



Kia ora koutou katoa,

This is the second to last newsletter for the year. Isn't it amazing how fast 2020 has gone. I hope you enjoy the newsletter this week as it is full of photos of our tamariki out enjoying their end of year field trips.

Don't forget that school is closed on Monday for a Teacher Only Day. These days are set aside to support the implementation of changes to NCEA, and wider strengthening of curriculum, progress and achievement practice and are set by the Ministry of education. Due to the impact of Covid-19, days earlier in the year were cancelled and will happen in 2021 and 2022. This means we will have three Teacher Only Days in 2021 and four in 2022. There are some really significant changes happening in NCEA and teachers all around the country will be working hard to make sure we are up to date on the impact of these changes and ensuring that top quality teaching and learning programmes are delivered at MAS.

Our senior students started their NCEA exams this week with our Level 1 students in Year 11 sitting their Maths exam this morning. The last exam is the Level 3 Te Reo exam on the 8th of December. This can be a stressful time for students, and you can help by making sure they have a quiet place to study and they get plenty of sleep. Remind them to take their exam slip, two blue pens, ruler, and calculator (if allowed for that exam) and that they cannot have a phone with them in the exam room. I wish all our students the best with their exams, I know their hard work and study will be reflected in their results.

I also want to remind everyone about the end of school for the year as this is rapidly approaching. Our senior students finish on the 2nd of December with their prizegiving starting at 4pm. The prizegiving for our juniors is on the morning of Friday the 4th at 9:30am. I hope everyone will attend to celebrate the achievements of our students. Juniors do have school on Monday the 7th and the day will be activity based. Please let your child's teacher know if they won't be at school that day. Schools must open for a certain number of days and this differs for primary, area, and secondary schools. Schools can also open anytime within a range of dates in January and February. Murupara Area School started the year a week earlier than some other schools in our area to maximise the teaching time before exams for our senior NCEA students. This is why we have such an early finish date this year. It is worth noting that next year we start later, on the 2nd of February, and Easter holidays fall outside of the term break so our last day of school will be much later Wednesday the 15th. Have a great weekend and let's enjoy the last couple of weeks of school.

Noho ora mai,
Dr Angela Sharples
Principal

KEY DATES

Don't forget you can look at the key dates and your child's attendance, NCEA achievement, and reports through the KAMAR Parent Portal. Ring the office if you aren't sure how to do this and they will help you get started.

November

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| 23 | Teacher only day – school Closed |
| 24 | School photos |
| 27 | Year 13 Leavers Dinner |

December

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| 2 | Senior Prizegiving 4 – 6pm
Last day of school for seniors |
| 4 | Junior Prizegiving
9:30 – 11:30am |
| 7 | Last day of school for juniors |
| 8 – 11 | Teacher Only Days |

2021 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS
Tuesday 2 February 2021

IMPORTANT PARENT NOTICES

- Reminder to all parents that students are **NOT ALLOWED** to be on school grounds before 8am and after the gates are locked at 5:30 pm.

Niorea News

On Tuesday my class and I went to the Paradise Valley Wildlife Park. The students loved feeding the animals and showed aroha to all of the animals as well. This was followed by a swim at the Rotorua Aquatic Center. The kids really enjoyed themselves and their swim. A big mihi to Matua Mack Heurea and Whaea Allanah for coming and supporting our tamariki.



Whaea Tania
Niorea Year 2-3 Teacher

In our area for Maths we have been learning directions. Within this we integrated our oral language lessons, as tamariki had to follow and give instructions for their friends. We had heaps of fun with this activity.



On Wednesday our year 1 class went on our end of year Uara Celebration trip ie: Triple A Trip. Movies, popcorn, big feeds, swimming and fun were on the agenda. A big shout out to Nanny Pauline and Matua Tui and Whaea Jackie Beamsley for your awesome support.



Nā Whaea Miriama
Niorea Hub Leader

Kārangaranga News

Year 6 Whirinaki Trip

Do you know what Podocarps are? What native plants are used for their medicinal value? How can you tell the difference between Tōtara and Rimu? As part of our school Uara of Whakawhanaungatanga, Kārangaranga hub have taken turns going on a hikoi into The Whirinaki Forest to walk the H Track, Whirinaki Camp and other significant areas. Our students enjoyed being out and learning about the taonga within our environment.

