



Monday 21 March 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

We certainly hope that the Omicron outbreak will soon be over and we will be able to welcome everyone back on site. In spite of everything going on, it has been wonderful to see students enjoying their time at school and getting out in the playground with their friends at break times.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our parents for keeping their children home when they are sick. Whilst I do understand that it may seem extreme for them to be sent home for just a sniffle, or a cough it is important that we remain vigilant, and try to keep exposure to a minimum. Students are now hyper aware, and are noticing if others in the class have these symptoms. This makes it more important that we act quickly. Several children we have sent home have tested positive for Covid, so please bear with us if you get a call to collect your child. We are trying to do our best to maintain the current protocols and keep disruption to teaching and learning to a minimum. As of today, we have had two teachers test positive for Covid.

Our middle and senior students had a great time at their **swimming sports** days last week. We have some great swimmers in our midst. There were some excellent results. Congratulations to all our place getters. Understandably, the inter-school swimming event has been cancelled. Results have been posted on the Matakana School Facebook page.

Parent interviews and Goal reviews were also held last week. Thank you to all the parents that joined the Zoom links to speak with their child's teacher. I trust that the discussions were productive and that you got answers to questions you may have had.

Each Friday we have been having a **virtual assembly**, with our School Leaders and House Leaders taking turns to lead. We are proud to be presenting our weekly certificates as we normally would, as well as our special sponsor certificates. Thank you to Ellen Edwards for coordinating and publishing the assemblies for students to watch in class. I would also like to remind parents that students are able to wear their **house T Shirts** every Friday if they wish. If your child is new to the school and does not have one, they can be purchased on KINDO.

Our **Year 3** students will be walking down to the **Matakana river** this week as part of the Whitebait Connection study. Students spend time exploring the river environment, and attend an information talk before participating in some hands-on activities by the riverside. It is always a great experience, exploring our local ecosystems.

I hope you also all get to see the awesome **Whale Tail** that Claire Allen and some of our students painted. It is currently on display in the **Matakana Cinema** complex, and also featured on the front page of the Mahurangi Matters. Thank you again to **Plume Cafe**, who very generously sponsored the cost of the tail, and to the Cinemas for providing a location for the public to view it.

It is unfortunate that we had to cancel the **Year 4 Camp** that was scheduled for this week, but we felt that it was the best decision under the current circumstances. Our Year 4 teachers Jess Bertelsen, and Fiona Clarkson have instead planned a day of fun “camp” activities for their classes on Thursday. Students will play some of our giant games, do Hobo cooking, swim and enjoy a fun day around the school grounds. I look forward to joining in, and spending some time with them during the day.

You will have received a notice home in your child’s bag today about the **Summer Fun Run** event that is coming up in a couple of weeks. We plan to go ahead with this event in school time, however parents will be unable to attend at this time. This will be our first fundraising event for the year, and we have once again set up the **Gogetfunding** page to help manage this. Year 6 students will also be able to participate in the **Colour Run** portion at the end of the day. We introduced this as a special experience for our Year 6 students in their last year at Matakana School. All students are encouraged to join in with the Run, the focus is on Health and Wellbeing, but fun is definitely an important factor!

We have the fabulous **Stu Duval** joining us next week for his wonderful workshops. This is always a highlight for the students. Stu is local to our area. His workshops are fun, and interactive, encouraging students to develop a love for Creative Writing.

Our **PTA** is hosting a **Wacky Hair Day** on Friday 8 April. Students will be able to wear Mufti on this day, as well as their best “Wacky” Hair do. A gold coin donation to be collected on the day will be sent to the **Red Cross 2022 “give hope today” appeal**. I am looking forward to seeing some fabulous, and inventive heads of hair. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for some photos.

I trust the rest of the Term will run smoothly.

Noho ora mai



Darrel Goosen