

MATARAU SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora Whānau,

As children transition into school, developing independence is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Encourage them to manage simple tasks themselves, such as carrying their own bag, unpacking their lunchbox, organising their belongings, and saying goodbye confidently in the morning. Establishing small routines at home, like getting dressed, putting shoes on, and tidying up, builds self-belief and resilience. When children learn to do things for themselves, they grow in confidence and are better prepared to take on new learning challenges at school.

Well done to our new students for completing their first few weeks at our school. We are proud of the positive way you have settled in and embraced your new learning environment.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to be a strong focus for us and will always remain a priority. Every day counts. Regular attendance supports learning progress, builds positive habits, and strengthens connections with peers and teachers.

ASSEMBLIES

A reminder that assemblies are held every second Monday, beginning at 2.10pm. Our next assembly will take place on 9th March. We look forward to seeing you there.

PTA TRAIL RIDE (15TH MARCH)

A sincere thank you to our PTA for the incredible effort going into organising the Trail Ride. This is a significant commitment, and we truly appreciate the many hours and hard mahi being contributed behind the scenes. Your support makes a real difference for our kura.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please save the dates: 23rd and 24th March. Further information will be shared soon.

BLUE BUCKET HATS

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, please ensure your child has a blue bucket hat for Term One. Hats are available for purchase at the school office, and we have a range of sizes in stock.

Ngā manaakitanga

Tom Clarkson
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

2 MARCH

Y7&8 Immunisations

3 MARCH

Zone Swimming Y5-8
Maungatapere

4 MARCH

Y7&8 Doubles Tennis
Thomas Neale

11 MARCH

WPSSA Swimming Y5-8
Whangarei Intermediate

16 MARCH

Y7&8 Surfing Trip

20 MARCH

Y7&8 Lawn Bowls

23 & 24 MARCH

Parent Conferences

26 MARCH

Y4-8 School Swimming
Sports

27 MARCH

Y1-3 School Swimming
Sports

MIND THE GAP: WHY THE "BOOKENDS" MATTER

At our kura, we believe that the bookends of the day are just as important as the middle. Whether it's the first 15 minutes of the morning or the last 15 minutes of the afternoon, these moments help our students feel settled, connected, and ready to succeed.

Why the "Bookends" Matter:

- The Morning Kick-off: Arriving by 9:00 am allows students to greet their friends, hear the day's plan, and settle any "morning jitters" before lessons begin.
- The Afternoon Wrap-up: Staying until 3:00 pm ensures students don't miss crucial end-of-day reflections, reminders, notices, and the chance to say goodbye to their peers.

We know that life and traffic can be unpredictable. However, missing just 15 minutes a day adds up to over one full week of school missed across the year. By prioritising a full day, you're helping your child build great habits, strong friendships, and a deep sense of belonging in our community.

Thank you for your support in making every minute count!

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS.
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

MATARAU
★ S C H O O L ★



TRAIL RIDE

GEAR UP: SCHOOL TRAIL RIDE 2026!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, 15 March, and get ready for a "gear-ific" day of adventure! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, we have tracks suited for every skill level. Come along for the thrill of the ride and a great day out with our school community.

Event Details

- When: Sunday, 15 March 2026
- Where: Aponga Road, Aponga, Whangarei
- Tracks: Main, Intermediate, and Mini Tracks available.

Schedule

- 8:00 am: Carpark & Cash Registrations open.
- 9:00 am: Tracks open—let the riding begin!
- 2:30 pm: Last riders out.

To stay in the loop with updates and sneak peeks of the course, make sure to follow us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/MatarauTrailRide>

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Every two years, we invite our community to share their voice on how we deliver the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This consultation is a vital part of our partnership with you, ensuring our teaching reflects the values and expectations of our local community.

A survey was sent out through Hero on February 21st. Please take a few minutes to complete this; your thoughts and ideas will directly help guide our priorities, strengthen learning opportunities, and ensure we continue to meet the needs of our tamariki and whānau.

Please submit your feedback by 1st March. We appreciate your time and contribution to our school's direction!

[Link: Community Consultation Survey](#)



IMPACT MAKERS: OUR VIRTUES IN ACTION



Impact Maker: Elizabeth Nonia

A huge congratulations to Elizabeth Nonia for her incredible performances during the Waitangi Day celebrations in the Bay of Islands. Showing immense Excellence and Resilience, Elizabeth performed in a staggering five different dances!

She proudly represented her heritage with three Solomon Island dances and demonstrated her versatility by performing both Rarotongan and Tahitian style drum dances. It is wonderful to see our students sharing their culture and talent with the wider Community. Ngā mihi, Elizabeth!

TUMUAKI AWARD HONOUREES

We are thrilled to acknowledge this week's Tumuaki recipients. By embodying our core values and setting a fantastic example for their peers right from day one, these students have set a high standard for the year ahead. Whether it was showing extra kindness to a peer, demonstrating great leadership, or putting in outstanding effort in the classroom. We are so proud of the way you've stepped into the new school year with such positive energy. Keep shining!

