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Newsletter Number 2 24 February 2023



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

Thank you

... to those who supported our zone swimming sports team this week

... to our year 7 Surf Day support team

People of the week

... all of those children who meet with their teachers before school for a little extra work ... we promise that your extra efforts will pay off!

... our PSG team ... for gearing up for our annual Trail Bike Day ... for our truly awesomely improved junior playground ... and for your working bee over the holidays tidying up our gardens ... which look fantastic!

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

27 February	Beach trip Room 5 & 6
2 March	School Swimming Sports
3 March	Beach trip Room 7 & 8
6 March	Beach trip Room 3 & 4
7-8 March	Parents Interview
10 March	Beach trip Room 9 & 10
15 March	WPSSA Swimming
16 March	Enviro Day
20-24 March	Camp Y7
21 March	Surfing Y8
6 April	Final day for term 1

Curriculum Initiatives 2023

If you would like to know more about a number of curriculum initiatives planned for 2023, you are invited to a meeting in the school staffroom starting 3:15 pm **Wednesday 1 March**. We will talk about our 2023 virtues focus, unfolding literacy initiatives, science and technology initiatives, and our enviro schools' focus. This meeting will be a bit of a flyover, expected to last around 30-40 minutes, and there will be plenty of opportunities for questions and suggestions. If you think you might attend, can you please advise our school office prior to the meeting. Later in the term, we plan a deeper dive into some of these areas for those interested. See you then.

School Swimming Sports - 2 March - Years 3-8

Please join us for our Swimming Sports on Thursday 2 March. Events will run at approximately the following times ...

11:30 - Year 3/4 Freestyle	12:30-1:00 - Lunch
11:50 - Year 3/4 Backstroke	1:15 - Years 5-8 Freestyle
12:10 - Year 3/4 Breaststroke	1:40 - Years 5-8 Backstroke
2:00 - Years 5-8 Breaststroke	... SEE YOU THERE!!!

(Please note that Swimming is "opt in" (with encouragement) so please confirm with your child that they will be swimming on the day) If you are very keen for your child to participate in the school swimming sports, **please let their teacher know** next week and they will send a little extra encouragement in their direction.



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Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 7 and 8 March - the **online bookings screen is open** This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

To book your interview time Please book online via the following website - www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the event code of 2xq6g

Please note that bookings are allocated on a first in basis and so don't delay.

You can make a booking using our school code **2xq6g**
or use the **QR-code** to make your booking.



With respect to interviews

... please be on time and move with the bell

... note down any questions beforehand

... we suggest that you do not book back to back interviews. A ten minute break between interviews will help you transit from one interview to the next, enable you to reflect on discussions and prepare for your next interview

... please note that buses will run at their normal times on both interview days.

Further interviews

If the above interview days do not suit, please know that all teachers are highly available by appointment. So if you didn't cover what you wanted to cover, or if you would like a deeper discussion in an area of interest or concern, please contact your child's teacher directly or phone the school office.

Parent Support Group - AGM

...and general meeting on Thursday 2nd March, 5:30pm at school. (AGM first followed by general meeting) Everybody is welcome to come along.

Parking on Matarau Road

If dropping off, or picking your child up, please ensure that you do not block driveways to adjoining properties, particularly those near the entrance to the upper carpark. Thank you! Remember ... by 3:15pm there are plenty of parking spaces!

Netball

Please a reminder to return any Netball forms to the Office.



Here is a photo of Enviro Group with Cezanne from ECO Solutions. This group have re named themselves 'The Kaitiaki Klub'. Which means the care club. They meet every Monday afternoon, maintaining our environment and learning new sustainable initiatives which they put into action.

Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

To please advise **the office** by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence (the Ministry of Education requires us to code each absence).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advice the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every second Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home.

If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website and are emailed - if you would like to receive your newsletter by email, and do not currently, please contact us.

School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after the morning bell please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

Exemption for off site learning

On occasion we receive a request for a child to spend some (limited) instructional time off site (an example would be piano lessons). In such a situation, the school is then required to consider whether the benefits accruing from the child attending this class outweigh the loss of instructional time here at school. Approval may be given for a term's duration subject to review at the end of each term. Review enables us to meet with parents to ensure that the anticipated gains have materialized and that the child is still doing well in class. So, if this is something you are considering, or there is a prior arrangement you would like to roll over, please email or drop by the see Kevin.

Headlice Inspections

Inspections this week indicated very low levels of infestation. If you received a letter advising of infestation, or suspected infestation, it is critical that you treat your child before school on Monday please so that we contain this problem. If you need assistance or advice please contact the school office.

Stretching the finances

Life can be expensive at times, and school expenses can simply add to the burden. So PLEASE drop by and see Kevin or Paula if things are tough at the moment, we will come up with a plan that works for you.

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) is 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.

Cell phones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school, please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office who will deliver the message to your child.

Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. All items can be purchased from **Baigents**- Office products Depot, Commerce Street Whangarei (class stationery lists are available from our office on request). Additional stationery can also be purchased throughout the year from the office.

Pool Gate

A reminder to pool users to please ensure that the pool gate is locked when you leave. This is one of the obligations that all pool users have and is critical from a safety point of view.
(Please also remember to close all boundary gates when entering or exiting the school).

Upper Carpark

Please remember when using the upper carpark to NEVER park on a yellow marked area unless dropping a child at school. These areas MUST be kept clear at all times to ensure traffic flow, emergency access to the school site, and safe transit of pedestrians making their ways to & from cars.

