

VISION STATEMENT

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



Weeks: **9 - 10**

Term 4 2023:
4 Hakihea (December)

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Christmas at Home
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IT'S TIME FOR THE CHRISTMAS WALKTHROUGH

We've hit December and it's now time for our bi-annual Christmas Walkthrough. This Tuesday evening we are very excited to bring you *The Story Begins*, a five scene retelling of key elements of the Christmas story. The show runs for one night only, tomorrow night, and is open to the whole Matamata community.

Tomorrow night we please need all our students dropped off to get into their costumes from 5:30PM. Once dropped off, unless a helper, we will then ask you to line up at the school's front gate for the show to start at 6PM. Groups will go through about 15 at a time.

Each scene runs for a pre set period of time. You will stay with your group and walk through each of the five scenes through to the end which finishes near the playground at the manger where Jesus has been born and a choir will be singing. Your children will be in one of the five scenes.



Each of the scenes is repeated until everyone has been through. In past years this has taken approximately an hour.

At the end you are very welcome to join our community to relax and enjoy the singing, each others company and unwind as we prepare for Christmas. There will be sausages, burgers, cakes, cold drinks, tea and coffee for sale for you to enjoy. You are very welcome to bring your own food and have a picnic dinner if you would like to. This is a chance for you to enjoy the community.

During the performance can we please ask you not to have any other children on the playground as the noise from this may drown out the choir in the manger scene. Children are very welcome on the playground after the performance is finished.

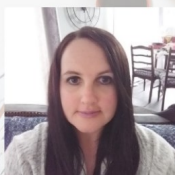
Please remember entry is completely free and anyone is welcome to come. Invite friends and family and your church. We usually get good numbers.

Parking will be available on the school field and we ask you please to drive very slowly and be aware of people walking through.



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From the Desk of the Tumuaki

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

We're nearly at Christmas, and this is the last school newsletter of the year. We want to thank you for all the support you have given us throughout it. This has been a year where the school has grown considerably and there have been many changes. It has been a good year and we hope it has been for you too.

In this edition you will note there are still a lot of things on in the last two weeks of term. We hope you can be a part of them, and especially the Christmas Walkthrough tomorrow night.

This event helps turn our eyes toward Christmas and the important message we have to share. But we also want to help with that by adding a set of Advent devotions that you can share together over 25 days. Give them a try as a family. Families are important to God and yours matters to Him very much. He wants your family to be a safe, loving haven where you can raise your children to love and obey Him and believe in His Son, Jesus.

Remember, as parents, God gives you the awesome job of teaching your children about Him and His Word. At school we help you with that but you are the one who has the mandate from God. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:4—9: *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

I shared the first nine days of these devotions in the last edition of the newsletter, so here we carry on with them picking up from day 10. If you can't find your last newsletter this is available on the school website under 'News and Events'.

My thanks goes to Carol Garborg and The Family Book of Advent for the basis of her ideas here.

Advent Devotions Part II (Advent means coming)

Day 10— A Parent to Love Me: An Angel tells Joseph Mary's Baby is God's own Son. Read *Matthew 1:18—24*. If your child is old enough for the discussion discuss what the circumstances and repercussions were in these times for Mary being pregnant.

Day 11— No Complaining: Joseph and Mary leave for Bethlehem. Read *Luke 2:1—5*. Reflect on what this journey must have been like for Mary—a considerable distance on a donkey. Understand that travelling to Bethlehem would fulfil a prophecy written 700 years before in *Micah 5:2*.

Day 12— Happy Birthday, Jesus!: Jesus is born. Read *Luke 2:6—7*. Reflect on where Jesus was born, not where someone so deserving should be born. The stable reminds us that **Jesus came into the world with nothing**. The shepherds represent us – the people that Jesus came to serve. Sheep play an important role in the stories in the Bible. Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God.

Day 13— A Whole Lot of Angels: A group of angels praise God. Read *Luke 2:13—14*. Why did the angels make such a public announcement?

Day 14— Scared Shepherds: Angels appear to the shepherds. Read *Luke 2:8—14*. How do you think you would have responded if you had been one of these shepherds?

