



Monday 11th April 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the academic year is over already. The school for the most part has been able to operate its regular daily routines this Term albeit with staff and student absences. Of course the larger activities such as Camps and Sporting events involving parents, whānau and other schools have been missed. I am sure we are all looking forward to having a holiday that resembles some sense of normality and hopefully we will start Term 2 at 'Orange' level.

Once again I would like to extend sincere thanks to our parents who kept their children home when they were sick. Approximately 20% of our students contracted Covid this term and a large percentage of those whom we sent home when presenting symptoms at school, turned out to test positive. We also had 2 teachers test positive this term. Staff and students isolating certainly caused disruption to regular classroom learning programmes but we are glad that the case numbers are now dropping off.

I have an urgent appeal to our parents who have students attending College. **Please do not use our school driveway, staff car park or visitor parking bays to drop your children off in order to catch the College buses in the morning.** It is extremely disruptive to our traffic flow when staff are arriving at school and parents are dropping their primary aged children at our Kiss, Drop & Drive zone. Kindly use the community car park - it's the right thing to do.

Our **Year 3 and 4** students have had **EOTC days** in the last couple of weeks, with the **Whitebait Connection** trip to the Matakana River, and the Games Day at school. You may have seen photos on the school Facebook page and in the school newsletter. Thank you to our teachers for organising these days.

I hosted our second **Pizza with the Principal** for this term at the end of March. As always, chatting to our recipients is very interesting, and I thoroughly enjoy hearing all their stories and having conversations in a more 'one on one' setting. The lovely Pizzas kindly donated by the **Stables Restaurant Matakana** went down a treat, and the boxes emptied very quickly. Well done to all the students that joined me for such a great effort at being magic students!

Our **Summer Fun Run** was a great success. The sun shone and students sat in their house groups cheering each other on as each year group zipped around the track, weaving through the obstacles along the way. We are getting sponsorship money coming in and if you still have forms and money at home please send them back into school by Wednesday. These funds will go a long way to covering the costs for the automatic Chlorine pump for our school pool.

Stu Duval, the iconic Kiwi storyteller, artist and author came to visit last week. There probably wouldn't be a person under the age of 35 who would not have heard him presenting when they were at primary school.

He always manages to capture the hearts and minds of the students, invigorating a passion for storytelling, reading and writing. It was pleasing to see so many students inspired to read and write stories again.

On Friday the PTA hosted a **Wacky Hair Day**, providing prizes for some of the best hair 'do's'. There were definitely some very interesting heads of hair walking around the school that's for sure! It is fantastic to see so many students & teachers get involved and put so much effort into their 'hair'. The gold coin donations of \$296 that were collected will be given to the **Red Cross Appeal for 2022**, "give hope today".

With the last day of school for Term 1 on Wednesday we have decided to have our final assembly outside as a school rather than virtually as we have been doing up until now. I feel sure the atmosphere will be electric, and the sea of house T-shirts will look great. The last lot of special certificates will be handed out, and I feel sure that the vouchers will be well used over the holidays. Thank you to our weekly award sponsors for this Term, **The Stables Matakana, Summer Sessions, Plume Cafe, and Brick Bay**.

If you have some spare time over Easter weekend make sure you pop in to the school hall to check out the annual **Antique Fair**. They always have some great items on display, and very kindly donate their door proceeds back to the school.

Lastly I would like to wish our school community well, and I trust that you will have an enjoyable holiday break. I look forward to hearing about your travels, both around our beautiful country and also finally now overseas. A reminder that the last day of school for the Term is Wednesday, as Thursday of this week is a contractual Teacher only day.

Noho ora mai and happy Easter.



Darrel Goosen

Principal

We are grateful for the support from our Award Sponsors again this Term - Summer Sessions, Plume Cafe, Brick Bay and The Stables Restaurant. Students are really thrilled to receive these awards at assembly.

Congratulations to the following students :-

Magic Student of the Week:

Joziah M Rm4 & Brody H Rm2

Sponsored by The Stables & Smiths

Sports Star of the Week:

Joy I Rm12 & Billy N Rm16

Sponsored by Summer Sessions

Plume Playground Award:

Blake H Rm8 & Hunter C Rm10

Sponsored by Plume Cafe

Creative Kid Award:

Polly-Jean Y Rm12 & Casey T Rm8

Sponsored by Brick Bay