Needing Guidance With Devices

Mr Delemare is happy to answer questions or to help with any presenting issues.

If you do not have security / filter / monitoring of your child's internet access it is critical that you set something up soon. Feel free to contact the school if you would like an appointment to discuss this or related matters with Mr Delemare.

Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call, we understand that sometimes things don't quite go to plan. Many thanks.

Learning Support Programme

A number of parents were advised last year that their children had been placed in Learning Support programmes to commence 2023. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

Homework

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night), with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason, or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning, please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board, please set a regular time and place, and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue, by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive, we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance, a better preparation for secondary school, and better longer term outcomes for a good number of children).

Medications

Medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. **Where we currently hold medication for your child, please call by the office within the next week to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

Trouble settling?

Please contact Mrs Robertson (rrobertson@atarau.school.nz) or Mrs Marvin (jmarvin@atarau.school.nz) if your child is taking a while to settle, or if they just need a little support. We have an amazing pastoral team and they love to help out.

Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 13, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If dropping children off in the upper car park please note the designated drop off zone.
Please do not park in the zone and move on as quickly as you safely can.
3. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
4. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:20PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office).

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).



Have your residential / contact details changed?

... if so please let Paula know.

If you formerly resided out of zone, and are now residing in zone, we are particularly keen to hear from you. In zone children generate more funding ... which means more and better resources for students.

So please let us know next week if your children were balloted into the school initially and have moved into our zone since then.

Attendance

If you think consistent and regular attendance might be a challenge for your child(ren), please contact Kevin, or your child's teacher, next week so that we can agree on a plan to overcome any barriers to attendance. The research seems pretty clear...regular attendance is a significant indicator of school and lifetime success, so let's do our best get children to school every day please, unless there is a very good reason for them not to attend.

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.

Putting in some extra time

It can be difficult to fit everything into a school day. Sometimes conscientious children (and teachers) have lessons before school, just to kick start the day and squeeze in a bit extra. Super proud of these children who turned up for class early without a single complaint. Congratulations to all of these children for their amazing work ethic.



Final Word

We are pretty excited to announce our virtues focus for 2023. This year our focus will align our Mission statement with a dual focus on both rights and responsibilities. We will share with children how these work together. Others' (reasonable) rights are our responsibility, our (reasonable) rights are their responsibility. In some respect they are different sides of the same coin ... the key is to get the right balance.

So we would be super grateful if you ...

1. Could discuss this with your child. Talk about how you balance rights and responsibilities in your lives, and how they do it in their lives, and where you/they could get even better.
2. Maybe cut out the Learner Contract below and stick it on your fridge (or we can enlarge one for you at school on request)

Over the course of the year we will narrow our focus on supporting virtues like caring, helpfulness and courtesy.

By the way, we are doing a blitz on "please, thank you and excuse me", so feel free to make this an even bigger focus at home if you feel the need.

LEARNER CONTRACT - MATARAU SCHOOL

	Your rights	Your responsibilities
Feel valued <i>Kia whakanuia</i>	You have a right to feel appreciated for the person you are, for the talents you bring, for the work you do, and for the things you say.	You have a responsibility to appreciate the character, talents and contributions of others (including your teacher).
Knowing self <i>Kia mohio ko wai ahau</i>	You have a right to know what you are good at and how you learn best.	To use your talents well.

Make choices <i>Kia mahi i nga mahi pai</i>	You have a right to make your own learning and behaviour choices.	To make choices which bring the best out of self and others.
Enjoying Learning <i>Kia ngākaunui i te ako !</i>	You have a right to enjoy learning and play.	To know that real enjoyment comes from a positive attitude and a job well done.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL



Hangi
Only \$10

**Date: Thursday 16th March
(after our enterprise day)**

- now that's a tasty, mess free dinner!

**Pick up from outside the
staffroom at 5pm**

**ORDER VIA THE ORDER FORM YOUR CHILD WILL BRING HOME EARLY IN WEEK 3.
ONLINE PAYMENTS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED: MATARAU SCHOOL:
12-3093-0239515-00 REF: HANGI**

**This is a fundraiser to support future Matarau
School environmental projects.**

Enviroschools is coming to Matarau....



Supported by ECO Solutions and The Northland Regional Council.

Please.....save the date...
Thursday the 16th March 2023

9am – 5pm

Whānau day here at Matarau School- “Waste Wise”

We are super excited to Launch our Enviroschools journey with an Enviro Expo!
This event is for our students, families, and community to get together and experience sustainable initiatives such as chemical-free cleaning products, beeswax wraps, zero-waste lunch box ideas, papermaking, soap-making, and planting.

We will also have

- Market stalls
- Car boot sale- book a station 3-5pm
- Sustainable enterprise products made and marketed by our students
- Hangi for sale
- Shared kai for morning tea

So there will be lots of goodies to take away and fun to be had for the whole family. We hope you can all make it, so please book it into your calendar.

Sustainable communities act in ways that nurture people and nature, now and in the future, to maintain the health and viability of our environment, society, culture and economy.

A meeting will be held Thursday the 16th of Feb for parents who are keen to help start our Enviroschools journey. 3.15 in the staff room. Afternoon tea and hot drinks provided...Please come and share ideas together and help make this event one to remember!

Any queries please email Anna Alexander on aalexander@matarau.school.nz

