

VISION STATEMENT

Equip for Life

Prepare for Eternity

Whakarawe mā mataora

Whakareri mā āke tonu atu



**MATAMATA
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

TE KURA KARAITIANA
O MATAMATA
TRUST AND OBEY

Weeks: **1 - 2**

Term 2 2025:

28 Paenga-whāwhā (April)

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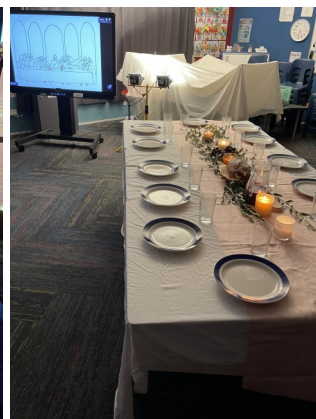


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

In the last week of last term we celebrated our build up to Easter with our annual Stations of the Cross. This is an event the school puts on and opens up to the whole community to celebrate Christ's victory in dying for us on the Cross.

We want to sincerely thank everyone who came, the encouragement that was given, the hard work of the staff and students who helped, those who helped supply items for displays, and David Smith who stayed up late the night before creating a beautiful Cross for us when we found we were wanting! Special thanks also goes to the Bible Society who provided us with Easter story books to give away to families at the end.

The purpose for our running a Stations of the Cross is to help bring individuals and families together to focus on the incredible gift that God gave each of us. We are always keen to bring the focus back to Christ and to help people to experience the events of these times in different ways and realise different parts of the story that they may not have previously picked up on. Above all we want people to know and experience Christ again and again.



From the Desk of the Tumuaki

Welcome to Term 2. At nine weeks in length it is a short one but it will be very action packed with everything that will be happening. Please keep an eye on everything that is coming up and take particular note of next week's Teacher Only Day and Friends and Founders Day in a few week's time. You can read more about this and other events through this newsletter.

We want to offer a special welcome to three new students who are starting with us in the Junior class over the next week. We welcome Jonathan Loh from Singapore, Madeline Crowe from Hamilton, and Johnny Thorne-George. Johnny is the youngest brother of Sadie and Mason. We are excited to have each join us.

We are also looking forward to Mrs Stroebel, our new Junior teacher, joining us in a few week's time. Please continue to pray for her arrival and for everything to fall into place for her and her husband. We also offer our grateful thanks go to Miss Thomassen who has agreed to give us a few more weeks in the Junior class while we wait the arrival of Mrs Stroebel.

Truthfulness

This term our core value is truthfulness. This is something we welcome you to assist us with by working on at home too. As a core value it is an essential one as it is an important godly trait and is one that helps form and shape our reputation. During the term I hope to talk more about this with you and share stories that you can discuss at home too.

Honesty seems like a pretty core concept to teach our children – something is usually either a lie, or not (at least when dealing with under 10's). It's not a murky issue in the Bible either, which is full of stories of people being killed on the spot for lying (Ananias and Sapphira, and Achan, to name a few). The Bible also makes it very clear through the ninth commandment, throughout the letters of Paul, and in the Proverbs that lying is an affront to God.

But how do we show our kids examples from the Bible that won't scare them, like the stories of Ananias and Sapphira? How can we show them how much God loves truth – that indeed, God IS truth – and encourage them to live truthful, faithful lives? Here's the first Bible story to help teach your kids about honesty.

Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10

You likely remember the song about Zacchaeus, the wee little man who climbed up in a Sycamore tree, from our end of year production last year. But Zacchaeus' story has an important lesson about honesty. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, known for how rich he had become – likely by being dishonest and keeping some tax money for himself, as that was standard practice in the day. But one day, Jesus came to Zacchaeus' town and Zacchaeus had the chance to meet him. In fact, Jesus went to his house for dinner!

Zacchaeus was deeply moved and convicted during his time with Jesus which led to an amazing reaction. He told Jesus that he would give half of his possessions to the poor and that he would pay people back four times what he had cheated them. Not only did Zacchaeus see the error of his ways, but he had a total change of heart. He no longer wanted to live a dishonest life, but an honest one – because he came to know and believe in Jesus.

There is a short proverb about the importance of being honest in Proverbs 14:25. The NIV translation says it well – "A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is a traitor."

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Truthfulness Quote

Truthfulness is at the foundation of all personal excellence."