Day 15— Good News: The shepherds spread the Good News of Jesus' birth. Read *Luke 2:15—18*. The shepherds actually spread the Good News everywhere they went. That's your job too!

Day 16— What's in a Name?: Simeon and Anna meet Jesus in the Temple. Read *Luke 2:22—38*. Jesus was six weeks old when He was taken to the Temple as per the requirements. Why do you think this was so special to Simeon and Anna? Simeon means 'hearing', Anna means 'grace' or 'favour'. What do your names mean?

Day 17— Follow the Star: The Magi follow the star. Read *Matthew 2:1—2*. There is a long history to the Magi. Back in Daniel's day he

Footwear - from babies to first years of school



had trained them in Scripture and what signs to look out for. While legend has us believe there were three Magi it is likely there were a lot more, and they would have travelled with their own special army! Herod claimed to be king and had bought this position from Rome. The Magi were quick to point out they were searching for one born to be King.

Day 18— Just One King: King Herod is jealous of Jesus. Read *Matthew 2:3—8*. Jerusalem was in tumultuous times. It was close to the border and wars were frequent. Herod had not long been in Jerusalem because it had been too dangerous for him to be there prior. The city was on edge with the arrival of the Magi and Herod could only see Jesus as a threat to his authority.

Day 19— Gifts for a King: The Magi give gifts to Jesus. Read *Matthew 2:9—11*. It is unlikely the Magi arrived the night of Jesus birth. It could have been some time after. The Magi's gifts were picked prophetically. Why give a baby gifts such as gold, frankincense and myrrh? They represented Christ's role of King, Priest, and Saviour. Gold represented His Kingship, frankincense was a spice used in priestly duties, but myrrh was an embalming ointment signifying His death to come!

Day 20— Escape: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus escape to Egypt. Read *Matthew 2:12—15*. Why do you think they were on the run to Egypt?

Day 21— Safe: Herod sends soldiers to Bethlehem. Read *Matthew 2:16—18*. It was nearly two years before Herod actioned his troops. But what awful orders they had. How do you think the people would have responded to Herod after this? There was another time in history when such an order had been given, do you remember what that was for?

Day 22— Home Again: Jesus and His family go home to Nazareth. Read *Matthew 2:19—23*. Note here that more prophecy is being fulfilled. Also note there were two Herod's around at these times. The first that had ordered the deaths of children under two was now dead. A short time later came one who was a bit of a party-king and somewhat of a loose canon.

Day 23— The Waiting Reward: Jesus grows up in Nazareth. Read *Luke 2:39—52*. These were years Jesus spent preparing for His mission which started when He was about 30 years old. It is interesting to note that many people hit their stride in ministry when they are in their 30's.

Day 24— The Rising Sun: Jesus brings Light into the world. Read *Isaiah 9:2* and *Luke 1:78—79*. How is God's Word the Light? By contrast what is darkness?

Day 25— Coming Again: Jesus is coming back to Earth. Read *Acts 1:9—11*. Ponder what this might mean.

Did you know there were some 200 prophecies to help us recognise Jesus in His first-coming and when that first-coming would be? Jesus will return again and there are nearly eight times more prophecies about His second-coming than the first time that you can explore!

May you and your family be really blessed this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

News - Kawepūrongo

END OF YEAR PRIZEGIVING

This year's prize giving is being held on **Tuesday the 12th of December, 6:30PM at Matamata Bible Church** on Meura Street.

It will be a slightly shorter event because of the Christmas Walkthrough already being completed the week before, (we usually have the prize giving and an end of year production together in other years). We would appreciate it please if children can be there by **6:15PM in their best, clean school uniform** to sit in their class groups.

On the night we will have our normal prize giving celebrations mixed with Christmas songs that our students will perform.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

This term's final assembly will be on **Thursday the 14th at 9AM** in Room 5 at school. This is a different celebration from the prize giving as it is celebrating the term's achievements as opposed to the year's achievements. As always all family members are welcome to join us.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

On Friday the 8th of December we are looking forward to celebrating with many in our community who have spent considerable time during the year helping out the school, staff and students. There are a lot of people on the guest list and we are sincerely hoping we have not missed anyone out. Let us know if we've missed you.

