



News from the Board of Trustees

The Matakana Community Christmas Fair was a great event with craft stalls, food trucks, entertainment and kid's games, there was something for everyone. A big shout out to the Year 5 & 6 parents and school staff that organised the Fair as well as all the local businesses that supported the Fair and stall holders that came along on the night!

Thank you to all the staff and parents for very efficiently evacuating the school on the 24th of November. We are looking at what we can learn from this event and have already received some good suggestions, such as getting emergency messages out via email (when possible), in addition to the school App and having kits with some tarpaulins and wet weather supplies ready. We have also been asked to consider traffic management for the carpark in an emergency and are looking at ways to improve traffic flow in the area. Please also ensure your contact details, specifically mobile phone numbers are up to date with the school office as several numbers had not been updated.

Building Update

Work on rooms 4, 5 & 6 is progressing and will be completed during term 1 2024. Planning for the Junior Hub is on hold due to the scope of work going beyond what was planned after further building inspection was carried out. We are working with our local electorate Member of Parliament Chris Penk, who visited our school in November, to request the extra funding required to carry out this work now. However, without this funding being expedited work on the Junior Hub may not start until around April next year.

We are looking forward to the installation of the large covered outdoor space extending from the school hall over the summer holidays. This will provide shade and shelter during play time, outdoor learning and for outdoor events.

The school pool has not been in use in term 4 as the construction is covering part of the heating system, resulting in the pool not being as warm as it should be. The system is also nearing the end of its useful life and will not withstand being moved for reroofing the Arts Hub. As a result of this we are going to install a pool heat pump over the summer holiday to ensure that the pool is usable for all of term 1 and term 4 moving forward. This will be a vast improvement relative to the old system that struggled to heat the pool at the beginning of each swimming season resulting in some of the younger children who could benefit the most from pool use missing out as they feel the cold more than the older children.

Spending Community Raised Funds

We are often asked about how community raised funds are spent at the school and this is a very good question given the community are raising these funds. In 2023, the community funds came from school donations (\$46,000), auction night (\$26,000 net), sponsorship (\$40,000), investments (\$28,000) and other activities. Spending details are documented in the Board of Trustees minutes that are placed on the school website in the BOT section. However, at a high level, the focus has been on supporting operational spending to provide educational resources, for example, additional Teacher Aid funding,

robotic LEGO Spike Prime kits and new reading resources. On a lesser note, but requested in the school survey, and at pick up and drop off time, we have also recently carried out maintenance on the gravel car park in collaboration with the Matakana Community Group, who shared the cost of this work with us.

Next year the Board of Trustees has allocated \$79,000 of community funds to contribute towards an extra full time teacher, to reduce class sizes from 28-33 to 24-25 for years 3 and 4 and provide an additional Teacher Aide for Years 1-2. This works directly towards improving the key focus of school, learning, that was also identified in the survey. We would like to thank Darrel, Wendy and the teachers for looking into the research in this area and working together to come up with the best solution to support our students' educational needs. The Ministry of Education also provides funding for Teacher Aides that will be supporting individual students.

Having increased funding would allow us to provide more educational resources on an ongoing basis. On the subject of funding, and while we acknowledge the school donation is voluntary, we have had 59% of families make the donation in 2023. We understand that it is not always possible to make the donation, but if you have simply forgotten your school donation for 2023 and would like to support these initiatives next year and beyond, please do so through Kindo.

2023 School Parent Survey Results

Thank you to everyone that participated in the 2023 parent survey in August. Your feedback is a vital part helping us understand where you see our school is performing well and where you would like to see us make improvements. We are pleased to provide you with the results of the survey below.

There were 70 respondents (approximately 30% of families) to the survey. The rating for each question has been calculated as a weighted average of the responses 1-5 for each question. Generally, a rating of 4 or higher out of 5 is considered a good result for product or service ratings using a 1-5 scale. Rating of below 4 indicates an opportunity for review and improvement. Below are the results by topic and at the end of this newsletter are the results for each of the 42 questions.

