

VISION STATEMENT

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



Weeks: 4 - 5

Term 1 2025:
17 Hui-tanguru (February)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Shaping Our History
See p2



Sports Academy
See p4 and 5







Need to Talk?
See p6



MEET THE 2025 STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

On the first day of each school year the invitation goes out to Year 7 and 8 students to apply for our sought after student house team leadership positions. Once the invitation goes out students have just 48 hours to apply in writing and then have to prepare a speech to do in front of their peers the following Monday. While Year 8 students are generally favoured Year 7 students get the opportunity to be considered too. This year 14 students put their hands up, 12 girls and two boys. After a daunting and nerve-wracking process nine students were selected and our congratulations goes to each of them:

Carmichael 	Leader	Beulah Goodare
	Deputy Leaders	Timaima Mataitoga Sophie Burgess
Muëller 	Leader	Tabitha Madanawa
	Deputy Leader	Danyel Chen
Tyndale 	Leader	Sophia du Plessis
	Deputy Leaders	Gabriella Nicholls
Wesley 	Leader	Tiana Tapega
	Deputy Leader	Isla Uerata



ROLL NUMBERS SET TO EXPAND

After a lot of prayer that many of you have put in we are thrilled to be able to announce the Ministry of Education has approved the school's request to expand from 120 students to 150 students and to increase our non-preference roll from nine students to 15, or 10% of our total roll.



This is set to increase from the beginning of Term 2 on the condition the school is able to have a new classroom in place that meets Ministry of Education and local Council criteria. The great news on this front is that Peria Christian Education (PCE), the representative owners of the school, have been working on this for some time. Rather than build they have found some very suitable classrooms that can be brought in quickly and modified slightly at a fraction of the new build cost. However, there may be some competition for this so we need to band together in prayer for the necessary resource and building consents to go through, and for these buildings to be secured.

We currently have a small waiting list so this is welcome news. This is indeed a very exciting development for the school and we are grateful for the work God has been doing to make this happen. Big thanks also goes to Warren Storey and his team for removing an old tree stump in the last holidays that was in the way of where this development will go.

This is Stage 1 of what we have been working on. See what Stage 2 is on page 3.

From the Desk of the Tumuaki

It has been a great start to the new school year and we thank you all for your willing involvement so far, especially for attending the family picnic and O' Night several weeks ago. The term is shaping up to be an exciting one.

Since the start of the term we want to welcome the Buys family who have joined our school family. Some of you met them at the family picnic. Isabel Buys has joined us at Year 7 and we are thrilled to have the family join our school family.

Looking at History

This term one of our key areas of learning is in New Zealand history. We label this 'Our Heritage' and it forms part of our two year cycle of teaching in the first term of each year under our 'Kid on the Rock' banner. In the first year of the cycle we explore who we are in our family identity, our school, our house teams and the world around us, then go on to develop critical thinking skills that we will use throughout the year. In the second year of the cycle, (this year), we explore a little bit of this and look at the heritage we are part of.

17 years ago I read some research that claimed that New Zealanders knew very little about their own history. As a result we developed a programme to explore our history at different age levels. This has since developed so that Matamata history is explored in our two junior classes, Waikato history in our two middle-senior classes and early New Zealand history at Years 7 and 8. This is the context that we use around the recently launched Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum.

Our history is part of who we are and contributes to what shapes our future as individuals and a collective nation. It defines much of our attitudes, the way we look at things and the issues we face that need to be dealt with. Much of our history has been shaped by Christianity as a result of missionaries that came. Their work helped progress our nation. At times this work was sometimes abused and sometimes mistakes were made too. When this happened there were sometimes disastrous side effects, but more often than not the missionaries message of love and grace changed the course of our nation, particularly through the peace movements that brought an end to the inter-tribal wars that decimated tribes in the mid 1800's.

