

## VISION STATEMENT

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



Weeks: **4 - 5**

Term 1 2024:  
19 Hui-tanguru (February)

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## OUR STUNNING NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM



*Left to right: Our student leadership team of Arieta, Lachlan, Rylee, Sophia, Alexander, Carli, Vanshika, and Jonathan.*

We are thrilled to announce our 2024 student leadership team to you:



Carmichael	Leader	Arieta Mataitoga
	Deputy	Lachlan Nicholls
Mueller	Leader	Rylee Sinclair
	Deputy	Sophia du Plessis
Tyndale	Leader	Alexander Jansen
	Deputy	Carli Visagie
Wesley	Leader	Vanshika Chauhan
	Deputy	Jonathan Hill



These team leaders are now in place and leading their house teams. Last week they helped lead team meetings educating their teams about the people they represent—Amy Carmichael, George Mueller, William Tyndale and Charles Wesley—and developed some amazing team chants together that will be used over the course of the year.

Our team leaders will help lead at school events, in school sports, events, school camp, care for Scola, our school's World Vision sponsored child, and will be ambassadors at different events. We are looking forward to seeing them grow and triumph through the year.

## From the Desk of the Tumuaki

We have had an excellent start to the school year and it has been so good to see many of you around the school. We have much on at the moment; school sports and the Sports Academy has started back up, and of course our family picnic and O'Night is on tonight. We are hoping to see you all here.

This week we want to welcome our 100th student to school. Nia Lesivakarua has recently turned five and has joined our Junior class. We welcome the Lesivakarua family to our school family.

This means we are now only one student off having enough students to have government funding for all the classrooms we are operating! Please keep praying for this one extra student as the sooner we have 101 the sooner we will have the extra funding.

We now have 13 more enrolments due in throughout the year which is wonderful news and we are looking forward to each starting with us. Our roll cap is 120 students so this means we only have seven more places available before the school is full! We are already in a similar position for next year too. While we have 13 Year 8 students leaving at the end of the year we already have 10 more registered to start during 2025! This makes it very important that if you or someone else you know has a child due to start school here in either 2024 or 2025, that you get them pre-enrolled now please so that we reserve them a position. Please let others know about this.

### Attendance

At the end of 2022 the government made a requirement that schools had to target non-attendance. Those of you who were present at the 2022 end of year prize giving will remember me making a big thing of making sure everyone was at school every day that they could be. At the time the Waikato and Northland regions had the dubious reputation of having just a 40% average attendance rate of across their regions. This is the equivalent of attending school just two days per week every week! Our school's attendance rates were significantly higher but post-Covid we were still suffering from high absence rates too.

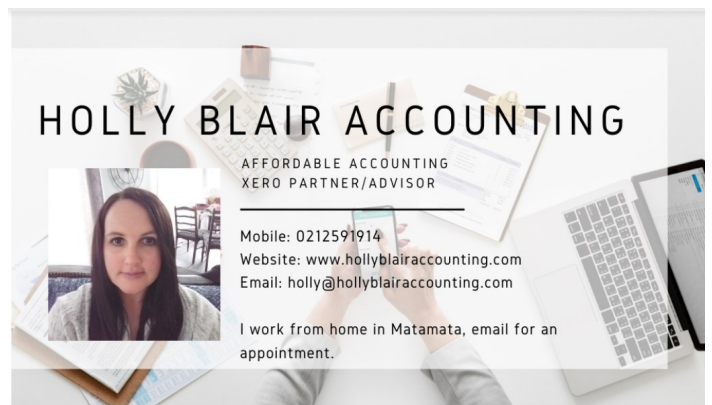
As a school, for 2023 we made a target that we would have 70% of all students attend for 95% of the year or more. This was the equivalent of having no more than 10 days, or two weeks off school per student. Additionally, we were aiming for 85% to be at school for at least 90% of the time. This was the equivalent of having up to 20 days, or a month off school. It sounds like a lot of time off doesn't it? So how did we do?

Actually we didn't come very close to achieving it at all. Attending 95% of the time we had just 45% of the school achieve this. Attending at least 90% of the time we had just 75% achieve this!

Our median rate of attendance though was 94% attendance and our actual average was 93%. These figures sound a lot better, especially if you have heard the Prime Minister this last week saying the current average attendance rate across the country is only 55%!

I realise that parents who send their children to a school such as ours usually have a very good attitude toward education. To choose a school like this, and to be willing to pay for it means you want to see your children have the best opportunities they can and to be brought up in God's Way and a way that matches your families values. Because you value education you want to see them do well, to take every opportunity they can, and to be at school everyday they can be.

