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Newsletter

Number 20

9 August 2024



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

Thank You

... Thank you to Grimmer Contracting Ltd for Fuel points that will soon be used to buy three chrome books for our senior school.
... Casper Harold and Toby Bradley for a hugely successful Lego Day, and to all of those who support on the day. The boys raised 1k to put toward an Epro8 kit.

People Of The Week

... Heath Thompson (overall 3rd), Blake Sawford (overall 6th), Rhys Perris (overall 2nd) and Blake Campbell (overall 4th). They attended a NSSA Motor Cross Race representative our school. Overall they came 5th out of 14 schools. Well Done! (see photos at the end of the Newsletter)

... Maia Maisuriya who (at her level) recently achieved the following Gymnastics Championship honours - first on bars, first team., first on vault, second overall on beam. Massive achievement Maia. We are super proud of you!

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

13 August	Board Meeting
16 August	Te Horo Cross Country
19 August	PSG Meeting 6:30pm @ staffroom
20 August	School Cross Country
23 August	The Beast Year 7&8
26 August	New Entrant Cohort
27 August	HPV Vaccinations
4 September	Whangarei Primary School Cross Country
7 September	PSG Quiz Night
17 September	Board Meeting
23 September	School Production (some time this week)
27 September	Final day of term (14 October - start of term 4)

Year 7 and 8 Cambridge Programme

Parents wanting to know more about our Cambridge programme (year 7 and 8), are invited to a **meeting 3:15 pm, Room 12, Thursday 22 August**. Few NZ schools offer this programme at this level (and even fewer offer it for free).

We are keen for as many parents as possible to understand what this programme has to offer, and the exceptional leg up it gives students on transition to secondary school. This programme will be of special interest to parents of current year 6 children. **See you there!**

Please note, we also have information on our website (Cambridge and Year 7 and 8 tabs), and are more than willing to meet with parents one to one. High schools are consistently telling us that our students are around a year ahead on entry to Secondary School, this can have very positive long term educational implications. **A brochure briefly explaining his programme was sent out with year 6 students today. Any questions just give us a call.**

**Please don't forget to check the School App.
There are frequently permission slips and notices posted.**



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Quiz Night 2024 - 7th of September 2024

Tickets for our quiz night are now on sale at www.mataraufundraising.co.nz. Grab a table for 6 or if you don't have a team but would still like to head along, then we have mystery seats available too! Just buy a seat and we'll add you to our mystery team. Our Matarau Quiz Night Shuttle is available for bookings too. We recommended to pre-book your trip and please note a small fee applies for the service. There will be a number of fantastic auction items and prizes on the night, with huge thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors. Follow the Parent Support Group (PTA) Facebook Page for updates and to pre-bid on our auction items if you are unable to make it on the night! - <https://www.facebook.com/MatarauSchoolParentSupportGroup>

Virtue for term 3 - UNDERSTANDING

Support material was sent home last week. Please be sure to ...

- ... discuss this at home
- ... talk about how you practise helpfulness in your life
- ... set some helpfulness goals for home
- ... celebrate and successes
- ... let us know of exceptional examples of helpfulness so that we can celebrate these together.

Calf Club Day

A reminder this is scheduled for **Thursday 24th October**. You might want to start thinking if your child wants to bring an animal to Calf Club Day. Soon we will email you a permission form where you can indicate if you are taking an animal to Calf Club Day. Please, Calves, Lambs, and Kids need to have been born after the 1st of July.

Reminders

- ... **Headlice** ... conduct regular checks please, treat within 48 hours.
- ... **Safe transit in the carpark** ... under 5 km please, keep an eye on your children, take the hands of younger children, and never park in the yellow zone. Thank you for your co-operation.
- ... **Year 8's - Secondary School 2025**... please advise Mrs Donaldson of likely secondary school for 2025 so that we can keep you updated.
- ... **Chicken pox** ... Further information on chickenpox can be found here ... <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/chickenpox>
- ... **Arrival time at school** not before 8:00 am please or later than 8:50 am.
- ... **Cross Country practices** ... running shoes and a change of clothes on practice days please.

