



Tuesday 7th March 2023

News from the Board of Trustees

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

The weather has caused a disrupted start to the year. We are all recovering from the cyclonic weather with many places and people affected directly.

In saying that we are in full swing into the first term and everyone is busy as usual. Summer is officially over, like we really had one, with an array of activities planned and ready to go. Teachers have been working diligently to ensure these run smoothly with long days and late nights over the past few weeks. Thanks for all the energy and effort put in, our kids enjoy these events immensely.

The fun run was a massive success, the kids enjoyed themselves and had a great time and everyone was encouraged to participate and do their best. And did they ever! This was to raise funds for a new play space with part of the funds raised going to help the Hawkes Bay cyclone disaster area. The sausages and burgers sold at the fun run, were a massive hit with the funds for this going towards the Y6 camp. Big thanks to all the Y6 parents and volunteers who helped with this, the cost of camp has risen over the years and this will be a welcome dent in the overall cost of this activity for parents.

There has been some discussion and questions around the days the school was required to close due to the flooding, cyclone and ongoing power outages and resulting water supply and communication issues. The MOE has stated that no school is required to make up these days as the events were outside of the school's control and affected the health and safety of staff in the same way school communities were affected. We, along with the schools management team, decided to open earlier than others within the community, on Wednesday 15th February, providing the option for children to go to school if needed while juggling the ability of the staff at school to get to school and to clean-up the school property.

We will be following the MOE guidelines and not extending the school year. We feel that the educational benefits of keeping the school open so close to Christmas is not a factor. Experience has shown that at this time of year when students are understandably tired, it is not always a positive experience for their well-being, having more social issues and physical injuries.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support in ensuring schooling decisions are in the best interests of our tamariki.

As you would have seen, things are full steam ahead with the remediation process. The hall has all the cladding removed and we have had multiple inspections done to ascertain the extent of work required. This has looked to be a slow process but we have determined what needs to be fixed, removed and replaced over this period. The next couple of weeks will have significant development work on this space and many people doing this work so it will be a busy area for a while. Thank you all for your patience and understanding, this is essential for the maintenance of our school.

Ngā mihi nui

Scott Allen

Presiding member

on behalf of the Board of Trustees

A note from the PTA

The first PTA meeting for the year is at 1.45 pm on Wednesday 22 March (before school pick up). The PTA is seeking new members to join.

The more parents involved, the more events we can organise for our kids. We love to organise fun activities and treats for the students throughout the year, fresh ideas always welcomed.

Come along and see what we do, we would love to see you there!

Trudy Burgess
Matakana PTA