

VISION STATEMENT

*Equip for Life
Prepare for Eternity
Whakarawe mā mataora
Whakareri mā āke tonu atu*



Weeks: **1 - 3**

Term 1 2024:
31 Kohitātea (January)

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Walkthrough
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WELCOME TO THE 2024 MCS SCHOOL YEAR

MEET THE AWESOME MCS STAFFING TEAM



Left to right: Mrs Atkins, Mrs Fawcett, Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs Uerata, Mr Paterson, Mrs Evans, Mrs Thurlow, Mrs Bloomfield, Mrs Stevens and Miss Thomasen. Absent were Mrs Steed-Conway, Mrs Franklyn, Mr Brookes and Mrs Smith.

We are blessed to have a complete team of staff as we roll into the 2024 school year. Some are new to our team and we are very excited to have them on board. Here's who you need to know:

Principal: Mr Paterson

Years 0—2: Miss Thomasen

Years 2—3: Mrs Atkins

Year 4: Mrs Bloomfield

Years 5—6: Mrs Uerata and Mrs Tomlinson

Years 7—8: Mrs Evans and Mrs Fawcett

Office: Mrs Thurlow

Teacher Aides: Mrs Stevens and Mrs Steed-Conway

Grounds: Mr Brookes

Uniform: Mrs Smith

Please remember you are always very welcome in at school so come in and chat with your children's teachers and be part of our school. Remember the staff above are only the frontline team too. We also have our Sports Academy parents, our School Board members and our Proprietor (PCE) team along with lots of other volunteers. It's a big group making a great school happen.

From the Desk of the Tumuaki

Welcome to the 2024 school year. We hope you have had a superb summer break, enjoyed celebrating Christmas, and had a great time with your family. We have a full team of excellent staff, a growing roll and a lot of great things planned for this year. We are looking forward to rolling these out and watching our kids grow.

We have a large number of new students starting over the next few days. We welcome the following students and their families; Christopher Fouhy, Joy Lecky and Malea Meisterhan in the Junior class, Marcus Oh, Imani-Mariah Goodare, Han-ju Marx, Deacon Morley, Aldrian and Aldrich Muli in our Year 2/3 class, John Gabriel Magan and Carter and Hunter Henn in our Year 4 class, Blake Henn and Zephaniah Goodare in our Year 5/6 class, and Beulah Goodare, Thomas McCallum, Adriel Magan and Rafael Pana in our Year 7/8 class. This now gives us 99 students, the highest we have been for a very long time, and only two short of the 101 we need and have been praying for to have our extra classroom fully funded by the government. This of course will make a very big difference to our school finances too so we ask you to pray with us for this.

We have eight more new entrants enrolled to start during the year. As a result this actually means we only have 13 places left before our roll is full at 120! If you know anyone who is hoping to enrol during the year we would recommend you get them to do so as soon as possible to reserve their spot.

Having High Expectations

At Matamata Christian School we have always prided ourselves on having high expectations of our students. One of the great things about working in a school such as this is that you know that when parents send their children here they really want them to be here and do well. Our parents have high hopes for their children and so do our staff.

Let me encourage you to share your high hopes with your children. Our core value this term is respect and part of developing this in ourselves is understanding never to settle for less, regardless of what we feel inclined to do. Likewise, we should always expect the best from ourselves and each other in the way we treat people, elders, God, property and the environment. It is part of our Christian character development.

I once shared with you some research carried out in the United Kingdom about high expectations. There they had taken two groups of similar ability students. One of these groups was told that they were all expected to pass the course they were doing, and in the end they all did. The other group was told that it was a very tough course but to just do their best. Only one third of this group passed! The power of your words, your expectations and your encouragement is significant.