- Samuel Smiles

Read this proverb with your family, and then ask them to think of an example (real or not) of this. This will help them see the emotional consequences of lying, and will help them internalise the importance of always telling the truth. Spend time talking this through with them as these conversations are where things deepen and our children learn to trust you and be more willing to talk with you. Be open and let it come from your heart, you won't regret these opportunities you spend with your family.

God bless

Alistair Paterson

Go to <https://gominno.com/blog/3-bible-stories-to-teach-your-kids-about-honesty/> for related video stories. My thanks to them for their help with this message.

Prayer Requests...

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

- Please pray that the immigration visa for the husband of our new Junior teacher will come through quickly and everything will fall into place for their arrival.
- Please pray for the approval of the consenting process for our new classroom block, that there will be no barriers and that our classrooms will be approved.
- Please pray the Ministry of Education will also now look favourably on our request to move into Years 9 and 10 starting in 2026.
- Please pray for the safety of our Northland trip, pray for excellent learning for our students and good friendships with Whakatāne SDA.
- 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

YEAR 7/8 NORTHLAND CAMP

Tomorrow our Senior class leave for their bi-annual history trip to explore early New Zealand history. They are travelling to Northland where much of New Zealand's early formative years took place with the journey we take retracing some of those key events. Our trip centres around Russell, the first capital of New Zealand, Waitangi, Kerikeri and Marsden Cross, the site where the Christian message was first preached in this country.

We have great parent support for this trip and are excited to take a group of 51 with us. This includes 30 of our senior students and 13 adults, and we will be joined by six further students from Whakatāne SDA School and three of their adults.

Please remember we leave early tomorrow morning (Tuesday the 29th of April) departing at 7:40AM. This means students will need to be at school please by 7AM at the latest. Students from Whakatāne will be sleeping over at school tonight ready for the trip.

This year's costs will be \$320 per student and \$285 for an adult. This can be paid now or paid off in instalments over the year. Camps are one of the few school activities we charge for above attendance dues.

This is an amazing trip and all that are coming can expect a memorable experience.

THANK YOU TO MIKE JANSEN

We want to continue to thank Mike Jansen who has continued to develop our school branding and logos. Recently Mike has transformed the banner at the top of the front page of this newsletter, and the school logo pictured. Mike is also the one who designed the graphics on the school van making it a van that stands out in a crowd! We are very grateful for Mike's craft and his support.



TEACHER ONLY DAY

As advertised last term, the second of this year's teacher only days **is coming up next week on Friday the 9th of May**. This is the second of four days the government is providing for us to continue developing the new Mathematics curriculum in our school. As with our previous training day we are teaming up with Southcity Christian School, Waipa Christian School and Hamilton SDA to train our staff together.

We understand that teacher only days can be a bit of a burden on families to accommodate but we really appreciate your doing this for us. The development undertaken is very important for our staff to continue to develop in depth in order to provide cutting edge education for all our children.

We try hard to keep teacher only days to a minimum. The government is providing us with two further days in Terms 1 and 2 in 2026.

OUR NEW PE TEACHER

We are thrilled to have had our new PE teacher, Ash Stewart, start his new role in our school today.

Ash will teach PE one day per week to every child in every class. He will also help lead Sports Academy and be involved in some sports coaching across the school. We believe Mr Stewart will make a big difference in helping encourage each of our children to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle, develop physical skills and be motivated toward sports.

Ash has a Bachelor of Sport Coaching and has a lot of experience in coaching and youth work. We are excited to have him join our team and are proud to be able to have another specialised role in the school (we already have a specialised Music teacher), something very unusual in a Primary school.



Aotearoa New Zealand History's Great Northland Roadtrip

Year 7 and 8's

Visit New Zealand's first capital

Walk in the footsteps of some who first shaped our nation

Take devotions where the Christian message was first preached

Experience the Waitangi Treaty Grounds

Enjoy tales of the past and the Land Wars

Sail on the R Tucker Thompson

This is our nation This is our heritage

TUESDAY THE 29th OF APRIL — FRIDAY THE 2nd OF MAY

News - Kawepūrongo

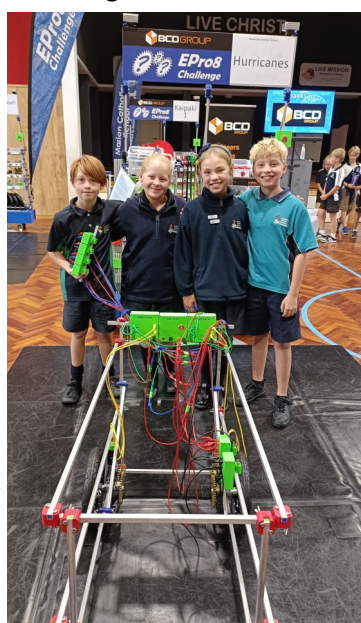
EPRO8 CHALLENGE

In the last weeks of last term our two

Epro8 teams, one at Year 5/6 and the other at Year 7/8, competed in the regional rounds of the annual Epro8 competition.

