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Newsletter

Number 35

6 December 2024



Website www.matarau.school.nz

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

Thank You

... A huge thank you to Colin Walker who fixed a part of some Epro8 equipment this week. We greatly appreciate the time it took to do this task, and the promptness with which it was done.

People Of The Week

... Melissa Langley and Jo Delemare ... our home garden judges.

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

10 December Year 8 trip to Poor Knights
11 December BoT morning tea for staff and parent helpers
12 December School Team Athletics
13 December Senior Dinner
16 December School Prize Giving
17 December Issue of end of year School Reports
18 December Tabloid Day
20 December Final day of the 2024 school year
First day of school 2025 ... 3rd February 2025

2024 Prize Giving – Monday 16th December

We look forward to seeing you at our annual Prize giving evening which will start at 6:30pm and conclude 8.00pm (approx) with a shared supper.

We welcome all whanau and love to see our Grandparents at this special occasion.

We would be grateful if each family could bring two plates of food for a shared supper.

Attendance on this night is optional for our 5 year olds (all other children are asked to be present please).

School Grounds 7 and 8.12

Please do **not enter the school site** this weekend 7 & 8 December as contractors will be grinding and sealing our main court surface.

A good idea to stay clear. Thank you.

Athletics Day

Our School Athletics day on Thursday (12th Dec.) is an opportunity for children to participate in a variety of activities with their house teams in the morning, and compete in races in the afternoon. The emphasis of the day is fun, working together and giving things a go. Children are encouraged to dress in their house colours. Sunscreen and a hat are essential as we are outside all day. We welcome parents to join us.

9:20am-10:40am - Athletics rotation
10:40am-11:00am -Morning tea
11:00am-12:20- Athletics rotation
12:25-1:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Sprints and relays

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Invitation Parent Helpers' Morning Tea

We would love to thank our parents who have assisted the school in any way whatsoever this year at our annual Parent Helpers' Morning Tea in the school hall on **Wednesday 11 December at 10:30am**

This is our chance to say thank you for the contributions you have made to the school over 2024.

If you have helped in classrooms, the library, camps, day trips, or anything else, please be sure to join us if you can.

Please RSVP to the office.

The School Swimming Pool

Keys for the next season are available now from the school office for \$50.

Children will get the opportunity to swim during the last couple of weeks of term, then the pool will close again for about a month during the Christmas break, and then open again **around** mid-January.

The swimming season usually stretches as far as Easter ... **but we have a heated pool now and so likely longer this year.**

Thank you AGAIN to our wonderful Parent Support Group, and their supporters, for investing in the heating of our pool. You are awesome!

Payment Pool keys

You can pay in cash or through our school's bank account.
(sorry no Eftpos)

Funds must be cleared before we can issue a key - as we use Xero, this will always take one business day. Once payment is received we will contact you to collect the pool key at the office. Please be aware that we won't give a key to students in case of losing it.

The office is open every day from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.

In brief

- Please continue to monitor your children's use of social media.
- Bring sun hat and water bottle every day to school
- Sunblock is at your discretion. Please do not ask staff to apply sunblock to your child .. maybe long lasting block in the morning could be a solution for some children.
- Year 7&8 parents, please pay your Technology Fee (\$70) for this year.
- Pubertal Change Booklets 2024- Year 6s, if your child did not bring a booklet home, and you would like one, please contact the school office.
- Any questions around Cambridge placements (senior school) please contact Katie kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz
- Final Technology day for senior students - Friday 6 December
- **Please don't forget to check the School App. for permission slips and notices.**

Lost Property

Please drop by to check the lost property sometime over the next couple of weeks. Items unclaimed by term's end will be donated to charities.

Junior Readers

Please check at home (under beds, behind book cases etc) for junior readers and send these along to school next week. It is important that we have complete sets for 2025.

Tabloid Day - 18th December

Students are playing games in their house colour groups for the first and the second block of the day (18 December). Please ensure children bring togs and towel and a change of clothes to school. Seniors will be selling ice blocks & drinks for \$2 each from the canteen and so a little bit of change would be great.

Senior Poor Knights Trip - 10 December

Children not attending this event are expected at school please and will have a regular school day. Any questions about this event to Mrs Donaldson please (kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz).

Digital Devices 2025 - from last week

The school prefers Chrome Books please as these fill our device needs better than iPad.

Parents of children in years 5 and 6 should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children. While it is preferable for year 5 and 6 children to have their own devices, we can provide non-take-home devices for a limited number of children.

We request that year 7 and 8 students have their own devices if possible please (Chromebook 8 gb of RAM, or HB or ACER 8 gb RAM) but are very happy to work with parents where this presents a challenge. No child will go without a device.

We will continue to ensure that time on devices is not overdone ... our target is a maximum of 30% of learning time on devices.

We note that devices are on sale from this weekend. Please feel free to contact Scotty (sdelemare@matarau.school.nz) or Katie (kdonaldson@matarau.school.nz) with any questions.



