



Dear parents and whanau

Another busy week. The organised house sports are really taking off at break times, and the House points are piling up. On Monday and Tuesday all our teachers and senior leaders worked with Jenny Thompson, University of Auckland, to develop their practice. On Tuesday our Year 6's went off to the Intermediate School to begin their transition process...

Teacher's Strike Friday 15th August

You have probably heard that the NZEI has voted to go on strike for the whole day on Wednesday 15th August. Almost all of the staff at Matipo are likely to participate in this day of action. The Board of Trustees will decide if it is possible to keep the school open on that day. Now that I know the outcome of the Strike Ballot I will consult the Board and ask them to make the call, and let parents know as soon as possible. I hope that our people have realised that we will stay open at Matipo *if at all possible*. However as Principal my first concern is always the safety of students, and it does look difficult to ensure safe supervision on that day, so... it might be wise for parents to make an alternative plan for that day.

As the professional leader of the school with a strong commitment to the future of the profession, I am extremely concerned about the status of the profession. Factors such as the lack of affordable housing and the gradual erosion of pay are certainly a part of this, but much more significant is the ongoing deterioration in respect for and trust accorded to teachers and principals.

As the Principal it is my responsibility to balance the interests and needs of individual students with the interests of all the others, with the safe management and with the strategic development of the school as a whole. I have been doing this for about 28 years, 22 years in New Zealand, and have postgraduate qualifications in school leadership and pedagogy from the Universities of Exeter, Waikato and Auckland. I have to support and motivate teachers whilst helping them grow their professional practice and ensuring this practice is of good quality.

However it is more and more difficult to do this within the model of Tomorrow's Schools, with increasing pressure to meet the individual needs of particular students, and the sometimes shockingly unfair use of social media to denigrate and judge. At times schools respond to this pressure by becoming defensive and hostile to feedback. That's not good, but at times I do understand why this happens - usually after one of my staff or myself personally has been abused for the third time in a single day.

We have great teachers at Matipo and all other schools in Te Atatu, and we need *all* our community to respect and nurture them. I urge all our parents to show support for the teachers and the school. Whatever the outcome of the strike, it is actually the community response and support that will help our teachers to feel valued and respected.

SKIDS

Sapna has asked if the Board would allow her to run a care programme at School on that day. If this is approved by the Board then this would be a private contractual arrangement between SKIDS and parents.

International Student programme

We will ensure that a programme is in place for our International students on that day, and will contact those concerned soon.

The best laid plans of mice and men...

Mr. Thomas has decided not to carry on as class teacher in room 19. Instead Ms. loane will move into the class on a permanent basis. We have contacted everyone who is affected by this directly. Mr Thomas will still work with us for a couple of days each week a release/relieving role around the school.

Quite a week!

Nga mihi nui

Paul Wright

Hare mai to our new entrants... *Julius Ngametua, Jeyvarn Ngametua, Miles Sutton, Rose O'Sullivan, Jacob Fraser, Ryan Harrison.*

And **Happy Birthday** to: Brody Flavell, Brooke Flavell, Ismaeel Williams-Stehlin, Tane Keereweer-Taia, Cleo Duirs, Katara Matthews-Witika, Carter Rameka, Mila Curran, Lamar Rogers, Amber Seiuli, Dylan Keereweer-Taia

Want to LEARN JAPANESE

Tracy who runs our after-school French class is now offering a Japanese class.

Tuesdays 3-4pm

Room 15

Follow the link to enrol - <https://lcfclubs.co.nz/auckland-central-west/class/matipo-school-japanese-term-3-tuesdays/2018-08-07/>

Wardens Update

We are now only looking for a wonderful parent to do our Monday mornings please if you are able to help out there please let Karen Dobbs know or the office if easier email office@staff.matipo.school.nz

Important Dates

6 Aug – International Students start for two weeks

8 Aug – BoT Meeting (7pm)

13 - 17 Aug - Maths Week

31 Aug - Daffodil Day

2 - 8 Sep - Tongan Language Week

10-14 Sept - Ski Camp

4 Sept – Netball Field Day (new date)

12 Sept - Basketball Field Day

12 Sept - BoT Meeting

17-21 Sept – Life Education Trust Week

19 Sept - Rugby Champions of Champions

20 Sept - Market Day

20 Sept - Champions of Champions Rain Day

27 Sept – Cultural Pasifika Festival

28 Sept - Loud Shirt Day

28 Sept - Term 3 Ends