After trials our teams were made up of four. Ezra Dearn, Karo Potgieter, Zinaske Hamann and Alexander Godbey formed the Year 5—6 team, and Tabitha Madanawa, Rafael Pana, Adriel Magan, and Darzy Ugalde made up the Year 7—8 team.

We were thrilled to see both teams made it through to the semi-finals which is quite a big deal as they are up against 11 other teams. More than this the Year 5/6 team finished 3rd equal while the Year 7—8 team convincingly won their round of the night—this is an excellent sign for the next round!



Photos courtesy of Sumari Potgieter

SPORTS ACADEMY IN TERM 2

Sports Academy will be held on Wednesday afternoons this term and will be led by our new PE teacher, Ash Stewart. Sports Academy has been a parent led initiative and we still need parents to be a significant part of the programme. This term we will be focussing on ball sports aiming to have students developing general ball skills and an enthusiasm to be involved.

If you are in a position to help us on any Wednesday afternoon from 3:15—4:30PM please get in touch with Ash, Bridgit Hildreth, Emma-Jayne Nicholls, or the school office.

Even though the Senior class is away this week **we will start Sports Academy up for the term this Wednesday the 30th of April.** If you have a child who would like to join up this term please let the school office know.

Please note we are intending to run coaching for three of our Netball teams at the same time as Sports Academy on a Wednesday. This includes the Year 4—6 MCS Mavericks, MCS Trail Blazer, and MCS Rocket teams. We are doing this to reduce the number of times parents are having to come in late after school to pick up your children.



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IT'S OP SHOP TIME!

Each year in May we get a turn to run our local op shop for a week. This is a tremendous fundraiser for the school which allows us to take all the profits raised once the weekly rental is taken out. The school has traditionally done very well out of this.

Our turn for this is in a few weeks time and runs from **Monday the 19th to Friday the 23rd of May.**

In order for this to be a success we really need your help with two things please:

1. If you are having a clean out at home and have items that you are not trying to sell yourself and are willing to donate, we would be very grateful to receive these please. These can be brought to school from now until the 19th of May, and after the 19th dropped straight off to the Op Shop at the Rawhiti end of Arawa Street.
2. We need lots of help through the week of Monday the 19th to Friday the 23rd of May to run the shop. We need to have at least three people running the shop at a time. If you can please spare some time, even if only an hour or two, let Sarah in the school office know, or text Maria McGhie directly on 021 024 82307. Maria is in charge of this event for us again this year.

WE NEED A BIT OF HELP PLEASE

As part of our Permaculture programme this term we will be cooking some of the crops we have been growing with our students over two Wednesdays.

For this we need some help please with the supply of electric frying pans. In total we need eight and would be grateful for any offers to help us by lending these to us for the 4th and 18th of June please. We realise this is still a number of weeks away but we are trying to be organised—if you let us know you can help we will remind you closer to the date.



CONGRATULATIONS ILZE MORDEN

This week we want to congratulate former MCS student Ilze Morden who recently graduated from Waikato University with a Bachelor of Business degree. These days Ilze helps run the Aspire Dance Academy here in Matamata and some of our students are also students of hers there.

Congratulations Ilze, we are very proud of you!



Sports News - Kawepūrongo

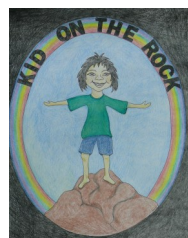
TERM 2 TOPICS

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. 2025 is no different in this but we are also working from new English and Mathematics curriculums this year. Each year our needs change along with student's competencies and social needs. We believe over the years we have been developing an excellent curriculum that responds to this.

Important to us in the development of our students is not only academic achievement but developing resilience, empathy for others, and becoming well rounded citizens that can think for themselves, problem solve, participate physically, develop skills and an appreciation for the arts, develop a heart after God's own heart and therefore be active in their church life, and engage in society responsibly with a Christian worldview.