People have contributed in many ways by helping in classrooms and helping with the grounds through to helping



organise and execute events such as the Christmas Walkthrough and Light Party. There are too many individual activities to list but we are immeasurably grateful to all.

If you are one of our volunteers we would love to see you here at 12:30PM on the 8th.

YEAR 8 LEAVERS

We have been given a special invitation from Finlay Park Adventure Camp



to celebrate our Year 8 leavers with a one off end of year farewell activity. Finlay Park need students to take part in kayaking while their instructors go through their annual certification but are offering our Year 8's the chance to take part in their bush craft activities, have a picnic, and play some games too. There are normally charges for each of these activities but they are only being charged a day cost which the school is going to cover.

This will take place in the last week on Wednesday the 13th of December. More details will be sent home for this.

SCHOOL REPORTS

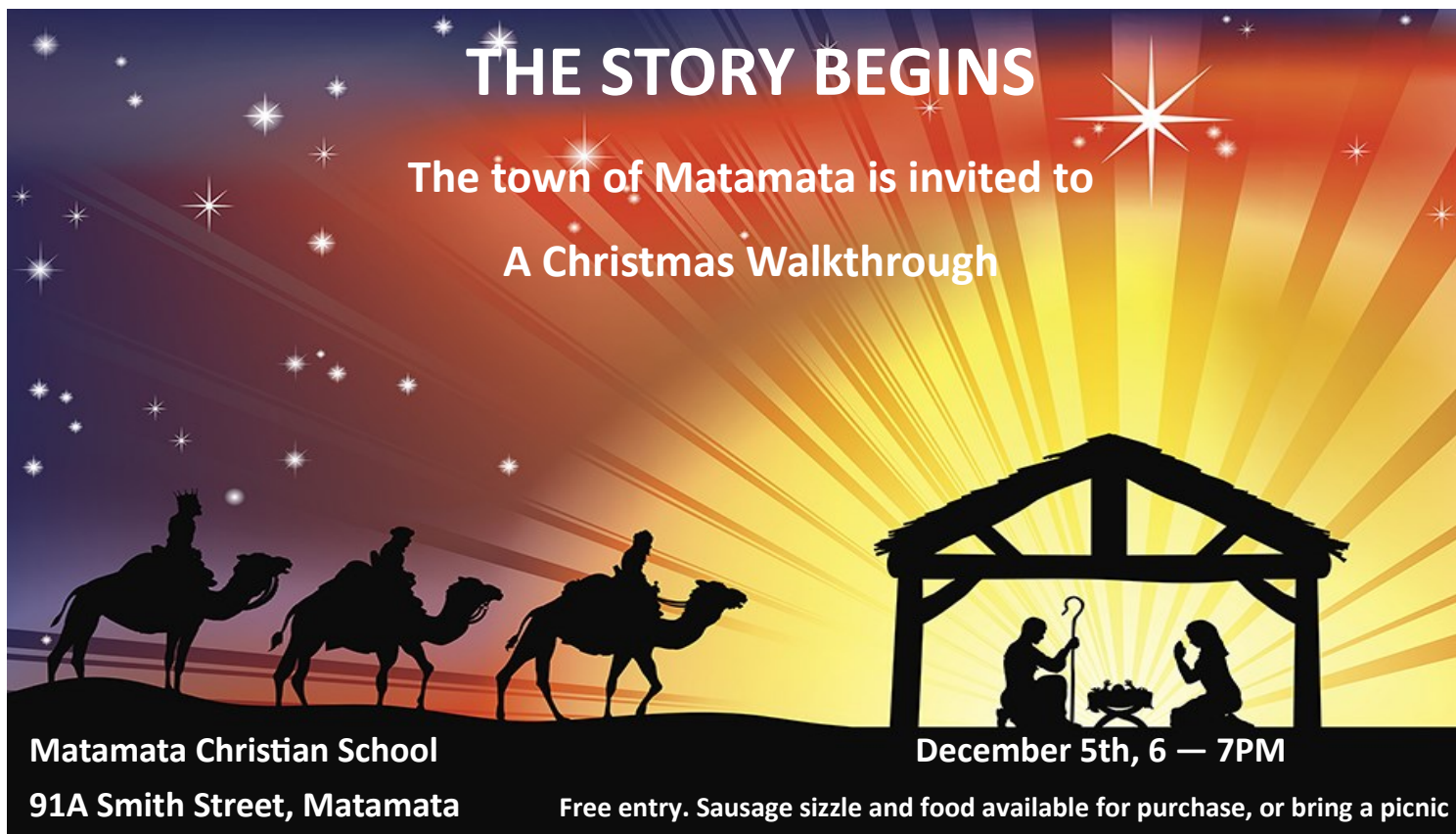
On Tuesday the 12th students will bring home their end of year school reports if they are in Years 4—8. These are full school reports and outline their progress in all learning areas. Year 1—3 students are on a different time cycle to the rest of the school and may have brought their reports home during the year when they completed one, two or three years of schooling. If they are due in February these have been written and will be sent out now too.

