



WAIKOWHAI
INTERMEDIATE

Waikowhai Intermediate School

...developing life-long learners...

Issue 11

Term 3

18th September 2020

Greetings, Kia Ora, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Taloha, Kia Orana, Ni Hao, Buenos Dias, Chao, Malo ni Habari, Dobar dan, Bula Vinaka, Apa Khabar.

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It has been pleasing to have over 91% of students consistently back at school. We have maintained programmes and introduced some school wide Roopu Activities to keep children engaged and connected. Routines in a school environment are very important to share expectations and provide the basis for a safe and happy environment for everyone.

Clearly we have missed these routines for large parts of this year, and also some key events that would bring our school community together. Three Way Conferences in Term 2 are an important time for us to share information between students, teachers and caregivers and parents at home. Waifest in Term 1 is a time we have large numbers of cultural groups on stage that children opt into, and then food sold from classrooms so that we can connect in an informal way with our wider community. The connections, trust and relationships created through these routines and events are a key part to creating a sound basis of well-being in our school community that our teaching and learning thrives on.

As a result of events this year our teachers have therefore had to work significantly harder to create an environment where our children have been able to thrive, and sometimes they have needed to do this via Google Meets. We also understand that there are many other challenges in our community at this time due to the wider impact of COVID-19, that are providing significant stresses and challenges for families at home.

It is timely then to remind ourselves that we are all in this together, working for the very best outcomes for our students, for your children. We are confident here that our students at Waikowhai Intermediate will again meet and likely exceed our expectations this year, and from what we have seen this last few weeks at Waikowhai Intermediate, they are ready to play their part here too.

It seems appropriate in Maori language week to sum my message up with a Maori whakatauki.

He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in with no exception

Kind regards,

David King
Principal



Maori Language Week

This week at school we had a number of events and activities to recognise and celebrate Maori Language Week. One of these was participating in an online competition on Education Perfect, where over a hundred schools of all levels completed Te Reo Maori activities to earn points for their schools. When this competition closed, Waikowhai Intermediate was on top, and for winning the competition have been awarded an engraved Cup, \$100 towards helping to celebrate with our students and \$1000 for Te Reo Maori resources for the school. Kia pai to mahi tātou

Last Day of school for Term 3

This is a reminder that school will close at 2pm on Friday 25th September, the last day of Term 3. Auckland Transport Buses do not run at the earlier time, but the Kiwi Coach Service to Mangere Bridge will run at 2pm. Please make alternative travel arrangements for your children where necessary.



Teacher Only Day Friday 23rd October

School will be closed on this day for all students. Teachers will be undertaking Professional Development and planning for 2021. Earlier in the year it was indicated that we will have a Teacher Only Day on Friday 23rd October. Neighbouring schools that are part of the Lynfield Kahui Ako are keeping this date as a Teacher Only Day, as we will at Waikowhai Intermediate.

Well-being survey

Through the changes and challenges of 2021 we have worked very hard to maintain the well-being of all our students with a wide variety of programmes and resourcing supporting the work our teachers do every day in classrooms. Please see the results below of a recent follow-up survey. Students completed the original survey in February before they experienced the full effects of COVID-19 on their time here at school.

We are proud of the results that show that despite an extremely challenging year our students are resilient and school wide we have maintained similar well-being as at the start of the year.

Kirsten Malcolm, our Counsellor, who recently received her Masters with First Class Honours, designed the survey. The questions were:

How would you rate your wellbeing over the past week?

- *Very good*
- *Pretty good most of the time*
- *Okayish - about equal good days and bad days*
- *Not good - more bad days than good days*
- *Really low*

Is there anything that you would like your teacher to know, that would help them understand you and support you better?

Would you like to have a chat with our school counsellor?

Anything else you'd like to add? Or any ideas about how we can support students' wellbeing at school and at home?

The results are as follows. (Please note that all 16 students who reported they were either 'Not good' or 'Really low', were followed up with individually).

Wellbeing Snapshot - Summary of Data

8 September 2020

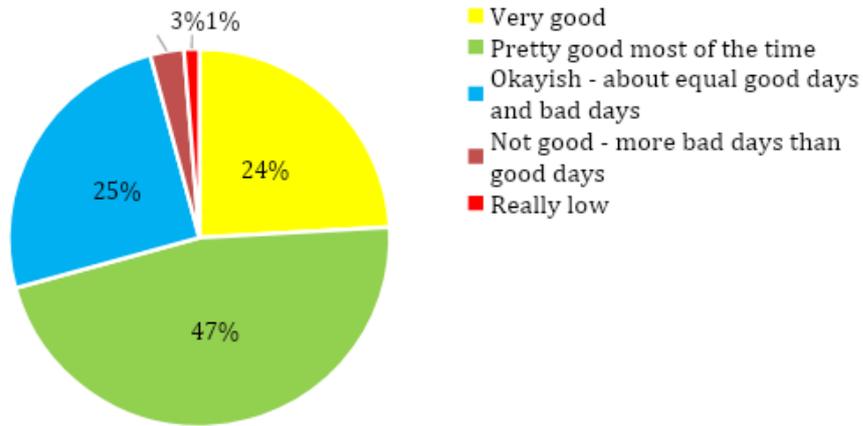
386 responses

How would you rate your wellbeing over the past week?

