



Monday 28 August 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

It has been lovely to see some sun starting to emerge over the last couple of weeks. Fingers crossed that this is the start of the spring weather, and we can finally spend some more time outdoors.

Term 3 is roaring past, with all sorts of things happening around the school. The year always seems to steam along quicker and quicker as the months progress. We have a jam packed few weeks to lead us into the next school holidays.

**School cross country** was a couple of weeks ago, thankfully the weather stayed away just long enough, and we had a great afternoon. All the students ran really well, and we have a good contingent to send along to the **Inter- School event** (hosted by Matakana School) to be held at the Warkworth Showgrounds tomorrow. It was great to see so many parents come along to offer support from the sidelines. Thank you to Mr Hatfull and all other staff members who were involved in the organisation and marshalling. Thanks to our awesome **PTA** for handing out ice blocks to all our runners - it was very much appreciated.

During Spark week recently the students were treated to **Hunger Ball**. This is a giant inflatable arena that was put up in the school hall. Classes all took turns to go in and have a go. The game is played much like hockey, but using pool noodles. Everyone had a blast.

I am pleased to advise that the school hall is now fully operational, and that we can invite parents back to join us for **Friday assemblies**. Unless stated otherwise you are asked to be seated by 1.15pm. Please check the "What's on" alert on the school APP for the type of assembly.

The **building renovations** that are currently underway in the senior block are reported to be on target and we hope to be moving back in there as planned. A request for help will be coming home next week. "Many hands make light work" I believe the saying goes. Thank you in advance for your offer of help with the relocation of classrooms. The next area to undergo remedial work is the middle block that hosts Rooms 4, 5, 6 and the Info Centre.

The much awaited **PTA Disco** is being held next Friday, 8 Sept. Students really enjoy dressing up, and coming along for a boogie with their mates. I am sure it will be a fun night for all, especially funky tunes by DJ Mark Laurence to get everyone moving. The Year 0-3 session runs first, followed by Years 4-6. Thank you to the PTA and their helpers for organising this event, and running it on the night. A notice will be coming home tomorrow,

Our **Pupil Progress Presentations (PPPs)** are scheduled for Wednesday 13th Sept. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to share in their child's learning journey, and see first hand what they have been doing in class during the year. You will also get the opportunity to view your child's artwork for this year's **Calendar Art fundraiser**. Teachers will have the order forms on hand with details about what is available for purchase.

The calendars and diaries always prove to be great gifts for whānau at Christmas time. A notice with information to book in your PPP time slot with the teacher, will come home next Monday.

The new **stage lights** in the Hall are now up and running. Just in time for the Disco. Thank you to the McKergows for very kindly lending us some scaffolding so we could get this up. I am sure that they will get put to good use with all the events that we will hold in the future.

I would also like to advise that the **start dates for 2024** have now been confirmed. After consultation with the College and the local schools it has been decided that the first day back for students will be **Thursday 1 February**. The process for deciding on start dates is based on numerous criteria, including but not limited to; the directive from the MOE on how many days schools are required to be open in a year (the ministry also lays down the earliest opening date, and latest closing date), the college start dates as this impacts childcare arrangements for those with siblings, opening dates of the other schools, as this impacts the buses.

Whilst I appreciate that the start and finish dates do not suit everyone, we do try to take all factors into consideration such as the needs of the teachers, parents and students when dates are being set, but ultimately have to follow the directives from the MOE as the main criteria.

Last but not least... did you know that we now have a school **Instagram** page? Thank you to Claire Allen and Jess Berlesen for setting this up. Claire adds regular content so you can check out what the students are up to during their school day. Search "matakanaschool" to join the page.

Ngā mihi

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

Darrel Goosen

Principal