



Monday 12th February 2024

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

We have had a great start to the year, and the disastrous start to last year with the horrendous flooding and weather issues is now a distant memory. Everyone seems to have settled in nicely, and classes have made headway towards their learning journey for the term. Our **student leaders** were all announced at assembly last week and I look forward to seeing their strengths grow over the coming year. They really help to make our school a magic place for everyone to enjoy.

I trust that you will attend the '**Meet the Teacher**' orientation sessions this week, and have noted the **Parent Interviews and Goal Setting** meetings scheduled for next week on the 20th & 22nd of February (the booking notice will be coming home with your child today). I am sure that these will answer some of your questions around how your child's learning will be structured this year. Please email the class teacher if you have any further questions.

Our **special sponsored weekly awards/certificates** are ready for the year, and the first certificates were given out on Friday. They are: Positivity in the Playground, Sports Star, Creative Kid and Magic Person of the Week. Thanks again to our awesome local businesses **Stables Matakana, Summer Sessions, JinJin, Matakana Cinemas and Brick Bay** for their generous sponsorship of these awards, and the great prizes that come with them.

Swimming sports for the Middle and Senior school are scheduled for next week. Unfortunately due to the limited space in the pool area caused by the construction fencing, parents will not be invited to attend. We simply can't fit the children and parent spectators in the small space. No doubt the children will still all enjoy the challenge and competition. The top place getters will attend the Inter School competition that is coming up in a few weeks time.

Our first **Pizza with the Principal** will be held on the 21st February. It is so lovely to spend a little time with the recipients. I love hearing their holiday stories and school experiences. The Pizza, kindly supplied by **Stables Restaurant** always goes down a treat. I look forward to holding the next session towards the end of the term. Congratulations in advance to our first group of recipients, awesome effort!

We have kicked off '**The Tough Stuff**' sessions this week with our Year 4 - 6 students. The programme is outstanding and covers important topics relating to general Health and Wellbeing. Your child would have received a notice outlining these sessions. These sessions are presented by **Kylie Ryan** - well known and respected expert in this field - and funded by our Board. **A parent session is planned for Tuesday 12 March and I would highly recommend you attend.**

It could save you a whole heap of headaches in the future as your children grow and develop, so you really shouldn't miss the opportunity to learn more - you simply don't know what you don't know. More details will be provided soon. If you have any questions regarding the content, please contact your class teacher in the first instance.

Year 5 Camp is scheduled for the 6th - 8th March at Moirs Point, Mangawhai. I am sure all the students are really looking forward to it, and it will be a fabulous experience for them. Thank you to the Senior School Team Leader, Claire Allen, and the senior school teachers for all their planning so far. Fingers crossed for great weather that week.

The **Summer Fun Run** will be held on Friday of next week. There are some great obstacles planned for the students as they run around the track. The ability to sponsor online via *gogetfunding* is operating again this year. This makes it very easy for students with families overseas to get more sponsors if they wish to. Please get behind your children, this is a great event promoting **Health and Wellbeing**, and the first of our fundraisers for the year. Funds raised from this event will be directed towards **the replacement of the heating system for the school pool**. The Year 6 students will also be holding a **Sausage Sizzle** on this day in order to raise funds to subsidise their upcoming camp. With costs that seem to increase daily, this is a great way to enable us to keep the costs down as low as possible so that all students can attend the camp. Parents are welcome to come along to the fun run.

Our school 'Dome' is looking awesome and is nearing completion. We intend to hold a little ribbon cutting ceremony later this term. Very special thanks again to parent **James Mizen** for all his expertise - and patience - in ensuring this project is completed.

At this stage our **Information Centre** is still not able to be accessed due to the ongoing building project in the middle block. We are hoping to be back up and running later in this term. In the meantime teachers have access to picture books that students can read in class. We also have three great local libraries where books can be taken out for continued reading at home. They are located in Point Wells, Snells Beach and Warkworth.

We are proud to be supporting the "**Give a Kid a Blanket**" campaign again for 2024. Each year the school chooses one charity per term to raise funds for. We feel this is something important for our students to embrace, and we encourage them to learn about each one, and what their purpose is. We endeavour to support a range of different areas such as Mental Health, Cancer, Surf Lifesaving, and Bullying prevention/awareness. On these days students can wear non-uniform clothes and are asked to bring along a Gold Coin donation, or in the instance of "Give a Kid a Blanket" quality used goods to be passed on to families in need.

It is great news that **Jin Jin lunches** will be starting again this week. Our students really enjoy their Butter Chicken on a Friday. Jin Jin has added a cold option of a Sesame Chicken Bowl to the menu for us this year. These lunches will now be one 'Medium' size, and served in a biodegradable container. Please note that the ordering cut-off for lunches has moved to **2pm on Thursdays** to help with logistics. After a bit of trial and error last year we have decided that it is best if no half eaten lunches go home in school bags. This creates issues with spilled mess in the bags. We have organised bins for the leftovers to go in, that will be collected as pig food by one of our school parents. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

I have been notified by the MOE that there are a high number of **Measles** cases expected this year in Auckland/Tāmaki Makaurau. Please be vigilant, and take note of the following guidelines that we have been asked to adhere to:

Please check your whānau have had two MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccinations. Whānau can ask their doctor or practice nurse or check children's Well Child Tamariki Ora books. MMR vaccinations are free from GPs or some pharmacies.

- If there is a measles case at school, then children exposed to the virus and who are not immune are at high risk of developing measles. They will have to stay home in quarantine.
- Measles is serious, especially for young children, and can have ongoing effects on immunity from other illnesses.
- Staff without evidence of immunity or two MMR vaccinations will also be excluded from school if exposed to the virus

Ngā mihi, Darrel Goosen
Principal