- Very good: 93
- Pretty good most of the time: 180
- Okayish – about equal good days and bad days: 97
- Not good – more bad days than good days: 11
- Really low: 5

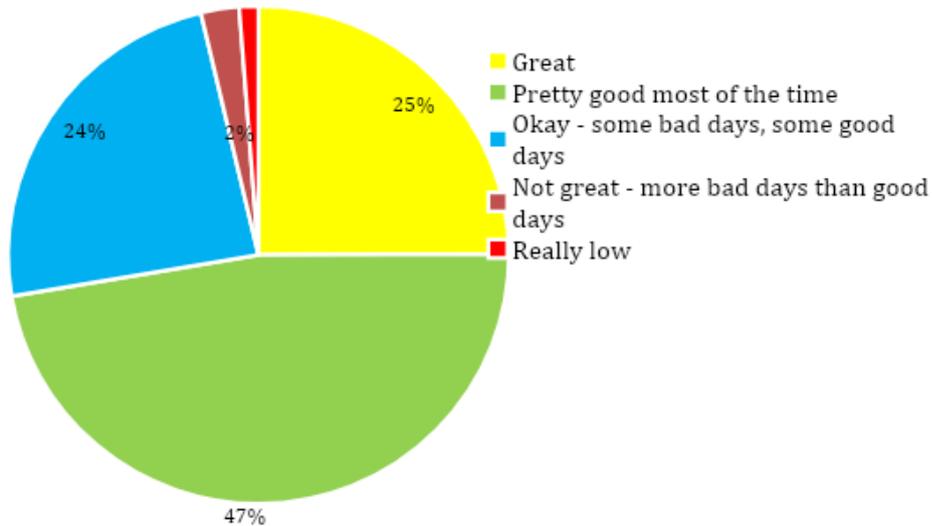
71% of our students rated their wellbeing as 'very good' or 'pretty good most of the time'.

How would you rate your wellbeing over the past week?



Here is our February Wellbeing Snapshot data for comparison. Interestingly, the proportions are almost identical.

How would you rate your wellbeing over the past week? (Feb)



17 students requested a chat with a counsellor. 12 of these are new clients.

Production reminder

This is scheduled for Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October. If we return to Alert Level 1 we will sell tickets to families and caregivers starting the week of 12th of October. We do have a plan to record the Production and share the video if we are not able to sell tickets. In the event we stay in the current Alert Level, we will have day times shows to our students as the audience.

Cross Country Reminder

The School Cross Country is next Wednesday. Unfortunately, due to the current Alert Levels we will not invite parents and caregivers this year, but are excited to have found time to run the event for our students.



Introducing Owairaka parkrun

Keen to get more exercise with the whole family? Bring the dog as well? How about connecting with the local community? If this sounds interesting, then parkrun may be for your whānau. There is a new weekly 5k parkrun starting at Owairaka Park, which follows the beautiful Oakley Creek / Te Auaunga Awa. Held every Saturday morning at 8am, rain or shine, it is an inclusive event that is open to young and old, fit and unfit, runners, joggers, walkers and volunteers. Best of all it is completely free to participants.

The health and wellbeing initiative called parkrun started in the UK 16 years ago next month and has grown to include 22 countries around the world, including New Zealand (since 2012). Currently Auckland has several park runs and there are already some of our school families that join in at the Cornwall Park parkrun. It is not a race, but it can be if you like. It is also the chance to enjoy some exercise in a supportive, friendly atmosphere. Owairaka parkrun is due to open on October 17, but this will depend on Covid-19 Alert levels and gathering numbers permitted. Watch this space for more information.



JOIN THE PARKRUN FAMILY

WALK, JOG, RUN, VOLUNTEER

or simply come and watch – it's up to you!

FRIENDLY, ENJOYABLE 5K EVENTS

Every Saturday morning

FREE & EASY TO TAKE PART

No need for special equipment or clothing

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Prams and dogs can take part

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN

Walkers are always welcome

IMPROVE HEALTH & FITNESS

Be active in the open air

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY

Make new friends & socialise

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

Opportunities to volunteer

BUILD CONFIDENCE

Track progress & achieve new goals

Register at parkrun.co.nz