Netball dresses

We are still waiting for a few Netball dresses to be returned.
Please bring these to the Office asap.

Class Lists

These will be on display on the hall noticeboard **Wednesday the 18th December - 2:00 pm**. The staff will have put a huge amount of time into getting placements as close to optimal as they can, and parent requests will have been carefully considered. Sometimes a request by one parent can be directly countered by the request of another parent, and sometimes we do not feel a request is in the interest of the child or their peers. Lists go through multiple stages before they are finalised. Prior experience has indicated to us the importance of friendships; every effort is made to ensure that every child is placed with at least one of their close friends. Where all requests cannot, for whatever reason, be met, we aim to meet at least one request where we can. Having said all of this, there must be give and take, reflection (and time - even a day or two) can bring perspective, and change can be a very positive thing. All rooms will be staffed by outstanding teachers, delivering outstanding programmes, surrounded by outstanding kids (who have outstanding parents!). Changes to lists after their publication are unlikely to be made.

Some Data

We are required to share data with you to give you an impression of school achievement. Progressive and Achievement Tests (PAT's) are standardised tests (formal with no teacher input or interpretation) and are normed by age to the general school population. These tests (or similar) are now mandatory for NZ schools. Stanines 1 to 3 are

designated by the test designers as below average, and levels 4 through 9 as at or above average. *Listening comprehension is a fairly good indicator of innate ability and can be a good indicator of how a school is doing - if a school is exceeding its Listening Comprehension score then it is considered to be generally doing well.*

We are extremely happy with the results. Even though the PAT tests are normed for March, they are still useful at end of year as a measure of progress.

Progress and Achievement Tests - T 4 - 2024

	Below Average (stanines 1-3)	At or above average (stanines 4-9)
Mathematics	8%	92%
Reading Comprehension	6%	94%
Listening Comprehension	23%	77%
Punctuation and Grammar	14%	86%
Reading Vocabulary	5%	95%

Finally

A few special events coming up. We know you are busy, but we hope to see you at a few of these events. Best wishes year 8's for your Poor Knights excursion. Thanks for being an important part of our journey!

Nga mihi

Kevin Trehella
PRINCIPAL



Matarau School Lunches

Horny Goat Café

Lunches every Friday

Westend Sushi every Thursday

It's simple; all you need to do is register at

www.lunchonline.co.nz

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS

The Board would like to thank

Grimmer Contracting Ltd, Adairs Farming Limited, Alisha Tracey and Bevan Grant Harper DS and KL Campbell Partnershipfor nominating Matarau School as a recipient for Fuel for Schools reward points. This generous support helps us to buy additional learning resources. If you are in a position to use these companies please do so in acknowledgment of their generous support.

If you think you might be interested in nominating Matarau School as a recipient of Fuel for Schools points please contact your fuel rep.

Disney MOANA 2



Catch the adventure on the big screen!

Popcorn, prizes, and fun for everyone 🎬🍿🎁🐔🐔🐔

Events Cinema Whangarei, Sun 8th Dec at 11.30am, \$28.00

Limited tickets, book now at: mataraufundraising.co.nz

The Star of Christmas: - WIN \$1000 to spend at JB Hi-Fi

This Christmas morning on Newstalk ZB - it's *The Star of Christmas* singing competition on *The Crazy Kiwi Christmas Kids Show!* The grand prize? \$1000 in JB Hi-Fi gift cards!

If you can sing, and are under 13, email a recording of yourself singing a

Christmas carol to christmas@newstalkzb.co.nz before the 18th

December. Then tune into Newstalk ZB on Christmas morning from 8am to see if you've won!



HOLIDAY CODING ACTIVITIES

 CODINGNZ

- Learn coding languages online with help from expert live tutors.
- Ages 9 to 10, 11 & 12, 13 to 15, 16+
- 1 hour online at either 4pm, 5pm or 6pm. Sessions available between Jan 6 & Feb 9 2025.

Sign up for free at codingnz.com/freeactivity

TAUPO BAY & TUTUKAKA

KIDS HOLIDAY SURF PROGRAMME

SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2024/25

FREE for 11-18 yr olds




Beginner & intermediate
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*Christmas Carols
by Candlelight on Heritage Park*

WITH MEMBERS OF WHANGĀREI CHORAL

FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER, 2024 AT 6PM

 Glorat Homestead Grounds at Heritage Park, Gate 2, 500 SH14, Maunu Whangārei
For enquiries contact 09 4389630 or programmes@kiwinorth.co.nz



JOIN US FOR A

Merry

CHRISTMAS

Carols Concert

DECEMBER **22** 6 - 8 PM

CLARK ROAD CHAPEL, TE KAMO

THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 6:00PM
FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS - CAROLS SERVICE & SING
ALONG FROM 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Let's celebrate together!

