



Maraekakaho School

BOT Newsletter

11th December 2019

To Maraekakaho School Community

As we look forward to the summer school holiday, it is a good time to reflect back on what has been an action packed year at school. It has been great to see so many examples of students achieving success in the classroom, on the sports field and in cultural and extracurricular activities.

Importantly we hope 2019 has been a year in which all students have achieved their academic and personal goals no matter what their particular area of interest or inspiration happens to be.

Welcome back Phil Jones – full time

In this newsletter we are pleased to welcome back Phil Jones as a full time principal. Phil has been the Lead Principal for the Kahui Ako - a community of local schools where information and knowledge is shared to better serve the education and wellbeing needs of all the children within the group, now and into the future. This has been a major commitment for Phil – 2 days per week and he looks forward to being able to dedicate that time exclusively to school matters.

Farewell to Catherine Tait

We wish Catherine a fond farewell and thank her for the outstanding contribution she has made during her 3 years on the teaching staff. She will be remembered for the excellent rapport she formed with her students and the caring approach she brought to her lessons while encouraging all students to improve and achieve to the best of their abilities.

New teaching staff for 2020

We look forward to two new teaching appointments in 2020. We welcome Amy Kockelbergh who will teach in Room 3. Amy joins us from EIT as a beginning teacher.

Donnelle Armenio will join the teaching staff full time after years of teaching part time. Donnelle is well known to the school community and will move from teaching year 7/8 to year 5/6 in 2020.

Building update

Work is progressing on the classroom replacement programme. We expect the senior block to be ready for use in term 2 and the junior block ready at some stage later in 2020.

There will be a temporary classroom moved onto site during the summer break to provide some much needed teaching space until the permanent buildings are finished and moved to site.

As mentioned previously, the role growth classrooms that have been allocated to the school is a longer term project of 3-4 years. These have been allocated to the school on expected increase in student numbers over time and are separate from the replacement project.

Uniform survey

Thank you to all the respondents to the uniform survey that was issued recently. The results showed there is no majority desire in the school community for a compulsory uniform. As a result the BOT have agreed to leave the clothing arrangements as they currently are - at the discretion of each family (or child more likely).

Many respondents were in favour of optional MKK branded items (sunhat was a popular theme) as well as others such as a fleece or hoody. Once a supplier is identified and exact item costs are available, this will be communicated and you will have an opportunity to have a say again.

There was a lot of feedback around the lack of uniformity at sports events with different ages/design of the sports clothing. We hope to ensure there is a standard uniform for years to come by ensuring the supplier and sports uniform design remains unchanged, as it has for the last 3 years.

Community survey

The community survey has produced a lot of valuable community feedback across many areas. Thank you for all those that took part.

Overwhelmingly, parents place the most importance on Reading, Writing and Maths. These are, and will continue to be the key areas of focus for teachers as they form the basis of the academic achievement of each child at MKK School.

We will continue to work through the results and use the community's views as a reference for future decisions on the direction of the school.

Festive season and end of year

To those students who are finishing at the end of the term 4 we wish you all the best for the future as you embark on your journeys in the wider world. A number of new students will join us in 2020 - we look forward to meeting you and your families and welcoming Mkk returning students on February 3rd 2020.

We would also like to thank all school staff who have made the past year a successful one. A huge amount of work goes into making the school a great place for children to learn. The board would like to publically acknowledge this effort.

Finally, the Board of Trustees would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a very merry Christmas.

Mere Kirihimete

Kind regards from:
The Maraekakaho School Board of Trustees

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