On the same day students will also bring home their Learning Journals for the year. Please note we do not have a Learning Journal evening in Term 4 but you may feel free to catch up with staff over the remainder of the term if there are questions you may have.



THE STORY BEGINS

The town of Matamata is invited to
A Christmas Walkthrough



Matamata Christian School
91A Smith Street, Matamata

December 5th, 6 — 7PM

Free entry. Sausage sizzle and food available for purchase, or bring a picnic



HEALTH CURRICULUM

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to contribute to the Health Curriculum survey we sent out recently, and who came to the parent night last week. We had a very good return rate for the surveys and this has been very helpful to create a picture of people's thinking. The opportunity to speak into this further at the parent meeting was also valuable. We are now modifying parts of our programme and will develop a statement that will apply to the next two years of our programming over the coming weeks.

PUBERTAL CHANGES

At the same parent night we shared what will be taught in Pubertal Changes at Years 7 and 8 later this week. We also shared our vision for this space over the next two years. If you are a parent of a Year 7 or 8 student but missed the night and would like to know more details about what will be covered, please contact Mrs Evans for a chat.

Pubertal Changes will be taught this week on **Thursday the 7th of December**.

UNIFORM SHOP

If you are needing to purchase school uniform items before the start of school next year the uniform shop will be open between **10AM - 2PM on Wednesday the 24th and Thursday the 25th of January**. Uniform can also be purchased before the close of school this term, at the start of next term, or by special arrangement with Sarah in the school office.

All uniform items except school sandals are available from the school uniform shop. Sandals must be black and can be either Roman or any other suitable sandal, but not fashion sandals please.

BACK
TO
SCHOOL



SCOLA MUFTI DAY

Our recent mufti day to raise funds for the sponsorship of Scola, our World Vision sponsor child, raised \$143-50. This was an awesome amount to raise and we offer our sincerest thanks to the generosity of everyone involved. This money is used to fund the monthly commitment we have with World Vision for her sponsorship.



MATAMATA LIBRARIES SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

The Matamata Library will once again be running its Summer Reading Challenge. This runs from the 1st of December until the 27th of January.



Last Christmas holidays a number of our students entered and won the competition. As well as personal prizes they won a set of library books for our school library. We have every reason to think our school could do it again!

For more information please check it out online at <https://matamatapiakolibraries.co.nz/whats-on/library-programmes2/holiday-programmes>



WiseChoice Milk

FINAL ACCOUNTS

A reminder that all school accounts need to please be paid for the end of the school year (Friday the 15th of December). This includes all camp payments from Terms 1 and 3 which families have been allowed to pay off over the course of the school year.



Those parents who are paying their school attendance dues by automatic payment may of course carry on doing so but please make sure that payments being made do cover your children's dues by the end of the year (31 December).

The school relies on accounts being paid on time as this enables the school to spend annual budgets on student resources and upkeep, something we are doing a lot of at the moment. When accounts aren't paid on time the school has to cover these debts from budgeted money that was intended for student resources.

We try hard to keep costs as low as possible and outside of attendance dues we are **only** charging for major events such as camps and sport outside of school. Thus we really appreciate these accounts being paid as soon as possible.

If you are having problems with payments please do come and discuss this so we can make a plan to help. We never want to see our families struggle because of their school accounts.