Survey Results by Topic

Topic	Rating
School Spirit or Focus	4.01
Communication	3.94
The Students	4.04
Learning	3.66
The School Environment	4.20
Staff	4.32
School Management and Administration	3.99
Average of Entire School Survey	3.92

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff at Matakana School, who had the highest rating out of any area of the survey. It is great to see that the staff have your support. In addition, Paula, Tracy, Kim and Jenny, who handle the office inquiries, had the highest rating of any question in the survey. They have to deal with a high volume of diverse issues throughout the day, while also performing other duties, and it is great to see the parents acknowledge they do this in a supportive and helpful way.

Darrel has already shared the results of the survey with the school management team and will be using this as input for process improvement over the next year, focusing on results with a rating below 4.

I also note that many of the areas for improvement were relating to parents' understanding of specific issues and the topic of communication itself. Personally, as I have become more involved with the school and have a better understanding of the school operations, I have an increased appreciation for the efforts of the staff and all the things the school does. Bearing that in mind and based on your feedback to improve communication and take more input from families, we will be working to improve two-way communication between the parents and the school, for example, through the use of surveys on certain topics and through the ongoing use of newsletters.

Finally, we look forward to the end of year events, graduation for the class of 2023 and wish everyone an enjoyable and well-deserved summer holiday.

Warmest regards,

Alastair McAuley - Board Chair
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

(See full survey results below)

Survey Results by Question

Question	Rating
The school office staff are supportive and helpful	4.64
The school App is a useful tool to communicate with parents	4.47
Students and staff members take pride in the school and help keep buildings and grounds clean and attractive.	4.43
I understand the motivation behind the "Matakana Magic'	4.39
The school provides a safe learning environment	4.37
Teachers encourage students to have a positive attitude towards learning	4.37
I agree with the schools efforts to encourage alternative methods of getting children to school (bus, walking, cycling), and minimising cars at drop-off and pick-up times	4.33
Staff are approachable and available to discuss individual concerns	4.27
Students are treated fairly	4.19
High standards of behaviour are expected	4.19
Senior students are offered a good range of leadership opportunities (School leaders, House Leaders, Peer mediators Technicians etc	4.17
The schools' magic values are consistently encouraged	4.16
The school has a positive spirit	4.14
Students enjoy school	4.14
The school newsletter is effective at conveying information	4.10
The school communicates well with parents	4.08
I receive timely info about school-wide events	4.01
The school is well managed	4.01
I am kept up-to-date about classroom events	3.99
Students are fairly acknowledged for achievements in sporting activities	3.96
The school provides a good amount of EOTC (Learning outside the classroom) activities such as Garden to Table, Robotics, camps, trips etc.	3.93

Students are fairly acknowledged for academic improvements and achievements	3.88
The school places value on tikanga Māori	3.88
Students are fairly acknowledged for achievements in arts and cultural activities.	3.87
The school has positive leadership with a clear direction	3.80
School management (Principal and Assistant/Deputy Principals) make decisions that are in the best interests of students	3.78
The school effectively deals with behavioural issues	3.73
Students are encouraged to develop to their full potential	3.72
I understand the difference between the role of the BOT in governing the school, and the role of the Senior Management team in managing the school	3.72
Students are challenged by their schoolwork	3.70
This school respects and values input from families	3.68
The school achieves a good balance between academic subjects, performing arts and sporting activities	3.64
The school provides a good range of sporting experiences	3.59
The school caters well for students with learning disabilities	3.59
The school achieves high academic standards	3.57
The school's vision is 'taking students beyond expectations'. I believe this goal is being achieved	3.50
The school provides parents with detailed information about student progress	3.50
I am aware of the wide range of cultural experiences, and art activities offered by the school	3.49
The homework set supports my child's classroom learning	3.46
The school website is an effective method of communication	3.45
The school caters well for students with talents in music, sports and arts etc	3.33
I am aware of how Health and Wellbeing is taught within the curriculum	3.28