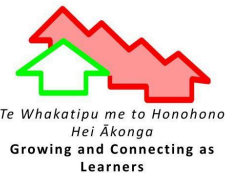


Community Newsletter Term 1

Week 5



WADESTOWN SCHOOL

TE WHAKATIPU ME TO HONOONO HEI AKONGA: GROWING AND CONNECTING AS LEARNERS

Kia ora, Kia orana, Ni Hao, Hola, Namaste, Hallo, Bonjour, Talofa and greetings to you all.

Preparations for our upcoming Year 7 and 8 camp to Curious Cove are well underway with our students, teachers and parent helpers preparing to set sail for the Sounds early next week. Wadestown School has a long history of taking our senior students to this camp and we are delighted to be offering this opportunity again in 2026.

These types of Education Outside of the Classroom (EOTC) events provide new learning opportunities for our students to:

- *Develop lasting relationships with other students and a connection with staff and parent helpers*
- *Disconnect with technology and learn to operate without these tools for a week*
- *Participate in new activities and learn new skills*
- *Improve independence and challenge themselves by stepping out of their comfort zone*
- *Expand experiences in nature*
- *Teach personal organisation and responsibility e.g. time management skills*
- *Develop decision-making skills*
- *Increase their collaboration, cooperation and communication skills*

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Cathrine Wilkinson for the time and effort that has gone into the planning and organisation of this event.

We wish them all well on this endeavour and look forward to hearing about this experience on their return. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to accompany our students and staff on this EOTC event.

Ngā mihi nui
Amanda Frater
Principal

School Hats

Please ensure that your child has a named, regulation school hat everyday this term.

New hats can be purchased through the school office. They are \$20.00 each.

Wadestown School Permission Form 2026

Please click [here](#) for our 2026 permission form. This form needs to be completed by each family. It includes student permissions, EOTC and ICT permissions.

In the absence of updated information for this year, the school is required to use the data that you provided for your child in 2025.

Student Medical Conditions - updated information

If your child requires medication to be administered at school or if they have a medical condition that requires medication to be kept with the child (e.g. asthma) it is important that the office has all this information so we can best assist your child.

- Students with asthma need to have an up-to-date **asthma plan** completed and returned to the school office. [Click here](#) for the asthma action plan.
- For students who have severe allergies that require epi-pens, also require a **medical plan**. [Click here](#) for the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis.
- For students who require medication to be administered by the school, a **medication form** must be filled in. [Click here](#) for the medication form.

At the beginning of the year, it is important that you also check that your child's medication has not expired.

Please contact [Maea Hohepa](#) if you wish to discuss this with her.

Parent Information Evenings and Three Way Conferences

Thank you for your attendance at these recent events. Events such as these promote stronger home-school partnerships which assist us to support our students' academic and social development.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to the parent bakers who provided delicious kai for all our teachers. This home baking was gratefully received and assisted the teachers to get through a longer week than normal.

House and Garden Committee 2026 - Sunday 15 November 2026

This year will see this well loved event return in November. We are grateful to Kris Mayo for taking on the lead role for this event. Working with a number of other parents, planning for this event is well underway.

If you know anyone who may be willing to open their home and/or garden for the Walk, or if you'd like to be involved in any way, please contact Kris Mayo on 021 757 829 or email pta.houseandgarden@wadestown.school.nz. We'd also love to hear from you if your business is interested in supporting the event and featuring in our ticket booklet.

Wadestown Fair – Saturday 21 March 2026

A much-loved community event, organised by local residents with support from the Wadestown PTA. The school PTA led stalls will include second-hand books & Toys as well as the “famous cheese scones”.

Volunteers and bakers are warmly welcomed.

Please contact: Heidi Loudon: pta.treasurer@wadestown.school.nz

Property Modifications

We are thrilled that the old prefabs are long gone and that the replacement decking is well underway. Niche is working hard onsite and we are grateful for their efforts over the past few months.

Makahika Camp Reflections

Nicholas - Year 5

Rumble! The bus drove us to Makahika.

Whoosh! I flew down the 200m zipline in 30 seconds.

Crunch! We all ate cereal for breakfast.

Splash! The eels tackled the food we fed them.

Squelch! The sound of the wet shows were all around the camp site.

Crackle: The camp fires that we made were toasting marshmallows.

Harvey - Year 5

Whoosh! I flew down the 200m zipline.

Splash! I jumped into the river with my friends.

Zip! I zipped up my sleeping bag at 10:30pm.

Crackle! The sticks crackled when I toasted the marshmallow.

Zoom! I ran around the green field trying to get dry.

Pop! I heard the instructor pop the balloons in the bin.

Isla - Year 5

Whoosh! I flew down the zipline looking at all the sights around me.

Crack! The fire bubbled as it got bigger.

Splash! The water sloshed around as it moved down the stream.