History has become politicised over the last years. Special interest groups have been pushing their agendas for a number of years to try and right the wrongs of the past for indigenous people groups. This is called critical theory and looks at correcting injustices by swinging the pendulum of action to the opposite extreme to help make up for any past wrongs caused by colonisation. Where colonisation favoured and benefitted the colonists, a critical theory approach tries to make up for wrongs of the past by deliberately favouring affected indigenous cultures through any social and equity actions. This is meant to address equity between people groups. This approach is commonly being subscribed to by governments and agencies both here and overseas.

There are many injustices in our history but I want to suggest a critical theory approach is no answer to addressing these. These same groups pushing for such an approach will also tell us that the work of missionaries in the past have largely caused the injustices, but a true investigation of this would reveal that this is misguided thinking.

While mistakes were made most missionaries worked with the best of intentions. Māori leaders of the day also knew that changes were needed and many, especially around the Matamata area, embraced the messages the missionaries brought and wanted to seek a better way.

Te Waharoa was a local Māori chief for Ngati Hauā. He was a fierce and feared warrior but he was one who embraced the presence of the missionaries and invited them onto his land. He sent his son Wiremu Tamihana to be schooled and trained by the missionaries.

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By the time Tamihana got to lead for himself he had God in his heart and went about changing his people with God at the centre. He changed the way many of his people lived, acted and responded to others. He brought about a time of prosperity and peace before events beyond his realm dictated change he couldn't control.

Tamihana also helped lead the peace movement and was the architect of the Kingitanga movement which sought unity between tribes and Māori. This rich heritage was established in and around Matamata.

Today when you speak to leadership in Ngati Hauā they still seek a desire for their people to be in relationship with Christ and they seek a future that leaves behind the injustices of the past.

While critical theory is not the answer to correct injustices, an approach involving forgiveness, redemption and a determination to work together for the good of all people will be a key way forward. For this to work effectively it can only happen through relationship with God. The great news is that many are open to this.

We have much to learn from history, the good bits and the bad. History has created what we have today and the issues that have to be solved tomorrow. This is not something to fear but is something we can look to do through a different approach, one involving the biblical concept of shalom and all it has to bring. I look forward to sharing more about this with you.

Prayer Requests...

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

- Praise God for the granting of our roll extension from the Ministry of Education.
- Please pray for two amazing appointments on our staff; the first for a replacement Junior teacher from the end of this term, and the other for a PE teacher. Pray that both will fit into our team and school culture well and will have a massive positive impact on each student and family they work with.
- Please pray for our property development. Pray our consents will happen rapidly and that we will be granted favour toward the buildings we seek.
- Please pray the Ministry of Education will also now look favourably on our request to move into Years 9 and 10.
- And please pray for the growth, development and success of every student academically, physically, spiritually and in their wise emotional development throughout this year.

News - Kawepūrongo

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MCS?

Over the last few weeks the new rooves over the decks of Rooms 1 and 2 have been completed. These are looking great and promise to be really practical for providing sun and rain protection over these classes.

The next step to this is the installation of new ranch sliders on the front of these classes and an internal one being added inside the Senior class. This started today and will be completed over the next three weeks. Unfortunately it does cause some disruption for a week at a time to each of these classes who have to vacate for health and safety reasons. As we don't yet have much in the way of spare spaces please pray that the weather will be good and the work will be completed swiftly.



STAGE 2: EXPANDING TO YEARS 9 AND 10

A lot of parents have been asking if we have been planning toward expanding into Years 9 and 10. Our PCE Board has been actively working on this and been having conversations with the Ministry of Education. We have had two applications in with the Ministry; one to expand our existing Year 1—8 roll to 150 students, and the other to integrate in Years 9 and 10 and expand the roll further to 175 students to accommodate this. As you saw on the front page we are nearly there on the first stage and we are now working to try to achieve this second stage with the Ministry. Again, please pray with us on this as this is a much bigger goal to try and achieve.

SWIMMING

Please remember swimming is now underway and will continue each Wednesday and Friday in the middle block of the day. These are really important lessons for the development of confidence and safety skills, as well as fitness and technique skills. Please help your children to be ready and part of this each day. There are a total of eight lessons across the season and it culminates in our Small Schools Swimming Sports for Year 3—8 students,

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.



