



## Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Whanau, welcome to the 2017 School Year.

I trust you had a wonderful holiday break and you managed to spend some quality family time together. I spent my holidays in Namibia, now touted as the best value for money destination by Lonely Planet travel. A special highlight for me was visiting the Fish River Canyon, Skeleton Coast and Etosha Game Reserve. Seeing black and white rhino in the wild is quite special given how their numbers are shrinking due to poaching. I look forward to hearing students' holiday experiences over the coming weeks.

A special warm welcome to the new students and families who have joined our school this year. I also welcome our two new teachers Mrs Janet Goosen in Room 4 and Miss Shannon Sweetman in Room 15. I trust you will all have a wonderful time at our school.

We start the year with the **Integrated Study Unit 'Ready, Steady, Go!'** where teachers will set guidelines, routines and expectations for school life this year. There are great opportunities for students and teachers to get to know one another during this Unit. We are also very excited to launch **PR1ME Maths** this year.

Please take note of the **Parent Orientation Sessions** which will be held in the school hall next week:

Senior School (Years 4 to 6) on Wednesday, 8th February at 3pm

Junior School (Years 1 to 3) on Thursday, 9th February at 3pm

Montessori on Thursday, 9th February at 3pm in Room 15

**'Parent Interviews and Goal Reviews'** (the first module in the Reporting to Parents Cycle for 2017) will take place in Week 4 on the 22nd and 23rd of February. 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. A notice with information on how to book your appointment will be sent out next week.

Our school has been working with SchoolDocs to create a website for our **policies and procedures**. We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team and Boards of Trustees. Our BOT through its Policy Sub-committee works closely with SchoolDocs to review policies, view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We invite you to visit the site at <http://matakana.schooldocs.co.nz/> (note that there's no "www"! ) or click on the SchoolDocs icon on our school website. Our username is matakana and the password is magic.

Reminders:

- Please ensure you have purchased your **child's stationery requirements**. Year 3-6 please purchase your **PR1ME mathematics books** on your Kindo account or at the school office.
- Please bring your **swimming gear** in daily and clearly label all uniform and non-uniform items.
- Please advise the school office, via email [office@matakana.school.nz](mailto:office@matakana.school.nz), as a matter of urgency if your **contact details** - phone numbers, email address, emergency contacts, have changed.
- Please inform the school office if your child has a **health issue** or if their **medical condition** has changed.
- Please familiarise yourself with the [2017 Parent Information handbook](#) which is available on our school website under Information. If you would like a paper copy sent home, please email the school office.

I am looking forward to a fantastic 2017 school year and would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support this year.

Ka kite ano,  
Darrel Goosen  
Principal