



Monday 23 May 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

I trust you are all doing well, as the weather cools and we head towards winter. We have had a sudden spike in Covid cases amongst students and staff over the past fortnight. It would appear that all the schools in the Mahurangi District have been hit quite hard. This has been challenging for us in terms of staffing and I wish to thank all the teachers, relieving teachers and support staff for all their extra effort to keep disruptions to a minimum. Here's hoping everything continues to settle, and we can get back to a more 'normal' routine as soon as possible. We are still following the appropriate health protocols, and I want to thank you for your cooperation whilst you are on the school grounds. **Just a reminder that should you wish to attend a class assembly, you are required to wear a face mask please. We will have face masks available at the door should you not have one.**

Our **Year 6** students managed to get away to camp a couple of weeks ago at Kawau Island. As always **Camp Bentzon** offers a veritable playground of fun activities, and once again it didn't disappoint. Everyone had a blast, I was so proud to see our students participating, even if it was doing something outside their normal comfort zone. Mrs Steel and I enjoyed our time on the island with them when we went over on Thursday and I came away with some stunning photos of our students enjoying this beautiful location. Thank you to Mr Hatfull, Miss Edwards, Mrs Allen, Miss Sweetman, Mrs Hallett and all the parent helpers for their hard work over the four days keeping 60 odd students happy and safe.

We celebrated **Road Safety week** on the 13th May with a march from the King George statue. Thank you to all the parents and students that dressed up in bright colours and joined the procession down to the school first thing in the morning. We take safety around our school seriously, and I want to thank Mrs Frost for coordinating this march in conjunction with Auckland Transport.

We participated in the national **Pink Shirt Day** on Friday with the clear message to Speak up, Stand Together and Stop Bullying. Students raised \$370 to be donated directly to the Mental Health Foundation. The school was a sea of pink. The PTA kindly offered a sausage sizzle, and ice blocks as a lunchtime treat for the students. Thank you for your support towards such an important cause.

I am very much looking forward to hosting the first of two **Pizza with the Principal** lunches for Term 2 later this week. It's such a pleasure chatting to the worthy recipients from each class. The tasty Pizza courtesy of Stables Matakana is a great treat, and is always well received. We endeavour to ensure that all students have a chance to attend at least once in their time at Matakana School.

As a LEGO Education school, we participate in the FIRST LEGO League competition where **students engage in hands-on STEM experiences, building confidence, growing their knowledge and developing habits of learning.** FIRST LEGO League's three divisions inspire students to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics. It not only provides important skills with design, imagination and fine motor skills, but the enjoyment of seeing the finished product. You will receive a letter home at the end of this week that will invite you to come and view the projects at specific times. We also have the **Auckland Lego User Group** display in the school hall on Sunday of this week (29 June). We hosted this show a couple of years ago, and it proved very popular. Some of the top Lego builders in Auckland will be showcasing their incredible builds. There is also a "lego pit" where you can build your own creation. I feel sure that it will provide some inspiration for Lego builders of all ages.

I trust many of you will take advantage of the contract **Teacher Only Day** coming up on the 3rd June which will turn Queens Birthday weekend into 4 days. However if you do decide to stick around the area, do come along to the school on either the Saturday or Sunday to see the **Matakana Model Boat Show** that will be on in the school hall. This is a very rare opportunity to see some of our local modellers displaying **more than 100** boats, including some replica naval vessels. There will also be racing boats set up in the school pool, along with lovingly made replicas of many of our local wharves. You really must come along and see the work put into these fabulous boats, they are phenomenal. Some are motorised, blow smoke and even have sound horns. Many of you will recognise the brains behind the display, and modeller, local bus driver Allan Harkin, AKA the Matakana Mayor.

Enjoy the next few weeks and stay well.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Goosen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darrel Goosen