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Newsletter

Number 17

19 November 2021



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

Thanks

... To the lovely mums who baked some cakes for the staff last night in appreciation for their efforts. This was very much appreciated.

Persons of the week

... Every child who entered in our recent Art Scholarship Competition. The quality of work is mind-blowing. What a talented bunch. We will post a video soon so parents can take a look.

... Samara Laurenson for her amazing dirt bike speech ... you had everyone in the palm of your hand Samara. Good work!

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

Monday 22 November	Staff Only Day
Tuesday 23 November	SKIP IT Tuesday
Wednesday 24 November	Meeting of Board of Trustees
Monday 10 December	Reports sent home
Tuesday 14 December	Colour Run (more to follow)
Wednesday 15 December	Final day of school 2021

Staff Only Days

This is confirmation that Staff Only Day will be held on **Monday 22 November**. School will not be open for instruction on this day and buses will not run. The school is required to take a requisite number of Staff Only days and the Board chose these days to provide long(er) weekends for families who might want to take advantage of this. Time will largely be spent in preparation for the implementation of the digital, science and technology curricula.

Calendar Art Closing Monday 22nd November

You can order your child's art on the following website www.kidsartworks.com. Please use our school code **KZ654**

Scholastic

The new Lucky Book Club folder is out. You can place your order online or return your order form with your payments to the office before the **26th of November**.

Masks

A reminder please that masks are to be worn by all visitors to the school. Visits are for drop off and pick up and otherwise by prior appointment please.

Year 8 Leaving books

Thank you to those parents who have assisted their year 8 child to purchase a suitable leaving book. Just a reminder that these books are due at school please on 26th of November.



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SKIP IT TUESDAY - 23rd November

This is a school-wide activity. Each class will be involved through a range of skipping stations on the court. Children will stay in their classroom bubbles. There will be music! Ice blocks are for sale and we have spot prizes! Please send a gold coin along as a donation or more if you are in a position to do so. Pictures will be uploaded onto Seesaw, so you can join in on the fun too!

Junior Readers

Please check at home (under beds, behind book cases etc) for junior readers and send these along to school next week. It is important that we have complete sets for 2022. So ... we are missing quite a few and so a thorough search at home would be really appreciated.

Junior pick up

Just a gentle reminder that children departing early (2:40) should be picked up from the top carpark rather than the bus bay at the end of the day. This way we can supervise them all the way to you and be sure they are safe.

Homegarden

'Consent to Visit' forms will be sent home next week. This should be returned to school by Friday 26th of November. If your child(ren) are no longer able to participate, please advise Mrs Burgin @ rburgin@matarau.school.nz. Please note that gardens will be judged on 4th of December so gardens need to be accessible to the judges across that day (with all dogs tied up please).

Pathways for year 6 students entering our year 7 & 8 programme next year

While all Year 7 & 8 programmes contain elements of Cambridge, we are keen to place students in pathways which best align with their current and future potential. In short, because the Cambridge Programme can be quite challenging, we want to get initial placements right (although changes down the track are sometimes made). Mrs Donaldson undertook placement interviews with parents this week. If you did not make it, and would like to have input, please email Mrs Donaldson this weekend (kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

Prize Giving

Along with other schools, we still want to acknowledge excellence and effort, and are keen to create a virtual prize giving of sorts. Our policy is to publish non-portrait photos, only first names, and to use a private platform. We may use a youtube link with access only by invitation, but inevitably we will need to trust all users not to share this, or to only share it with close family members e.g. grandparents. If you do not want your child's non-portrait photo (meaning not close up), their first name, and their special honour, being shared on a private youtube link please advise Kevin no later than Tuesday (22.11) (principal@matarau.school.nz). In the event that we do **NOT** have your consent your child would still receive their award, but it would not be shared publicly. So ... if we do NOT hear from you we will assume we have your consent.

Drink bottles

... please ensure all children bring a drink bottle to school each day. We have processes for refilling these if required.



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.

Picking Children up early ...

... please advise the office (and not your child's teacher) if you need to pick your child up early. The office will fetch your child from their classroom at the requested time, and deliver them to the designated school gate for pick up.

Period products Year 6's

If your daughter needs any period products please contact the office and we will provide your daughter with them.

Sunhats

A reminder that sunhats are compulsory in term 4. Please check that your child has their regulation navy blue Matarau School sunhat ready for next term. You can buy a new one for \$10 or there is a limited supply of second hand ones for \$5 each, from the office. Northland has the highest rates of sun cancer in the world. Let's all step up here please.

Pubertal Change Booklets 2021 - Year 6s

If you are the parent of a year 6 child, can you please advise the school office over the next two weeks if you would like to drop by to view a booklet, or you may like to pick your child's booklet up yourself? If we do not hear from you, all year 6 children will bring a booklet home at some stage soon.

Class Placements 2022

A great deal of thought goes into class placements at the end of each year. Lists go through several stages of refinement, and alternatives are weighed until we feel that we have got it right. We recognize the value of friendships, and classes are not streamed academically. The goal is always to achieve balance and fairness across, and within, rooms. We give no guarantees at all but, if you would like us to consider something, please email Kevin this weekend with your thoughts (princpal@matarau.school.nz). We do not take requests for teachers unless under the most exceptional circumstances, but you might have thoughts on a critical friend, a less than ideal association, areas needing extension or consolidation etc. Your requests are always treated in confidence, and are passed only to the senior teacher leading the placement process in each part of the school. The final decision must always be ours, simply because we have the wider lens, every decision ripples, and we must never advantage one child at the expense of another. **This coming Monday is the final day please for any suggestions you might like to place on the table.**

Woman's refuge

This week we handed over a considerable donation of new books to woman's refuge purchased with the money raised in our 2020 Booktober event. These children, who were our top fundraisers, met Sue in our library and excitedly shared the books with her. Sue was very grateful as the donation will ensure children who arrive at safe houses with very little will have quality new books to enjoy. Thank you to all who took part last year and to Paula for selecting and buying the books.



Congratulations to Olie Bradley

Who is this year's recipient of the Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award. We wish Olie well in her future years and hope she continues to grow her leadership skills. We are glad to be able to recognise her potential and achievements in this way.

Finally

We are pleased to confirm that, in spite of the knock-on effects of the recent vaccination mandates, classes at Matarau School will run without disruption up to year's end. We also have a full contingent of staff for 2022. We will properly farewell (and thank) departing staff when conditions permit.

Best for the weekend.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL



Tryphina House Women's Refuge

P. O. Box 5044, Whangarei
Phone: 09 437 6576 or 0800 733 843

Dear Matarau School

We would like to express our deepest thanks for your donation of children's books to Women's Refuge, Whangarei. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial and moral support needed to continue our mission of working with women, children and whanau experiencing family violence in our community. As a Non Government Organisation we rely heavily on the generosity of community members such as you. Without your help, we could not do what we do, working to ensure the safety and well being of our women and children in order for them to live their best lives free from violence.

Again, a great big THANK YOU for your kind donation.

From all the staff and clients at Women's Refuge, Whangarei.

Thank
you!