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Newsletter

Number 12

17 May 2024



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Thank You

... to those wonderful parents who made last week's Lonsdale camp possible. Staff have waxed lyrical about how wonderful you were.

... for supporting pink shirt day

People Of The Week

... our team coaches

... our kapa haka group ... best wishes for next week's performance.

Term Calendar ... *More to follow as dates come to hand*

21 May Hukerenui Kapa Haka Festival
23 May Heritage & Culture Day
27 May The Instrument Show (Y1-8)
29 May Winter Sport (Y5-6 Kensington)
30 May OPC Info Meeting in Staffroom Y7/8
3 June King's Birthday (School Closed)
4 June Staff Only Day
18 June Meeting of Board of Trustees
5 July Last day of Term 2 (Term 3 starts 22 July)

Coming up ... PSG Working Bee at school ... Sunday 26 May

Staff Only Day

Please note that a Staff Only Day has been scheduled for **Tuesday 4 June**. On this day school will not be open for instruction. This day has been allocated for implementation of new curricula. We have tied this in with King's Birthday Weekend in case families want a slightly extended holiday.

Forthcoming Winter Sports Tournaments Y5/6 ... **29 May**

Middle school questions to Mrs Burgin please.

Caring Virtue

Support material was sent home a couple of week's back. Please keep this handy.

... please talk about where you exercise caring in your lives ... especially with respect to the environment

... why caring is important

... maybe help them set a "caring goal"

Please let us know of any significant moments so we can acknowledge these too.

Mid-year ballot applications years 5 through 7 (Cambridge Programme)

... are due 6 June

... happy to meet with interested parents

... ballot date 20 June

... advised by 26 June



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Our Awesome Kapa Haka Group

... will represent our school at a forthcoming Festival to be held at Hukerenui School on **Tuesday 21 May** ... parents of children in this group should have details by now. Any questions to Anna Alexander please.

Brief Reminders

... please ensure jibbitz stay at home
... end of day pick up at 3:15 (as opposed to 3:00) is always helpful
... if finances are stretched and we can help please let us know.

Yummy Stickers

Please help Matarau School to collect Yummy Stickers from various fruits. Place the stickers on a collection sheet and hold onto them. Once complete, send your sheets to Mrs E in Room 10. We receive free sports gear in return for these stickers and would really appreciate all contributions.

A copy of the Yummy sticker collection sheet is handed out with this newsletter or can be downloaded from:

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

Headlice - Reminder

Last year the board decided to return to reliance on regular inspections at home and a request for a prompt response in the event of infestation.

We know from experience that three things must happen for this to be effective ...

... *there needs to be at least one time each term when there is a co-ordinated check at home across all families (to reduce re-infestation rates). This is coming up soon.*
... *that in the event of infestation action will need to be undertaken (ideally) within a 48 hour period.*
... *that throughout the year parents undertake regular checks at home.*
If you are dealing with repeat infestations post-treatment, please let us know and (without using names) we will discretely advise parents of pockets of infestation so that they can be extra vigilant.

Plastics and the Environment

Please help us to reduce the amount of plastic coming to school each day by using compartmentalized lunchboxes and/or removing plastic wrappings from items before packing. We have explained to children that plastic dropped here enters waterways, and eventually the sea, and that this can cause sometimes irreversible damage. If you have time, perhaps you could reinforce the critical importance of caring for our environment, and that even small things, added together, can make a huge difference.

Sore Throats Matter - Preventing Rheumatic Fever

We have been advised that, with winter on its way, a lot of children are getting sore throats. **Sore throats can hurt hearts.**

If your child has a sore throat, please get a throat swab from your Practice Nurse at your GP Practice or participating pharmacy.

Please direct any enquiries to your GP or the Public Health Nurse - Elizabeth Halvorson 021819791

Finally

A huge thank you this week for the many ways you support the school ... coaches and managers, supporting with fund-raising, camps and off-site trips, thoughtful notes of appreciation ... whatever!! Please know every bit you give is appreciated.

Library promotion coming up soon ... watch this space!

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL



Structured Literacy at Matarau School

Dear Whānau,

You may be aware that our Year 1 and 2 students are currently using the Better Start Literacy Approach in spelling and reading. In 2024, Years 3-8 are also implementing Structured Literacy and as a result, our teaching practices will begin to align with this teaching approach in spelling and reading.

Structured Literacy is an evidence-based approach that is grounded in the Science of Reading. As a school, we have partnered with Learning Matters and will be accessing the iDeaL platform to ensure our teachers are well supported with this transition and the approach becomes embedded and sustainable across our school. The findings from the Science of Reading have taught us some very important lessons that we cannot ignore. This body of research finding has been a welcome addition to the education sector, and we are proud to share with you that we are certainly taking heed of these.

Key takeaways from the Science of Reading include the following:

- Reading is not a natural process. Previously, we believed that learning to read was as natural as learning to speak.
- We now know about the skills that good readers implement and the parts of the brain that are involved in the reading process.
- Likewise, we know what aspects we should assess and teach to students who are not progressing in reading and spelling.
- We now know that all brains learn to read in the same way and that these areas of the brain can be trained and developed.
- A Structured Literacy approach to learning to read and spell is necessary for all and crucial for some.
- A Structured Literacy approach is the most efficient teaching and learning approach for dyslexic children and those with reading difficulties.
- The teaching of spelling in a systematic and explicit way enables students to become capable readers and writers.

As a parent, you may wish to learn more about this approach and the Science of Reading. If you have questions, please feel free to find further information at:

- [Lifting Literacy Aotearoa](#)
- [Learning MATTERS](#)
- [iDeaL Approach](#)

- [APM Reports](#) – At a Loss for Words.

We are excited to be on this learning journey and as the year progresses, we will continue to update you via our school newsletters and parent information sessions where relevant.

Ngā mihi kia koutou,

Matarau School staff and the Learning MATTERS team



This week, Matarau has had the opportunity to work with Rachel from **House of Bricks** (And Lego Masters). We were amazed to see how well students of all ages worked together, solved problems, and showed lots of creativity. Here are a few examples of what we got up to while creating our lego cars, mathematical mosaics, and marine reserves.

An awesome couple of days had by all!

