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Newsletter Number 21 17 August 2018



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Thanks

- ... to those parents who were able to spend our cross country with us.
- \dots the trivia team, and those who attended Trivia Night on 11 August for what was clearly an outstanding night.

People of the week

- ... those children who ran their hearts out at cross country this week.
- ... Amy Elias for working on props for school production in her own time.
- ... Our ICAS Maths candidates
- ... Katelyn Delemare who won Step 4 at the Northland Gymnastics Competition & also won the Teams event. Congratulations.
- ... Niko Fagalima-Robertson who was Player of the Day for Senior Basketball
- ... Congratulations to Erica Powell, Susie Finlayson, Leon Wiegersma, Caden Gunson, Josh Tito, TeAarahi Tito who have been selected to play in the upcoming Whangarei Year 5 & 6 2018 Inter Association Hockey competition.

Congratulations

... Mrs Jongkind who recently became a fully registered teacher.

Congratulations Jayde on achieving this significant professional milestone.

Best wishes for a long an illustrious career.

Best wishes

... to our ESOL students who attend a Mayoral Welcome this coming Tuesday at Forum North. Enjoy!!

<u>Term Calendar</u> ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

27-30 August Central Northland Regional Science and Technology Fair

29 August Whangarei Primary Schools Cross Country Event

30 August TEACHER ONLY HALF DAY

24 - 25 Sept School Production

27 Sept Years 7 & 8 Debating at Huanui College (Round 2) 28 Sept Final Day of term 3 (first day term 4 - 15 Oct)

BoT Meeting - Monday 27 August

Parents are most welcome to sit in on board meetings. Please let Helen know next week so that we can prepare material for you.

Less than ideal attendance

If you received notification recently that your child's attendance falls below the Ministry target (90-95% attendance) please address this issue as soon as possible or meet with us to develop a plan. We realise that circumstances differ family to family, child to child, and are keen to work with families to embed good patterns of attendance.

Hayden Martin Electrical

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Reminders from last week ... visit newsletter archives on our website

... Attendance Concern Letters Homework Scholastic Book Club

Cambridge Year 7 and 8 Programme - Meeting 23 August for Year 6 & 7 parents

We are the only state school in Northland offering the Cambridge Junior Secondary Programme. This programme is designed by Cambridge University, and can only be offered in accredited schools. Our goal has always been to ensure that all year 8 students are at least one year ahead, on entry to secondary school, than if they had not done the Cambridge Programme. If you cannot make the meeting on 23 August, further information is available on our website, or feel free to make an appointment with Mrs Donaldson or Mr Trewhella to further discuss our Cambridge pathways.

Cambridge Survey

When we surveyed our former Cambridge Students (now at High School), they responded as follows ... The Cambridge programme prepared me well for Year 9 Maths ... very strongly agree 100% The Cambridge Programme prepared me well for Year 9 English ... agree 20%, strongly agree 20%, very strongly agree 60%

While each year of Cambridge further cements our conviction that this is the best possible academic preparation for high school, it encourages us further to hear anecdotal information on how our students are doing at secondary school. Just this past week we received unsolicited feedback from a parent of one of our former year 8's who has transitioned to year 10 statistics (while in year 9), and another student (different school) who has just transitioned to year 10 algebra (while in year 9).

Official on site arrival and pick up times

A reminder to please ensure that no child is dropped at school prior to 8:00 am in the morning, and that non-bus children are picked up at the end of the day no later than 3:30 pm. Where possible, please also aim to have children at school at least 15 minutes before 9:00 am bell so that they are organized for the start of the school day.

TEACHER ONLY HALF-DAY - THURSDAY 30 AUGUST

In the last newsletter we advised that the school had been awarded funding to engage in staff professional development in writing. This is an area we have chosen because a greater number of our students lag in this area, comparative to other learning areas. Having said this, all students have potential to benefit significantly once we are fully trained to implement this programme.