Let me also remind you of another story I have shared many times before. In a principal's meeting I once attended an educational expert shared with us a photograph of the 2010 medical graduates in Auckland. He asked us what we noticed. Every graduate in the photo was of Asian descent. When asked why this was so people suggested a common argument that Asians tend to be very bright. It was interesting to then have revealed to us that the average IQ of Asians is in fact lower than the average IQ of New Zealanders! So what was the difference? It was simple, Asian parents expected their children to work hard to achieve and never give up. It was alright to not understand something, but instead of getting frustrated and giving up, children were taught to say, "This is really hard and I don't get it...yet. But I'm going to keep working at it until I do

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Respect Quote

"Treat all human beings with dignity, equality and respect. When we look at any other person, we do not see the label but the image of God. We see someone created by God, addressed by God, accountable to God, loved by God, valued, and evaluated by God"

- Kathleen O'Hare

get it."

There are lots of things that are going to be hard in both life and at school. We need our children to accept this and have the determination to persevere at all they do. We try to shape our classes and learning to achieve this and we want you to encourage this in your children too. It's perseverance, also called resilience.

All our staff are here to help every student do better and better all the time. Even the resources we invest into are aimed to achieve this.

So this year please partner with us in encouraging high but realistic expectations in your children. Help them to goal set and then believe that they can achieve and do well in all areas they strive for, even if this has been an area of difficulty in the past. Don't let them ever give in.

God bless

Alistair Paterson

Prayer Requests...

We appreciate your prayers for the school. Here's what's big on our minds at the moment:

- Praise God for all our new families and our great new staff He has provided us with.
- Please pray for the 101 students we are seeking to enable our new class to be fully government funded.
- Please pray that all our students, and particularly anyone who is new, will settle in well, make quality friends and excel in the school.
- Please pray for all our new staff to establish themselves quickly, to build in their confidence and be a real blessing in the school and community.

News - Kawepūrongo

WHAT'S NEW AT MCS?

During the holidays a few key projects happened preparing the school for the new year:

Room 1, which houses our Year 4's this year, has had brand new carpet installed. This looks really amazing so make sure you pop in for a look.



The rooves of all the buildings have all been repainted. They were once green (or in one case orange) and now feature a modern iron sand colour. This is the start of a new change in colour for the school which will hopefully be completed with the walls painted too later in the year.

All the curtains and blinds have now been fitted across all the classrooms giving a fresh feel, better insulation, and better light blackout when electrical screens are being used.

And new lines have been painted on the courts by our groundsman.

Our grateful thanks go to our two boards who funded these projects.



SWIMMING

School swimming starts next week on **Wednesday the 7th of February**. All students will be bused to the Matamata Pools every Wednesday and Friday mid morning for four weeks and a total of eight lessons.



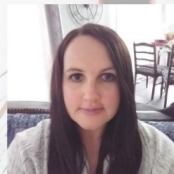
Swimming is a really important component of our PE programme as it doesn't just develop physical skills but develops safety in the water including knowledge of what to do if you get in trouble. With New Zealand being surrounded by ocean and blessed with beautiful lakes and rivers, swimming is a crucial skill to master. **Please help your child to come with their swimming gear each Wednesday and Friday** and encourage them to be fully involved. Notes need to please be sent if your child is unable to swim.

The cost of swimming and the bus trips are being covered by the school for all students as part of the government's sponsorship programme.



HOLLY BLAIR ACCOUNTING

AFFORDABLE ACCOUNTING
XERO PARTNER/ADVISOR

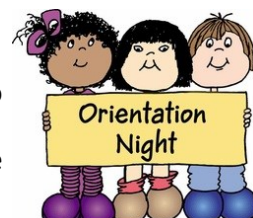


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Email: holly@hollyblairaccounting.com

I work from home in Matamata, email for an appointment.

FAMILY PICNIC AND O'NIGHT

Universities have O'Week, we have O'Night. O'Night is for our parents to understand what is happening in your children's classes and to get the run down on how things work. We kick off with a family picnic where we can all meet different members of the community and welcome in new families.



This year this will be held in Week 4 on **Monday the 19th of February**. The family picnic starts from 5:45PM and is open to anyone in our school community. Please pack a picnic dinner and come and join us to meet new members to our community and catch up with older members.