Can I please encourage you in this. It is easy to think that



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

## Respect Quote

*"When we treat people merely as they are, they will remain as they are. When we treat them as if they were what they should be, they will become what they should be."*

**- Thomas S. Monson**

missing a day here or there won't matter, but it very much does. Everyday your children are involved in important learning. Things they learn one day will be reinforced and built upon the next. Each day they miss puts them at a disadvantage for all the days that follow.

But let's face it some days are unavoidable. If they're sick, they're sick. They need to stay home and recover and not spread this to others. When you're sick you're just not firing on enough cylinders to make it work. Stay home, get better, and then come back ready to work sooner.

But please just do this when they are sick and not just feeling a tiny bit off. Encourage them to have grit and push through. This is part of developing a good work ethic.

Likewise I know some of you have the blessing of being able to take overseas trips. These, when done right, can really build into our children and give them great experiences. Where possible though please do these over holiday breaks even if you have to leave a day or two early and return a day or two late to avoid the greedy peak time charges airlines have. This is a whole lot better than missing days or weeks of class time.

Every day at school counts and while we may all be responsible parents who of course want the best for our families, please have in your mind that you want your child to be at school every day they possibly can be. Together we intend to achieve great things with them this year.

God bless

## Prayer Requests...

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

- Please pray for the 101 students we are seeking to enable our new class to be fully government funded.
- 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

### FAMILY PICNIC AND O'NIGHT TONIGHT

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 happens tonight, 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 will be able to 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

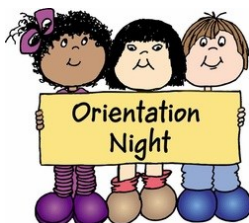
The Year 7 immunisations are coming up this term. Tomorrow, **Tuesday the 20th of February,**

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.

### 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.



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### SCHOOL CAMP

Every two years, as part of our Term 1 Kid on the Rock unit, we have our



whole school camp at Finlay Park Adventure Camp. This is a fantastic event in our calendar where we take the whole school out to camp for three nights. This has traditionally been during Term 1 but this year, to take advantage of the best available accommodation and facilities, we will have it in the first week of Term 2. **The dates will be Sunday the 28th of April to Wednesday the 1st of May.**

We have done whole school camps every two years over the last 16 years now. This is a great way to bond our school, house teams and community together. Regardless of age we get to provide our students with outdoor experiences, great learning and provide them with fresh challenges.

Because the purpose of camp is about bonding our school together and building school culture, we intentionally have it fairly close to home. Finlay Park are friends of the school and do a brilliant job of



hosting us. The camp is only 20—25 minutes from Matamata and is located on stunning grounds on the banks of Lake Karapiro. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come and be part of camp for the whole three nights, join us for a day, or drop out for a visit after work and be part of the fun. If you want to attend camp we also need to have a Police Vet check done for all volunteers. Please come to the office as soon as possible to help us get this done (checks are relevant for three years and let you be involved in other events with us too).

Camp is a very important part of our programme and has a very big impact on every child, regardless of age. If you have any concerns please come and talk these through with your classroom teacher or with Mr Paterson.

Details of the price of camp are still being worked out. Camps have gone up in price but we are working hard to keep the costs down for everyone. Camps or overnight events are one of the few things we charge for in activities during the year. Camp fees can be paid off over the course of the school year too. More details will follow soon.





## News - Kawepūrongo

### SPORTS ACADEMY STARTS UP

Last week the school's Sports Academy started back up with a great rate of enrolment. Sports Academy is open to all students from Year 3 and up and takes place each Thursday afternoon from 3:15—4:30PM.

Sports Academy is about helping our students be fitter and more skilled in a range of sports so they can enjoy and compete better when participating in sport. It is proudly run by our parents.

Joining the Sports Academy doesn't commit your child to playing any sports but we hope it will encourage them to.

If you have a child that would like to be included please grab an enrolment form from the school office.



### SPORTS HAS STARTED

Futsal, Touch Rugby and Tiny 20 Cricket is now underway for 2024. These are great sports played for just a short time during the term. Thank you to all those who have committed to taking part. It is a thrill to support our students in this.

If your child has signed up please can we ask you to help them honour their commitment. Some of the opportunities sport provides is the chance to learn about being part of a team and learning that staying committed is very important. Teams need their players to turn up every week and give their all. When this happens teams have the numbers they need and learn how to develop as a group together. Teams are seriously compromised when their players have erratic attendance. Most of our sports are only played for a six week season so please help your child to stay committed as part of developing a great work ethic and being a valued team player.