SUBWAY

PLAYBOOK

THE SUBWAY SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

Available Fridays

Heart Foundation

FILLED 4 LIFE

YEAR 5—6 VISUAL LANGUAGE COMPETITION

In the last few weeks our Year 5—6 class has been learning about impact in advertising. As a challenge they were offered the chance to design a new Christmas Walkthrough advertisement that could feature in the school newsletter. Here's a taste of their work:

Sophia du Plessis, Year 6



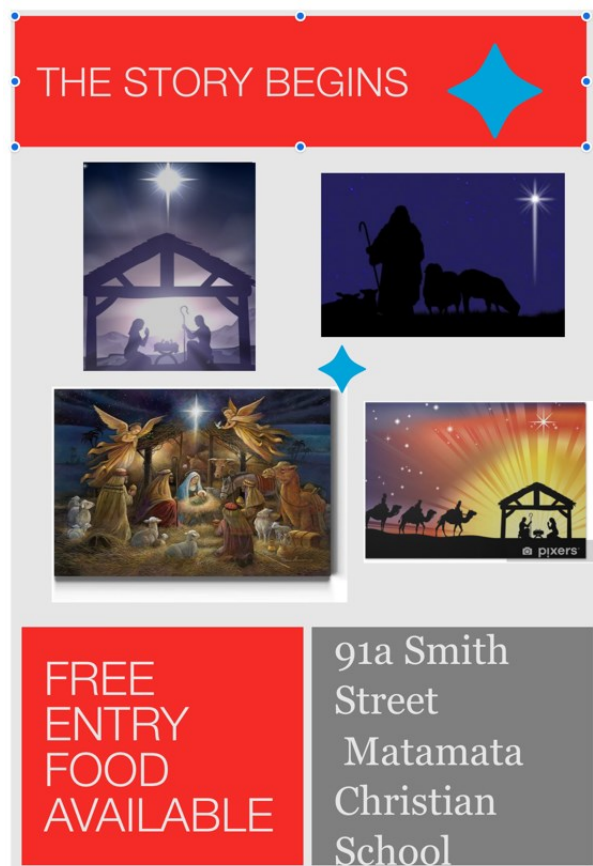
Henko Olivier, Year 6



Johanna Lapuz, Year 5 and Gabriella Nicholls, Year 5



Joseph van der Wel, Year 5



Zechariah Morris, Year 5



Even More News - Kawepūrongo

MATAMATA CHRISTMAS PARADE

Last weekend the school was involved in the annual Matamata Christmas Parade. We are always keen to be involved in this to help steer people's thinking back to the real reason for Christmas. This year we used it to invite people to Tuesday's Christmas Walkthrough where the story will be told more fully.



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

You are invited to ROCKIDZ

Every Saturday, 4pm at Matamata Christian School
91A Smith Street, Matamata

There will be a shared dinner at 5:30pm followed by a CORNERSTONES bible study at 6:30pm

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 12th of December between 9—10:30AM**. Come and enjoy tea and coffee together and meet other school families.

Dates for your Calendar

December

4th	Futsal
5th	Christmas Walkthrough
8th	Volunteers Lunch
9th	Staff / Board Function
10th	School Choir: Christmas Carols at All Saints Church (Arrive at 5PM)
12th	Parent Connect Group
12th	Reports and Learning Journals Home
12th	Prize Giving
13th	Y8 Farewell
14th	End of Term Assembly
15th	End of Term / Year

January

24th	School Office and Uniform Shop Opens
31st	Term 1 Starts

February

6th	Waitangi Day Holiday
8th	Sports Academy Starts
9th	Road Patrol Training Refresher



READ BEYOND THE BEATEN PATH

Join the Summer Reading Challenge for 5-13 year olds.



1st Dec - 27 Jan

Sign up on the Beanstack app, and get your challenge booklet from the library. Read for 10 hours, write 2 book reviews and check-in with a librarian to complete the challenge.

You'll get a SwimZone voucher after 5 hours reading, and a \$10 Paper Plus voucher when you complete the challenge. Come along to the drop-in activities at the library from 4 December to 27 January - check our website for details.



mpdc.nz/libraryholiday