



Monday 12th December 2022

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

And there we have it, the end of another MAGIC academic year. It has been so lovely to be back to relative normality and routine within the school. Unfortunately Illness seems to be higher than usual for this time of year, This seems in part, to be from some residual COVID that still remains within the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell Miss Jess Bertelsen, Mrs Bridget Casanelia and Mrs Donna Frost who are all taking a sabbatical from full time teaching, to spend more time supporting their families. We will also be farewelling Mrs Ashley Brewer who has completed her fixed term teaching contract at our school in the New Entrant class. I would like to thank them all again for their incredible dedication to their teaching duties and to the students in their care. They are truly all wonderful teachers and we look forward to their visits from time to time in various relief teaching capacities.

Next Year we welcome 4 new teachers to our school – Mrs Bev Cooley, who will be teaching in Year 1, Mrs Alysha Adams & Miss Samantha Connery who will both be teaching in Year 3 and Ms Sarah Stubbs who will be teaching in Year 4.

Ms Fiona Clarkson will be the acting Middle School Team Leader while Sophie Mixter (Kurmman) is away on maternity leave next year. Miss Edwards will also be taking on the role of acting Deputy Principal when Mrs Maryann Steel departs on her Sabbatical during Term 1. Mrs Claire Allen will be the acting Senior School team leader during that time.

We will also be under immense pressure to accommodate all our classes next year and classroom space will be at a premium. There will be continuous classroom movements in 2023, whilst most of our rooms and school hall undergo urgent weather tightness repairs. The entire Junior Hub will be unoccupied until urgent structural repairs have taken place. In fact, Room 3 is set to be demolished and rebuilt, hopefully in 2023. Our Junior Hub will now be located across Rooms 13, 14 & 15. They will be renumbered Room 1,2 & 3. This means the Garden to Table sessions will be based in the 'Arts Hub' (behind the pool) from the start of next year. In all probability, our school pool will also be out of bounds. Thank you in advance for bearing with us during this time of disruption. The staff car park will be out of commission as it will become the staging area for the building contractors from early January. This also means that the Kiss, Drop & Drive facility will also be lost and parents will need to use the community car park for all drop-offs and pick-ups.

As expected, we have had a busy run up to the last week of Term 4. Each of the year groups have had **end of year trips** or gatherings this past week. It was a great treat for the students, and an opportunity to 'let their hair down' after a year of hard work. Thank you to all the teachers for their effort in organising these days out, and to the awesome parents that went along to help. The rain and windy weather certainly made things a bit tricky.

Our **Wheels Day** was a great treat for the last term, after being postponed due to the inclement weather. Thankfully the rain stayed away just long enough for each class to have their turn. There was a great array of 'wheeled' sporting gear, The students had a fabulous time out on the courts and around the track. Thank you to teacher Donna Frost for organising such a fun event.

The Junior classes also held their **Run, Jump, Throw** day recently. This is a great introduction to athletics style activities for the younger students. Each child gets to have a turn at the different stations and are rewarded with a much deserved Ice block, kindly handed out by the PTA. Thank you to teacher Janet Goosen for coordinating this event.

The last assembly for the year was held last Friday. This was the **final house assembly**, and there was also a fabulous **Glee performance**. The last house assembly is always full of anticipation and fun, as the winning House for points and spirit of the year is announced. Congratulations Orange House! Thank you to Ellen Edwards for all your work organising the House games and competitions throughout the year.

I thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with the students at our **Year 6 Graduation** on Wednesday night. This is always a bittersweet evening as we say goodbye to our outgoing Year 6 students, but also enjoy the excitement of sharing in their achievements. The slideshow is always a highlight. It is fascinating to see the photos side by side of when these children first started school with nervous smiles to how they look now. They have all grown into truly MAGIC students, ready to head off to their next adventure at high school. I wish them all the best with the rest of their schooling, and feel sure they will go on to do great things. I look forward to hearing of their ongoing achievements, and trust they will visit us at school from time to time. Thank you to all the teachers, and to the PTA for sponsoring the T-shirts that each outgoing student received to commemorate their time at Matakana School. Thanks also to Mrs Kim Scott for making another unbelievable Y6 Graduation Cake!

Our **Prizegiving Assembly** was held today. What an amazing event. A huge congratulations to all the students who received an end of year award. Thank you to all the parents, caregivers and whānau that came along to the assembly. Your support is highly appreciated.

Well, it is our **last day of the 2022 academic year** tomorrow. The day will end at the beginning of lunchtime. Everyone can then start relaxing and hopefully begin to enjoy the sunny days of summer. On behalf of the staff, I wish you all a wonderful festive season. Stay safe during this busy time on the roads, and have a wonderful time with your friends and whānau.

Meri Kirihimete and happy new year!

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

Darrel Goosen

Principal