



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 4, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Natalie Todd

Term 4 has started with a hiss and a roar! As the weather warms up, we are excited to see so many students and staff participating in activities with enthusiasm, a highlight is our Waterwise programme. NZ Schools Waterwise is an educational programme designed to teach students about water safety, sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding and environmental awareness. At Wairau Valley Special School, it operates in partnership with our school and the Stillwater boat club to offer hands-on experiences that foster

confidence and competence in water activities. The programme emphasises the importance of understanding water conditions, safe boating practices and environmental responsibility, while also promoting teamwork and leadership among students. It is exciting to see the skills our students are developing on the water, from building confidence in kayaking to improving their understanding of water safety and being brave enough to give different activities a go. Waterwise provides opportunities for teamwork and collaboration. Watching our students support one another and work together to overcome challenges or fears is always inspiring. These are not only valuable life skills but also great examples of the resilience and camaraderie we aim to foster within our school community.





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As we continue through the term, we look forward to exciting activities and opportunities to Explore, Learn and Succeed. Whether on the water on the playground or in the classroom, our students always show dedication and a positive attitude towards learning and their personal development.



**Here's to a successful and fun-filled term 4!**

Watch this space... we have an amazing new initiative starting which will support our students learning.



## Lockdown Practice

Yesterday, 29 October, we conducted a successful lockdown drill, and I'm pleased to report that everything went smoothly. Our staff did an excellent job managing students, ensuring a calm and orderly environment throughout the exercise. In one notable instance, a classroom successfully moved locations quietly and efficiently as part of the drill. Communication was outstanding, with teachers promptly updating management on their group's status. We're grateful for everyone's cooperation, which reinforces our commitment to safety and preparedness.

2023 - 2025

WVSS Kaupapa

TŪHURA AKO TUTUKI  
EXPLORE LEARN SUCCEED

VALUES : Acceptance Respect Understanding ARU : To follow  
VISION : Engaged, empowered and challenged learners.

# GOALS



## What's on at WVSS

- 30 OCT**  
School Fun Run
- 31 OCT**  
9:30am Mini Woolies launch  
Gymnastics Rm 5 & GPS 7
- 1 NOV**  
Gumboot Friday
- 4 NOV**  
GC 6l Waterwise
- 5 NOV**  
Transition 2 Waterwise
- 6 NOV**  
Transition 1 Waterwise
- 7 NOV**  
GC53 Waterwise
- 8 NOV**  
Whangaparaoa 3 Waterwise