FAREWELL MISS THOMASEN

It is with much disappointment that we announce that our Junior teacher, Miss Thomasen will be leaving our teaching team from the end of this term.



Miss Thomasen will have been with us a total of five terms and has brought much to the school, particularly with her special education skills and ability to provide support for children with needs.

Miss Thomasen has been suffering some health issues, particularly with her back, and needs to step back to help her heal.

We have been advertising for another stunning teacher for our juniors who will fit very well into our team and give our students an incredible start to school. Please pray for this with us.

Thank you Miss Thomasen for giving us just over a year of your life. We wish you God's best for the future.

THIS YEAR'S TEACHER ONLY DAYS

This year the government has made changes to the English and Mathematics Curriculums. Along with this is a change in the way these subjects are taught to 'structured literacy' and 'structured Mathematics'. Some of this remains the same for us as both BSLA, the Reading programme taught here in Years 1—3, and Writer's Toolbox, our Year 1—8 Writing programme, already fall under this banner. In Term 2, as it is introduced and rolled out across the country, BSLA will be introduced at Years 4—8 too.



What is new for us now is the Mathematics programme that we have introduced. This year each school was offered a choice of four programmes which the government has agreed to fund over the next two years. We have chosen the Oxford learning platform which you will see your children using now.

Along with the new curriculums are professional learning opportunities for every teacher. Some of this will be done through teacher release days while two of these days will be done through **two teacher only days** where our teachers will combine with three other Christian schools for Ministry of Education training. The first of these teacher only days is this term on **Friday the 21st of March**. The second will be on **Friday the 9th of May**. **School will be closed on these two days**. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your support with this.

YEAR 7 AND 8 NORTHLAND TRIP

The bi-annual Year 7 /8 Northland History trip is currently being planned for the first week of Term 2 (Tuesday the 29th of April — Friday the 2nd of May). Not



everything is confirmed yet, including costs, but the date is and we hope to have more details available to you for the next edition of the newsletter. If you are a parent or grandparent of a student in this class please consider coming with us as a helper for this amazing trip. It never fails to impress!



SPORTS ACADEMY IS BACK FOR 2025!

In 2023 we started our new Sports Academy which has been a big hit with our students and families. Now it's returning for 2025.

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 this Thursday the 20th 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 Bridgit Hildreth, Emma-Jayne Nicholls or Mr Paterson for more details or to volunteer to be a part.

This term Futsal, Touch Rugby, Miniball and Cricket are available to play.



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: _____

Do You Have Something We Need To Talk About?



Matamata Christian School

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

COMMUNITY NOTE

Matamata Christian School values feedback and believes this is an important way for it to improve its performance. It believes complaints are a part of this and wishes to be able to resolve these in order to avoid anything standing in the way of it achieving its goals. Therefore anyone who may have a complaint about any part of the school life is encouraged to bring those complaints forward in a biblical manner. This means:

To resolve conflict -

"If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that 'every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses', as the scripture says."

– Matthew 18:15-16

In response to complaints -

"Remember this, my dear friends! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry."