Here is some feedback received from our students about the Whirinaki trip..

“On Thursday and Friday year 5 and 6 got to go to Minginui for a walk in the Whirinaki Forest. We learned about Rākau Rangatira, Rongoā plants, insects, birds- kākā(Parrot) was flying around the canopy of the forest, squawking and making lots of noise. The story I enjoyed the most was about how a person cut down a tree and how the insects rebuilt the trees, he hid away to see how the trees were coming alive and found out it was the insects. Did you know you can tell the difference between a totara tree and a rimu tree by the texture of their bark! Because its really hard to see their leaves when they 55-60 metres high.”

- **Butler Toko Y5 & Taekata Murphy Y6**

“Whirinaki- Te Pua a Tane

On Thursday last week the year 5s and I went on the Whirinaki track for the day. Himi and Willie were our tour guides and they were showing us the top 5 biggest trees in the bush and telling us how to identify them. We also learnt about the different birds that live in trees and different sounds they make and how to identify the different birds. We also got a photo by the h-tree which is a tree shaped like an H. The track we went on is called the h-track because the tree is shaped like an H. When we got to the start we sat on the tables and had lunch. When we finished our lunch we went on the van and followed Himi and Willie to the Whirinaki camp for a run around outside. Finally we drove back to school and had ice blocks. I had a great time learning.”

- **Becky Kirk, Y5**



Nā Whaea Jo Ann
Kārangaranga Year 5-6 Teacher

Rangipō News

This has been a very busy term for our senior students. Completion of credits towards NCEA L1 - 3, examination preparation, choosing options, camps, trips out and preparing for end of year prizegiving continues to keep us all focussed.

We have now completed, as much as possible, the timetable for 2021. With this done, we are very confident that the beginning of the academic year, next year means all our students and staff are ready to begin the learning journey from day one.

We need your support in this by making sure your child is ready to start school from day one. Often we are waiting 2 - 3 weeks for students to return to school. This is not helpful in terms of their learning. Stationary lists will be available for caregivers to have the long holiday period to get this. Remember that there are many Iwi scholarships available. Ngāti Manawa offices are located here and there are always workers happy to help set you on the pathway to apply. Likewise there are scholarships for uniform and shoes.

Uniform

We are very grateful for the support of caregivers in getting their tamariki to school in the correct uniform. Please note the uniform of Murupara Area School is available from The Warehouse and that the colour of shoes is BLACK. This year we have had every colour of the rainbow at school. It looks random and does not show pride in our school. We are supportive of sandals and standard school shoes however as long as the shoe is BLACK the style is up to you. Please note black with yellow tints, and GUMBOOTS are not acceptable. There is nearly 3 months till school begins on February 2nd 2021. You will get more updates towards the end of the term.

Prizegiving is to be held on the afternoon of WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER STARTING AT 4PM. THIS WILL BE HELD IN KAIWHITIWHITI. All students Year 9 -13 are to attend. We encourage whānau to please come and support this kaupapa.

**Ngā mihi
Whaea Teri
Rangipō Hub Leader**

Sports News

On Thursday 19th November we held the annual TUC Athletics at Wingate Park. This included the following school sfrom our rohe, MAS, Galatea School and Kaingaroa Forest School. It was good to see all of our parents come and support our kids. All round it was a good day and our students really enjoyed themselves. I want to give a big mihi to all who helped make the day a success!



**Nā Matua Tanetiki
Sports Co-ordinator**

Notices

SCHOOL PHOTOS DAY - REMINDER TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 9AM

Envelopes were sent home on Wednesday 18th November. Please make sure you put **the correct amount of money** in the envelopes and bring them back to the school front office between now and on school photos day (Tuesday 24th). The school is **NOT** responsible for these and you will not be given any change back as they go straight to the photography company. Family/Siblings envelopes are available at the front office. These are for those of you who wish to purchase your childs photos only.

Students are to be in FULL correct school uniform.

