



News From the Board of Trustees

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

Term one has been a great start to the year, with no weather interruptions. The sports fields have been open all term and the swimming pool has been back in use. Over winter a pool heat pump will be installed to ensure that the pool is a comfortable temperature for all of Term one and Term four moving forward. Proceeds from the Model Boat Show - 19th to 21st of April - will go towards the pool heat pump, so come along and support this initiative and see some amazing model boats on display. It could quite possibly be the largest display of model boats ever in New Zealand.

School Fundraiser – ‘Rock the 80’s’ Bayleys Auction Night 14th June

Our main annual fundraising event, the Bayleys Auction night is being held on Friday the 14th of June, so save the date, as tickets will go on sale soon! If you have any items that could be donated for the auction, please watch out for notices coming out soon, showing how to donate to this great event.

Funds raised from this event will go towards the resurfacing of the area under the new school dome. The surface will be an artificial grass like covering, that will provide a cushioned play and seating area under the shade. Any additional funds raised will go towards providing more educational resources.

Having increased funding would allow us to provide more educational resources on an ongoing basis. On the subject of funding, and while we acknowledge the school donation is voluntary, we had 60% of people make the donation in 2023 and to date in 2024 we are at 26%. We understand that it is not always possible to make the donation, but if you can, please make your school donation through Kindo.

Health and Wellbeing at Matakana School

Last year’s school survey indicated that many parents were not aware of the Health and Wellbeing programs available at Matakana School and while not every child will need all of these services, we felt that it would be useful to highlight some of the programs that are available for those that need them.

The Health and Wellbeing of every child is a very important focus for our school. With the help of funds raised, fees and donations our Principal Darrel and the school staff are implementing the following programs, that in many cases go beyond what is typically available through normal funding.

- **Matakana Magic** - A school value system developed and used regularly through the school, to build a positive school culture by promoting respect for others, developing self-esteem and encouraging children to take responsibility for their own actions.

- **The Tough Stuff** (Years 4-6) - These sessions are delivered by external provider (Kylie Ryan) and cover an array of topics focussed on 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.
- **Student Counselling** - This service is provided by an external professional counsellor (Bridget Farmiloe) and has been set up to support individual students or small groups of students identified by staff, in consultation with parents. Students are supported with a range of issues that can include anxiety, grief, loss, difficulty with emotional regulation, challenging friendships, or changes with families. Approximately 8% of students required this service in 2023 and strong demand has seen us continue this service for one day per week in 2024.
- **Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) Mel Bentley** - Mel works with the Staff and parents to identify students with specific educational needs and delivers or arranges additional support and specific programs for those that need it. One such programme is **Lego Therapy**. This is an evidenced based social skills program for children with specific needs that has been replicated across the world and fits well into the New Zealand context. The therapy model coaches' children to work as a team, using LEGO in a structured way to achieve an outcome together as a group.
- **Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) - Wendy Chittenden** – Wendy oversees the support for students with very high needs, who often receive individualised funding.
- **Seasons Program** - For families working through various forms of change in their lives, such as loss or separation.
- **Pause Breathe Smile** - All Teaching Staff are trained in this mind health programme from the Mental Health Foundation. The programme helps children & adults to regulate emotions, pay attention and build positive relationships. Students develop resilience, increase self-awareness and improve overall happiness.
- **Physical Education** - Sharon Hallett (Sports Specialist). Sharon runs through specific physical education activities with each class, introducing physical activities, games and sporting codes to our students. The idea is to encourage students to be physically active and to enjoy the many sporting facilities and clubs in our area. Sharon coordinates this approach to PE across the school.
- **Garden to Table** - Kim Scott (Kitchen) and Sharon Hallett (Garden) – students are growing, harvesting, and working together to cook healthy food! It teaches students a whole new range of culinary skills and to appreciate where our food comes from.
- **Swimming** - We are fortunate to have a pool to promote water safety and confidence given our proximity to the sea and estuaries. The swimming season will soon be extended with the addition of a new heat pump.
- **Sports Clubs** - We promote the availability of external sporting opportunities such as Matakana Hawks Netball Club and Mahurangi Junior Hockey Club.
- **Life Education** - This is a health-based education resource that aims to help children develop respect, understanding and appreciation of the human body, which comes to the school biannually.
- **Buddy Teacher Programme** - For selected individual students requiring a regular 'catch up' time to discuss any successes and or concerns/worries.
- **Peer Mediators** - Fiona Clarkson runs this 'Peace Foundation' playground support programme, which uses trained students to solve low level student conflict during break times.
- **Student Support Teachers** - To work with students in a 'restorative justice' style of conflict resolution to support higher level playground incidents.

Building Update

Work on rooms 4, 5 & 6 and Info Centre has been completed and the classes will move back into these rooms this week. We look forward to our teachers and students being able to use these classrooms and the reopening of our Info Centre and library facilities.

We are also fortunate that the Ministry of Education has agreed to fund a complete rebuild of room three in the Junior Hub. This work will start in Term 2 and the room will be back in use during Term 3. There are also several other building projects occurring over the next few months, such as an upgrade to classroom lighting, electrical systems, drainage and the staff toilets.

The build project has resulted in the closure of the staff car park and the Kiss, Drop, Drive Zone and this is likely to continue through Term 2. We would like to request that the small 'Emergency' car park near the office is only used by parents and caregivers that have mobility cards or parents picking up children with emergency medical needs from the office. Congestion in this area around pick up and drop off has led to a lack of access for those that need to use this space for mobility reasons. Please respect their needs.

Education Review Office (ERO)

The Education Review Office has recently completed several months of work with Darrel and the Senior Management Team to produce a School Profile Report. The work also included an assurance of the Board of Trustees regulatory and legislative compliance. Overall, we are satisfied with the review, and it will soon be publicly available on our School and the ERO websites. The ERO now has up to three years to conduct a School Evaluation review and report, which will assess our performance and progress towards improving outcomes for all learners. This is a new approach developed by the Education Review Office.

Enjoy the upcoming school holidays and for those heading away we wish you safe travels.

Warmest regards,

Alastair McAuley
Board Chair - On behalf of the Board of Trustees

JUBILEE PARK Pump Track MATAKANA



The Matakana Community Group is thrilled to announce the Diamond Jubilee Park Pump Track project. Matakana Diamond Jubilee Park is a community recreational space located on Matakana Valley road and is also home to the tennis and pony clubs. The pump track will be located behind the tennis courts is designed for use with bikes and scooters.

It will be an exhilarating recreational facility for all ages and a great addition for the children of the area as there are currently minimal community recreational facilities in the village for children. (see attachment for more details)



The Matakana Community Group is seeking support for this project from the Matakana School community, who are likely to be keen users of this facility! If you would like get behind this project please register your support with the council here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnoB0gvTibHfYZKzmyppil75ILW925u0UBs1r53Z5rIMvw6A/viewform?usp=sf_link

The cost of the project is \$440k and fortunately a local philanthropist has agreed to match every donation up to \$220k. The aim is to raise the funds before work starts in November. If you would like to donate to this project please do so here:

<http://www.matakanacommunitygroup.org/contact.html>