



Tuesday 7th February 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

After a rather unexpected delay, I wish you all a heartfelt 'welcome back' to the 2023 academic year. Our Teachers have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare their classrooms and academic programmes in preparation for the students to arrive. A special welcome to all our new students and our four new teachers that started school today. We trust this will be a wonderful year full of exciting learning opportunities for everybody. The weather has been rather fickle over the summer break, but I trust you all got some time to spend with your whānau and friends, and to travel around our beautiful country. I also sincerely hope that none of you lost or endured damage to property over the last week or so.

Students arrived back today with great excitement, ready for the very busy Term ahead. I trust that you have all received the link from your classroom teachers for the "**Meet the Teacher**" **zoom sessions** scheduled for this week. Please check your child's bag today for some paperwork that may be referred to during these sessions. Zoom links will have been sent out last week.

You will have received an email from the **Board of Trustees** last week regarding the **remedial building work** that will be carried out around the school this year. We appreciate your patience, and will do our very best to keep you informed as we progress through the stages. We understand that car parking, and drop off/pickups may be a challenge, but I sincerely hope that everyone will play their part in keeping our students safe around the car park. Please be "on guard" and escort your child/children to and from the back gate rather than having them walk through the carpark on their own.

A huge shout out to the team at **Green Matter** for your prompt, efficient service in trimming the trees behind the hall ready for the scaffolding. We really appreciate you coming out to us so quickly.

We have the usual **School Assemblies** on the calendar, however at this stage we have to resort to an outdoor assembly every second week whilst the school hall is out of action. In Term 2 we may have to resort to virtual assemblies depending on the weather. We hope that we can welcome you all back into the hall to join us to celebrate our students' achievements and watch their fabulous performances as soon as possible.

To kick off the Term we have the first stage of our **Reporting to Parents** cycle starting with **Parent Interviews and Goal Reviews** next week. This is an opportunity for teachers to inform parents about what learning goals they will be focusing on and to give parents the opportunity to share their views on their child's learning needs. This is an important step in laying a good foundation for the year of learning ahead. The booking link was sent out last Friday via email. (Not to be confused with the "Meet The Teacher" Zoom sessions this week)

There is a **PTA Welcome Morning Tea** for new parents to the school planned soon, an invitation will be sent out shortly. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents that have recently joined our school community, and to ask any questions that you might have about how things operate on a day to day basis. It is held at a local cafe, and is very informal.

Our event planning is already underway with the **Summer Fun Run** planned for the middle of the Term. As per last year we will be allocating certain Year groups to our events. This has worked very well, and we will continue with this format. You will receive an email when it is your child's year group that will be charged with a specific event. Each event is led by Board Representative Rebecca Lane, with the support of Kim Scott managing administration. There are great systems already in place, which ensures that each event runs smoothly. Fundraising is an important part of our school, and helps to raise the money needed for special projects that make sure our students can enjoy a truly Magic school. Keep an eye out for fliers coming home. These events aren't able to go ahead without parental assistance. Any time or expertise you are able to offer is gratefully appreciated.

Our fabulous award sponsors are on board again for 2023. We can't thank them enough for supplying vouchers that are given out with each special award during our assemblies. **Stables Restaurant Matakana** provides our Pizzas twice a term for **Pizza with the Principal**, and also a voucher that accompanies our **Magic Student of the Week Award**. **Summer Sessions** offer a free cap for the recipients of the **Sports Star Award**. **Matakana Cinemas** or **Brick Bay** provide a voucher with the **Creative Kid Award**, and we also wish to welcome on board **Point Wells Store** for our **Playground Award**. Please support these businesses along with our other school sponsors where you can. The support of all our sponsors is greatly appreciated.

We would like to remind you that we have students in Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 who have **severe or life-threatening anaphylaxis (allergies)** to a variety of nuts, seeds, eggs, wheat, rye and barley. The Year groups affected have been emailed with specific details for each Year group of what food we are requesting **isn't** brought to school. A physical copy was also provided to children today, so please check your child's bag. If we could request that all school families remind your children not to share food with other students due to safety issues. Any questions please contact Wendy Chittenden.

Please read the attached information about **communication** at the school. For new parents, this covers off all the ways that we do our best to keep you up to date with what is happening around our school. The School APP is a vital part of this, and I strongly encourage you to download it as soon as possible. For parents that have been with us for a while, please have a read through to refresh your knowledge around the ways we communicate with our school community. There are also some new buttons on the App to assist you.

General reminders:

- School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 2.45pm. Kindly allow your child plenty of time in the morning to unpack their bag and settle into the classroom. If your child is late please park in the community carpark and then proceed to the office to sign your child in to school.
- Please order any uniform items on KINDO, or email uniform@matakana.school.nz. A range of second hand items are available at the school office.
- Please inform the school office if your:
 - child is sick (use the school App, email or 24 hour phone answering service)
 - contact details have changed. **There is now a button on the school APP for updating information**
 - child has a new health issue or medical condition.

We all look forward to inspiring your children and our community this Term. May the challenges we face bring out the best in all of us.

Hei konā mai,

Darrel Goosen - Principal

Thank you to our Sponsors

