

SUMPTER BAUGHEN

Chartered Accountants

Ph 09 438 3939
sarahk@sumpters.co.nz
www.sumpters.co.nz



Contact: David van Boldrik
Tel: 0800 830 600 or 027 497 6550
Email: graemebird@vodafone.co.nz
www.gbircconcretecutting.co.nz



Dave Neumann Limited
Effluent Spreading
Tel : 09 433 5069
Mobile : 021 731 223
Email : pammyb@xtra.co.nz



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Email :
meganlicious.cakes@hotmail.com



WOF, Lubes & Tyres
46 Kaka Street Whangarei
Tel : 09 438 7209
Email : gmswhg@gmail.com

Newsletter

Number 08
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Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz



Thanks

... to those parents who supported our Interschool Swimming Team this week.

... to those who have already had their "other centredness" discussions at home. Please flick us an email, or leave an answer phone message, with any shining examples.

People of the Week

... our International Students!

... our Swimmers who represented our zone at Interschool Swimming Champs this week.

... the Town Swimming Reps who have qualified for Northland - names to be confirmed next week.

... Players of the Day - Basketball : Shooting stars, defence - Lachlan S & Attack - Ashton R; Rockets, defence - Malachi R-H & Attack Cobain J. Well done!

Congratulations

... to former students Scott Gregory (rugby) and Michelle Crawford (gymnastics) ... finalist and winner respectively of the Northland Junior Sports Awards. Great news!

... to Max, Hannah, Riley, Liam & Rhys who came 3rd recently at a North Island Interschool team motocross event (photo on page 3).

Term Calendar ... More to follow as dates come to hand!

25 March March meeting of the Board of Trustees

10 April Year 3 & 4 Tahi Honey Trip

11 April Northland Swimming Championships (tentative)

12 April Final day of term 1 (29 April first day of term 2)

Upcoming Union Meetings for Teachers

Please note that these have been postponed due to the incident in Christchurch. We will keep you informed.

Hayden Martin Electrical

Tel - 027 645 8923

Email -
admin@hmelectrical.com



366 Kamo Road
Kamo
Tel : 09 435 1924

OVERARCHING VIRTUE FOR 2019 - OTHER CENTREDNESS

We had such success with "other centredness" as our overarching virtue a couple of years back that we decided to dust it off for another year. Shortly your children will be discussing what it means to be "other centred" with their classes and they will be asked to practise this, and comment on others practising this.

Bottom line, the idea is to put others first, and to think of how our actions affect others. This could be as simple as letting someone through the door first, not needing to be first in a line, surrendering a privilege to someone else, or recognising when someone needs our time, care, or attention. So please discuss other-centredness with your children, encourage them to practise it at home, and bring shining moments to our attention so that we can celebrate with you.

Receipts

Receipts for school contributions and events fees are currently being processed and will be sent home within the next week or so. A sincere thank you from the board to all families who have paid their contributions, and to those who have negotiated payment arrangements which suit their circumstances. If you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, and have not yet done so, you will find the school highly flexible.

Year 3 & 4 Tahi Honey Trip

Rooms 5, 6 & 7 are visiting Tahi Honey on Wednesday 10th April. Our topic this term has been centered around Mini Beasts. We think this trip will be a perfect way to consolidate what the students have learned. Permission slips were sent home on Monday. These permission slips & parent helper forms are due back to your child's teacher by next Friday, 29th of March.

Hockey Update

Hockey team notices are being sent home today with all players. This notice will let you know which team your child is playing in & who their coach is. The coaches will be in touch with you to let you know when team practices are. The fees for the season are \$70 per player. Please make sure you pay this to the office as soon as possible. Any queries re hockey to Rachael Burgin (co-ordinating teacher) please.

Missing Items

From time to time children's items go missing at school. This is always a concern for us, and efforts beyond what you might imagine are undertaken to deal with these issues, we take this very seriously! If something belonging to your child goes missing, you must bring this to Kevin's attention please so that it can be fully investigated. Theft of items at our school is at the very low end in terms of frequency, but it will happen from time to time.

Having said this, I thought it might be helpful to share my observations from experience and research.