O'Night will follow this starting at 6:30PM. Parents can visit each of your children's classes and hear their teachers talk about what happens in the classroom, what you can expect and what things you need to know. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, but please note this is a general meeting for 15 minutes per class and not a parent interview. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher about your child please make a time to come and see them. These can be made all year round. We do not schedule formal interviews and prefer parents to come in as frequently as they need to all year round.

Family Picnic: Starts at 5:45PM

O'Night: Miss Thomasen (Y1-2): 6:30PM

Mrs Atkins (Y2-3): 6:45PM

Mrs Bloomfield (Y4): 7PM

Mrs Uerata / Mrs Tomlinson (Y5-6): 7:15PM

Mrs Evans / Mrs Fawcett (Y7-8): 7:30PM

YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS

The Year 7 immunisations are coming up this term. On Tuesday the 20th of February Year 7 students will be educated about what these are and the Health Nurse will send home a consent form with every child. **Note that this has nothing to do with any Coronavirus vaccines** but are rather the normal annual Year 7 vaccinations. These forms need to please be completed and sent back to school as soon as possible. All forms need to be returned whether you choose to give consent or want to turn this down.



If you do not want your child to attend the information briefing when it happens please let Mrs Evans know.

For more on Year 7 immunisations see also HPV immunisations on page 6.



SPORTS ACADEMY IS BACK FOR 2024!

In 2023 we started our new Sports Academy which has been a big hit with our students and families. Now it's back for 2024.

Aimed at students Year 3 and up, the MCS Sports Academy is run after school each Thursday afternoon, 3:15—4:30PM, by a faithful group of parents, and will start in our third week back on Thursday the 15th of February. Students are taught general ball and fine motor skills, specific sports skills and will develop their fitness.

The vision of Sports Academy is to have our students better prepared for playing sports and to develop in them a healthy passion for moving, staying fit, enjoying developing physical skills and competing. We want them to be better prepared, fitter and more skilled when we hit the first games of the season.

Outside of Sports Academy our students get the opportunity to be involved in after school leagues or Saturday sports in Futsal, Minball, Touch Rugby, Cricket, Netball and Hockey. Beyond that parents can enrol them in club level Soccer and Rugby. Sports Academy intentionally contributes to their development in all these codes.

We want as many of our students from Year 3 up to sign up and commit to being part of this development (it is not a commitment to signing up for a sport), and we really need as many parents coming to help run this as possible please. This is an excellent way for parents to be able to be a part of something great with your children. If you have a passion or drive for any sports please consider helping us train our children. Please talk to Lindi van Deventer, or Mr Paterson for more details or to volunteer to be a part.

Sport in Term 1 will be announced as soon as details come in.



WHY SHOULD I ENCOURAGE MY CHILD TO BE PART OF SPORTS?

We really believe in children being part of sports. Sports teaches students things that they will often only learn by being involved in sports, things such as:

- the development of fine motor skills
- co-ordination
- fitness for their health and well-being
- sportsmanship
- how to be an excellent team player
- leadership
- precision
- learning to commit to being part of something and seeing it through
- learning how to win and lose with grace

STUDENT SIGN UP FORM (Please return to the school office)

Yes we are keen to be part of the MCS Sports Academy. Our children to include are (names):

The MCS Sports Academy will run each Thursday 3:15 - 4:30PM and I know I am responsible for picking them up at 4:30PM.

Signed: _____ Name of signatory: _____

News - Kawepūrongo

TERM 1 TOPICS

Every year we review and develop our teaching curriculum to meet the needs of our students. We have always been very proud of the curriculum we develop and the topics we teach in 2024 will be no different. Each year our needs change and areas of student's competencies and social needs adjust too. We believe over the years we have developed an excellent curriculum that responds to this.

In the first term of each year we always have our Kid on the Rock unit. This is a two year programme that this year looks at who your child is, how they fit into their school and the world around them, and why your family is so special and should be treasured. The second part of this unit helps them to understand how they learn effectively and helps them develop learning tools and critical thinking skills they can employ throughout their schooling. In Year 2 of the cycle (next year), we look at our heritage and delve into Aotearoa New Zealand history.

