Kōwhai Team Newsletter

Years 7 & 8

Term 3, 2026

Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Ākonga
Growing and Connecting as Learners

WADESTOWN SCHOOL

Kia ora e te whānau,

It was wonderful to begin the term with students proudly bringing in their completed Science Fair presentations on Monday morning. We are incredibly proud of the learning, effort, creativity, and care that each student has invested in their project. The quality of work has been outstanding and is a testament to the perseverance and curiosity shown throughout the process.

Our marking and moderation process is now nearing completion, and we look forward to sharing results and individual feedback with students as soon as possible.

From the many impressive entries, 20 projects will be selected to represent Wadestown School at the **NIWA Wellington Science Fair**. This is a prestigious competition, and one in which our students have enjoyed a long history of success. We wish our selected entrants all the very best as they prepare to showcase their investigations.

Families will also have the opportunity to view the wonderful range of Science Fair projects when they are displayed in the school hall. We are aiming to hold this exhibition during **Week 4**, subject to hall availability while the Fire System Project is underway. Further information will be sent home once the details have been confirmed.



A selection of Science Fair boards waiting moderation



Quiet focus in the Whare pukapuka (Library)





Images from the Matariki celebrations at the end of Term 2

Our 2026 school-wide theme is Journeys, with this term's focus being "Journeys Through Time." Throughout the term, students will explore how people, places, ideas, and innovations have evolved, while making connections between the past, present, and future.

Below, you'll find an overview of the key curriculum focuses for the term. As always, reminders, updates, and important dates will continue to be shared through the Wadestown School Community Newsletter and on our school website.

Term 3 Curriculum Overview:

Literacy (Reo Matatini)

Writing (Tuhituhi)

In writing, we are continuing to strengthen our skills by building on our Sentence Surgery programme and introducing **Paragraphing Perfection** to our writing toolbox. Students will learn how to craft well-structured, cohesive paragraphs using the Single-Paragraph Outline (SPO) framework, strong topic sentences, supporting detail, and effective transition words.

These skills will be applied in an authentic context as students research a significant historical explorer and create an informative poster showcasing their learning. This work will culminate in our **Kōwhai Wax Museum,** where students will transform into their chosen explorer, bringing history to life through costume, character, and an oral presentation alongside their display.





Reading (Pānui)

Our **Destination World** reading project continues this term, taking students on a literary journey around the globe. Through a range of *School Journals*, students are exploring different countries, cultures, people, and places while strengthening their reading comprehension. As they complete reading challenges, they earn "travel money" to spend at our **Kōwhai Kafe** later in the term.

Students will also develop their research reading skills as they investigate their chosen explorer, gathering information for their visual display and oral presentation at the **Kōwhai Wax Museum Showcase.**

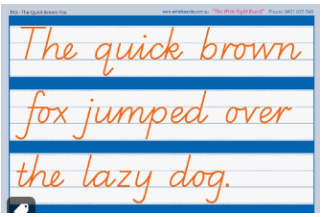
Spelling (Kupu Ako)

Our structured spelling programme, The Code, continues this term with daily 20-minute lessons focusing on spelling patterns, phonics, spelling rules, and morphology. Students who have mastered the Year 7–8 programme are extending their learning through a morphology and vocabulary group.

Handwriting (Tuhi-ā-ringa) and Keyboarding

Our focus on cursive writing continues this term as students develop fluency, correct letter formations, and ligatures. Students will also continue building their keyboarding skills through an online touch-typing programme to improve confidence, speed, and accuracy.





Numeracy (Pāngarau)

This term, our Mathematics programme will focus on the following key areas:

- Number Structures and Operations: (Fractions, Decimals, Percentages)
- Geometry: Shapes (Circles, Triangles, Polygons)
- Algebra: (Coordinates, Linear Patterns, Using Rules)
- Measurement: (Formula for area, volume, Position and Movement)

Mathswell – A team of six students will represent Wadestown School at the upcoming competition on Tuesday 18 August.

Problem Challenge – The final challenge will take place this term, with students working towards the opportunity to gain entry to the national final in Term 4.