1. Approximately 80% of alleged thefts at our school are proven to be without foundation. When a child is confronted by a justifiably annoyed parent with the question of where item X is they have two obvious ways to respond. 1. I was careless with my belongings OR 2. Someone stole it. When under the heat, guess which way they almost always go?
2. Children who take things belonging to others are not bad kids. You would be surprised at how many great kids, from great homes have a problem in this area. "There but for the grace of God go I" could be a helpful way to think about this.
3. 90% of our 20% genuine thefts are committed by children with a genuine problem in this

area. A stern growling and punitive consequences have little impact on these children. I know of parents who have taken children down to the police station for a stern talk, and a look at the cells, and in many cases these children returned to school and picked up where they left off.

4. I sometimes think of the unholy trinity of problems which we would rather never have to deal with - lying, stealing and gossip. I believe that all of these, in a good number of recidivist cases, have a pathological element to them. This does NOT mean the problem is unsolvable, it just means it needs to be tackled thoughtfully, patiently, and with genuine concern for the child.

5. Remember that all behaviours sit on a continuum and children (and adults too) can get pretty clever at justifying (e.g. I saw it on the ground, so I am justified in claiming it as mine)

Parents can help by ...

1. Letting us know of loss of reasonably significant items but only when you are sure
2. The school's policy is that no precious items are brought to school .. if a child wants to share something special their teacher will look after this.
3. Avoid pointing fingers. You may have it wrong. The last child your child "fell out with" is very unlikely to be the culprit.
4. If you see an unfamiliar item at home, do not question your child, at least not deeply. Contact Kevin straight away.
5. Continue to be the great examples you are. Watch what your children watch. I have invited you to do this before ... get a pencil and paper and note in one evening just how often you see lying, stealing and gossip on TV. And that's not even mention facebook/social media or Bravo TV. Happy to debate or discuss anything I have said here with anyone who wants to drop by.

Finally

Have you noticed just how often issues of cyber safety appear in the media. It is becoming more and more critical for parents to know what their children are accessing and when. If you need assistance Mr Delemare is highly available to work with you, just leave a message at school and he will get back to you.

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



Community Notices

Work wanted - Keen 16 year old WBHS student looking for farm work – after school, weekends, holidays. Anything considered, has some experience in fencing, tractor work, weed & pest, stock rotation. Please phone Dylan Hook 022 370 8349 or 435 2953

Horse Riding Lessons, - Beginner to intermediate. I can come to your place, or I have arena facilities available close to Matarau. You need to have your own horse and gear. Contact Elise on 021814373 for further details.

To Rent - 5 brm Country Home. Clean and insulated. Separate bathroom, shower room, 2 toilets, 2 vanities. Private, farm, bush and river views. Large double garage with sectional door and internal access. 20 mins west of Kamo \$470pw. If you are interested please email Margaret - wpdunn@xtra.co.nz with relevant details

Maunga Mayhem Saturday 30 March – Maungatapere School's - obstacle adventure race is designed to be challenging, to help develop confidence and to be lots of fun! It's a memorable day for the whole family - you won't want to miss the Mayhem!! Info on their website www.maungamayhem.co.nz.

Cleaning Services – References available. Contact Cristina on 021 464 300

Kamo Magpies Rugby Season – U7s to U18s, register online at kamojuniors@gmail.com or contact tasha owens on 021 552 184.

YWCA Whangarei Women's self-defence workshop on 11 April from 1pm - 4:30pm. The contents of this workshop are unique and provide participants' with real, functional skills to assist in identifying & avoiding violent situations, de-escalating aggressive situations, physically self defending against violent attacks as well as dealing with potential consequences and aftermath of real situations. Please call YWCA 438 2926 to register.

“End Of Summer Bash!!” Sat 30 March. What better way to farewell summer than with live music?!?! Some of the incredible talent in our community are very generously donating their time to Comrie Park Kindergarten in the form of an evening of live music with TWO live bands, 99Ghosts and The Damage. Tickets \$25 each available from kindergarten, Fiona Goodin or see the Facebook event for more details. All funds raised from this night are going towards a large outdoor carpentry area at the kindergarten.

What Am I?



Leafy and green,
Sticky and slimy,
I wait for lunch.

At home in both wet and dry,
I begin life squirming underwater.

Poisonous to some,
my bright colours warn my enemies.

With little long little flippers,
I leap between little leafy islands.

A frog!

By Carl Sharpe, Year 5 Room 10

