



Week 8
Newsletter 21st June 2018

Dear parents and families

Ka pai to Mana Syndicate who have accepted the challenge of writing this week's newsletter. Thanks for letting me say my bit!)

These three things – the Report, the Exemplar Folder and the individual 'Personal Best' Portfolio, provide a strong evidence base for a powerful student-led conference. We have got most of the plates spinning now, even if some are a bit wobbly still. We will be 'cooking on gas' by the end of the year.

Reports - Like other primary and intermediate schools in New Zealand, we are building a new framework for reporting to parents now that National Standards have gone. Everyone is working very hard to write and publish these reports. Sadly, we have had some more problems with MUSAC so we are not going to use it this time around. Instead we are writing and publishing the reports in Word which will come out next Wednesday, but they will all be sent out by Friday. We hope this will give you time to consider the report and talk about it with your child over the weekend, so that you can bring it in to our student-led conferences as a basis for discussion with the teacher, to understand what has been achieved and to identify the next steps in the learning journey.

Benchmarks and Exemplar folders - We have been working to build a resource of annotated examples of student work at every level in writing and in maths. These provide a basis for comparison, and for evaluating progress for students, teachers and parents. Our reports should correlate with the 'progression' shown in these 'exemplar folders'. These folders will be available in all the classrooms. You are very welcome to come in and see them anytime.

Individual student portfolios are based on the concept of 'personal best', these portfolios should not be an archive of old work. The learning challenge is always what comes next, for each student to strive to beat their own best work. So the work in the student's individual portfolio should always be recent, because we expect children to be learning and getting better all the time. The sporting metaphor of 'personal best time' is a good one.

Booing at assemblies is hurtful and it is not OK. It never was – at any school I have ever taught in. It happened last week and we were a bit surprised! Sometimes students make poor choices. We will always deal with it but we will do this from an educational perspective. We now have a regular 'in-school' assembly at the start of each week to set clear and positive expectations, and yes, at times to express our disappointment. But we will do this with kindness and respect, even if it also sometimes has a little bit of sadness with it. It's OK to stuff up sometimes as long as we learn from it.

Playground safety - We have had a few accidents on the Tigerturf at playtimes recently, this is partly because the fields are closed, but partly because of some dangerous playtime behaviour, with too many students playing too many big ball games in a small area. We already have a school rule around this; contact games and large ball sports on the courts have to be supervised.

I think maybe we forgot this safety rule! We are now organising how we supervise sports at playtimes on the Tiger turf, so that our students can play as much as possible – but safely. It's so easy when our field are open.

Playground Rules... have not changed!

Here are the rules to remind everyone...

- No running around corners and on the grey concrete. We have had a few trips, collisions and falls around the corners.
- No play fighting
- Contact sports and large ball sports on the court must be supervised.

These are all long established rules which we maybe have forgotten. Nothing has changed, except we remembered the rules. But I promise I will never compromise student safety even at the risk of being unpopular for a while.

Oh, two other things have changed though - we used to have 2 teachers on duty but now we have 6. We changed that at the beginning of term 4 last year. And we now have 13 trained and current first aiders on staff. We used to have 2. The School Trustees Association tell me that many schools have to get by without a single one!

Our new people

You probably know that Sarah Percy and Holly Moore will be joining us next term. Both are very experienced teachers and very nice people! We will invite them along to school to meet parents and students at our Student-led Conferences in the first week of July, though they may have to honour commitments to their current schools.

PUM, PUM, tiddly PUM

Teacher's 'Paid Union Meetings' (PUMs) take place on Friday. The Employment Relations Act gives union members the right to attend two paid union meetings a year but it also requires that schools remain open during paid union meetings. Luckily we have been able to plan to remain open and for learning to continue safely, even though we will have to adapt our programme. So – school is open normal times on Friday, but there will not be a class assembly this week.

If you have a question, a concern or a worry, please come in and ask, or email me on paul@staff.matipo.school.nz, or call me on 0272702473. Fact checking on Facebook doesn't always work out well.

