



Leah & Leon Harold
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Newsletter

Number 2

16 February 2024



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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



Thankyou

... to our amazing PSG for our new school signs. They are awesome!
... to those parents who have volunteered to help out on our Marine Reserve days
... to those who supported the recent senior Trail Bike Day.
... Mrs Robertson who did a truly amazing job leading our school last term during Mr T's absence.

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

- 19 Feb Staff Only Day (school not open for instruction)
- 20 Feb Senior Surf Day
- 21 Feb Parent Support Group Social Get Together (6:00 pm)
- 26 Feb Marine Reserve Trips (see later in the newsletter)
- 5 March "Sea Week"
- 5-6 March Kiwi North Programme
- 12 March Enviro Day
- 12 March March meeting of the Board of Trustees (6:00 pm)
- 13 March Interschool Swimming Sports
- 18/19 March Parent Teacher Interviews
- 21 March Matarau School Swimming Sports
- 29 March Good Friday - no school
- 12 April Final Day of term 1 (29 April first day of term 2)

Staff Only Day

A reminder that Monday 19 February is a staff only day. Staff will undertake training with teachers from other schools to implement some exciting new literacy initiatives. So, school is closed on 19.2 and buses will NOT run on this day. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

If you have a particular preference for how you receive your newsletter please contact Paula.

Parent Support Group AGM

... is being held on Wednesday, 21st of February 2024, social get together from 5:30pm and meeting to start at 6pm. Meeting will be held in the Matarau School Staff room. General Meeting to follow AGM Meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you like an agenda emailed to you prior to the meeting, please email Matarau.psg@gmail.com.

Garnet Motor Services

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H.M.E

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Experiencing Marine Reserves - Save the date

We have just managed to secure bookings for Rooms 1-10 to have a trip to Reotahi to experience the marine reserves programme with The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. We need a good number of parents to support us on the day and so a huge hank you to those who have already offered their time. If you can spare a day please let us know as soon as possible.

Thursday 22nd February	(Rooms 5 & 6)
Friday 23rd February	(Room 7 & 8)
Monday 26th February	(Rooms 3 & 4)
Tuesday 27th February	(Rooms 9 & 10)
Friday 1st March	(Room 1 & 2)

Driveways near to the school carpark

Please ensure that you do not park across the driveways next to or opposite the entrance to the school carpark. Thank you.

Respect Virtue

Coming to a school near you VERY VERY soon!

Early drop off of children

A number of children are being dropped at school in the vicinity of 7:45-8:00 AM each morning. We understand that the mornings are a juggling act for families but please ensure that no child is dropped a school before 8:00 AM. From 8:00 AM staff will be on site, but we cannot guarantee supervision before that time. So ... for the safety of your children ... no later than 8:00 AM please.

Kapa haka

We are growing our kapa haka programme this year. Expression of interest forms will be sent home **next week**. If you do not receive a form, and you would like one, or if you would like to know more, please contact Anna at school.

Daily Absences

Please advise **the office** by 9:00am if your child will be absent from school that day with the reason for their absence. Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

Senior Surf Day

Any questions or communications on Senior Surf Day (20.2) to Mrs Donaldson please (kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

End of Day Buses

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

- Either 1. Advise 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

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.

School gates

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.

Cell phone policy

Our proposed cell phone policy was emailed to families last week. If you would like to feedback, or comment, on the proposed policy, please contact Kevin or speak to any board member. The policy, and feedback, on this will be considered at the BoT meeting on 12 March after which a trial policy will be put in place.

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.

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.

Learning Support Programmes

These are a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme in an area of need. If your child is placed in one of these programmes, parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected please. Places in these programmes are limited and we want to capitalize on each opportunity.

Homework

.. teachers will provide more detailed information on homework expectations in respective classes. **You can opt your child out of homework at any stage by contacting their teacher, we know that things can get busy at home.** At the same time, we do encouragement homework if possible as this can establish useful routines, promote self-management, and provide opportunities for reinforcement of skills for later application in class. The school's general approach is to provide homework only on 3 or 4 days a week (around 20 minutes each night) focusing largely on skills maintenance. Please give thought to a regular time and place for homework and let your child's teacher know if you need help with any speed wobbles. **If you do not want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher next week.**

Medications

Please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.

Bus Pick-up and Drop-off Times

Information on our bus routes can be found on our website or at: www.wntng.easybus.nz

Pick up of Children - School Carpark

This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:30PM please.

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

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 your child will not be at school, it is critical that you advise the school office please, including citing a reason for the absence. As every absence is coded and reported to the Ministry it is important that the information we send them is accurate.

Social Media - JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS LAST WEEK

Social media is having a very significant impact on young people - both positive and negative. On the negative side it can engender knee jerk reactions ... social media posts are instant (and not always thought through) and very public (and not easily undone).

At school we work hard to encourage productive dialogue and appropriate resolution (face to face) and will continue to do so. We have also had wonderful support from parents when we needed this.

On some occasions hard won gains at school (and home) have been subsequently undone by a child who has made a single injudicious post on social media.

We are inviting you to partner with us this year in promoting the best possible use of social media.

We would like you to consider implementing the following measures.

Limiting your child's access to multiple apps (and accounts)

Limiting the amount of time they spend using apps

Regularly check your child's device(s)

Agree to let school know of social media breaches that may impact friendships (we will also commit to letting you know of any social media concerns that come to our attention)

Emphasising often that social media is never a place to settle scores or the thrash out complex issues.

We have seen the damage that ripples when children vent on social media ... so please assist us by driving the message at home, by monitoring what is posted, and by implementing the steps above. Please let us know where we can help. We are willing to organize meetings at school to share best practise if there is interest (just let us know your needs and where you may be able to help).

Final Word

Staff would be more than happy to talk about the direction of the school this year. Just tap any of us on the shoulder. As mentioned, reading, writing and maths remain front and centre, with an additional focus on STEM (science and technology), enviro topics, and with RESPECT as our key virtue (respect for the environment and respect for each other). In due course we will set a 3:15 meeting time to discuss 2024 initiatives for those interested.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL



We're very glad to let you know that we've recently joined the KickStart Breakfast programme! We believe breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and we'll now be providing Sanitarium Weet-Bix™ and Anchor™ Milk in a programme that is a partnership between Ministry of Social Development, Sanitarium and Fonterra, and has been running successfully nationwide for over 12 years. Our Breakfast Club will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8:15 to 8:45 in the hall, starting Monday 12th February. For more information about the programme, you can visit www.kickstartbreakfast.co.nz

Te Manawa Tahī

If you have a concern about your child's language development, learning progress, social and emotional wellbeing, or behaviour, Te Manawa Tahī have specialists available so you can discuss your concerns directly with them.

This is a free service and each site will be identified by a Te Manawa Tahī sign or flag. Drop into a hub or make an appointment by phoning 0800 524 842 or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.

Please find the dates in the attached email