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Newsletter

Number 17

2 DECEMBER 2022



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Thank you

.....



For her kind donation to the Art Scholarship winners

People of the Week

... Le Arli, Aamani, Dane, Malachi & Ashton representing Matarau School with 25 other year 7 & 8 students at basketball Kiwi Hoops training session on the weekend run by the Camerons and Northland Basketball. Dedicated players extending their skill sets.



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

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 6 Dec | Helpers Morning tea |
| 7 & 8 Dec | Y8 intensive days |
| 9 Dec | Y8 Dinner |
| 13 Dec | End of year Prize Giving (6:30 pm) |
| 15 Dec | Final day of school (finish 12:00 pm) |

First day of 2023 school year - Tuesday 7 February

2022 Prize Giving – Tuesday 13 December

The evening will start at 6:30pm and will conclude approx 8.00pm with a supper.

Grandparents are welcome.

Families are asked to bring two plates of finger food please for a shared supper

Attendance on this night is optional for 5 year olds (all other children are asked to be present please).



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Parent Helpers' Morning Tea

Parents who have assisted the school in any way whatsoever this year are invited to a Parent Helpers' Morning Tea in the school hall starting 10:30 am Tuesday 6 December.

This is our chance to say thank you for the contributions you have made to the school over 2022.

It is also a chance to celebrate the contributions of Mrs Milicich and Mrs Dorahy.

So .. whether you have helped in classrooms, the library, camps, day trips,.. whatever .. please join us if you can

Please let the office asap know if you can come.

Message to parents of Home Gardeners

Please note that, where consents have not been returned, gardens will not be visited. A reminder also that you do not need to be at home when judges call tomorrow. Just make sure your garden is well signposted & that any dogs are tied up (judges will not enter a property where dogs are loose). Balloons at your gatepost can be super helpful for judges. Remember, if you have not returned a "consent to visit" form, your child's garden will not be visited.

Lost Property

Please drop by to check the lost property bin sometime over the next couple of weeks. Items unclaimed by term's end will be donated to charities.

Do you have any library books at home?

As we have a library stocktake fast approaching, we wondered if you could have a really good look for books at home, under beds, in wardrobes, school bags etc and return any books that you find to the school library by 22nd November at the latest please.

Early Pick up of students

Please keep early pick-up of children (prior to 3:00 pm) to a minimum. We are happy to oblige when these are necessary, but students are required to complete their weekly allotment of hours where possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

Input to year 7 placement decisions

Parents of year 6 students, who would like to have input into year 7 placement decisions are asked to email kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz to make an appointment with Mrs Donaldson.

School Buses

Please see our facebook page for any updates on route times. Until you have heard further, please assume buses will run to the same times as this week. Resumption of our customary routes will remain our ultimate goal. Thank you for your patience as we sort this.



Yummy Stickers

Thank you to all the children, parents and family members that collected the "yummy" stickers off their fruit this year. We made \$318 and have ordered a heap of sports gear for the school. Please keep collecting them. See Mrs Easterbrook if you require more sticker collection sheets or go online

<https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/>





Colour Run - Tuesday 14th December

The cost of this event is \$10 per participant, which needs to be paid BEFORE the date of the 9th of December. The cost will cover the powdered paint for your child, as well as a great experience of completing a selection of obstacles course activities ranging from waterslides, crawling under nets, dodging water pistols and sprinklers, throwing items at a target etc.!

Each class will rotate through the obstacle course and will remain in their class 'bubble'. Non-participants will be watching their class complete the obstacle course from the grass bank.

Payment can be made via the internet or cash to the school office.
School account: 12-3093-0239515-00 / Reference (your child's name and the word 'colour')

Students are to wear an old WHITE shirt (or light coloured one) and old shorts. These clothing items will most likely come home covered with powdered paint, so please don't allow your child to wear good or new clothes. Students are to bring a change of clothes and a bag to transport 'coloured' clothes home in. The School has limited supply of safety goggles. If you have swimming goggles, or safety glasses, please send them on the day with your child.



Digital Devices 2023 - year 5 and up (NOT REQUIRED AT YEAR 4 IN 2023)

We prefer laptops and chrome books, as these fill our device needs better than an iPad, but whatever your child has we will work with. Parents should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children ... this is your call ... we will do our best to provide as many shared (non take home devices) as we can.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone, there will always be plenty of time for learning and interacting in a variety of ways.

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 2023. So ... we are missing quite a few and so a thorough search at home would be really appreciated.

Vaping

Nationwide an increasing number of children are experimenting with vaping. We do not have statistics, but anecdotal evidence indicates that most schools (primary through secondary) have been dealing with this. Last term the Matarau School Board of Trustees (in response to a request from the Education Review Office) amended its No Smoking Policy to include a zero tolerance approach to vaping. While we certainly do not want to give publicity to vaping, we do suggest that parents might like to talk to their children (especially year 6 and up) about the dangers of vaping, what to do if approached etc, as well as being aware of the most likely avenues of access to vaping pens (sometimes older siblings). Please let us know if your child is ever approached by another student and we will look into this immediately.

Headlice

There is some indication of moderate levels of infestation and so please check your children's hair and treat before return to school.

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.



Class Lists

... will be on display in the hall noticeboard 14 December - 2:00 pm. The staff have put a huge amount of time into getting these as close to right as they can. I know of no other school that invites parents to contribute their thoughts prior to placement, and can assure you that all of these thoughts are considered very seriously. Sometimes a request by one parent can be directly countered by the request of another parent, and sometimes we do not feel a request is in the interest of the child or their peers. Lists go through multiple stages before they are finalised.

Prior experience has indicated to us the importance of friendships, every effort is made to ensure that every child is placed with at least one of their close friends. **Where all requests cannot, for whatever reason, be met, we aim to meet at least one request where we can.** Having said all of this, there must be give and take, reflection (and time - even a day or two) can bring perspective, and change can be a very positive thing. All rooms will be staffed by outstanding teachers, delivering outstanding programmes, surrounded by outstanding kids (who have outstanding parents!). **Changes to lists after their publication are unlikely to be made.**

Finally ...

A huge thank you to those who joined us for our School Swimming Sports, and to all of those children we entered the pool. A special thanks to Mrs Donaldson and team for organising a fantastic event.

Nga mihi,

Kevin Trehwella
Principal

Honey \$12 per pot

Produced with love and care by the children and staff in years 3 and 4
Funds raised will go to our environmental programme.
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Cetaphil Sunblock

We are pleased to advise that David's Pharmacy is offering a special deal to our parents on "Cetaphil Sun Kids" long-lasting sunscreen. This is suitable for sensitive skin, lasts most of the day, and is 4 hours water resistant.

David is offering this to Matarau families at 25% off ... just say your children attend Matarau School

David's 
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