



Monday 15 May 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Well the weather has definitely been providing some challenges over the last couple of weeks. Fingers crossed that as we transition fully into winter we get less of the torrential rain that has been wreaking havoc on our roads and properties. Please note that an emergency alert from authorities on your phone, does not necessarily mean that school will be closing/is closed (unless it is specifically stated in the alert). If the school does need to close during any weather event, you will receive a School APP alert advising you of this. Along the same note, if you need to collect your child/children due to potentially being blocked out of your property due to flooding, please just come straight to the school office. There is no need to phone ahead, as this creates a backlog on the phone lines. Students will be sent over to the reception area in the office when you arrive.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mrs Ellen Andrenacci, who has been appointed as our new Deputy Principal at Matakana School. The appointment panel was most impressed with Mrs Andrenacci's competence, skills and abilities. This is an outstanding achievement and we wish her everything of the very best, as she takes on this important role in a permanent capacity at our school.

Congratulations is also extended to Miss Shannon Sweetman, one of our teaching staff members, who has been successful in gaining an appointment as an Across School Leader (ASL) within the Mahurangi Kāhui Ako. We know Miss Sweetman will make us all proud in her new role.

Our **Year 6** students managed to get away to **Camp Bentzon** on Kawau Island despite a rather wet trip over. Kawau Cruises and Camp Bentzon both provided the assurance that the trip was safe to proceed on the morning of departure. Camp Bentzon had its usual fun environment and for the most part the weather played the game even though it got pretty cold. The 'hike' was the only activity needing to be cancelled. The teachers, camp staff and parent volunteers did an outstanding job keeping all our students safe and happy. Thank you again to Mrs Claire Allen, Mr Neil Hatfull, Miss Shannon Sweetman, Mrs Joy Ingham and Mrs Sharon Hallett for leading the camp and to all the awesome parents that attended. The work you put in was highly appreciated by all.

We have **Pink Shirt Day** this coming Friday with the clear message to Speak up, Stand Together and Stop Bullying. Students enjoy dressing up and I look forward to seeing the school in a sea of pink, come Friday. Please send in a Gold Coin donation. This will be forwarded directly to the Mental Health Foundation. Please note that this day is supported on a national level.

You may have noticed that a large new **blue shade sail** has been put up over the Year 6 Area near the rear entrance gate to the school. This replaced the old posts and sail that were damaged during cyclone Gabrielle. It is a significant improvement to our school property and I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for stepping in so quickly to fund this repair project for us.

I am very much looking forward to hosting the first of two **Pizza with the Principal** lunches for Term 2 later this week. It's such a pleasure chatting to the worthy recipients from each class. The tasty Pizza

courtesy of Stables Matakana is a great treat, and is always well received. We endeavour to ensure that all students have a chance to attend at least once in their time at Matakana School.

Next week is our “**Spark Week**” for this term and we will be spending some time learning about **traditional Māori Cultural Games & Art**. It should be a fun week leading us into our next Inquiry Learning Unit entitled ‘Come Together’ where we ask the key question: How do people exercise their rights and responsibilities in the community?

Our **Year 4 students** are heading out to Omaha to participate in a **tree planting** session. A group of students attend every year, accompanied by a representative from DOC. They are shown where the trees need to be planted, how to do it properly so the trees get the very best chance at survival and also discuss the importance of such regenerative plantings being done in the local area. Thank you to Fiona Clarkson for organising this.

In Week 7 we have our first ever ‘**Jumping June**’ day at school. This initiative is the brainchild of the Heart Foundation, and is designed to promote healthy eating and exercise habits. Students will have already received a notice home, and will likely have started collecting their sponsorship for the main skipping event on the 7th June.

On the 29th May our main annual fundraiser kicks off with the **silent auction** portion, which runs for two weeks. This is held on the **32auctions website**, and is open to the public, so please do share the link to your friends and family. We have some really fantastic items up for grabs. Such an event can’t take place without the generous donations from local businesses, so please do support them where you can.

The **Bayleys “Barnyard Boogie” & Live Auction** school fundraiser takes place on Friday the 9th June. This event is very generously being hosted this year by the **Stables Matakana**, due to our school hall being out of action. The events team comprising Year 3 & 4 parents has been working very hard to make this a successful and fun event, so please do come along. You will be sure to have a great night out, with DJ Mark Laurence, fabulous food, a cash bar, live auction items and most importantly fantastic company. **Buy your tickets on KINDO now!** Tickets are limited, and you won’t want to miss out on this adults only social event of the year!

Thank you again for all your support of our school and for your patience as we work through our building and construction process from week to week.

Noho ora mai



Darrel Goosen