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Newsletter

Number 14

21 OCTOBER 2022



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Thank you

... Those parents who have generously offered their time and expertise for forthcoming school camps (these camps would not go ahead without your support).

... **To those who helped, supported, attended our Calf Club event this week. And a special thanks to Mrs Pol who started work months in advance in preparation for this event.**

... Thanks also to our Calf Club sponsors, marshals, and judges, and Lamington for attending his final Calf Club Day.

People of the Week

... The senior school, and their parent support team, for mammoth efforts in recent weeks building to our senior production.

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

24 October	Labour Day
25-28 Oct.	Senior Camp (25-28.10)
2 Nov	Zone Athletics at Poroti School
8 Nov	Meeting of BoT
14 Nov	Date for submission of Art Portfolios
24 Nov	Hearing and Vision Tests
29 Nov	School Swimming Sports
13 Dec	End of year Prize Giving (6:30 pm)
15 Dec	Final day of school (finish 12:00 pm)

Drink bottles - sun hats

... please ensure all children bring a drink bottle to school each day.

If your child has lost their school sunhat we have a limited stock available at the school office.

Sunblock

Sunblock is at parents' discretion. Long lasting block is recommended. Clothes covering shoulders is also recommended for summer. Research seems to show that bad sunburn in childhood can double back later in life.

Input to year 7 placement decisions

Pathway decisions will be made some time in the period 23-25 November. Parents of year 6 students, who would like to have input into these decisions, will shortly be invited to make an appointment with Mrs Donaldson. We anticipate these discussions will take around 20 minutes per child. If you would like the opportunity to have input into placement decisions, please pencil these days into your diary. We will confirm appointment times in 2 or 3 weeks.



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Home Gardens

Garden Diaries were sent home last term with children who had indicated they are participating. **Over the holidays children should have ...**

... dug over and composted their gardens ... planted their seeds

Now children should ...

... be planting their seedlings ... putting pest control measures in place

Any questions don't hesitate to connect, and remember to take a look at our Facebook page (a great source of motivation & creativity) www.facebook.com/mataraschoolhomegardens

A few tips for planting out...

Remember to 'harden' your seedlings off before planting out into the garden. This involves taking your seedlings outside to a shelter spot during the day, then bringing them back inside at night. Gradually build up so that they are then out at night. This process should take approximately a week.

When transplanting out (or planting into bigger containers), water with a something like a seaweed tonic afterwards. Some gardeners like to soak the pots in a bucket of this tonic before planting out, and some with water afterwards. Both methods work well. This helps with transplant shock.

Remember to put your stakes in early for plants like tomatoes and beans. This avoids the roots being damaged later on.

If you are running short on space - look at ways to grow things vertically. Cucumbers and pumpkins can grow upwards on frames. Lots of plants can also be grown in buckets and grow bags.

Please upload photos or share & receive gardening tips on our Facebook page if you can...

www.facebook.com/mataraschoolhomegardens

School Swimming Sports - 29.11 - Years 4-8

Earlier in the year an unavoidable delay in repairs to the swimming pool resulted in our annual swimming sports being shifted to term 4. Accordingly, this event will be held on 29.11 with heats being run in the weeks prior. We know the water will be colder at this time of the year and so we are not going to push too hard on participation, just a gentle encouragement. If, however, you want us to ensure your child participates can you please advise their teacher next week and we will apply a little extra leverage. More details to follow.

School Trophies

If your child received a trophy at last year's prize giving, please return it to school. asap. Thank you to those who already returned trophies. We are almost there!

Electronic Newsletter

If you are not on the school email-out list please email - admin@matarau.school.nz - to be added & stay up to date with what's happening at school.

REMINDER ... High School Orientation days

Kamo High School	Friday 12 th November
Whangarei Boys High School	Monday 15 th November
Huanui College	Thursday 18 th November
Whangarei Girls High School	Friday 26 th November

Parents need to transport their own child(ren).

Spelling Bee Competitions

... are under way very soon. If you are keen for your child to participate, and they are a strong speller, please flick their teacher an email this weekend.



Art Scholarship (Year 4-8)

Any questions please to your child's teacher. Art Portfolios are due 3:30 pm Monday 14 November.

Road Safety

- Please reduce your speed when passing the school
- Maximum 5kph in the carpark and bus bay.
- 20kph passing a stationary bus
- Pick up of students from the designated spots where possible.
- Walking or supervising your children across the road at drop off & pick up
- And NO PARKING ON YELLOW ZONES.



Many thanks.

Attendance

Thank you for your commitment to getting your children to school every day (excluding sick days), and sending a clear message to them that school attendance matters. A recent review of our attendance showed that average attendance at Matarau School is around 90% and that is pretty good. We still have concerns about those children in the 75-80%v attendance range and are keen to work with parents to lift the attendance of these children. Please let us know how we can help and we will put shoulder to the wheel too.

Confirmation of Secondary School

If our year 7 and 8 teachers can assist in any way with secondary school decisions, or the transition to secondary school more generally, please make contact.

Finally

A huge thank you to staff, parents and students for a great start to term. Plenty to be positive and excited about this term. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Nga mihi,

Kevin Trehwella
Principal