

**A reminder that Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April is our last day**

- we have a teacher only day on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Looks like we made it!!

Our school like many others has been impacted by Covid with staff and students contracting the virus. We have been very fortunate to have been able to operate with minimal disruption to classroom programmes. Our staff have been adaptable, creative and kind giving up release time and supporting their colleagues.

Our students have just completed the first full term of learning since Term 2 last year. They have enjoyed being back at school, learning and playing alongside their friends, and we have noticed a real enthusiasm for learning.

We, like you, are hoping to return to school next term in Orange Level. At this stage we do not fully know what Orange looks like in education settings – this will be one of our holiday jobs and you will receive information from us before Term 2 starts on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our thanks to the community for all your support this term – it has been difficult for all, but your appreciation of our Covid Health and Safety procedures this term has made the difference. One of the positives to come out of this time has been greeting your children as they come to school each morning and touching base with you in the afternoons. Our staff have enjoyed meeting new family members – dogs, babies and extended family.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

**Mrs. Hendren's**  
**Homing Pigeons**



Homing pigeons have a small grain of iron in their brain so they can see the magnetic grid, like lobsters. People keep them in a box for a week so they know the pattern of the magnetic grid, then they know their way home.

*by Hamish Parsons*

Yesterday, Mrs Hendren came into Room 8 with pigeons. We learnt that they have 2 beady eyes on the side of their head. After that we went on Epic! and I read the pigeons a story but they weren't into the story so I decided to read it to myself. I learnt a lot about pigeons from the book so I'm kind of glad that I read it to myself. When I finished the book we wrote a letter that went around the pigeons ankle. It said "WPS fighting is bad and sad, stop fighting". At 2:30 we went and watched our pigeon fly off. We watched it fly through the clouds and we got a really good view of it flying away, we were really lucky. Later on, we went and met Room 1 and 2 on the basketball court. We had to get into a square shape and then the teachers came around with the pigeons in their hands and we got to look at them but we couldn't touch the pigeons. Then after a while we counted down from 5 to 4 to 3 to 2 to 1 and then they chucked them up in the air and they flew off. The Pod didn't get a very good view of the pigeons, but we did!

*by Lana Paige Todd*

Pigeons were very important in war. A soldier would carry a box with the pigeons in it. They were used to carry messages to ships. The ships would get the messages. The people got saved all because of these clever pigeons.

*by Caitlin Atkins*

Yesterday, Mrs Hendren came to Waitakere Primary School with her three pigeons. They had no names but one was so big that we had to call him Biggy! They have a sky blue, violet and aqua chest. In World War 1 and 2 soldiers used pigeons to carry flight messages.

*by Asher Doherty*

**KEY DATES**

**13 Apr - Term 1 ends**

**14 Apr - Teacher only day**

**2 May - Term 2 Starts**

6 May - Closing date for Kiwi competition

Parent Teacher Student Goal setting:

18 May - Wednesday 1.30 - 6pm

28 May - Thursday 3.30 - 8pm

21 - 23 June - Year 3 & 4 Camp at Carey Park

23 June - School cross Country (TBC)

**24 June - Matariki Holiday**

**Term Dates 2022**

Term 1	3 February to 13 April
Term 2	2 May to 8 July
Term 3	25 July to 30 September
Term 4	17 October to 16 December 12.40pm finish

**Teacher Only Days**

14 April  
25 October

**Public Holidays**

6 June Queen's Birthday  
24 June Matariki  
29 August Mid-term break  
24 October Labour Day

**Helpful Numbers**

**Waitakere Primary School** 810 9607  
**Facsimile** 810 9657  
**Mobile** 027 610 9607  
**Email:** [office@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:office@waitakereprimary.school.nz)  
**Web:** [www.waitakereprimary.school.nz](http://www.waitakereprimary.school.nz)

