

# MATAKANA MAGIC

**Taking students beyond expectations!**

Monday 16 July 2023

**Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Whanau, welcome back to Term 3**

I trust you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with your children and managed to stay warm and dry. I am sure many of you took advantage of the odd fine day, and got out and about around our beautiful region.

A warm, MAGIC welcome to the new students and families who have joined our school. We hope that you will enjoy your time here with us at Matakana School. A heartfelt Haere Mai to our returning students. I would also like to welcome Mrs Nikki Howard who will be teaching our next intake of new entrants in Room 3. Nikki may be a familiar face to many, as she has two children Blake in Year 5, and Jessica in Year 3 that attend our school. Mrs Bev Cooley who teaches in Room 2 is still recovering at home from a serious infection, but is doing well. We expect her to return to school in approximately 2 weeks time and wish her a speedy recovery.

As always Term 3 will be very busy and full of exciting opportunities for our students. School Cross Country, Inter-School Hockey and Cross Country, PPPs, Speech Competitions, Grandparents Day, and the much awaited PTA disco. **Please view our Website, App and Facebook page for the school event calendar.** I trust you will join us for all the fun events we have planned.

Thank you to teachers Fiona Clarkson and Shannon Sweetman for managing our Kapa Haka group performance at the Matakana Market last Saturday to celebrate Matariki. It was an awesome performance by our students that was enjoyed by everyone in the packed market. Our postponed **School Matariki Family Evening** will be held on Friday 21st July between 3.30pm & 5.30pm. We would love for you to join us to see all the lovely artwork that each class has on display in their windows, along with performances by the Year 3 / 4 students, Kapa Haka and Glee. The PTA will have some tasty treats on sale so please bring along some cash if you wish to purchase something to eat while you wander around.

Nest consulting is once again presenting an **Information evening for Year 5 & 6 parents** tonight starting at 6pm via Zoom. The contents of the **student puberty sessions** will be outlined and any concerns or queries can be answered before your child attends their session on Thursday. You should have received a notice home before the holidays. A copy of the notice can be found on the school App.

In Week 3 the annual **Scholastic Book Fair** with this year's theme "Hats off to reading" will be on display at school. The books will be set up in the newly renovated school hall for you to view and purchase. A flyer will be sent home outlining the opening hours for you to call in and make your purchases. Students will go through as a class and will come home with a "wishlist" of a few books they might like.

This also coincides with **Grandparents Day**, which is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd August. Last year we had a bumper amount of Grandparents join us. It was so lovely to see them

sharing stories with the students, and experiencing what school life is like for their grandchildren. A notice will come home shortly with more details.

A brief reminder that while our Senior Block is being renovated the **Info Centre** is out of action. This means that students are unable to borrow books at this stage. Please return any outstanding books that you may have at home as usual. If any senior students would like a specific book to read, please ask their class teacher, as they may be able to locate it where possible.

On Wednesday, the 13th of September, the third stage of our **Reporting to Parents** cycle takes place with the popular **PPP's** (Pupil Progress Presentations). Students will take parents through their learning journey, discussing the progress they have made with their learning goals. A notice with booking details will be sent out in Week 7.

Once again I extend a huge thank you to our **sponsors** for your continued support. The funds we receive throughout the year make a huge difference to the nice "extras" that we are able to offer our students. Programmes such as **Garden to Table, Lego & Robotics and our Weekly Awards** wouldn't be possible without them.

The planning for this year's **Christmas Fair** will begin this term, with our Year 5 & 6 parents allocated to this event. We hope to invite stall holders and food vendors along, and combined with some great entertainment this should be a great social event to end off the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our policy around removing students for extended holidays during term time. It is a Ministry of Education requirement to notify the School Principal if you are taking your child out of school during term time. If you wish for your child to be away from school for longer than 10 school days, please email me directly [principal@matakana.school.nz](mailto:principal@matakana.school.nz) with the length of time they will be away from class and the reason for the absence. Teachers will not provide work to be done during this time, however you are able to purchase excellent holiday workbooks from the school office.

Removing students during term time can be disruptive to their learning and potentially put them behind with their school work. We do understand that it is often cheaper to travel outside the school holidays, however where possible I ask that students are not removed from class for any longer than absolutely necessary.

Matakids Club is operating from R17 for a short time due to limited space pressure created by the building programme.

### Reminders:

Kindly keep your child at home if they are unwell. Should your child present sick at school they will need to be sent home to protect other students and staff.

- **School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 2.45pm.** Kindly allow your child plenty of time in the morning to unpack their school bag and settle into the classroom. It is disruptive to the whole class when students come in late and unfair to your child who misses out on all the important classroom announcements at the start of the day.
- Please **clearly label** all uniform items, we have far too many sitting in the lost property box.
- 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 (button on the school app)
  - child has a new **health issue** or **medical condition**.

This should be a busy and invigorating Term. We all look forward to inspiring your children and our community.

Ka kite ano,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Goosen'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'D' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Darrel Goosen

Principal