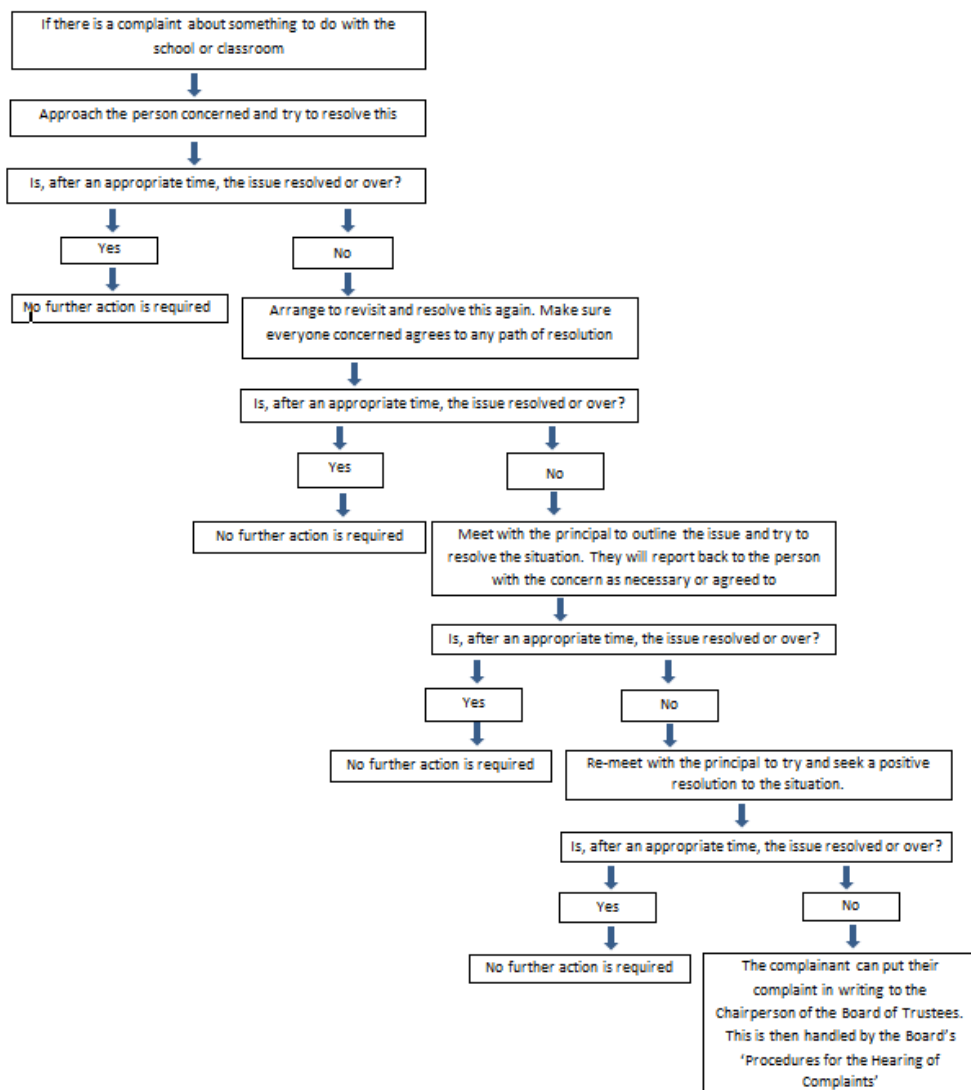
– James 1:19

"Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."

– Ephesians 4:32

Please remember that complaints can be embarrassing for people. It is important to respect a person's integrity by approaching them in confidence first to resolve this rather than sharing this with others. If a complaint is about wrongdoing between students at school please do not try to resolve this directly between other parents but get the classroom teacher to resolve this between families.

If a complaint is about a School Board issue or matter please use the School Board complaints procedures chart (available from school).



News - Kawepūrongo

NEW ASSEMBLY TIMES

Our school weekly assembly times have moved. These are now being held at 2:15PM each week on a Friday and will finish at home time. Everyone is welcome to join us for assemblies. Normally they consist of a time of singing and worship, a message, weekly awards and points, notices and quiz questions. Always feel free to come and be a part of these with us.



A NEW PARENT CONNECT GROUP

Our Parent Connect Group (PCG) is an open opportunity for all parents or family members who would like to meet and connect with other family members in the school. It's a great social time and a great way to meet others and stay connected in the school community.



PCG is now returning for 2025 but we're trying something a little different this year. It will meet twice per term but instead of in the morning after school drop offs, it will now be after school on a Friday. At it we'll share some afternoon tea and chat while the kids play.

Please join us if you can, everyone is welcome and it is always great fun. The first get together is next week on **Friday the 28th of February**. Contact Paula van der Wel if you have any questions.