This term is a short one at just nine weeks in duration and it is again a really busy one. Our main theme is Science and the strand 'The Living World' (see the individual class themes below). This will be explored from different perspectives across the school with all exploring from the wonders of God's creation.

In the chart below you can see what else your children will be learning about this term. As always you are welcome to join in with us for any part too.



Bible	Y1-3: Bible Narratives (stories) Y4-6: 30 Weeks to Understanding the Bible Y7-8: Old Testament Survey
Core Value	Truthfulness
Memory Verses	From Matthew 6:9 - 13 (The Lord's Prayer) Truthfulness: John 8:32
Theme	Science: The Living World Y1/2: Butterflies Y2/3: Spiders Y4/5: Seals Y5/6: Marsupials Y7/8: Bats Also Matariki
Health	Y1 - 3: Firewise Y4 – 8: Road Safety
Māori	Animals
The Great Art Swap	Y1/2: Water Colours with Mrs Fawcett Y2/3: Visual Art with Mrs Marx Y4/5: 3D Art with Mrs Atkins Y5/6: Robotics with Mrs Bloomfield Y7/8: Dance with Mrs Tomlinson
P.E.	Winter Ball Skills

ANZAC DAY

During the holidays we marked Anzac Day with two of our Senior students representing the school at the late morning Anzac Parade.

Timaima Mataitoga and Zanru Hamann laid our Anzac wreath with quiet strength and heartfelt respect. It was a proud moment to see our students representing our school and honouring the fallen soldiers alongside our community.

Lest we forget.

FIRTH TOWER TRIP

Late last term our Year 1—3 students took a visit to the Firth Tower Museum as part of their Aotearoa New Zealand History unit. Matamata has a lot of history to it and has been steeped in much Christian activity. It can lay claim to being the place where the peace movement started through Tarore's story, and has at the center of our history Wiremu Tamihana who was the kingmaker in the Kīngitanga movement. Even today one of our local tribes, Ngāti Hauā, are still responsible for crowning the Māori king or queen and still use Wiremu Tamihana's Bible to do so.

Below are some of the photo highlights of the museum visit. Our thanks to Lisa Ansell for her photos.



NO ASSEMBLY IN WEEK 1

There will be no assembly this Friday afternoon in this first week of school. This is because the Senior class and Mr Paterson are away on the Northland trip this week. Assembly will resume again next week.



News - Kawepūrongo

TERM 1 AWARDS

At the end of last term we celebrated with our students the hard work they had put in over the weeks of Term 1 with our Rockstar and Memory Verse awards. Our Rockstar certificates are earned by earning a minimum number of points over the term gained through regular attendance, punctuality, homework completion and taking pride in wearing their correct school uniform. This year we have slightly increased the number of points required to get these awards.



We also had our hard to earn core value badges to give away. In Term 1 our core value was diligence. Only two badges are given away to each class making them quite a challenge to earn, and usually two additional Principal Awards are given that can be earned in any area outside of the core values. Last term the awards awarded for respect went to:

Room 5 (Y1/2) - Tom Smith and Noah van der Wel

Room 4 (Y2/3) - Franziah Arenas and Noah Webster

Room 1 (Y4/5) - Sadie Thorne-George and Ava Park

Room 2 (Y5/6) - Xianie Agustin and Addison Park

Room 3 (Y7/8) - Zanru Hamann and Danyel Chen

This time our Principal's Award was given out to just one student, Luke Smith. Luke received this award for diligence, an excellent attitude, showing initiative and a great work ethic. Further, this carries on outside of school too on the sports field where he shows good achievement along with humility, fine teamwork and a generous heart in all he does.

Congratulations Luke and all our other badge recipients.

Photos Right: Term 1's Rockstar and Memory Verse recipients from each class. Below: Term 1 badge recipients.



Room 5—Years 1/2



Room 4—Years 2/3



Room 1—Years 4/5



Room 2—Years 5/6



Room 3—Years 7/8



Sports News - Kawepūrongo

FRIENDS AND FOUNDERS DAY

Every year we celebrate Matamata Christian School's Friends and Founders Day and this year the day is set for **Tuesday the 20th of May**. The school is 37 years old.

Friends and Founders Day is a celebration of God's faithfulness in granting a Christian school in Matamata, and for all the work He has done in it since. There is certainly much to praise Him for this year. It is also an opportunity to honour those who set up the school and those who worked through those early pioneering years.

