

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEST END TE
KURA Ō MŌRERE



TERM 2 2025 WEEK 4

Kia ora nga whanau,
Welcome to our week 4 newsletter.
I would like to start by thanking all the whanau who have been supporting our school over the last 4 weeks. We have had great support at inter school sport exchanges, parents helping with breakfast club, in class supporting teachers, coaching hockey teams and many more things. This is really pleasing that so many whanau are working alongside us to make our school a wonderful place to learn. There has been a flurry of government announcements around education lately and many of them have been directed to whanau. The Education minister announced that a parent portal is now set up to help you navigate education. This is a great place to find out more information. Our staff are currently involved in Professional Development in structured maths and writing. It is important to note that the new Literacy and mathematics curriculum are still in the implementation phase. The minister has asked us (and I quote) to "just get started". We are about to review the changes we have made to our school maths program to make sure we are on the right track. Our new entrant phonics checks are being trialed this year and are not compulsory until 2026. We are making sure what we are doing is best for our students and staff. We will ensure your child's teacher has the very best professional learning to support their transition to the new curriculum.



PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent interviews are coming up on **Wednesday 28th of May and Thursday 29th of May. School will be closing at 2.00pm and the conferences will start at 2.30pm.**

All booking for meetings will happen through HERO. It is really important that you make this time available to see your child's teacher. These meetings are a great way to learn how your child is progressing, share important information which will help your child progress and It is also a chance to build positive relationships with the staff.

PINK SHIRT DAY

On Friday we took part in Pink Shirt Day. Students were asked to come in pink and to pay a gold coin towards Pink Shirt Day. We had a great response from our school with many people dressed in pink. We have raised around \$60 for the appeal. If you did not bring in a gold coin please drop this off at the office. Pink Shirt day's focus is to eliminate bullying and discrimination. We are a school that does not tolerate bullying.

SCHOOL BOARD

School Board Elections – 17 September 2025

Our triennial Board elections are in September, and we want to give potential members an opportunity between now and then to find out more about what it means to be on the School Board.

If you have thought about doing it and would like to find out more about what's involved, we'd love to chat! Just email office@westend.school.nz, and we'll connect you with a current board member who can discuss the role and get you along to a Board meeting if you're interested.

Personally, this is my first term on a School Board (a Board term is three years) and it has taken me a while to get my head around the role of the Board, and what's needed from me in my role to have a positive impact on the School, the staff and most importantly the students. There are five parent representatives on the School Board and we will be looking for new members in September. What is also important is that as a Board we have a balance of expertise (Finance, Governance, Health and Safety, Property Management to name a few) and backgrounds to best represent our community. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Craig Thorne
Parent Representative



ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTING

This term all whanau will receive a report on their child's learning. This will be digital and available through HERO. All teachers are writing comments on achievement in Reading, Writing and Maths. This will be accompanied with a graph showing where your child is in relation to national expectations. Teachers make an informed judgement based on assessments, observations, conversations and book work to make this decision. This will be a good starting place for a conversation at parent interviews.



DATES AND EVENTS

2025

Term 2

28 May

Parent Conferences **2.00pm close**

29 May

Parent Conferences **2.00pm close**

2 June

King's Birthday (Public Holiday)

4 June

Inter School vs Central (H)

13 June

Wear Yellow For Harold

20 June

Matariki (Public Holiday)

23 June

Cycle Safety

27 June

End of Term 2

HERO APP

The HERO app is our way of communicating with whanau. We will use the HERO app for reports, bookings for parent interviews, attendance, sharing successes and keeping you informed about school events.

It is really important that you use HERO if you want to keep up to date with what is going on at school.

The email address that the school has on your child's records is the way HERO connect to you. If you have changed your email address recently please update it with the school.



AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The YMCA and our school are looking at the possibility of running an after school programme based on our school site. If you are interested please let the school office know.

LIFE EDUCATION

Harold has been a hit! Students have all had at least one lesson with Life Education last week. We have heard great feedback from the students and staff on the messages from the lessons.

On Friday 13th June we will be wearing yellow for Harold. This is a fundraiser for the Life Education Trust. If you are able to support this please send a gold coin and dress up in Yellow!



MONITOR AND PULSE

This year we are trialing two pieces of computer software to support students in year 4-6. The first one is called **monitor**. It monitors everything a student types into a computer. This includes websites, documents, slideshows etc. This allows the senior leadership team to have a discussion with students about their computer use, if inappropriate words are being typed. The second tool we are using is called **pulse**. Pulse is a wellbeing platform school's use to provide students and staff a regular opportunity to reflect on their physical, mental and social well being. Each student completes a 60sec survey once a week. They can also reach out for help from a teacher of their choice, if they need it. This tool provides instant wellbeing visibility, provides student voice and contributes to positive culture building. If you would like to discuss **Pulse** please get in touch with Mr Hislop.

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL REMINDERS

Our school starts at 9:00 AM, and students should not be on the school site before 8:15 AM. The start of the day is an important part of setting students up for success. Arriving on time makes a big difference for students being ready to learn. If you are late, you must sign in at the office.

We are noticing that parents are also **picking students up early** at the end of the day. This is causing issues for teachers who are wrapping up the day's learning. This is also important for teachers and learners to finish positively and to receive all important notices. Please wait outside the classroom until the end of the school day for the learning to finish, before taking your child.

Parents **should not be parking** in the school for pick up and drop offs. Please use the surrounding streets and the carpark opposite the Bonithon Hotpools.

Lost property is kept in He Kakano. Please check this regularly and collect your child's lost items.

Munch crunch is our important fruit or vegetable snack break. We do this everyday at 10.00am. Please make sure you pack something for your child. Also please remember to pack a spoon if your child has a yogurt. We are a nut free school due to some staff and students allergies. No peanut butter, loose nuts, nut bars or other items which contain nuts.

If you shop at **Pak n Save** can we have your receipts? We collect these and Pak n Save pays us money, which is used for valuable resources for your children. Just drop them off at the office.