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Newsletter Number 8 24 July 2020



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

<u>Thank you</u>

... To Mary Finlayson and David Cels for helping out with the relocation of our hen house ... To the Sharpe family for the kind donation of a hay bale and Ringrose Stockfoods for assisting with feed.

<u>A special welcome</u>

... to our new families. There are quite a few of you and we are very excited to have you on board. Please let us know where we can help and ask plenty of questions.

People of the week

... Every child who replaced screen time with book time over our recent term break, and especially to those who finished their chosen book.

... Those children who have already commenced their "gear up" for cross country season.

Virtues Focus for the remainder of this term ... and for ever!

As you all know our COURTESY runs through into term 3. So PLEASE work diligently to ...

- ... find opportunities to discuss courtesy with your child(ren)
- ... show how you apply courtesy in your life
- ... discuss how your child has progressed with their courtesy goals.

Term Calendar ... Much more to follow as dates come to hand!

- 3- 4/5 Aug. ... Parent/teacher interviews
- 6 Aug. ... Taniwha Challenge (Zone cross Country) at Te Horo School
- 13 Aug. ... Cambridge meeting
- 12 Aug. ... School Cross Country
- 14 Aug. ... MATHEX
- 15 Aug. ... Quiz Night
- 18/19 Aug. ... Small Sticks Hockey (and then 25/26 July)
- 24 Aug. ... ICAS English Exam
- 26 Aug. ... Interschool Cross Country
- 28 Aug. ... Lit Quiz
- 1 Sept. ... ICAS Maths Exam
- 3 Sept. ... School Photos
- 25 Sept. ... Final day of term (12 Oct. First day of term 4)







Sponsors

Please support our sponsors where you can and maybe recommend them to others.

Cambridge Meeting

Parents wanting to know more about our Cambridge programme (year 7 and 8), are invited to a meeting 3:15 pm, Room 12, Wednesday 13 August. Few NZ schools offer this programme at this level (and even fewer offer it for free). We are keen for as many parents as possible to understand what this programme has to offer, and the exceptional leg up it gives students on transition to secondary school. This programme will be of special interest to parents of current year 6 children. **See you there**! Please note, we also have information on our website (Cambridge and Year 7 and 8 tabs), and are more than willing to meet with parents one to one. High schools are consistently telling us that our students are around a year ahead on entry to Secondary School, this can have very positive long term educational implications.

As part of our COURTESY focus we are currently encouraging the following at school (all levels)

- ... Please ... when we need something
- ... Thank you ... when we receive something
- ... Excuse me ... when we need to say something
- ... Waiting ... to let OTHERS go first
- ... Showing kindness ... because that is the Matarau way

Teachers will be re-visiting these often in class and celebrating gains ... feel free to reinforce at home.

Matarau School Library Link

Please also encourage your children to visit the above link (Matarau School Library link) on our website (under the links tab) to view the books we have in stock. This is a great opportunity for children to get a feel for what's available and to reserve any books which capture their interest. Happy searching!!

School Cross Country

Will be held 12 August. If your child is serious about placing in the school and interschool competitions, they may want to build their fitness at home in their free time. Practices are underway at school and so please ensure that children (especially years 4 and up) bring footwear suited to road running and maybe a change of clothes.

<u>Lunches</u>

There are no school lunch options at present ... although seniors will have sausage sizzles on a Wednesday of weeks 3,6 and 9 ... more to follow.

<u>Mid-year Interviews</u>

<u>Monday 3 August & Tuesday 4 August (plus the additional day of 5 August – Year 7 & 8</u> only)

Our online interview booking system is now open. Interviews are booked on a first in basis. Please note that we have 2 concurrent interview cycles this year. You will need to book under 2 different codes (see below) ... On interview nights the change-over bells will ring every 15 minutes as per normal, but these bells will apply to the year 1 to 6 interviews only. The year 7 and 8 interviews will be of 10 minutes duration, all of these interviews will be held in room 11, and change overs will be at the direction of the teachers. All 3 senior school teachers will be present at the year 7 and 8 interviews. If you have children in years 1 to 6 <u>and</u> in year 7 and 8, please remember that times will overlap and so we suggest that you book your year 7 and 8 slot with spare slots either side to avoid double ups.



To book you need to visit - **www.schoolinterviews.co.nz** & enter the relevant code as follows ...

Junior and Middle School (years 1 to 6) the code is ywcwz

Senior School (year 7 and 8) the code is sm4wz

If you do not have access to the internet, or if you have any questions, please give Paula a call on Monday. Please note that teachers are available at other times by appointment.

(Please note that on 3 and 4 August school will finish at 2:30 pm to allow teachers time to prepare for interviews and buses will run 30 minutes earlier. On 5 August (which is the additional year 7 and 8 interview day) school will finish at the usual time of 3:00pm with no changes to bus departure times).

In a forthcoming newsletter we will send you some simple tips on how to prepare for your interview.

Bus Changes on Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 of August

Please note that buses will run approximately 30 minutes earlier on 3 and 4 Augsut - the exception to this is <u>the Kamo bus will still depart school at 3.50pm</u>. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time please. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these changes. (Please note that bus drop off times can vary from the usual on these days due to unpredictable bus loadings).