**CONTACTING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Chairperson** Wade Hansen 027 286 3237  
**John Buchanan** 027 474 7079  
**Nick Bithell** [nbithell@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:nbithell@waitakereprimary.school.nz)  
**Graeme Gellatly** 027 4724003  
**Heather Irvine**

**CONTACTING PTA**

email [waitakerepta@gmail.com](mailto:waitakerepta@gmail.com)

**CONTACTING TE RUNANGA**

**Rewi Spraggon**  
**Ger Tew**

**CONTACTING the SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

email [office@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:office@waitakereprimary.school.nz)

**WESTGATE CHILDRENS COMMUNITY**

**DENTAL CLINIC** 832 2116  
**KIDS CLUB** 027 604 0907

The U20 New Zealand women's football team has been announced, and a huge congratulations goes out to past student Chloe Bellamy who has been selected to represent her country. Chloe was Massey High Schools gold badge sports prefect in 2020.



Congratulations to Maya Taingahue, Deputy Head Girl of 2021, who has been named in the U19 Girls team selected for the HoopNation Junior Showcase in Whanganui, on April 27-30th 2022.

Student Achievement Riki Taingahue, Riki represent Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol at North Island Champs in IRB (inflatable rescue boat) racing in Waihi over the weekend. He placed third in single rescues, fourth in mass rescues and got through to the B final in assembly.



- Please make sure your child/children always have a spare change of clothes in their school bag.
- Please advise the school office by email of any changes to your contact details, address changes etc to [office@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:office@waitakereprimary.school.nz)
- Lunch ordering is available Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. For those of you that haven't used our online ordering system before, you will first need to register, go to [www.kindo.co.nz](http://www.kindo.co.nz). Click login - select families and click to join up.
- Stationery Packs for New Entrant students starting in Term 2 onwards are available to purchase from school for \$60.00. Payments can be made direct to Waitakere Primary School BOT A/C # 12-3085-0314327-00 with your child's name as a reference.

**Free period products top up form**



### 2022 Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science Competitions

Once again we are able to offer the Kiwi English, Mathematics and Science competitions set by the University of Canterbury to our Year 5-8 students this year. The competitions are written by New Zealand teachers for New Zealand students and are based on the New Zealand Curriculum. These are online competitions and are set to take place in the last 3 weeks of Term 2, and the first week of Term 3. The cost is \$9.50 per competition entered, payment to be made direct to Waitakere Primary School BOT A/C # 12-3085-0314327-00. Entry forms must be returned to the office by Friday 6 May, or emailed to [dhaven@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:dhaven@waitakereprimary.school.nz). Certificates are presented for all participating students, and the top student in each competition receives a prize.

### Centennial

It is with much regret the Board have made the difficult decision to cancel the Centennial celebrations in April due to the expected escalation of the Omicron outbreak. We are really disappointed that we have had to do this, but along with all the other event planners in New Zealand that have prioritised safety above all else, we feel this is the responsible thing to do. The up side is that we have been putting together a beautiful full colour glossy A4 sized book which is looking fabulous. The Centennial book covers the history of Waitakere School and the Waitakere Community, we are aiming to have this published in April and it will be available for purchase for \$25 plus postage of \$7.20 standard post, plus an additional \$4.30 if NZ post considers you rural postage. If you are a school family we will be able to give the book to your child to take home rather than post it.

Anyone who is requiring a refund of pre purchased tickets please email [jbailey@waitakereprimary.school.nz](mailto:jbailey@waitakereprimary.school.nz) with the amount you paid and your bank account number and Jeanne can refund your money. If you have already paid for your book, we will be in contact with you when it is published so we can get it to you. For anyone else that would like to order a book we will put a new link up on social media and the school website shortly.

Waitakere School centennial book should be available in May, if you would like to purchase a copy [click on this link to place your order](#). It is an A4 size, full colour book that covers the 100 year history of our school and the Waitakere community from 1921-2021.

Thanks for your support and understanding.