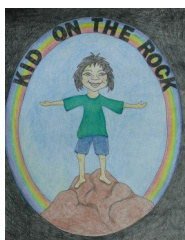
As part of our Kid on the Rock unit this year we have our bi-annual whole school camp at Finlay Park Adventure Camp on the banks of Lake Karapiro. More details will follow soon about this but at this point it is set to be in the first week of next term. Camp is one of the few things we charge for, and while cost details are still to come, families can start paying toward this now.

Whole school camp is about new experiences and facing new challenges, and bonding our school and community together. For most activities we operate out of our four house teams which helps students identify with their team and bond strongly. We encourage parents to come and be part of camp with us to be part of this process. For those who need to be at work during the day, Finlay Park is close to Matamata so you can consider joining us for any of the evening programmes.

Our whole curriculum is designed to be impacting. At our heart we are partnering with you to help develop your children academically, spiritually, physically and to be emotionally well balanced.

So, other than Reading, Writing and Mathematics our topics can be found on the chart on this page. (Note Year 7 and 8 will not be part of the *Great Art Swap* this year as much of this content is also covered in the Tech Arts programme they have at the Intermediate).

Each year I like to remind parents of the following point. One of the biggest ways you can help your child with their academic learning and their ability to learn how to socialise, work with and get on with others, is to make time to talk to them every day. Ask them about their learning, about their friends, and their understanding of God. Recognise that because they are growing and learning to understand their world they will not always interpret things correctly. That's why they need to talk to you so much. A statistic I remind people of explains that 80% of the feedback a child gets is from their peers, and of that feedback 80% of it is always wrong! This isn't just about their work but about their understanding of life and friendships too. Please take the time to listen to and input into their lives.



Can we ask one more thing of you too? From time to time children will share something that doesn't always make sense or sounds concerning. If this happens please take the time to discuss it with your child's teacher. Children do not always have the right end of the stick and this can usually be quickly sorted with a swift polite visit.

Sometimes there are things that happen that teachers don't know about but could do with knowing. This can be very beneficial for helping staff deal with different matters and it helps diffuse situations before they ever become big ones. The same can be said if you have a complaint. We do want to know and sort potential problems.

With an additional class in the mix and a superb staff we are full of expectation for what this year will bring.

Term 1 Topics

Bible	Y1-3: Bible Narratives (stories) Y4: 'The Ology'. Developing detail about God's ways Y5-6: 30 God's Story Y7-8: New Testament Survey
Core Value	Respect
Memory Verses	From Exodus:20:1—17 (The 10 Commandments) Respect: Philippians 2:3—4
Theme / Health	Kid on the Rock Also: - Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Anzac Day - Sun Safety
Māori	Mihi / Pepeha Class objects
The Great Art Swap	Room 5: 3D Visual Art Room 1: Robotics Room 2: Dance Room 3: Tech Arts Room 4: 2D Visual Art
P.E.	Swimming Athletics

HPV IMMUNISATIONS

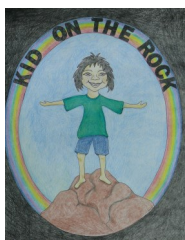
All Year 7 and 8 students are eligible to receive for free the HPV immunisations. Please note that this is not offered in our school and you will need to get this through your local GP if you want them to have this.



News - Kawepūrongo

TERM 4 AWARDS

At our end of Term 4 assembly last year we got to celebrate students who had done well over the term. Students can earn Rockstar Awards by earning points in four areas; attendance, punctuality, homework completion and taking pride in their school uniform. They can earn their memory verse certificates by learning the set number of verses for the term. Below are our group of Rockstars who made it last term. Congratulations team!



Each term we also have badge awards for two students from each class who have shown to be outstanding in our term's core value development, (last term for compassion), and up to two across the school who can get a Principal's Award for anything else outstanding that they may have achieved. This term we gave one award in this field.