There are certain conditions attached to participation in this programme, including a Teacher Only Day to start the programme off. This is a non-negotiable requirement. Some of you will know that some schools have as many as 2 or 3 Teacher Only Days a year, but this would be the first Teacher Only Day for Matarau School for at least 25 years. We have always managed to schedule these for term breaks, but this is not possible on this occasion.

We do regret any inconvenience caused to parents from this day, and have done what we can to minimize this inconvenience. Please also note that this does not mean less instructional time for your child(ren), as any time taken for this day needs to be "made up" at the end of the year.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees have approved a Teacher only HALF day for Thursday 30 August. On this day school will close at mid-day and buses will leave from school from 12:00 pm. Although normal instructional programmes will operate in the morning, we also understand that some parents may opt to keep their children home for the whole day.

So please be aware that the school will be <u>closed for instruction from mid-day on Thursday 30</u>
<u>August</u>. Buses will leave school from 12:00 pm (at customary intervals) and so children will be dropped at their usual drop off point <u>around</u> 3 hours earlier than normal. The children who travel on the Kamo bus would arrive in Kamo around 12:15-12:20 pm. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at 12:00 pm please.

If you need to arrange afternoon care for your child, please note that it might be possible to start our After School Care Programme from mid-day, but there would be a charge for this. If you are interested in this option please contact Kim on 021 0663806 no later than Monday 27 August.



Early next term we will be calling for expressions of interest in our 2018 Art Scholarships. This is an opportunity to present a portfolio of artwork for judging, with the potential to win a school cup and a small prize. Maybe chat to your children about this and, if you would like the information early, just give Kevin a call next week. We have had some outstanding portfolios in year's past and are keen to see this tradition continue.

Headlice Inspections

All parents are asked to check their children's hair weekly please so that we stay on top of this problem.

Term contributions

... those who opted for term payment of school contributions will receive a contribution request via their child, or by email, within the next week. Thank you for your support ... every cent goes back to the children in some value added form.

Central Northland Science and Technology Fair

Please return consent forms by the end of next week. Any questions in the run up please to Mrs Donaldson. Also please return the concept

International Schools Competitions

A reminder that the Mathematics exam is scheduled for next Tuesday 14 August. We suggest children have a break from practice papers over the weekend

School Annual Report

... including financials is now on our school website .. just click on the "About Us" tab.

Home Gardens

Please discuss with your children the possibility of having a home garden this year. This programme gets underway some time later this term (timeline to follow), and culminates in judging at year's end with a trophy presented at prize giving. We will send an expression of interest form out **next week** (sorry for the delay) and so please let your child know if you want one of these forms sent home.

Finally

A few kids comments as we prepare for our "Happily Never After" production

"Acting is really boosting my confidence" - Ella

"Production gives us cool opportunities, and it is a nice change" - Brenna

"Helps me overcome my shyness" - Kalani

And finally for real this time

You will know that "joyfulness" is our virtue presently (and for one more week). With this in mind, I read the following statement on a child's poster in a school that I visited this week. "Joyfulness is like having your best friend inside of you." I will leave you to ponder this over the weekend.

Kind Regards Nga mihi nui

Our Sponsors support your children, please support them



Kevin Trewhella PRINCIPAL

Reusable Produce Bags fundraiser

If you (friends or family) would like to order another set or 2 of these bags we have plenty of spares in the office. Please contact Helen if you would like to order some more.

Community Notices

LADIES MOVIE NIGHT - Comrie Park Kindy fundraiser. Oceans 8 @ 6pm Thursday 23 August, Event Cinema's. Come and join us for an evening of laughs, enjoy a glass of bubbles, some nibbles and a great movie! Giveaways on the evening as well! Tickets (\$25 each) available from Comrie Park Kindergarten. Tel 433 5045

An evening with Melanie Vezey, "Learning relationship communication" based on Dr Gary Chapman's book "The 5 love languages" Maunu School Hall Thurs 6 Sept. Coffee & cake 7pm with the talk starting 7.30pm. Tickets \$20 each or 2 for \$30 available from the Maunu School Office or contact maunuschoolpta@gmail.com

Trivia Night Fundraiser

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