



# Waipahihi School

WEEK 8  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## Principal's Message

### COMING UP

14-18 September	Conservation Week
17 September	Tuwharetoa Festival
25 September	Term 3 Finishes
12 October	Term 4 Begins

Room 7 had an amazing day up the mountain in the snow on Tuesday



Winter sports are all over for us - we only

have two weeks left of Term 3 and the weather is starting to improve. As you may have guessed I am already starting to think of 2010 for Waipahihi School. It is always this way for me in September, but our challenge at school is to keep our children, especially our Year 6 children, very much focused on the here and now. Our message is that there is over ¼ of the year's learning yet to be done! This raises another issue. Yesterday I sent out over 10 letters to families where the attendance of the children is a matter of serious concern. How can any child who has

been absent from school for 20% or more of the year, be expected to make good progress? We believe anything above 10% can affect learning. Absenteeism also impacts on engagement, because when a child returns to school after being away for even a couple of days, they find things going on they weren't part of and can't identify with. While longer periods of absence from school for reasons of illness are regrettable, we can't do anything about this and try hard to help a child adjust back into school afterwards. It is the regular intermittent absences that are the cause for concern. If you receive one of these letters with a printout from our computerized attendance system, please take careful note and try and bring about an improvement in your child's attendance. Did you know that when talking about truancy, the Ministry of Education is not just referring to children who "skip school" in the old fashioned sense. They are also referring to condoned absenteeism, where parents have allowed a child to be away for no legitimate reason.

Next week is a big week for many of our students. We have 6 teams of three students representing us at Mathsmatters, a maths problem solving competition. They have been practicing for weeks now with one of our Teacher Aides, Catherine Hancock. Catherine does a marvellous job of preparing these children for the competition and we wish them all the very best on the night. Of course the Tuwharetoa Festival is also on next week with our group performing on Thursday at 10.00am at the Events Centre. The same day is the annual Music Big Day Out. Our musicians all spend the day rehearsing with children from other schools, then at 4.30pm they give a public concert at the Great Lake Centre. It is suggested that the audience arrive quite early as this is a very popular concert.

**Thank you parents for all your support with the PTA Spellathon.** Families have really got in behind this fundraiser and done a great job helping their children learn their spelling words. I think people like the idea of a fundraiser also helping raise spelling achievement - I know I do. I was doing bus duty yesterday afternoon and was proudly shown by two little boys from the New Entrant classes their spellathon test results! I was very impressed that these little people could spell their words so well. One had 18/20 correct, the other 20/20. This is indeed AWESOME! The photo above shows Mandy Thomas testing a group of New Entrants on their Spellathon words. ~ Helen Malcolm



Our Newsletter has been kindly sponsored by -

**JENSEN WAYMOUTH, LAWYERS, 378-9200**

**JANINE LOCKETT, LEGAL EXECUTIVE : TONY JENSEN, LAWYER**

Phone 378-6455 Cellphone 027-378-6455 Email [admin@waipahihi.school.nz](mailto:admin@waipahihi.school.nz) Website [www.waipahihi.school.nz](http://www.waipahihi.school.nz)

## **This Week's Virtue is "COURAGE"**

*I am learning to find strength to do everything I can.*

**I use my COURAGE when I ...**

- *find strength in my heart even when I am afraid*
- *make amends when I do something wrong*
- *ask for help when I need it*
- *admit mistakes and learn from them*
- *am willing to try new things*
- *do what is right even when it is hard or scary*

### **HOCKEY REMINDER**

The final games to be played this Friday, 11 September, are -

Silver Sticks 4.15pm Field 2

Hockey Masters 4.15pm Field 3

Junior Hockey Mini 3/4 Grade Prizegiving will follow these games.

There will be a sausage sizzle from 4pm (sausage & can of drink for all players) and Prizegiving starts at 5.30pm.

NB - PLEASE RETURN ALL BAGS & SCHOOL SHIRTS TO THE OFFICE NOW.



Many thanks to everybody who supported our PTA Power Raffle. The lucky winner is No 32, Margaret Field.

**ALL NETBALL SKIRTS & TOPS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE NOW. Any queries to Vanessa on 377-0653.**

This is the last week for **YUMMY APPLE STICKERS**. Please bring in as many as you can by next Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September.



### **BOOKCLUB CLOSSES**

**TOMORROW, FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

Do you realise that because of your support of the Bookclub, \$1600.00 worth of FREE books have been received for the school so far this year? Thankyou for your support.

### **This is Spellathon Week**

A huge thankyou to all those parents who have helped their children learn their spelling words over the last five weeks. A huge thanks too to all our teachers who have come up with innovative ways of supporting the learning of spelling words in their classrooms.

It has been amazing listening to teachers tell how well their children are doing, especially in the Year 1 & New Entrant area. Teachers, and it's been said parents, have been impressed with how well the children have learnt.

Results will be sent home so that sponsorship money can be collected from parents, friends & neighbours.

Money can be deposited in the PTA slot in the office foyer at any time. You can be assured this money will be spent wisely on spelling resources.

Thankyou again,

Diane Grant - Literacy Leader

Some of our boys lined up at the Start Line



Our **Waipahihi Ski Team** did really well in this year's Central North Island Ski Champs with Charlie Rouse taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

There is still a bit of snow left on the mountain and we would like to invite keen skiers from Y4 to come up with us on the next two Mondays and 'give it a go'. Quite a few of our team will leave Waipahihi School at the end of the year and this is an ideal opportunity to see if this is for you. RAL offer us \$11 Day Passes & \$9 Rental. If you're interested call Thomas on 376-7992 or email [thomas@tauposki.org.nz](mailto:thomas@tauposki.org.nz).

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

- Holiday Programme Booklets are now available from the School Office. Please note that all payments are required prior to the programme start date. Registrations are now being taken. Further information is available from Rose on 376-0350 ext 7825.
- Children's Indoor Soccer League kicks off on Friday 16 October. Registration fee of \$35.00 must be taken with Registration Form on either 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> September to Taupo Events Centre Club Rooms between 4pm & 7pm. You are not registered until payment is received.
- Taupo Tennis Open Day is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September starting at 10am. This is open to everyone and there is no entry fee & no pressure - just come & have fun! See [www.taupotennis.co.nz](http://www.taupotennis.co.nz) for more information.
- Young People's Holiday Painting Days for 8-15 year olds - 31<sup>st</sup> September & 1<sup>st</sup> October, 9.30am - 3.00pm. For details phone Sue on 377-0469 or email [sue@wildwoodgallery.co.nz](mailto:sue@wildwoodgallery.co.nz).
- Whakamaru Christian Camp is holding their Spring J-Force Camps again over the holidays. Girls Camp - 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Boys Camp - 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October. Pamphlets available from the School Office or email [info@lwccamp.com](mailto:info@lwccamp.com).
- Lake Taupo Christian Camp is holding a Ninja Camp from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October for children 9-12 years. Registration forms available by phoning 386-7967 or emailing [office@ltcc.org.nz](mailto:office@ltcc.org.nz).