Mr. Pattison, Tommy Sprague, Josua Fuchs, Oliver Ringer, Mitchell McGrath, Amalia Hack, James Peters, Lauren Postlewaight, Emily Judkins, Sophia Sabour, Harper Bassett, Cleo Williams, Isobel O'Gorman, Peachy King

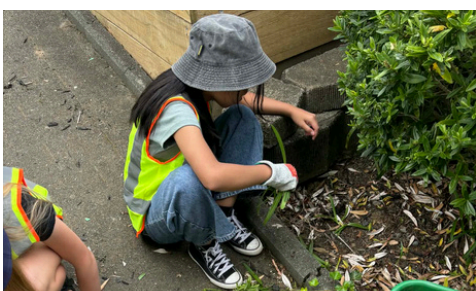


DIGGING IN: YEAR 7 & 8 SERVICE DAY



Our Year 7 and 8 students getting their hands dirty and giving back to our school grounds. The cohort took to the school gardens with enthusiasm, tackling weeding and transporting fresh mulch via wheelbarrow to ensure our green spaces remain healthy and vibrant. This initiative was a fantastic display of our school values in action:

- Community: Working together to care for the environment we all share.
- Respect: Showing pride in our surroundings and appreciation for our school facilities.



SPORTS NEWS

BASKETBALL



Huge congratulations to our Year 5 & 6 team for their stellar 11 baskets to 1 win against Kokopu this week! Brilliant effort, team. Our Year 7 & 8 team showed great resilience; after taking some key lessons from their first game, they came back stronger and more focused in their second. A fantastic display of teamwork! *Note to Coaches/Parents: Please message Mr. P with your scores and any game-day photos each week so we can celebrate your wins!*

★ COACH OF THE WEEK ★

Luke Goodin, aka Lurch, is our coach of the week. This week, he made his coaching debut and is already a hit with the kids, "Mr Goodin is really kind. He has really good advice about teamwork and encourages us".

However, as he was basking in the glory of his first coaching victory, he forgot to take a team picture. Thank you so much for being a coach Luke, our tamariki are lucky to have you.

SWIMMING

Our Year 5-8 Zone Swimming Sports is at Maungatapere School this year. Notices went out on Hero for students that have qualified.

Year 4-8 timetrails were completed last week for school swimming events. If your child missed out, please contact their class teacher.



Room 5 enjoying our school pool. Swimming provides essential life-saving skills, improves physical fitness, and builds vital water safety confidence.

HOCKEY

Did your child bring home a hockey notice this week?

We are currently organising our teams for the upcoming season and would love to see as many students as possible taking part!

If your child is interested in playing but didn't receive a form, they can pick one up from:
Mr P (Room 12)
Anna Alexander (Room 1)
Let's make 2026 our best hockey season yet!



Netball 2026 Netball notices were distributed on Wednesday, February 4th, to students interested in playing this season. If your child missed out on a notice but would like to play, please contact Stacey at shamilton@matarau.school.nz to request one.

BEACH TO BASIN

The Beach to Basin is back, and we want to see a sea of our school colors at the finish line! Whether you're running for a personal best or walking with the whānau, it's a great day out for everyone. Seniors, remember if you participate to let your teacher know and you can receive a school colour.

Link to register if you are keen is below.
<https://raceroster.com/.../chilltech-beach-to-basinmeie>

HERO

Thank you to everyone who has already connected to Hero. We hope you are finding the app easy to navigate!

Hero is now our central hub for all permission slips, newsletters, and notices. It is also the quickest way to report absences and book parent/teacher interviews. Soon, we will be adding a feature to pay for school events and items, allowing you to easily track your account balance.

Please note: Our old app, eTAP, will soon be unavailable. If you haven't signed on to Hero yet, please follow the steps below.

Need a hand setting it up? Our staff will be available in the office area to assist you between 8:30 am – 9:00 am and 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm. Alternatively, feel free to contact:

- Kath Corby (DP): kcorby@matarau.school.nz
- Katie Donaldson (AP): kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz



READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by following these steps



If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.



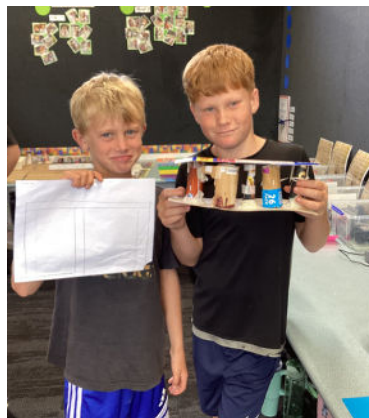
Hero allows schools to customise an online environment that enables teachers, students, and parents to view and share content anytime, anywhere on any device. The software is secure, easy to use and brings together all school-related information in one place.

With Hero, you can:

- Read and comment on posts relating to your child's learning
- View information on your child's progress and goals,
- Read and comment on school notices sent to the class or groups your child is part of
- Respond to school notices such as surveys and trip permission requests
- View school term dates
- View a school calendar of events
- Notify the school if your child is absent or late
- Book your school interviews
- Navigate to other school-related web pages
- Customise your account by adding a profile image

Learning posts combined with curriculum information and goal-setting will form an online report designed to build year-on-year, so that over time, you will have access to written posts, images, videos, work samples, and helpful resources all in one place.