Buzz! The cicadas shrieked out to each other loudly.

Thud! The rope clicked as it lowered me down from the high ropes.

Zip! The tent opened allowing me to get my clothes.

Maria - Year 6

On Wednesday 11 February, all the Year 5 and 6 students went to camp. Everybody was at school very early. There was laughter and hugs, excitement and nerves. For some, it was their first camp and for others it was their second. This year we all went to Makahika Camp in Levin.

Once everybody had arrived, 'Get ready to take your bags down to the bus' Miss Gilligan said in her booming voice. One by one, all the students went to the bus. Once we were loaded up, we found seats. Students were talking, playing games and some were sad to leave their parents, while others were yelling with excitement to be on the bus.

A lot of students asked 'are we there yet?' and 'how much longer?'. That's when Miss Gilligan put on music.

A while later students saw signs for Makahika Camp. Then we got there, 'yay, yay, we are here!'

Once we had dropped our bags, my group listened to our instructor Al. He gave us a bit of his back story and what we would need to wear and bring into the bush.

To start our bush craft day we went on a small walk in the forest exploring the stunning scenery. Next we built huts in the forest, and all the adults left us for 40 minutes (they were just around the corner, if we did need them!).

We were given 4 pieces of string and 1 tarpaulin and we could use whatever else was in the forest. After that we went to make fires but all we got were 2 matches, 2 cotton balls and 1 match box. We had to find different sized wood - size 1, 2, 3 and 4. You needed 1 in the middle, then 2, then 3 and last of all 4. My group completed it on their first try and once everybody had got it we got marshmallows to roast.

Then we went to the river where Al fed the eels. After that we did the river crossing, where we could choose how deep we went.

Then we made our way back to camp. For dinner we had pasta bake, salad and rolls. After a quick play and a quiz, it was time for bed in the tents.

Most people were woken by the light at 5:00am! For breakfast we had cereal.

That day we did the camp activities, which started with team games. After that, we did the low ropes course, then we had home baking. Next was the zipline!

For lunch we had rolls and salad and we finished the day with the high ropes which was scary and fun. Then we went to the river hole for swimming. That was so refreshing.

For dinner that night we had a roast with chicken, potatoes, carrots, kumara and salad. Dessert was ice cream and apple crumble.

After dinner we did a talent show. My group did a comedy act called 'The great kiwi talent show'. Then it was time for bed.

On the last day we had an adventure race. We went to collect stamps, and then got to choose activities to do for points. After a really fun 3 days we then headed home.

Overall camp was absolutely amazing!

Pippa, Year 5

The Year 5 and 6 woke up bright and early on Wednesday morning eager to get to school. They arrived at school with all the gear, chatting to their friends about the day ahead. Soon they sat down and waited for Miss Gilligan to start talking.

As they boarded the bus for camp they waved goodbye to their families.

After the long ride, they arrived at Makahika Camp for the first time.

After the safety briefing, Wadestown 1 got ready for the high ropes. They had a wonderful time clipping each other on and climbing up rope ladders, while others belayed them. Playing Ultimate Tag was ultimate fun with Joel teaching them the best tips. They extremely enjoyed the zipline as they went speeding down a hundred kilometers an hour.

Meanwhile, Wadestown 2 got ready with AI for some bushcraft. After a big walk to the bush, they made shelters. Lots of them were very impressive using the sticks in a way that keeps it not holey but still light enough to see.

After lunch, they watched the eels eat and there were so many you could barely see the water. They found it very yummy when they roasted marshmallows on fires they had made. After that they crossed the river to get back. Once they got there, Wadestown 1 got cosy in cabins while Wadestown 2 were in tents.

After dinner there was a camo quiz and then reflection writing before getting ready for bed.

The next day everyone was ready for the day ahead. Bags were moved after breakfast then they got into the day, doing the opposite activity from the day before.

After Wadestown 2 had finished bushcraft they didn't bother getting togs and went swimming in their clothes! Wadestown 1 went after, in their togs!

That evening there was exciting news as they were doing a talent show. There was lots of acting and comedy and also a quiz.

After that they got ready for bed. The next day they did an adventure race where they had to collect clips, then do challenges. Everyone did very well. Then they went home!



The Year 5 and 6 team would like to thank our parent helpers for making Camp an incredible experience for us all. We really appreciate you supporting us.

School Calendar

Please note that changes to these dates are possible and that some events will be confirmed closer to the time. These dates are correct as at publication of this newsletter. For the online calendar please [click HERE](#).

These are the upcoming events for the next fortnight:

Monday 9 March - Friday 13 March

- Kōwhai at Curious Cove Camp

Tuesday 17 March

- Pōhutukawa visit Kaiwharawhara Stream

Wednesday 18 March

- Kōwhai Tech at Tech
- Board Meeting at Rose Street staffroom @ 6.30pm

Saturday 21 March

- Wadestown Fair