This term's compassion badge awards went to:

Years 1/2: Miciah Velk

Mason Thorne-George

Years 3/4: Maia Robinson-Akkersma

Mika Mataitoga

Years 5/6: Tabitha Madanawa

Arlo Muir

Years 7/8: Joané Havenga

Amelia Hawes

The Principal's Award went to Isla Uerata. This was for her leadership and development of giftings God has given her particularly around the end of year activities that were part of the programme.

A list of significant sports achievement awards were given and a new special recognition award for up and coming stars from the Christmas Walkthrough were also given to Lacey Raeburn and Keanu Dearn.

Above:

**Term 4 2023
Rockstar and
Memory Verse
recipients.**

Right:

**Term 4 2023
Compassion and
Principal Award
recipients**



CHRISTMAS WALKTHROUGH

Thank you for joining us for last year's Christmas Walkthrough as we celebrated the story of what God has done in sending His Son for us. This story continues with Stations of the Cross this Easter.

The miracle of our night was the weather event that hovered over our region. While we had light rain that did not disrupt our event, families travelling in to Matamata reported very heavy rain outside the town with a break in the weather that only hovered over Matamata that night! What a wonderful and faithful God we have!



Even More News - Kawepūrongo

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A big thank you to all those who came in and sorted their school uniform last week, and for everyone having their stationery ready for today.

Please can you make sure that each item of your children's uniform is named. This makes it very easy to return if it is found roaming around looking for its owner!

Please remember black sandals are our footwear in summer but we recommend you check the quality of these before buying them. Sandals need to be plain black. While there are a range of acceptable ones please note they cannot be fashion items or notably label branded. We are only accepting other types of footwear where this is accompanied by a doctors note explaining why an alternative is needed. Every student must also wear a school hat in Terms 1 and 4 for sun safe protection. These can be bought at school and are designed to be practical and give excellent protection.



PLEASE WATCH YOUR SPEED

Please note that during peak school hours at the start and end of each school day the speed limit around schools drops to 40km/h. In the first few weeks of term the Police are particularly vigilant about monitoring this and driver behaviours around schools.



Please also recognise and respect the 10km/h speed limit within the school carpark. Unfortunately children get distracted and are not good at looking for cars or at judging their speed. Where possible please drop off and pick up your children on the school footpath side of the carpark to reduce the need for students to need to cross over in the carpark.



Dates for your Calendar

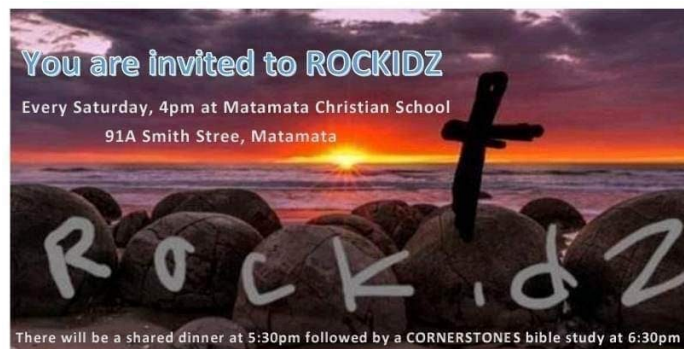
February

6th	Waitangi Day Holiday
7th	Swimming Starts
9th	Swimming
9th	Road Patrol Training Refresher
14th	Swimming
15th	Sports Academy Starts
15th	PCE Meeting
16th	Swimming
19th	O' Night
20th	Parent Connect Group Starts
20th	Y7 Immunisation Education Session
20th	School Board Meeting
21st	Swimming
22nd	Sports Academy
23rd	Swimming
28th	Swimming



Church Community Notices

This column has been set up to support local church and Christian community events. If your church has an exciting event coming up they can advertise it here for free by sending details or advertising to office@matamata.school.nz



Some of our parents have got together and created a parents connect group which meets fortnightly in the school library.



This is an opportunity for parents to get together and enjoy a time of community together. The next get together is next week, **Tuesday the 20th of February between 9—10:30AM**. Come and enjoy tea and coffee together and meet other school families.

WE HAVE LIFTOFF!

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