

Kia ora, whanau.

This morning's powhiri to welcome tamariki, whanau, and kaiako new to the school, got underway in bright sunshine - albeit in somewhat 'shoulda-worn-a-jersey' temperatures. It's always an honour and a privilege to be able to formally start the Waverley Park school year with the whole-school powhiri. As the years roll by, the powhiri has become completely woven into the fabric of our school's kaupapa - and our supportive school communities too: it is very much how we do things here. The 2024 powhiri was no exception; some families having three generations taking part this morning.

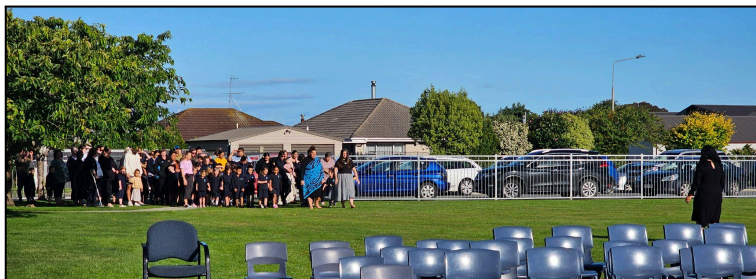
Our thanks to Kaikaranga Awhi, Raiha, and Katy for opening proceedings this morning; to Kaumatua, and long-time friend of school, Koro Phil for speaking for the tangata whenua - the first Waverley Park powhiri where Phil hasn't been speaker for the manuhiri: and to Matua Junior and Matua Jordan who were this year's Kaikōrero for the manuhiri. Our thanks to every individual who took part; thank you for supporting your kids (and, for some of you - *your kid's kids!*)

The well-known whakatauki asks (then answers): "*He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata. He tangata. He tangata!*" *What is the most important thing in the world? (It is people. It is people. It is people!)*" It sure is, Waverley Park, it sure is. Nowhere was that better exemplified this morning, than when we reached the koha part of the powhiri: where the visitors offer a taonga - a gift - to the home people.

These days, koha is frequently a cash contribution. However, this morning, the koha offered was our newest Waverley kids themselves. Entirely appropriate as that is exactly what a family does when it entrusts a school to share responsibility for the education and welfare of one of their greatest treasures: their child. Thank you all for trusting yours' to us.



Nga tangata whenua awaiting the...



...nga manuhiri being called in

The calendar...

Feb 23	Assembly: Kia kaha - 10.10am
26	Swimming starts (Monday - Thursday) Board of Trustees - 7.30pm in the staffroom
Mar 07	Last day of swimming
13	Phoenix Zone athletics
15	Phoenix Zone cancellation date (or Assembly: Kia maia - 10.10am)
24	Southland Primary School Athletics Champs
29	Good Friday
Apr 01	Easter Monday
02	Assembly: Kia manawanui - 10.10am
05	Southland Anniversary Day
12	Term 1 ends (3.00pm)
29	Term 2 starts

How to

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 Messenger: Waverley Park School
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A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS!

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School lunches changes...

On Tuesday, we were informed by the Ministry of Education that *Lee's Catering* was no longer supplying school lunches (to anyone); effective as of the following day - Wednesday. The Ministry spokesperson also advised that until such time as arrangements could be confirmed for the rest of the year; they had engaged alternative suppliers to cover the schools affected.

On Thursday - yesterday - team *Subway* filled the gap; and did so again today. Next week will see the *Koha Kai* kitchen stepping in to provide the menu. In the meantime, we'll let you know more ...whenever we know more ... about what happens next.

PLEASE NOTE: the providers will send **ONLY** the number of lunches required to feed the number Waverley Park kids daily taking part in the programme. Students who have been withdrawn from the programme will not be receiving lunches.

What is definite is that the current government has committed to support the school lunches programme until the end of the year; and that whatever else happens, we will continue to be part of that kaupapa: your kids will still get fed

BOOK CLUB pamphlets went out last week.
 Orders can be handed into the office; or complete online at [Loop Orders Online](#)
 Orders close **Tuesday 21 February**

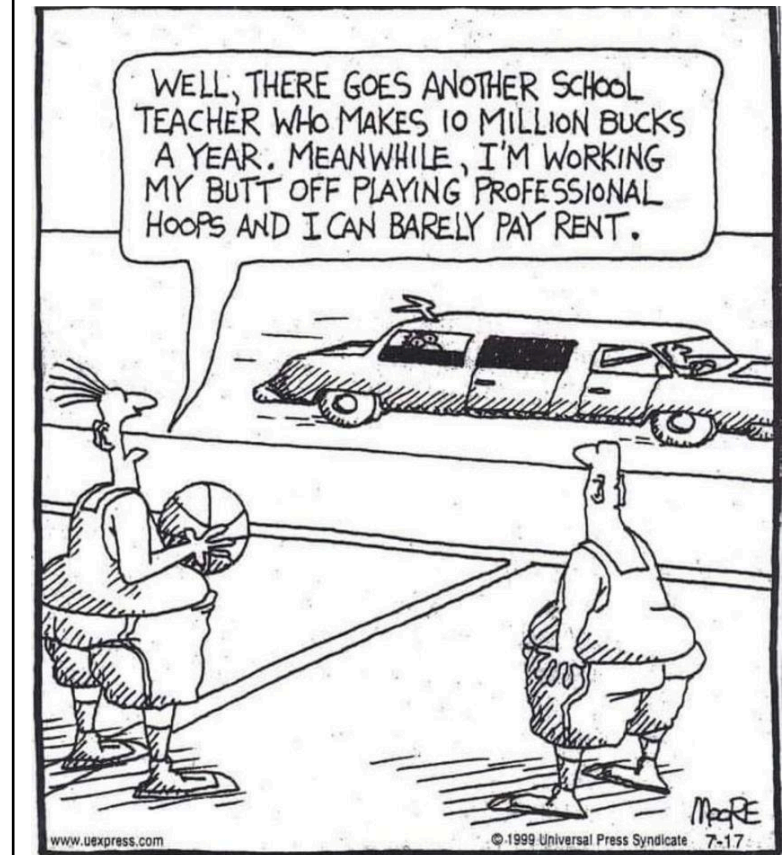
Book Club
 Te Karapu Pukapuka
 KICK-START READING FOR 2024!

GET \$5 CREDIT
 to spend on the next issue with orders \$35 and over!

Keep the Reading Rolling!

spread the word WITH THESE HANDY RESOURCES [Go to Media Kit](#)

If only (too good not to share) ...



Until next week - ka kite, Kerry Hawkins & staff

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because you know: he won't
remember to!



**SOUTHLAND
A&P SHOW**

*Saturday 2nd March
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Are you needing something creative to add to your term one planner? Sections include: Preschool, Year 0-4 & Year 5-13. Check out our schedule of classes online to see further details!



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**CHESS
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SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY



XO Kids - above XO Church

9 Tay Street, Invercargill



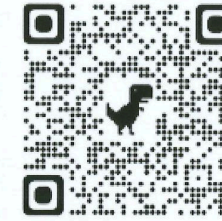
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