Friends and Founders Day is a celebration for all our families and school friends. Please mark the evening of the 20th in your calendars. We start the evening from 6PM with a burger and chips meal for the community. This is free for everyone and in the past we have had close to 100% turnout.

Following dinner our children go off to watch a movie together and have some special treats while the adults attend a brief AGM and have a guest speaker.

The AGM is always short but this year we will be filling everyone in on a couple of topics of the day — new classrooms that will soon be coming, roll growth and our hope to extend into Years 9 and 10 with our application currently before the Ministry of Education.

This year's guest speaker is a former parent, Bryce Anderton. Bryce is an inspiring speaker who has stories that are very much worth listening too. We are looking forward to enjoying him on the night.

We really want you to be here. This is always an awesome community night and one not to be missed. Please note that children cannot be dropped off for the night, everyone needs to come as a family please.

WAIKATO MUSEUM TRIP *By Mrs Bloomfield*

Room One and Room Two had a great time visiting the Waikato Museum in Hamilton at the end of Term 1. At the museum, the children learnt about the story of Te Winika which is a majestic waka taua (war canoe). They then viewed the beautiful traditional carvings in Te Whare Waka o Te Winika Gallery and looked at the Waikato awa (river) and considered the significance and importance of this awa.

Our tamariki also went into the hands-on space called Excite to play and learn through the tactile and immersive surroundings. Some pulled felt vegetables out of the ground, others built with blocks or cogs, and others explored how cells looked under a microscope. These were just a few of the activities they got to explore. They loved their experience from this day.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE PERIA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROPRIETOR BOARD

PCE PROPRIETOR BOARD ELECTION

Recently you will have received by email, notification of the upcoming election for the Peria Christian Education (PCE) Proprietor Board. PCE are the body that owns the school property, and are responsible for the buildings, property development, and for protecting the school's special Christian character. This year there are **four board positions available, including two of the three designated seats (see below)**, and nominations for these positions are being sought. **Nominations close at 3PM this Tuesday the 29th of April.**

PROPRIETOR BOARD SUPPORT FOR THE MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOARD

A very important function of the PCE Proprietor Board (PB) is to support the School Board (SB) in its role as the School's governing body. Alongside the four parent representatives, the staff representative and the Principal, the Proprietor Board is allowed three seats on the School Board, and the PB has set aside **three designated seats** on the PB to fill the three SB seats known as Proprietor Board School Board seats, (PBSB seats).

Proprietor Board Trustees on the School Board, will have **full SB Member rights and responsibilities**, and in addition they will have **full PB Trustee rights and responsibilities, with the exception that they are not required to attend Proprietor Board meetings**, although they are expected to keep abreast of Proprietor Board matters.

One of the three PBSB member seats is presently filled, and the PB is **looking for two more Trustees to fill the remaining two seats**. If you know someone who may be interested in one of these two seats, or you are interested yourself, please **call Spence Reichardt on 027 283 9534** or talk with our Principal, Alistair, or Sarah in the school office.



Even More News - Kawepūrongo

TERM 1 SPORTS ROUNDUP PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Dates for your Calendar

April

- 29th Senior Class Northland Trip
- 29th Hockey Training
- 30th Sports Academy
- 30th Netball Training



May

- 1st Epro8 Semi Final Y5/6
- 1st Primary Netball Games
- 1st Hockey Y5/6
- 1st Proprietor (PCE) Board Meeting
- 2nd Senior Students Return
- 3rd Hockey
- 5th MCS Eclipse Netball Training
- 6th Hockey Training
- 6th Senior Netball Games
- 7th Sports Academy
- 7th Netball Training
- 8th Firewise Programme
- 8th Primary Netball Games
- 9th Teacher Only Day
- 9th Year 7/8 Hockey
- 10th Hockey
- 12th MCS Eclipse Netball Training
- 13th Hockey Training
- 13th Senior Netball Games
- 13th School board Meeting
- 14th Tough Guy Tough Girl Matamata Challenge
- 14th Sports Academy
- 14th Netball Training
- 15th Primary Netball Games
- 15th Hockey Year 5/6

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

ROCK id Z

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 coming up soon so look out for the date here. Come and enjoy afternoon tea, and chat and meet other parents and community members while the kids play.

Pre-schoolers are very welcome.



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).

