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Newsletter

Number 13

24 May 2024



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Thank You

... to the parents who celebrated our Cultural & Heritage day with us.

People Of The Week

... all students that were performing at the Kapa Haka Festival at Hukerenui School. You were truly awesome and we are VERY proud of you.!

... Those gearing up for OPC. Any questions in the run up to Katie please.

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

27 May The Instrument Show (Y1-8)
29 May Winter Sport (Y5-6 Kensington)
30 May OPC Info Meeting in Staffroom 4pm (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 ... a huge thank you to those who have already pencilled in this date ... every contribution makes a difference!

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.

Caring Virtue

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

Cambridge - Year 5 and 6

Parents of children in years 5 and 6 may be aware that, from the start of term 3, we will be phasing the Cambridge Programme into our year 5 and 6 programmes. This will be integrated within the NZ Curriculum, will dovetail with new initiatives in Literacy and mathematics, and will be phased in gradually. We will have a meeting sometime within the next week starting 17 June for interested parents ... so watch this space.



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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.

Year 5 and 6 Winter Sports Tournament - 29 May

Please return any outstanding consents on Monday. Children will travel by bus. Please ensure they are at school by 8:30 and that they are wearing their Matarau School T-shirts.

Any questions in the run-up to Mrs Burgin please.

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/>

Planning Family Holidays

We know that it not always possible to do so, but the Ministry of Education has asked all schools to remind parents that family holidays should be booked during term breaks where possible please.

(A reminder also that children are legally required to be at school a specified number of hours (9:00 to 3:00) each day unless an exemption has been granted).

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.

Finally

Two real high points this week ... our Kapa Haka Performance and our Culture and Heritage Day. Thanks to those who were organized these events, to those who attended, and to those have given such positive feedback. In a way these days reminded us that there is way more that unites people than divides them if we take the time to dig a little. And that's pretty encouraging!

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL

CULTURAL & HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Matarau School Shines at Hukerenui Kapa Haka Festival

Matarau School had the honor of participating in the esteemed Hukerenui Kapa Haka Festival, where we celebrated alongside Whananaki, Hikurangi, Hukerenui, and Kawakawa schools. This event was a vibrant celebration of Kapa Haka, family, and community, showcasing the rich traditions and cultural heritage of Maori and Pasifika.

Our students performed with passion and precision, earning admiration from the audience and fellow participants. Their dedication to preserving and celebrating Maori culture was evident in every performance, making us incredibly proud.

An inspirational leader, Whaea Jo Watts, led the Kapa Haka group with enthusiasm, pride, and mana. Her leadership and dedication were instrumental in guiding the students, fostering their talents, and instilling a deep sense of cultural pride.

Mr T and Mrs Robertson attended the festival to support our Kapa Haka students, highlighting the importance of this cultural event within our school community. Their presence underscored the school's commitment to fostering a supportive and uplifting environment.

A huge thank you goes out to the wonderful parental support. This day was also about them. Their encouragement, involvement, and dedication played a crucial role in the success of our students and the overall event. The festival was not just about performances but also about coming together as a community. The supportive atmosphere was felt by all, reinforcing the bonds between students, families, and the wider community.

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to making this event a memorable celebration of our culture and community. A special shout out to Hukerenui School for the invite, you have inspired us to continue moving forward in our Te Ao Maori journey.

Kia kaha, Matarau! We are so Proud of you all!!!!

Aroha nui,

Anna Alexander and Jo Gunson





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