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## Newsletter Number 5 25 March 2022



Website [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

Phone (09) 433 5823 Email – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thank you

... to those parents who supported their child(ren)'s entries into this week's Tryathlon, to Mrs Donaldson and her team for their organisation, for the Finlaysons for access to their farm, and to Sanitarium for the T-shirts and medallions.

### People of the Week

... Our Tryathletes

### Best wishes

... to our aquabots science and technology team (Ben, Kieran and Lydia) for this weekend's competition in Rotorua. We will be thinking of you!

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

29 March	Hearing and Vision Testing
14 April	Final day for term 1
2 May	First day of term 2

### AIMS Games - Year 7 and 8 - 3 to 9 September

If you are keen for your child to participate in this year's AIMS games, and you are in a position to support them, can you please email Katie Donaldson this weekend (email below) and she will add you to our contact list. As our team has grown quite significantly in recent years, the board has recognised a need to better support our teams and parents. When the opportunity presents, we will explain how the process will work in 2022. Mrs Donaldson will be the overall co-ordinator of this year's event. If you have questions, please contact Katie on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz)

### Masks for visitors

A reminder please that masks are to be worn by all visitors to the school.

### Virtue - Humility

We are very excited to introduce our 2022 commencement virtue ... HUMILITY Please find support material attached and take the time ...

- ... to discuss humility with your children
- ... talk about how/where you exercise humility in your life
- ... celebrate examples
- ... set goals
- ... revisit in the coming weeks

Humility seems a tricky virtue to define, but it's worth the effort. Maybe explain to kids that being humble helps us to be kind to others because it reminds us that we are not perfect either.

### Senior Study Hour (Years 7 & 8)

Senior Study Hour operates 3:00 to 4:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Children may attend anywhere from 1 to 3 of these weekly sessions. If you would like to register your child please do so by contacting Mrs Donaldson on [kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz](mailto:kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

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Domestic & Commercial

### Corona Virus ... Omicron etc.

1. Advise the school as soon as you can if you or your child have covid
2. Please keep us in the loop
3. Let us know if there is any way that we can help

If you would like information on the covid vaccine for children please email Paula on [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz) (we have a number of hard copies we can send home on request).

And remember please that under no circumstances should a symptomatic child be sent to school.

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions - Years 4 - 8

If you would like your child to participate in these (in house) exams for this year, please advise Miranda next week at [admin2@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin2@matarau.school.nz). Remember, your child will need to commit to an additional workload of two practice papers a week for approximately 6 weeks prior to the exams. This is a hard copy (not online) exam. Cups are awarded to the top scoring students, and all children get certificates. As we do this in-house, norming to external standards is an estimate only.

This year the English Exam will be sat on Tuesday 16 August and the Maths Exam on Tuesday 30 August.

### Headlice

Please keep checking at home and treating promptly where there is a need.

### Gearing up for Winter Sports

When children wear our school colours on a Saturday morning, they bear a special responsibility to represent our school well. This means more than putting in your best performance on the field/court, it also means demonstrating sportsmanship, supporting other team members, playing fairly, encouraging others, respecting coaches and referees etc. Every child wearing our colours, and every parent who accompanies them, is expected to represent us this way, it is a condition to being in one of our teams.

The ultimate goal of all that we do (including playing sport) should be to grow character, in ourselves and in others. Please do not question referees, support coaches and managers unequivocally (and if you have a question see them early, privately, and with an open mind), respect the opposition (including their support team), and be careful with your words from the side line. Egos (not only children's egos) can be fragile, and so choose your words carefully. Please let us know of special Saturday achievements so we can celebrate these in the newsletter. Best wishes for the best season ever.

### Cyber - safety

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.

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### After School Care

If you think you would use our After School Care programme please contact Tracey on 021 127 1115 to enrol, or for more information. The kids really do have a great time and the care is of a very high standard. They will even supervise homework on request.

### Hearing your child read

Please show an interest in what your child has done at school each day. If you have time, read to them, listen to them read, and spend time discussing what you/they have read. Research continues to indicate that reading from text (hard copy) as hugely more beneficial, in the development of reading and thinking skills, than reading from a screen. So... books with covers, and pages that turn, remain the BEST way to learn to read. If you need help hooking your child into home reading please connect with their classroom teacher.

### Final

**Covid Update** ... As of today, the number of students absent due to isolation, or parent initiated home learning, stands at approximately 20-25% of students (a slight rise). Absences are relatively evenly spread across rooms. While class programmes are not quite as normal, due to the fluidity of students and staff, we are trying to keep things as normal as we can. We have enough staff to cover all rooms, and no obviously symptomatic students at school. Indications from epidemiologists still seem to be that the spike in cases might be anticipated sometime in the next week or two, but no obvious signs here yet.

So, thank you for remaining on stand-by, and for advising us promptly when a family member tests positive. We will update you again next week.

Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL







## Community notices



# KIDS MUSIC DAY

20th + 21st  
27th + 28th  
APRIL  
Whangarei  
Central

**NOT SURE WHAT INSTRUMENT TO LEARN?**  
Why not try them all?

Join us on a musical discovery. Get to play guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, singing and more. Bandscool is coaching beginners of all ages to listen to music and play together as a group right from the get-go.

Open your mind, ears, voice and fingers to the myriad of musical creative possibilities instruments offer. You may discover your soul instrument or find you want to learn them all.



**Holiday Music Days**  
 Who: Children over 7 year old  
 When: Wednesdays + Thursdays April School holiday 1-5pm  
 Where: The Ledge 79 Walton Street Whangarei  
 Cost: \$120 per day (4 hours)  
 Event on: <https://fb.me/e/2ZEn3BAv1>

**Bandscool weekly sessions**  
 Who: Children and adults (4 to 10 participants)  
 When: Wednesdays in Tutukaka - Thursdays or Fridays at the Ledge.  
 Cost for the term (10 weeks): \$190

To register or for more info, please message us on [facebook.com/Legend.Music1](https://www.facebook.com/Legend.Music1)

BANDSCOOL