

# WESTERN HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TE KURA O WHAKAAHU

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Principal  
Brent Griffin



### A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora e te whanau

August Newsletter 9 /25

We are now at the end of week 6, 4 weeks remaining of term 3. It is hard to believe, I was told yesterday that it's only 126 days until Christmas. This year is just flying by.

We have a number of exciting things happening at Western Heights Primary School. You will notice that on the top field, a chunk of the field has been fenced off. Next week, Empire of Dirt will start the construction of our new scooter track. It will take about a month to construct, but it will be amazing when it's finished. Another cool activity for our tamariki.

With the excitement of the new track, we are going to have a lot of kids wanting to use it. For health and safety, all children using the track will be required to use a helmet. No exceptions.

We will also have a designated area for the kids to put their scooters. A small lock would be a good idea so they can lock their scooters to the pole. We hope to have some available at school for students to purchase.

We are also in the very early stages of looking at a revamp to our school uniform. It has been many years since we looked at making changes. At the moment, our polar fleeces are taking 16-20 weeks to arrive: it's not ideal.

The most important thing to note is, that if we do make changes for 2026, you do not have to immediately purchase the new ones. The uniform your tamariki currently has will be fine until it needs replacing. When it needs replacing, it would be with the new style. As I say, we are in the very early stages of the process. The Board of Trustees has to approve any changes, so there is a lot of water to go under the bridge before any decisions are made.

Western Heights Primary School has the following Policy- Behaviour and Conduct of Parents and Caregivers. This policy will be distributed to whanau so everybody is aware of the behaviour required within our school.

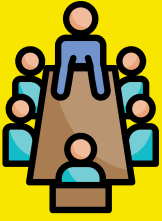
We have amazing teachers, I am so proud of them, they work so hard and they truly care about your tamariki. Sadly, very recently, we have had two adults arrive at school in an aggressive, agitated state, and they have taken their life frustrations out on teachers. It's simply not acceptable. We understand life's struggles, but our teachers are amazing. Nobody deserves to be treated in an unkind way. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Our Gymnastics team represented the school in the interschool competition today. I will share the results in the next newsletter, and our school chess team represented the school in the interschool competition yesterday. I will also share those results in the next newsletter.

Last week, a good number of senior students represented the school in the annual sports field day. It is a fun day, participation and fun, not competition. I had the pleasure of coaching the soccer team. I had a wonderful day with an amazing group of tamariki. There was no point in the day when any child needed to be told how to behave: they were fantastic representatives of our kura.

I am putting my name forward for 2026, Western Heights Primary School will have to join the National Lunch Program. It is the program introduced by the Associate Minister of Education, David Seymour. It has been plagued with problems and unhappy schools. We are very sad to have to leave Ka Pai Kai, they provide outstanding kai for our tamariki. We have no say in the government's decision, so I am hoping they iron out all of the problems before we enter in 2026.

We are delighted to introduce the members of our 2025 -2027 Board of Trustees. Thank you to our returning members for their ongoing support, and a warm welcome to our newly elected trustees. We are excited to work together to continue supporting our school community.



**Returning Members**

Brooke Ellis, Canaan Tuhura, Claire Smeath, Lucy Eparapa

**Newly Elected Members:**

Dale Mudgway

We also warmly welcome Melanie Sweeney as our new staff representative. Her insights and experience will be a valuable voice on the board, helping to ensure strong connections between the staff and governance. Together, this group brings a strong mix of experience, passion, and dedication to helping our school and students thrive.

Nga mihi nui

Tessa Sisson

Returning Officer



Seesaw is our real-time reporting and partnership tool. We report on student progress and achievement through Seesaw in real-time.

We no longer have mid-year or end-of-year reports. Please check out our school website for a step by step guide to signing in and user friendly information. If you have any issues or would like some one on one learning please

contact Whaea Marnel on

marnelv@whp.school.nz.. We look forward to seeing whānau/parents and caregivers engaging and commenting on student progress via Seesaw.

Don't forget we have 4 year old classes for those children getting ready to come to our kura. For further information call the office and speak with

Whaea Anita or Whaea Teresa .



Just a friendly reminder that we have school assembly on Friday afternoon. Please keep this in mind when picking children up early

The Dental Clinic on site have a separate line to our school office. They can be contacted on:

07 348 8459

or

027 973 5253



**Stay in touch :**

Our School Nurse is here Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please feel free to let us know if you would like them to check your tamariki while they are on site.



We are a water ONLY school..

Please support us by sending your tamariki to school with a Water Bottle



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

On Wednesday 27 August, teachers will be attending a paid union meeting. School will be finishing at the earlier time of 1pm on this day. Please make arrangements to pick your child up at this time.

The Bus and Van will run from 12:45 arriving home around 1pm and 1:30pm.

**Pie Fundraiser**



Friends of WHPS are currently running a Pie Fundraiser to build a sensory playground on the top field. There are a variety of flavours and sizes and orders can be placed until Monday 1 September. Please call the office for more information.



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