THIS WEEK IN STEAM



Bridge Building Challenge

Our Year 4–8 students have been putting their engineering skills to the test! Tasked with building bridges using only newspaper and cardboard, students first researched structures before designing and constructing their own masterpieces.

The real excitement came during the "high-pressure test," where we discovered just how much weight these paper structures could handle. The big question in the classroom: How many dictionaries can your bridge hold? Well done to our budding engineers for their creativity and persistence!



Lunchonline is now ezlunch!

Lunchonline has been acquired by ezlunch, meaning all our school lunch orders will now be handled through the ezlunch (Kindo) platform. What does this mean for you? While the delivery day stays the same, the way you order has evolved. Here is everything you need to know:

You can now place your orders at ezlunch.co.nz or via the Kindo app. If you already use Kindo, you're all set! Just log in and add your child's lunch order to your cart. Any existing credit you had on Lunchonline should be transferable.

Cut-off Time: Remember to get those orders in by 9:00 AM on Thursday morning.

[UNCLASSIFIED]

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD?

Term 1 2026

Te Manawa Tahī is a learning support hub where you can talk to educational professionals about your child's learning needs. This is a free service.

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

All hubs are open from 9:00am until 12:00pm unless otherwise stated.

Te Manawa Tahī COMMUNITY TIMETABLE:
Whangārei, Bream Bay & Kaipara

Date	Hub Locations	Term 1 2026, Weeks 1 to 5
Thur 29 th Jan	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wed 4 th Feb	Bream Bay Community Trust, 9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā	
Thur 5 th Feb	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	
Thur 12 th Feb	Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi	
Wed 18 th Feb	Early Years Hub, 28 Hokianga Road, Dargaville	
Thur 19 th Feb	Clark Road Chapel, 4-6 Clark Road, Kamo	
Wed 25 th Feb	Ministry of Education, 24 Kaka St, Morningside	

Drop into a hub or to see a Speech Language Therapist make an appointment by phoning 0800 524 842 or emailing TT.Support@education.govt.nz.

The Rotary Club of Whangarei South Youth Projects Proudly Present the

2026 RURAL SCHOOLS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

UNITE FOR GOOD

Group 1 (Yrs 1-6): **BUBBLES**

Group 2 (Yrs 7-10): **BOLTS**

Group 3 (Yrs 11-13): **STRING**

The entries will be judged by an independent panel of photographers in Whangarei.

The photographs will be judged on:

- ORIGINALITY
- COMPOSITION
- ARTISTIC MERIT
- TECHNICAL MERIT
- OVERALL IMPACT

One photo per student, and one student per photo (i.e. 2 or more students cannot submit a combined entry).
Photos can be taken on any camera.
They can be colour or black and white.
The students are expected to take the photos themselves.
Each photo needs to be accompanied by a brief description appropriate to the age of the contestant.
The named (with year level, and the name of the school) photos and brief description need to be emailed in PDF format to Mr Kirk (alansuekirk@gmail.com) before 3pm, Fri 8 May 2026.
Prizegiving on Thursday 18 June 2026 - early evening, Forum North.
While all photos remain the property of the photographers, the Rotary Club of Whangarei South reserves the right to use images for promotional purposes.

Prizes: \$50 for each category winner, PLUS \$50 and engraved trophy (miniature) for the Supreme winner. Trophy will be kept by the Club.
2nd & 3rd in each group to receive certificates

WOMEN & GIRLS | Table Tennis New Zealand | International Women's Day | TABLE TENNIS NORTHLAND

Have-A-Go-Session

SERVE, RALLY AND SMASH YOUR WAY TO FUN.

From beginners to pros, all women and girls are welcome. Meet new people and have a blast with friends.

Hosted by:
Table Tennis Northland

Women & Girls Have-A-Go Session (Free)
7 MARCH 2026
10:00am - 1:00pm
Table Tennis Northland Stadium, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei 0112
Contact: Rishabh Kumar
coach@tabletennisnorthland.co.nz

EVENT INFO

SCAN HERE

THE Yummy FRUIT COMPANY

Eat Yummy apples and get a share of \$200,000 free sports gear. Collect the 'Yummy Stickers' and 'cut-out labels' from Yummy 1.5kg apple bags.

Yummy apples are available at New World, Pak'n Save and participating Four Square stores.

The more stickers you collect, the more sports gear we get for our school!

Send all stickers and cut-outs to room 5 (Mrs Easterbrook).






8 Weeks of FUN!

TT Kidz (NZ) gives children aged 6-11 a great first experience in table tennis.

REGISTER NOW!



TT Kidz - Northland

Venue: Table Tennis Northland, 97 Western Hills Drive, Kensington, Whangarei.

Start Date: Saturday, starting 14th February 2026.

Time: 03:00 pm to 04:00 pm

Cost: \$100 (new participant) or \$60 (returning participant (Already have equipment pack))

Equipment pack included: T-shirt, Bag, Bat and balls.



www.tabletennis.org.nz/play/tt-kidz

Have you
got your
blue bucket
hat sorted?




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