Nga mihi nui

Paul

Happy Birthday this week to: Ryan Lee, Diana Raducu, Oscar Wilson, Oscar Duirs, Alexander Ellis, Victoria Brandao Avila, Tamati Hoskins, Nathan Brunel-Morvan

International student homestays

Thank you so much for your responses so far for homestay students in August. We are still on the lookout for a few more. We would anticipate the students to go to homes in pairs and the payment is \$200 per week per student. The dates are 5th to 19th August. Most of the students are between the ages of 11 and 13. If you are able to host, please contact John Brandon - john@staff.matipo.school.nz

Keeping us safe on the road

Are you able to spare 15 - 20 minutes at the end of the day to help the school? We are in need of parents to monitor the crossing at the corner of Matipo and Taikata Roads. We especially need someone to do Fridays. If you can help, please contact Mrs Clark on marion@staff.matipo.school.nz Thank you so much!

Kapahaka

Just a note about the upcoming Kapahaka Matariki performance. This is on **Sunday 1st July** at the Te Atatu Community Centre. Performances will start at 9:30am. We would love to see you there to show your support! Make sure you bring along some money as we will have a stall selling baked goods to continue to raise money for our new uniforms.

Nga mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori, ki a ratio katoa

Wishing you a Happy Matariki - Māori New Year!

Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster Pleiades (or The Seven Sisters). The rising of Matariki in June heralds the start of the traditional Maori New Year.

In celebration of Matariki, we have been learning waiata and creating art. Keep an eye out for these in our classrooms.



Book Fair Opening

The opening of the Matipo/Scholastic Book Fair was a great success on Monday night and was attended by several staff members, parents and children. A surprise appearance was made by Clifford the Big Red Dog and readings were delivered by Nathan Rarere and a strange hairy pirate who was apparently nameless. Here are some photos from the opening night.



We are having our book week parade tomorrow morning so come dressed as your favourite character and join the fun - there will be prizes. 9am on the Green Court.

Winter Play

Due to the fields being wet and too muddy to play on at the moment, the children have been discovering new ways to play. Children are learning to play to the conditions and this is complex skill that will take time to develop. We have been out and about snapping photos of the different types of play the children are choosing. Check out the photos below.

We are still having lots of slips and falls in the puddles and mud so please ensure you send a change of clothes in your child's bag.

- We have a limited number of clothing items available at the office. So can you please pack a spare change of clothes for your child to have in their bag each day.



Mana Team Camp Poems

Mudslide

The mudslide is a fun ride,
At the end of the slide it has a good tide.
Your feet feel like they are in the middle of a mudpie,
You also feel like you are going to fly.

By Orla and Grace Room 23

Mudslide

The mudslide is cool, at the bottom there's a brown muddy pool.
It's as cold as ice, but it's not very nice.
The mudslide is fun but only in the sun.
At the bottom it's runny, just like honey.
I'll miss it soon, but not in the afternoon.
Yay!

By Mila and Mathilda Room 23

Mudslide

The mudslide is cool, it has a big pool,
At the bottom it smells rotten.
When you go down, the pool is all brown
And it gives you a frown.
When you get in it's like a cold rubbish bin.
It has some stones that hurt your bones.
When you get out you look like a brown brussel sprout,
Without a doubt!
Yeah!

By Noah, Isaac, Nico & Tane Room 23

Litter

I strongly believe that littering kills our environment which is not so fabulous. You see the amount of litter in New Zealand affects our native animals in a dramatic way. The way it affects our environment is that when we drop our litter the litter flows around. Sometimes animals that creep, crawl, hop and fly eat the litter that's on the ground. If that does not happen then the litter goes roaming around until it meets the drain. The drain leads to the sea so of course the litter will end up in the sea where the animals of the sea may eat it and may pass, just because we littered. So I think we should take a stand and fix this problem. If you see a piece of litter on the ground or anywhere then pick it up and put it in the nearest bin you can find, so our country can be a green country. Thank you. **By Marnia Pereira-Mauai Rm 20**