Financial Literacy - The Money Time platform continues with a focus on improving students' financial understanding. Students work through a series of modules, including some which they are encouraged to do at home with parents. Topics covered during this term include:

- Managing your Money
- Borrowing Money
- Property
- Investing

The Arts (Toi)

- **Performing Arts –** Students will continue preparing for the Wadestown School Production, to be held at Wellington High School on Friday 18 September.

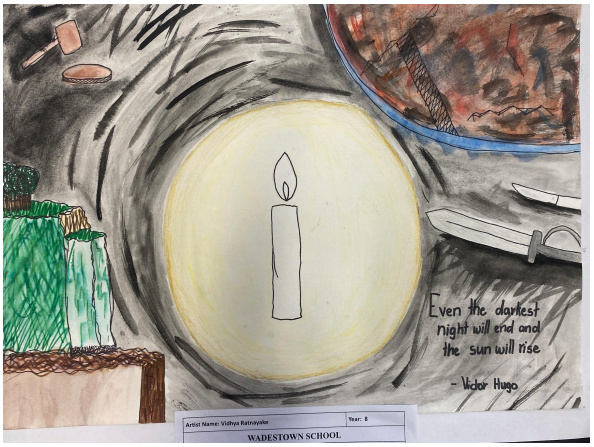
- **Visual Arts –** Students will explore the journeys of contemporary New Zealand artists, investigating their creative processes and using these inspirations to produce their own artworks.







A selection of Artworks for the Tūmanako Arts Festival





Science (Pūtaiao)

Our Science focus this term links with our **Journeys of Explorers** theme through **"Surviving the Cold"**. Students will explore the biology and physiology behind survival in extreme environments, investigating:



- **Thermoregulation** – how insulation, including wool, cotton, and wet clothing, affects heat loss through conduction and convection.
- **Nutrition as Fuel** – how food choices provide energy for survival in cold conditions by analysing kilojoules, fat, and protein content.
- **Respiration** – how the body responds to exertion through measuring lung capacity and carbon dioxide output.

Technology (Hangarau)

- The third rotation of Technology lessons at Karori West Normal School (KWNS) will resume in Week 5 on Wednesday 19 August







Physical Education and Health (Hakinakina and Hauora)

- **Tupawae Skills and Tournament –** Students will develop their tracking skills, apply game strategies, and strengthen teamwork and communication.
- **Daily Fitness Sessions –** Designed to build teamwork while improving aerobic and anaerobic fitness.
- **Health –** Lessons will focus on Staying Safe Online, developing students' understanding of digital citizenship and responsible online choices.







Action from the St John's First Aid lessons in Week 1, Term 3

Te Reo

- Weekly lessons with Matua Alwyn will focus on mihi, conversational language, and sentence structures. Students will deepen their understanding of kīwaha (Māori colloquialisms, idioms, and common sayings used in everyday spoken language).
- Kapa Haka lessons with Matua Hemi continue on Thursday mornings. Students choose to participate in either the Performance Group or the Kōwhai Group, developing their skills in waiata, haka, and knowledge of tikanga Māori.

Homework (Mahi kainga)

- Action English, Mathletics, and reading are being set this term again. Weekly posts are added to their Google Classroom homework document.
- Time management and organisational skills are key to submitting tasks on Fridays.

As always, if you have any questions about our programme or would like to discuss anything concerning your child/children, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a Kōwhai Team member.

Ngā mihi nui
Cathrine Wilkinson (Team Leader), James Shelton, Neil Sargisson, Mel Beirne and Gretchen Elliott

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james@wadestown.school.nz - Room 12
gretchen@wadestown.school.nz - Classroom Release Teacher

Kōwhai Team Activity Donation Breakdown (Year 7 & 8) (Terms 1 to 4, 2026)	
Amount added to Student Statement $110.00	
Less: Term 1 Costs	$0.00
Term 2 Costs: • Science Fair Boards • NZ Playhouse Performance	 $10.00 $6.50
Term 3 Costs • Musical Showcase at Wellington College (23 July) • BLAKE NZVR (visit from Term 2) • St John's First Aid instructor koha • Production Rehearsal Buses and Costumes	 $7.50 $6.50 $2.00 $20.00
Kōwhai Team Term 3 Balance Remaining	**$57.50**