



Monday 20th November 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Well, we have made it to the last few weeks of the year. It has been an interesting year, with all the unprecedented weather events disrupting our schooling and causing damage all over the country. There is still the odd pocket of Covid around, but thankfully this is now causing minimal impact to our day to day school operations.

Term 4 as always, is a busy one, with lots of end of year **celebrations and assemblies**. Please do keep an eye on the calendars so you don't miss out on anything. Please note some of the times are **earlier** than usual. It is lovely to see parents attend the assemblies that acknowledge all the effort our students put into their work, and school responsibilities.

Our school photos were taken a few weeks ago, and should arrive early in December. **Photolife** have been taking our school photos for many years, and always do an awesome job. It is always great to save these as a memento of your children's time at school.

We have already celebrated the first of our special assemblies with the **Home Learning Challenge Assembly**. Thank you to Mrs Adams for the work that she put into coordinating this. With more than 250 certificates and medals to hand out, along with a slideshow of all the HLC activities, it certainly was a mammoth task to organise. Our next special assembly will be the **Leadership and Cultural Arts Assembly** on the 1st Dec at **11am**. During this assembly we will be acknowledging the fabulous work that our student leaders have done around the school this year, as well as the many efforts in Cultural Arts.

On Friday we held **Gumboot Friday** in conjunction with **Principal For The Day**. Casey T had a great day being the Principal working in my office. She also spent time around the school handing out stickers to the Junior school students for their great work, listening to their Lego presentations and helping to collect (and count) all the Gumboot Day gold coin donations - a wonderful \$656 for the charity! Casey enjoyed morning tea with the staff and later in the day, she had the very important job of making announcements and also handing out the special weekly certificates at assembly. I have no doubt that Casey enjoyed the day being a Principal and I got the feeling she may now be keen to become a teacher/principal herself.

This week we have our **Lego Masterpiece Display and Competitions**. It is great to walk around the classrooms and see how much effort the students have put into their display boards, and 'Lego Builds'. There is such a variety of projects that have been created by all the year groups, with this year's theme being based around 'hobbies'. I look forward to seeing some of you on Wednesday during the Senior competitions (when the Senior students will be battling their robots on purpose built tables) and at the end of the day, to view the Junior creations.

Coming up next week on Friday the 1st of December is the **Matakana Community Christmas Fair**. The fair will be held on the school field between 4pm & 8pm. We will be hosting approximately **30 craft stalls**, there will also be **food trucks**, a **Santa Grotto** and games for the children. On the stage

(starting at 4pm) we will have performances by our Kapa Haka rōpū and the GLEE Club. Our Junior and Middle school students will also entertain us with a song. We will be joined at 5pm by the very talented Andy Richards playing some great music for the rest of the evening. Please bring your friends and family, and join us for a great family focussed event to round out the year. A **HUGE** thank you to all the Year 5 & 6 parents that have been working behind the scenes to organise a great Fair.

Our **end of year trips** are planned for the second to last week of school. Please make sure that you get your permissions and payments done on KINDO as quickly as possible, so that all students can attend. If you haven't yet seen a notice with the details of your child's trip please contact the class teacher asap. These are really fun days for everyone, to wrap up a great school year. I look forward to hearing some great stories on their return.

On a final note, **please watch your speed in the community carpark**. We have seen some parents travelling very quickly during drop off and pick up times. This not only creates a hazard if children step out from between parked cars but it also creates damage in the newly laid surface, resulting in potholes.

Fingers crossed the sun keeps shining. Enjoy the next few weeks, it is sure to be well organised chaos!

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Goosen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Darrel Goosen

Principal