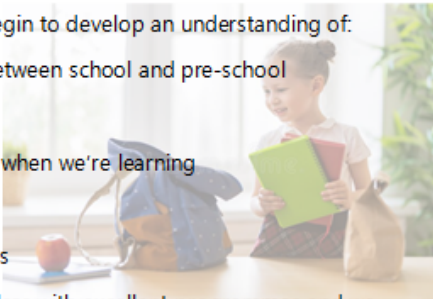
INTRODUCING OUR 4 1/2 YEAR OLD PROGRAMME

Matamata Christian School is proud to announce the return of our 4 1/2 year olds programme to help children prepare for school.

Each Thursday between 8:50—10:50AM we are running a programme to include future school students in our Junior class.

Children will transition and begin to develop an understanding of:

- what the difference is between school and pre-school
- what learning looks like
- what happens at school when we're learning
- establishing routines
- how to make new friends



We have an amazing Junior class with excellent programmes and we welcome you to be a part of it.

This programme is limited to just 6 students at a time and runs until your child turns five and is off to school.

Please note a parent or caregiver must be onsite for any child under the age of five at these sessions. To enrol, please call us on 888 5444 or go to our website www.matamata.school.nz



YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS

The Year 7 immunisations are coming up this term. Information about this was sent home to parents of Year 7 students recently and student education about this will follow on Friday the 28th of February for those students. These are the regular cycle of vaccinations and have nothing to do with Covid. The Health Nurse has now sent home a consent form with every child. 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 down the immunisations.



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

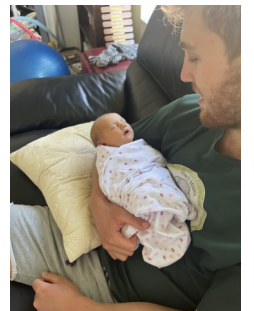
HPV IMMUNISATIONS

All Year 7 and 8 students are also 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANDERTONS

We were thrilled to hear that in the last few weeks former MCS student Thomas Anderton and his wife Sophie celebrated the birth of their first child, Lydia-Rose. She was born weighing 7lb 2oz on the 30th of January at 11:13PM. We are excited to be able to welcome her into this world with them. What an awesome blessing!



Even More News - Kawepūrongo

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A big thank you to all those who are making such an effort to have your children in the correct school uniform.

Please can you ensure 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.



Note correct school uniform is part of each child's Rockstar awards each term. We are tightening up on these points this term as we want our students to wear their uniform with pride.

Dates for your Calendar

February

17th-7th	Builders On Site
18th	School Board Meeting
19th	No Swimming
19th	Y3—6 Touch Rugby
19th	Future Ferns Netball
20th	Sports Academy Starts
21st	Swimming
21st	Year 7 Vaccination Education
21st	Tiny 20 Cricket 5:30PM
24th	Super Smash Cricket Skills at School
24th	Futsal Years 3—6
25th	Futsal
26th	Swimming
26th	Y3—6 Touch Rugby
26th	Future Ferns Netball
27th	Sports Academy
28th	Swimming
28th	Parent Connect Group
28th	Miniball Years 3—6
28th	Tiny 20 Cricket



March

3rd	Super Smash Cricket Skills at School
3rd	Futsal Years 3—6
4th	Futsal
5th	Y3—6 Touch Rugby
5th	Future Ferns Netball
6th	Sports Academy

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

Every Saturday - children/youth group and Cornerstone Bible study from 4pm followed by a shared dinner at 5pm. At Matamata Christian School, 91A Smith Street, Matamata

FONZ Youth Group

and

ROCKIDZ

Parental supervision please if you have young children.

Some of our parents have got together and created a Parents Connect Group which meets twice per term in the school library or playground. This is an opportunity for parents to get together and enjoy a time of community together. The next get together is next week, **Friday the 28th of February, straight after school and assembly**. Come and enjoy afternoon tea, and chat and meet other parents and community members while the kids play. Pre-schoolers are very welcome.



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