



Monday 9th October 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Welcome back to the last term of the year. We were very lucky to have a few days of stunning weather over the break. I trust you had an enjoyable holiday and managed to get some family time out in the fresh air. Haere mai to all our new students and their families. I feel sure you will enjoy the lovely sense of community our MAGIC school brings.

We will be farewelling our Deputy Principal, **Mrs Ellen Andrenacci**, in a couple of weeks and we wish her and Andrea all the very best for the imminent birth of their wee girl. We trust they will enjoy a magical Christmas as a new family. In Ellens' absence Miss Wendy Chittenden and Mrs Claire Allen will take over the shared role of Deputy Principal. *Wendy Chittenden will cover the Year 1/2/3 areas of responsibilities and Claire Allen will cover the Year 4/5/6 areas of responsibilities.*

The term ahead is a busy one with **special assemblies** celebrating the achievements of our MAGIC students throughout the year, along with end of year trips for each year group. Be sure to keep an eye on the term calendars that can be found on the school APP, and the school Facebook page so you don't miss out on any important dates. Notices will come home in school bags about **End of Year Trips**, please do your best to get the permissions and payment done promptly to help with planning and logistics.

We have **school athletics** for Year 3 - 6 in Week 3, this is a great opportunity for the students to try out some of their skills at the different track and field event stations throughout the day. If you wish to come along, please do so. The first groups will be starting at 9am. The run sheet for the day will be on the school APP closer to the time. The top students from each year will represent our school at the Inter School event to be held on the 7th of November.

Special thanks to Fiona Clarkson, Monique Thomas and Liz Molloy for the time they have put into getting the 2023 version of our **Tuhi** book ready for printing. The quality of work by the students is once again outstanding. If you wish to pre-order a copy, please go to KINDO, under stationery. Pre-orders will close on the 20th October so that we can send numbers to the printers. An APP alert was sent out that included the list of student contributors so that you can check to see if your child's work is featured.

Photolife Studios will be at school taking photos on Friday of this week. This is a great opportunity to get some lovely formal photos of your children. Sibling photo forms were sent home last term, however there is a copy on the APP if you didn't receive this. Photolife does a great job for us each year. Be sure to send your child in their correct uniform on the day, and with a hairbrush if need be!

Thank you to those who completed the **parent consultation survey** last term, we appreciate your time, support and feedback which is essential in making our school a MAGIC place for all. Some suggestions we will be able to implement immediately, such as student voice in our winter clubs when the field is closed for long periods of time and greater Senior Management presence at pick up and drop off times.

Other suggestions we will consider in the long term planning of our local curriculum, such as local trips and experiences and different hands-on learning tasks for our students. Your feedback will be shared with our staff and any updates to our procedures can take place.

Some suggestions enable us to stop and reflect on our "why?" which is very important too.

Many suggestions are very meaningful and close to the heart of our staff, suggestions around greater funding and support for students with moderate needs, smaller class sizes and attracting young people into the profession. These were central in the latest teacher industrial action and something we continue to fight for, for your tamariki. The nationwide teacher shortage plays havoc with having available relievers too. You can support us in carefully considering political parties' education policies and the discussion around these when you vote in the upcoming elections, as our curriculum and funding is largely determined by these policies. You can email local parliament members and support the teacher union in their negotiations in the future. We continue to push for these things daily. Again thank you for your time in completing the consultation survey.

Our Year 5 & 6 parents have been doing an excellent job of planning the **Matakana Community Christmas Fair** that we will be hosting at our school on Friday 1st of December. Be sure to gather the family and come along for a picnic. There will be craft stalls to get a kick start on your Christmas shopping, food trucks so you can get something tasty for dinner, entertainment on the stage and a Santa Grotto where you will be able to get your Santa photos done and dusted for 2023. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank local author Maria Gill and the organisers of the **Point Wells Village Literacy Festival** that was held late last term. The amount of \$215 has very generously been donated to the school's **Dyslexia Fund**. We know that these much needed funds are always put to good use helping our students with learning disabilities. Thank you so much.

Unfortunately the **school swimming pool** will remain closed for this term, and keys will not be available over the holidays due to the building work that is being carried out on the classroom block beside the pool area. The solar panels that are currently used for heating the water will also be out of action, meaning the water will be rather chilly.

Please note in your diaries that we have a Ministry of Education mandated **Teachers Only Day** coming up on **Monday 13th November**. All local primary schools will be closed for students on this day, as teachers are involved with professional development around the refreshed NZ Curriculum.

The Rugby World Cup is certainly heading towards a great finale as well as the Cricket World Cup. Go the All Blacks and the Black Caps!

Noho ora mai
Darrel Goosen
Principal