



Monday 11th March 2024

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Well it looks like Autumn is definitely on us. The mornings are getting chilly, and although the rain is great for the garden and our water tanks, I'm sure like me you would much rather the sun stayed out just that little bit longer. Thankfully, our fabulous new dome provides that extra cover on sunny and rainy days for our students.

Our **Tough Stuff** sessions are well underway, with the Year 4 - 6 students attending in their classes. These sessions cover an array of topics focussed around appropriate behaviour in various situations, and troubleshooting different scenarios to give students a better understanding of their world as they grow up into polite, respectful adults. Parents of these students have been invited to attend a special "parent" session this week with **Kylie Ryan** from *The Tough Stuff*, to help reinforce what has been learnt at home.

In lieu of a camp this year, our **Year 4** students had a great day at the **Beach** recently. With the help of some of the team from Omaha Surf Lifesaving, this day provided some fun activities as well as plenty of time to just enjoy time in the sea. There were also lessons in basic beach safety, which is so important given our proximity to so many fabulous beaches. Thank you to Fiona Clarkson for organising the trip, and to all the other teachers, teacher aides and parents volunteers that went along to help.

Last week saw our **Year 5 students** head off to Moirs Point Camp in Mangawhai Heads. This is always such a fabulous experience and students come away with great tales to tell their parents when they arrive home. Thank you again to our Senior School teachers and teacher aides under the leadership of Claire Allen for a superbly organised camp. Thanks also to the parent volunteers that kindly gave up their time to come along to support and assist for the duration of the camp.

Our Year 6 students leaders are headed off to the **GRIP Leadership Conference** on Wednesday. Miss Sweetman and I will take the students down to this conference this year. It is highly rewarding and beneficial to expand their knowledge and confidence in their leadership skills. The students love being on stage engaging with the speakers and helping with "hands on" demonstrations in front of hundreds of other students. I look forward to sharing this great experience with them.

Students from Year 4 - 6 that were the top placers in the recent **Swimming Sports** are off to the College for the **Inter-School Competition** on Thursday. I am sure we will see some great results from our excellent swimmers. Good luck to everyone that is representing our school.

Our second **Pizza with the Principal** will be in a couple of weeks. I look forward to meeting with our next group of deserving recipients, and tasting the fabulous pizza, kindly supplied by **Stables Restaurant Matakana**.

I need to remind parents and caregivers that the school uniform policy allows for *navy blue socks* - no other colours please and we also will not allow *different* shoes on each foot (health and safety).

We do not stipulate what shoes need to be worn to school and children are allowed to be barefoot once at school. *However, they must arrive at school and depart from school with shoes on their feet please (health and safety).* If your child wears 'Crocs' to school, please ensure the sizing is correct - we are seeing children with shoes that are way over-sized leading to ankle injuries.

The **Summer Fun Run** funds have been tallied, and I am pleased to announce that a grand total of \$3909 was raised from this event. A huge thank you to all our students for their fundraising efforts, and to Whānau and friends for your support. It was fantastic to see so many parents come along on the day to cheer the runners on as they ran around the course. Our Year 6 students enjoyed the colour run, a nice treat in their last year at primary school.

At the end of this week we have the first of our Charity Fundraisers for the year. Each term we endeavour to raise funds to help one of the many vital organisations that support our community. I feel it is so important to raise awareness amongst the students that there are those less fortunate all around us. It is very satisfying for them to feel like they have helped to make a difference in somebody's life. Whether it be an organisation such as Surf Lifesaving NZ, that relies on community funds to function, or a charity that supports people with illness or in poverty etc.

Our fundraiser this term will be for "**Give a kid a blanket**". This charity provides those in need with clean, warm blankets, clothes and other essential items. The funds raised through the gold coin donation are used to purchase these items as required. **Please send your coin or items to school on Friday**. Thank you to Kirsty McKay for arranging the items to be collected.

Please note that I have been advised that there is a **Teachers Paid Union Meeting (PUM)** to be held on Wednesday 27 March. This will mean that we will be operating with a skeleton staff after lunch on that day. If parents/caregivers are able to collect their children from school at the beginning of lunch at 12.25pm, it would be a tremendous help. Those children that cannot be collected at that time, will be supervised at school until the end of the day. Buses will run at the same regular times at the end of the school day. A notice will be sent home next week.

Ngā mihi,
Darrel Goosen
Principal