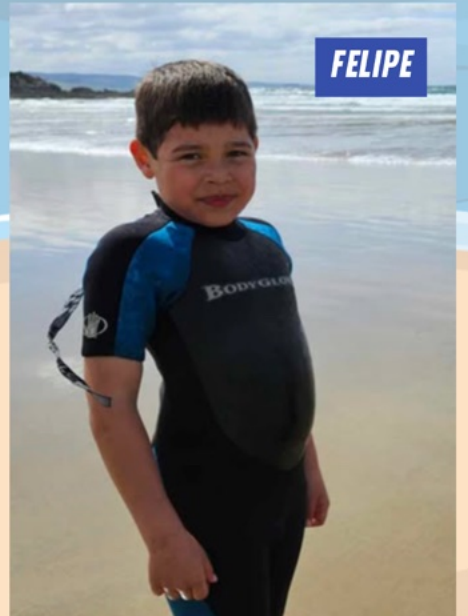
**MARSHALL, NAIDA & CASEY**



**HARRISON**



**RYAN & EZEKIEL**



**FELIPE**



# SUMMER TREATS

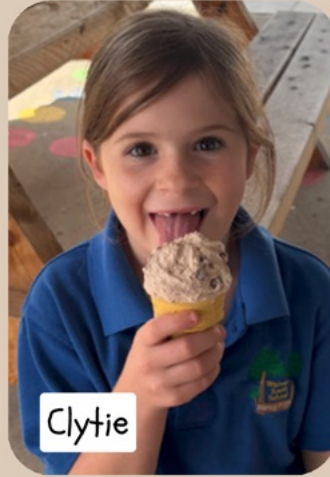
Since Mother Nature didn't quite deliver the heat this year, the Smiddles decided to bring the summer vibes to school themselves! Using a mix of plaster of Paris for the cones and a "secret recipe" of spackling and flour for the scoops, we created these ultra-realistic ice cream treats. It took some work to get the consistency just right, but the results are good enough to eat—though we wouldn't recommend taking a bite!



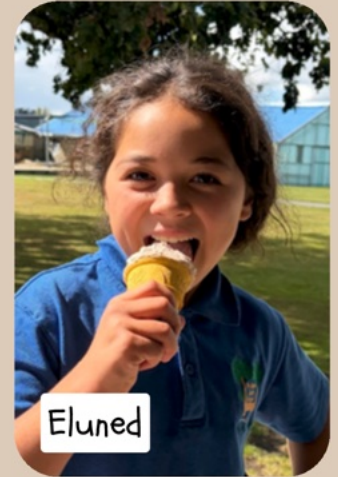
Luca



Sophie



Clytie



Eluned



Zeke



Ryan



Thea



Ruby



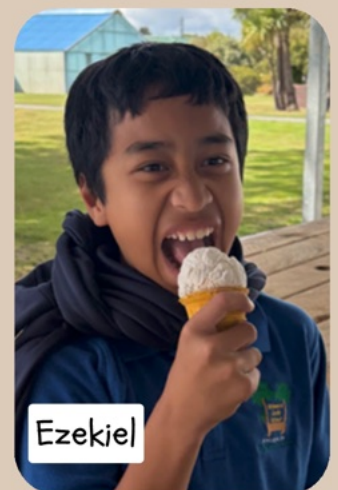
Brylee



Ryan



Nate



Ezekiel

**MISSING**

**CAN YOU HELP FIND  
OUR LIBRARY BOOKS ?**

Some of our library books went home with you, but they haven't come back yet.

**LOOK UNDER YOUR BED**

**LOOK IN THE CAR**

**LOOK IN THE BOOKSHELF**

**LOOK UNDER THE CAT**

**LOOK EVERYWHERE!!!!**



**COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK  
FOR OUR BOOKS.**

**Happy  
Birthday**

**Ryan Campbell  
turns 12  
on the 17 March**

**Harrison Wilson  
turns 8  
on the 19 March**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Please Note: All events, dates and times are subject to change***

<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Yr 7 & 8 Technology
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Hot Lunches Sports Activator
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parent Teacher Interviews 3:15pm - 5pm
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Assembly
<b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Southland Athletics
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Otago Anniversary Day - No School Today
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Sports Activator
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Yr 7 & 8 Technology
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Hot Lunches
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Otago Swim Champs
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Last Day of Term 1
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Good Friday
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Term 2 starts
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Yr 7 & 8 Technology
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Camp Bannockburn

### HOT LUNCHES Term 1 - 2026

**ALL HOT LUNCH ORDERS ARE DONE VIA GOOGLE FORMS**

*By now you should have received an email with a link to the hot lunches order form, please contact the office if you have not received this email.*

**All payments go directly to the PARENTS PLUS Account  
the account details are in the email.**

DATE	LUNCH	ROSTERED PARENT
13 MARCH	NACHOS	AMY BIELSKI
27 MARCH	SPAGHETTI BUNS	VANESSA WATERS