MAUNGATAPERE SCHOOL

Ka whawhai tonu, ake, ake, ake!

Term 2 17 June 2021

Kia ora Parents and Whanau

There has been considerable talk in the media over the last couple of weeks relating to schools, student behaviour and support. This has coincided with the release of an independent review of staffing in primary schools. Some of the key findings have been outlined below for your information.

Welcome to our new pupils and families who have joined our school during the last fortnight: Arya-Rose Ratahi-Bunn.

SUPPORT STAFF WEEK

Last week schools celebrated the role of their support staff across the country. Support staff have key roles in schools supporting not only students and teachers but also our administration and health and safety. Last year teacher aides received pay equity increases to their hourly rate which acknowledged the often complex role they have. Our teacher aides support children to participate in the normal class programme with self-management, academic and medical issues. We currently have 4 teacher aides - Mrs Carol Head, Mrs Lorraine Perry, Mrs Cassie McDougall and Mrs Marion Radich. Our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Andrena Norrish ensures their programme meets the needs of our students as best we can with the resource we have. We also have Mrs Leanne Kemp who works in our school library 2 days a week. Our admin staff, Mrs Jane Attwood and Miss Jordan Barlow are included in the support staff team and have an ever growing and complex role managing school administration and finance tasks. Admin staff are currently going through a pay parity claim with similar administration positions – something they well deserve!

Teacher aides and admin staff are not funded by the Ministry of Education, but come from the bulk grant the school gets each quarter. One of the recommendations in the Puaotanga staffing review is for a centrally funded staffing roll based allowance for teacher aides. This would mean they are not dependent on how much money a school has above their operating costs – often very little.

The other key support staff person in schools is our Caretaker/cleaner Mr Allan Frost. We are extremely lucky to have someone local and with a wide range of skills to maintain our school to a high standard. This includes looking after the pool during the summer.

Last week our students presented the team with little acknowledgments for what they do and we shouted morning tea to let them know we value their role as part of our school team.

ROOM 12 IS NOW OPEN

Our second New Entrant room started this week with 7 students moving from R5 across with their teachers Mrs Jackie Hamilton (Monday and Friday) and Miss Brooke Hepi (Tuesday –Thursday).

This team teaching approach worked well last year with our new students and we have the space to take our 5 year old children for the remainder of the year. The small class size will allow the children entering to have a good start to school. Parents will be contacted near the time children start where we have you on the list. Families new to the area will need to contact the school if you have children starting during the remainder of the year.



2022 NEW ENTRANT OUT OF ZONE ENROLMENTS

While the out of zone form is on our website, spaces will be advertised in September. In previous years vacancies have only been available at the new entrant level with siblings having first priority.

PUAOTANGA INDEPENDENT STAFFING REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

This has looked at current staffing systems within our education sector and identified the many disparities particularly between primary and secondary staffing levels. While staffing for Y1-3 has been reduced, staffing for Y4-8 is currently 1:29. Because schools are staffed on an overall ratio this can mean that classes are often more. Y9/10 staffing ratio is 1:23. The review is asking for this ratio to be gradually reduced to be the same by 2030. There is also considerable inequities in pay, allowances and release time between primary, middle and area schools compared with secondary schools. The review suggests implementing steps over the next 7 years to address this.

Management staffing in primary schools is funded very differently from secondary schools meaning the level of management support is very different. This makes it hard for primary schools to utilise senior staff who are also full time teachers. They are not available to support students or teachers in schools, nor help with the overall manage-

ment of the school. In many primary schools not even the principal is fully released. An increase in this area is needed to ensure equity for schools and address workload issues.

There are many more areas that have been addressed by the staffing review. Implementation will no doubt come down to funding and take time. It is important however that the Ministry of Education and the Minister have acknowledged the disparities.

AGRICULTURE DAY

At the end of term we will be sharing information about Agriculture Day with our students at a special assembly. As a rural school we have a proud tradition of holding Ag Day and our students being able to experience raising a baby farm animal and show it. Students can raise a calf, lamb or goat. They are also able to raise chickens. As we will need to order chicken numbers soon, you will need to consider your choices. Further information will come home shortly. Those families unable to have an animal will have other options related to growing and creating for the day. Our Ag Day



assembly is on Wednesday 7 July – 9am in the hall and parents are welcome to come along and learn about caring for and training a farm animal.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council are holding auditions for a finals talent quest on Monday 5 July at lunchtime. Junior auditions are next Monday 21 June and senior auditions Wednesday 23 June. Students and parents are welcome to come to the final but the auditions will not have an audience.

They are also organising a fictional dress up fun day on Tuesday 29 June where students can dress up in their favourite fictional character.

SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Spencer Foot Rm2 - For your awesome resilience on tricky tasks. Keep it up Spencer!

Rihaan Jay Nair Rm11 - For making great progress with his word and sound knowledge!

Chantel Muller Rm9 - For being a helpful and supportive member of Room 9.

Avery Morgan Rm11 - For being an independent learner and working extra hard to learn her spelling words.

Emily Ritchie Rm14 - For always having a positive attitude and trying her best.

Isaac Ruddell Rm2 - For his persistence on tricky tasks! Keep up the awesome attitude Isaac.

ON LINE SAFETY

www.nationalonlinesafety.com is a good website to support parents in online safety with your children. There are excellent Top Tips for Parents sheets that give information about apps like TikTok, Instagram, Fortnight etc.

TERM CALENDAR

Wed 30 June - Open Day

Fri 09 July - Last day of Term 2

REMINDERS

MPE Parent Facebook Page - A reminder to new families this page does not belong to the school. We do have a school Facebook page which is used to share information and events but if you have any questions or need to know anything please contact the school.

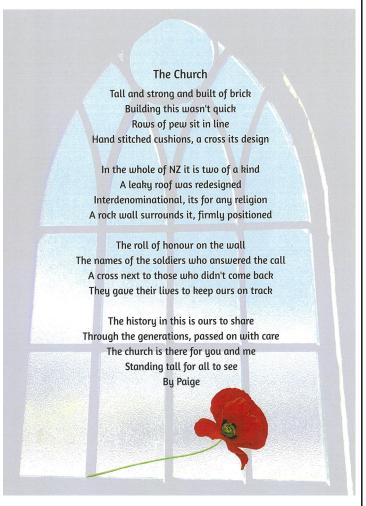
SeeSaw App for Reporting to Parents - Some families have still not downloaded this app. It is important you do so as it is how your children's work will be shared with you this term. Information and a specific QR Code has been shared with you – many are in your child's homework book if you cannot find it.

Car Park Use - While our new carpark is generally working well it can become blocked up in the afternoon.

It would be better if parents used the empty carparks to pull into rather than waiting for the drop off zone to become free. This will stop the backlog on to the road at the peak time. Sometimes there are empty parks and cars queuing out the entrance. Parents are welcome to come into the school to collect their students from the car area by the gate.

PTA - Next meeting is on the 28th June. All are welcome. **Board of Trustees Meeting** - This was held last night. Meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month.





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