#### *Week 1: Working together and bonding*



Get ready to pack  
It's coming...  
**WHOLE SCHOOL CAMP 2024**





## News - Kawepūrongo

### THE 4 1/2 YEAR OLDS PROGRAMME RETURNS

We want to welcome parents of children aged between 4 1/2 and 5 years of age to our Thursday morning programme to help children prepare for school.

This programme allows pre-schoolers to come and take part in school during the first block of a school day. It runs from 8:50—10:50AM each Thursday morning.



During this time children will join in and have the chance to start developing an understanding of what happens at school, the routines, and start to develop some friendships before their first official day. They are welcome to stay through the morning break time too, play and socialise.

To be able to be part of this programme please see Sarah in the school office. Please note that because your child is a pre-schooler there is a requirement for a member of your family to be present with them on site while they are here. This person can stay in class with them, bring some work to do, relax outside, or enjoy a coffee in the staffroom.

See the ad on page 6 for more details.

### GARDEN PRODUCE

Our school gardens have been producing some great produce already this year and we have been sending some of this home for families to enjoy.

All our students are involved in Permaculture once per fortnight and learn how to plant, how to look after crops, develop an understanding of effective soil and garden management, pest control, how to harvest, and know what to do with the harvest afterwards. Students often get to try new foods they haven't experienced before.



### THANK YOU AG WORX

We want to offer a big thank you to Craig and the team from Ag Worx for helping sort out our school gardens irrigation system so we had it to use over the summer period. They were able to source the parts we needed when others couldn't, and were very generous by providing these parts for us at their expense. Thanks so much Ag Worx.



### CONGRATULATIONS

It is a thrill to congratulate three families this week:



Firstly, the Moore family. Back in December they welcomed Chloe, the latest addition to their family on the 17th of December. At school we are blessed to already have four of the family in the school already—Rebekah, Sophia, Jessica and Isaac.

The Ram family have also welcomed in a new addition, Alice. Alice arrived just over a week ago on the 7th of February. So far we have two of Alice's older siblings, George and Maisie, in the school.



And finally we want to congratulate former student, Ilze Englebrecht, who recently got engaged to Kiev Morden. The Morden family also have a strong connection to the school as Kiev's youngest sister, Amarie, was a student here when the family were based at the YWAM Base. The Mordens have since moved back to Spokane in America where Kiev and Ilze got engaged. They will marry in America in June before moving back to New Zealand for Ilze to finish her degree. Many of you will know Ilze as a dance teacher and part of the management team at Aspire.





## Even More News - Kawepūrongo

### 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](http://www.matamata.school.nz)



### Dates for your Calendar

#### February

19th	Futsal
19th	O' Night
20th	Y7 Immunisation Education Session
20th	School Board Meeting
21st	Swimming
22nd	Sports Academy
23rd	Swimming
23rd	Tiny 20 Cricket
26th	Futsal
27th	Parent Connect Group Starts
28th	Swimming
28th	Touch Rugby Starts
29th	Sports Academy

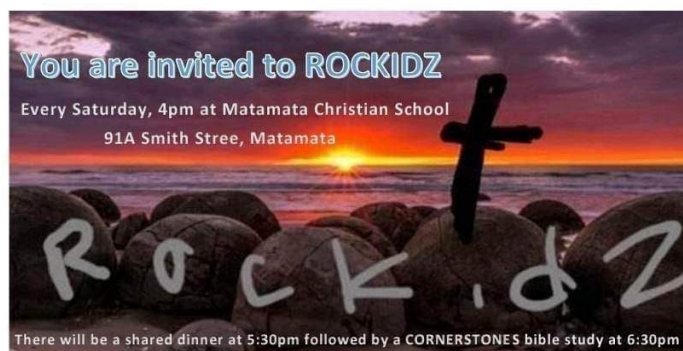
#### March

1st	Swimming Ends
1st	Tiny 20 Cricket
4th	Futsal
5th	Spud in a Bucket Weigh In
6th	Touch Rugby
7th	Sports Academy
8th	Tiny 20 Cricket
11th	Futsal
13th	Mighty Small Schools Swimming Sports
13th	Touch Rugby
14th	Sports Academy
15th	Tiny 20 Cricket



## 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](mailto:office@matamata.school.nz)



Some of our parents have got together and created a parents connect group which this year intends to meet every third week 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 27th of February between 9—10:30AM**. Come and enjoy tea and coffee together and meet other school families. Pre-schoolers are very welcome.



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