Art Scholarship

Early next term we will be calling for expressions of interest in our 2024 Art Scholarships. This is an opportunity to present a portfolio of artwork for judging, with the potential to win a school cup and a small prize. Maybe chat to your children about this and, if you would like the information early, just give the office a call next week. We have had some outstanding portfolios in years past and are keen to see this tradition continue. Now might be the time to start gathering exceptional pieces of artwork.

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).

School Cross Country - 20 August



Please accept a warm invitation to support our cross country runners on the 20 August. Races will be held on the Smith property across from the school (same location as last year) ... approximate race start times are included below. It would be helpful if each child has a towel and a spare set of clothes. If parents are taking their children early, it is critical that you advise their child's class teacher please. Please note that this event will proceed ALMOST irrespective of the weather.

Please note that certificates will be awarded at a subsequent assembly.

A rough schedule of race times as follows:

	10.30	Morning Tea
Year 7 & 8	11.50	12/13 year old Girls
	12.00	12/13 year old Boys
	12.10	11 year old Girls
Year 5 & 6	12.20	11 year old Boys
	12.30	10 year old Girls
	12.40	10 year old Boys
	12.50	9 year old Girls
Year 3 & 4	1.00	9 year old Boys
	1.10	8 year old Girls
	1.20	8 year old Boys
	1.30	Non 8 year old Girls
Year 2	1.35	Non 8 year old Boys
	1.40	Year 2 Girls
	1.45	Year 2 Boys
Year 0 & 1	1.50	Year 0/1 Girls
	1.55	Year 0/1 Boys
Kindy	2.00	Kindy Race

Taniwha Challenge - 16.8

Consent forms are available on the school app. Questions to your child's teacher please.

Consultation on the Health Curriculum

Schools are required to periodically report on the delivery of the Health Curriculum. A meeting will be held in the LSC space (next to room 3) on 3:15 Thursday 15 August for those interested. We will report on our programme and take any questions. Please let Paula know if you will be (or are likely to be) in attendance.

Sibling 2025 Enrolments

If you live in zone, or currently have a child enrolled at Matarau School, and have another child who will start in 2025, and you have not already done so, please advise the school office as soon as possible by leaving a message on the answer machine - 433 5823.

If you live out of zone, we would also like to hear if you have siblings you would like to enrol - although the board has yet to determine how many out of zone places might be available.

Cellphones at school

Thank you for supporting with the implementation of our cell phone in schools policy. If your child now brings a cell phone to school, and they did not when we first collected information from parents, or if they DID bring a cellphone and no longer do, please advise our school office so we can update our records.

Seniors and Messenger

Friendships are hugely important. Young children frequently have "best" friends, by middle school children are learning to balance multiple concurrent friendships, and by senior school children face the complexities of fluid and overlapping friendships, and fluid and overlapping friendship groups. None of this is easy, there are high points and low points, lots of difficult lessons, and plenty of mistakes along the way. This process is particularly intense at the pre-teen level. All of this is a natural part of growing up, and sometimes the hardest lessons yield the most insightful and enduring gains.

We have a simple process that we use at school (see below) and it would be great if you could encourage this also from your end. So ... If there is tension in a friendship group ...

- ... speak with the person concerned and not via a third party
- ... do not listen to gossip ... this may not be true
- ... it is OK to disagree ... but stay a good listener
- ... it is OK to take a break from a friendship
- ... make sure no-one is isolated by anything you say or do
- ... find time to move on ... no one is perfect
- ... do NOT share friendship issues via social media (especially Messenger)

School Gates

When entering or leaving the school (including via the lower bus bay gate) please ensure you close the gates behind you. This is critical as some children can be predisposed to wandering. Thank you!

Finally

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest that children who learn to read by turning the pages of actual books, as opposed to reading from devices, learn to read more quickly, more confidently, and more enduringly. Please model reading at home, talk about books, have a bookshelf where old favourites can be stored, and accessed, read to your children, and have them read to you. Psychologists are not too sure why holding a book and turning pages helps children read, maybe the patterns of our forebears is encoded in/on our genes, maybe receptors are activated when our hands are engaged too ... hard to know exactly why. So please get your children excited about reading, buy books as gifts, encourage reading before bed, read to them etc. etc. You could get a very big return on your investment.

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL



