



Monday 20th March 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

We have had a great few weeks post cyclone and thankfully everything, including the weather, seems to have settled down again. It is lovely to see the students out enjoying the sun with some outdoor lessons. I trust that our new students have settled well into their classroom routines.

Our Year 6 students leaders had a great day out at the **GRIP Leadership Conference** recently. Mrs Andrenacci and I take students down to this conference each year. It is highly rewarding and beneficial to expand their knowledge and confidence in their leadership skills. The students love being on stage engaging with the speakers and helping with “hands on” demonstrations in front of hundreds of other students.

Students from Year 4 - 6 that were the top placers in the recent **Swimming Sports** headed to the College for the **Inter-School Competition** last week. We had some fabulous results and feel very proud of the students that represented our school. Congratulations and well done to all our swimmers.

Our second **Pizza with the Principal** will be held next week. I look forward to meeting with our next group of deserving recipients, and tasting the fabulous Pizza, kindly supplied by **Stables Restaurant Matakana**.

The **Year 5 Camp** was a great success. As always, Moirs Point camp in Mangawhai provides a wonderful experience and students come away with great tales to tell their parents when they arrive home. Thank you again to our Senior School teachers, Claire Allen, Neil Hatfull, Shannon Sweetman & Jean Ingham for organising and escorting the students to camp. Thanks also to the parent volunteers that kindly gave up their time to come along and help for the duration of the camp.

The **Summer Olympiad** funds have been tallied, and I am pleased to announce that a grand total of \$7247 was raised from this event. \$2000 will be sent directly to the **Hawkes Bay Flood Relief** and the balance will be used to purchase some great new toys for our Sandpit. A huge thank you to all our students for their fundraising efforts, and to Whānau and friends for your support.

This week we have the **MOTAT Steam programme** coming along to the school. Our friends at **PB Technologies** very generously sponsored the cost of this (approx \$4000), which means we are able to offer it to our students at no extra cost to parents. The team from MOTAT bring their amazing, well equipped trailers that are set up specially with displays and interactive experiences for our students to enjoy and learn from. As our current **Inquiry** is around **Energy**, this will be the focus for these

sessions. Classes will attend at scheduled times throughout the week. I look forward to heading along with some of the classes to experience first hand what they are learning about.

At the end of this week we have a special treat in store with a school **catapult competition**. Classes will be spending time during the week creating catapults from simple materials. They will be trying them out in their syndicates, and then on Friday the whole school will come together. I look forward to seeing some fantastic, innovative catapult designs as the week progresses.

Coming up on Friday the 31st March our **Year 6 students** are hosting the first ever **Community Dinner**. This year will be a Mexican theme. Students will spend time during the week working alongside experienced chefs preparing the food, and learning some great hospitality skills. On the night, they will prepare and present the meals and then serve out to the paying guests. This event will be held at the **Stables Restaurant Matakana**, who have been fabulous with not only offering a venue, but also providing the staff to help our students in their culinary efforts.

We hope to make this an annual event, as it not only teaches great skills that can be used in the future, but also helps to subsidise the cost of school camp, making it that much more affordable for our Year 6 families. If you would like to buy a ticket please jump onto KINDO to purchase. The ticket price of \$99 includes a 3 course Mexican meal, welcome drink and live music. It should be a great night - see you there!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to **Mark Wakefield and Pronto Hire**, for coming along on the weekend with a digger to move the huge pile of sand we had delivered into the sandpit. We are truly grateful and the little kiddies are ecstatic! Thanks again!

Ngā mihi,
Darrel Goosen
Principal