



Wednesday 26 April 2023

Kia ora koutou Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

A huge welcome to our new entrants starting school today, and welcome back to all our other students. I trust everyone had a relaxing holiday break, and didn't overindulge in too many Easter eggs in the first weekend. The ANZAC Day services were also quite special this year with tremendous attendance by younger people in particular.

As you can see there is still a lot of work being done around the school grounds, with many areas cordoned off. The Year 6 area also received a new shade sail after the old one was severely damaged during cyclone Gabrielle. Thank you again for all your patience during pick-up and drop-offs. Fingers crossed that by the end of this term our school hall will be back in action. Our current Caretaker, Pat Henchie, will be retiring at the end of April. Pat has given us his utmost over the past two years but has decided it's time to rest his body and enjoy his retirement years. We wish Pat all the very best for the future and for his service and commitment to our school. Our new caretaker is Damian McDonald and he has been shadowing Pat for the past couple of weeks, in order to get his teeth into the job. We extend a warm welcome to Damian.

I would also like to welcome our new teacher, Tiffany Smith, who is going to be teaching our new entrants in Room 3 and Lisa Davey, who will be joining the new entrant class as Teacher Aide. This class will be located in 'The Castle' whilst the building renovations are still being undertaken this year.

We have a busy, and exciting term coming up with the much awaited **Year 6 Camp** to Kawau Island in week 3, **Inter School sporting** events, and also some fundraising events such as the **PTA Disco and Garden to Table bake sale** being planned. Please keep an eye on the calendars on the school App, and on the school Facebook page.

Our Year 6 students always have a wonderful time at **Camp Bentzon** and learn some great skills while they are away. The camp is jam packed with fun activities, and adventures. Mrs Andrenacci and I are looking forward to heading out there during the week for a visit. Thank you to Mrs Allen and the Year 6 teachers/teacher aides for all your organisation and to the parent volunteers that will be helping out at camp.

We have a **PTA Welcome Morning Tea** for new parents to the school planned for the 9th May, an invitation will be sent out shortly. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents who have recently joined our school community, and to ask any questions that you might have about how things operate at the school on a day to day basis.

Planning is underway for our **Annual Auction event "Barnyard Boogie"** in conjunction with **Bayleys**. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year. As our usual venue in the school hall is out of commission, Woody and the team at **Stables Matakana** have very generously offered to host us for the night. This is always a really fun, adults only night out, with live auction items, a band, great food,

and even better company. Put Friday 9th June in your diary now and book in the babysitter. You won't want to miss it.

We also run a silent auction in the two weeks prior to the night. If you or your business would like to donate an item or service please get in contact with the auction team. [k.scott@matakana.school.nz](mailto:k.scott@matakana.school.nz). All donations are gratefully received, and go towards our fundraising goals. The silent auction is run on the **32auctions** website and is also open to the community. Thank you to all the parents that have very kindly offered their time to help organise this event.

On Tuesday 20 June and Thursday 22 June, the second stage of our **Reporting to Parents** cycle takes place with Parent Interviews and Mid-Year Reports. A notice with booking details will be sent home closer to the time.

We had a lovely assembly to farewell our long standing Deputy Principal, Mrs Maryann Steel at the end of Term 1. She has retired after 35 years, having seen several generations of children come through the school from our local community. She will be sadly missed, however we wish her the very best, and trust that she will make the most of her new found freedom! Mrs Ellen Andrenacci is currently acting Deputy Principal until such time as a new appointment is made.

### 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 download the school APP. This is a very useful tool for communication and information about what is happening around the school.
- Please inform the school office if your:

child is sick (use the school app, email or 24 hour answerphone).

contact details have changed (via the app or email)

child has a new health issue or medical condition.

This should be a busy, fun and action packed Term. We all look forward to inspiring your children and our community.

Ngā mihi



Darrel Goosen

Principal

