

Year 7 & 8

at



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Year 7 and 8 area at Waitakere has continued to grow over the last 8 years as parents have chosen to keep their children at our school to complete their primary education. Our students move onto High School as confident and capable young adults ready to take on the challenges offered.

Our Year 7 and 8 programmes focus on developing students as independent learners able to manage their time effectively to achieve personal excellence in all that they do. Through leadership opportunities we focus on the essential values of respect, integrity, and honesty.

We aim to have each student leave our school with a love of learning and the skills to become a responsible member of society.

WAITAKERE PRIMARY SCHOOL VISION

Waitakere School is a dynamic learning community focussed on providing quality learning experiences to help all students achieve personal excellence.

A strong home/school partnership is fostered through shared goal setting at parent/student/teacher conferences, an open-door policy and effective communication systems. Students are encouraged to achieve at their highest levels socially, academically and behaviourally.

Meaningful learning for the students is achieved through a well structured curriculum, relevant teaching resources and effective teaching strategies. This includes the sharing of learning intentions, co-construction of success criteria, self and peer assessment, use of quality exemplars, and appropriate feedback and feedforward to help students identify their next learning step. Extensive assessment practices provide rich self-review data to inform teaching programmes and practices. The staff are highly committed professionals. They are valued and appreciated and share a strong sense of unity through a shared vision and passion for the school. Education outside of the classroom programmes are a strong feature of the school and give students the opportunity to challenge their boundaries and experience the great outdoors.

The school philosophy is represented in the Waitakere Way, and is used to identify ourselves as members of the whole school community. Students are encouraged to make choices that are helpful to themselves, others and the environment, and successes are celebrated. Restorative justice practices and the Responsible Thinking Process are used to help students understand their choices and the consequences of their actions. Consistency is a feature of the behaviour management programme and the staff act as role models of citizenship. Respect for each other, property and the environment is an important feature of the school and there is zero tolerance of bullying in any form.

Waitakere is a place where students, staff and parents enjoy a sense of pride and belonging – comfortable in an environment where value is placed on respect, honesty, tolerance and the celebration of uniqueness.

TRANSITION

Research has shown that each time students move school, the adjustment can affect their learning for approximately 6 months. Because our students do not make a transition at the end of Year 6, they are able to make the most of the learning opportunities in Year 7 immediately, in a caring and nurturing environment where teachers know the students well.



CORE BUSINESS (Monday to Thursday Programme)

Our strong and experienced teachers use best practice techniques. They share learning intentions with the students, and the criteria for success in each piece of learning are determined together using models and examples. Students are taught to become self-regulating learners through directed self-assessment and they become skilled at identifying their next learning step.

We have a strong emphasis on Literacy and Mathematics with a large part of each morning being dedicated to these learning areas. The other learning areas of Science, Health, Physical Education, The Arts (visual art, dance, music, drama) and Social Sciences are taught with as much integration as possible with Literacy, Mathematics, Tikanga Maori and using up to date information and communication technologies.

Each year our students participate in the Otago Problem Solving Challenge as part of the mathematics programme and students have the opportunity to sit the ICAS assessments offered by the University of New South Wales.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We provide a host of opportunities for our Year 7 and 8 students to take on leadership roles within the school.

Road Safety

These include assisting with road safety through being road crossing patrols and bus monitors. Students are trained, supported and assessed in their role by the police education officer and a high degree of guided responsibility is given to them in these important roles.



Daily School Operations

The Year 7 and 8 classes learn responsibility by assisting with daily school operations such as bell ringing, manning the school office during break times, copying and distributing the daily notice sheet, raising the flag, working as librarians at lunch time, running the sports shed, taking charge of the daily care and delivery of the COW (computers on wheels) and running activities with younger students during wet lunch times.

Public Speaking for Genuine Purpose

Year 8 students work as part of a team leading full school assemblies during the year. Students are coached in public speaking, including speaking on the Marae, modelling appropriate behaviour and taking responsibility to run these major school occasions. The nervousness before, and the levels of satisfaction afterwards from doing a job well show how serious this role is to the students. These opportunities help our Year 7 and 8s to develop confidence before a large audience and the skills to be excellent role models.



SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to involvement in a comprehensive PE programme, we organise for our Year 7 and 8s to represent the school in a wide range of North West zone sports competitions. These include swimming, softball, soccer, rugby, touch, netball, basketball, cross country and athletics.



OPPORTUNITIES TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL IN OTHER AREAS

Our students can be involved in the zone speech competition, Massey High Science Quiz, Waitakere College Science day, also the Kids Literacy Quiz, writing workshops, representing the school at community events such as City Council publicity days and the annual ANZAC ceremony in Waitakere township.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council is made up of two class representatives elected by their peers and teachers from each class from Year 5. In their senior role the Year 7 and 8 students really take a lead in school council meetings. They are expected to mentor the younger councillors by taking a lead in meetings, actively problem solving the issues that are brought from their classes and younger buddy classes. The Year 7 and 8 councillors are important leaders in the school. This year 3 of the councillors have taken full responsibility for running a soccer tournament.



CAMPS

Camps continue to be a strong feature of the school in the Year 7 and 8 area. Camps are fondly remembered by our students for years and years into the future. We traditionally hold a week long camp at Motutapu Island in even years. The focus of the Motutapu camp is on challenging the students physically and developing strong cooperative skills. Activities at Motutapu include kayaking, sailing, snorkelling, raft building, challenging obstacle courses, high ropes, abseiling, rock wall climbing, orienteering, historical WW2 tunnel exploration, tramping.



In odd years the major focus of camp is on self reliance. Students camp in self-pitched tents at Tawharanui Regional Park. They work in teams to plan a healthy menu, budget for and purchase their food, organise equipment and safely store and cook their food. The students love this challenge (and challenge it is). Anchor Bay is a marine protected area and the Takatu Peninsula has been turned into a mainland island in recent years with a predator-proof fence extending across the peninsula. Students learn about on shore and marine ecology as part of this camp.

ASSEMBLIES

Year 8 students work as part of a team leading full school assemblies during the year.



YEAR 7 & 8 FRIDAY PROGRAMME

Our specialist Friday programme features the learning of a 2nd Language, Visual Art, Ukelele lessons, Science, ICT, Dance, PE and Sport



TECHNOLOGY AT TAUPAKI SCHOOL

Students attend each Friday for two terms in Year 7 and Year 8. In each room they have to work through the **technological process:-**

SCENARIO OR PROBLEM

Brief — Learning intention — Specific success criteria or Specifications
Design (including pattern making and recipe writing) — Test or manufacture

Food Technology Requires Year 7 & 8 students to learn how to prepare a healthy meal and research how to prevent food poisoning and the best way to store food. There are many students at the end of their two years who contemplate a career in the food processing or food technology industries.



Soft Materials Technology Students build towards their Sewing Machine Drivers License which is gained in Year 7. Using this knowledge they then sketch a soft toy suitable for a preschooler. They then draw their own patterns and do a mock up in paper. After modifications, they cut out the fabric, attach their learning activities and complete their toy. Some amazingly creative and innovative designs.



Hard Materials Technology requires students to look at a storage need for DVDs, CDs or something similar and design and build a storage unit. They then design a Treasure Chest for their valuables. Their third option is to write their own brief and specifications and build something they would like for themselves or as a gift. All students learn to draw a 3D diagram, mark out and cut timber and use the appropriate wood work tools.





YEAR 8 DINNER

A highlight for our departing Year 8 students is their Year 8 formal dinner and dance. A committee of students work with the teachers to plan this event. During Term 4 the Friday Arts focus is on learning dances in a range of styles for this occasion.



Our Year 8 students are waited on by the teachers (who do their best to match the outfits of the students).



A highlight for the evening is showing off dances learnt and being able to dance with parents.



GRADUATION ASSEMBLY

At the end of Year 8 we say 'goodbye' to our wonderful young adults. We publicly acknowledge the qualities of each of them as we send them on their way to their next step in their education and their lives after Waitakere School.



Mural painted by our Year 5 to 8 students 2006 - has pride of place on the side of our hall

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