Zone Cross Country - Te Horo Taniwha Challenge - Year 3-8s - 6 August

Permission forms have been sent home for the Taniwha Challenge (Cross Country at Te Horo School). This is an optional event, if your child has not brought home a permission form, and you would like them to participate in this event, please contact the office for a form.

All permission forms and bus money for this are due back at the office early next week please. If you would like to order a hangi for you or your child to eat there, please ensure it is paid (to the bank or cash to the office) by next Friday - 31 July at the latest.

Change of Clothes

Due to current weather conditions we suggest that students (especially younger students) have a spare change of clothes in their bag for wet weather accidents. This set of clothes could also be used for cross country practice runs which are being held most days. Thank you.

Junior Readers & Journals – Amnesty!

Can you please have a search around and return any School Readers or Journals to your classroom. Thank you we appreciate the safe return of these precious resources.

Wellness for school

Remember please ... cough, runny nose, fever, headaches etc ... please keep your child at home and not return them to school for 48 hours after cessation of last symptom. Any doubts please consult your child's GP. Remember to have a care plan in place in case we request pick up from school.

School Headlice Inspections

... are scheduled to take place from 9:00 am Thursday 30 July. If you are available to assist with these please give Paula a call. We have been advised of some level of infestation. Let's deal with this now so that the rest of the term is clear.

Netball - SOME FEES OUTSTANDING

Netball fees for the 2020 season are now \$22.00 per junior player (year1-6) and \$40.00 per intermediate player (year 7-8) - Unpaid fees needed to have been paid by Friday 3rd July where possible please. Fees can be paid online to the school bank account 12-3093-0239515-00, please add a reference of "Netball" and "child's name" or pay cash to the school office.

Open evenings High Schools & visits at Matarau School.

Please refer to our last newsletter, any questions directly to Mrs Donaldson please.

A notice will come home soon regarding intended secondary schools, please respond fairly quickly, it is fine to cite more than one option where you are undecided. We are also more than happy to work with you in making the right decision for your child.

... parents of year 8 students are asked to keep us informed please of any change in intended secondary school. This is so that we can do our best to get you the information you need and so that we can be of maximum assistance with class placements.

Promotion of Reading ... follow up

Thank you again to those who worked diligently to grow reading time at home and to simply talk about books. Only you know what works in your home, but we are super keen for you to make some sort of on-going commitment ...

- ... to replace (at least some) screen time with book time (home and school)
- ... to have conversations often about the books you and your children are reading and why they energise, excite or interest you

We will continue to encourage reading at this end, and to gently nudge children toward the right books for them, but the busyness of school programmes makes it critical that children read in their spare time. If your child is struggling, or if we can help in any way, please make contact with your child's teacher.

Holiday Reading (years 3 and up)

If your child did not finish their allocated holiday book, please assist them to have this fully read by the end of next week. They will do follow up work at school and so it is critical their book is finished.

Attendance Term 2 ... looking to term 3

The school is required to monitor attendance rates (and morning arrival times) and to investigate in the event that attendance falls below the Ministry benchmark. Regular school attendance is a critical component of educational success. If you received a letter last term advising of less than ideal attendance please make contact with us so that we can work together to improve your child's school attendance. Sometimes the solutions can be quite simple ones. An attendance audit will be repeated one month into this term.

<u>Scholastic</u>

The new scholastic book club is out. Please send all orders to the office or order online by 12th of September.

<u>Homework</u>

Please do your best to ensure that children complete their homework on designated afternoons, or drop a quick note or email to their teacher if things are getting a bit hectic at home. Most of all we do not want to be chasing homework from children whose circumstances make homework "too big an ask" for them. While we think that there is benefit from doing homework for most children, we are more than happy to excuse students from homework at a parent's request.

Finally

Welcome back. Plenty of exciting events planned. Please get in behind our reading and manners initiatives. The manners initiative is based on the idea that small things do matter, that when we extend courtesies to others, when we put others first, not only do they feel great (and leave with good impressions), we feel great too. The reading initiative is based on our belief that nothing replaces books, and that a reduction in screen time will help, among other things, to create some critical reading time. Looking forward to seeing you around the school, and please let us know where we can help. And a special welcome, again, to our new families!

Nga mihi Kevin Trewhella PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your children, please support them



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Community notices

For sale

Friesian bull calves for sale. Ph Jeremy 022 1056077.

Kamo Scout Group is recruiting

Boys & girls ages 8-18

Scouts is about having fun while gaining valuable leadership skills and self-confidence by doing outdoor adventures and opening up many opportunities. If this sounds like something you are interested in then join today and get your **FIRST MONTH FREE**.

Cubs(ages 8-10): Tuesday nights 5:30pm-7:00pm 7:00pm / Scouts(ages 10-14):Monday nights 6:00pm-8:00pm / Venturers (ages 14-18):Monday nights 6:00pm-8:00pm (can also help with gaining Duke of Ed)

Please make contact with Brian on the night you are attending as we may not be meeting at the hall. Location: Kamo Scout Hall 15C Three Mile Bush Rd Ph:0220405064 Email: corney.brian@gmail.com