

Matariki

Koia rā a Matariki e kohikohiko nei i tonā pae o te rangi. Matariki ahunga nui, nau mai. E te whānau, aua kōrero rā anō, e kore te puna mihimihi e mimiti. Kī pai te Wharekura i te atapō ki te iwi, hāunga te kaha ngau ō māeke tonu, i tērā wā. Me te aha, haruru ana te whenua i te waewae tāngata me te whakapāoho o te tākina karakia ki te rangi.

This was another early morning gathering with lots of whānau support for the kaupapa and our mokopuna/tamariki. From the lighting of the fire to the sounding of the pūkāea and humming of pūrerehua, we heralded in another new year. Our karakia recited by tamariki and the remembering of our recently departed whānau members all part of celebrating Matariki ahunga nui. Tamariki concluded this section by singing a variety of waiata and then led our whānau back to the classrooms for a wonderful hangi breakfast!

We've celebrated Matariki for many years and it's worth noting that this is the 10th year we've gathered around our home fires. Kia manawa nui, kawea mō te ake ake rā!

After breakfast a mini sports tournament was held, followed by the final kaupapa of the day, pūrākau performances. There were a number of standout acts however, only one akomanga was judged to meet the criteria of best overall performance with their rendition of I Te Tīmatanga. Congratulations to akomanga 2, who have a tough decision of which movie they'd like to go to and view in Whitianga next term. Te mutunga kē mai o te whakaari, o te noho tahi hoki tamariki mā!

A huge mihi to all the staff and whānau who played key roles in ensuring Matariki was a super successful day in our calendar of annual events. Kei whea mai koutou mō te mahitahi!

New Zealand Area Schools Sports Tournament

This sports tournament was played during the first week of the holidays. We had 5 students competing.

Te Mauri
Hohepa
Aroha
Rangitahua
Layla
Koia kei a koutou mokopuna mā!

Te Mauri was selected for the Te Ika a Māui boys basketball team while Aroha, Layla and Rangitahua were selected for the Te Ika a Māui girls netball team. Both teams played their counterparts from Te Waipounamu. I toa Te Ika a Māui tama tāne. I toa ngā kōhine o Te Waipounamu.

Mena, kua pānuitia tō Ashlee pitopito kōrero kua kōwhiria a Te Mauri hei kaitākaro mō te kapa poitūkohu o Ngā Kura ā Rohe o Aotearoa, ā, kua kōwhiria hoki a Aroha me Layla hei kaitākaro mō te kapa netipōro o Ngā Kura ā Rohe o Aotearoa. Ka mau kē te wehi.

Kia ora rawa atu hoki ki a Tyran rāua ko Ashlee for finding the time to travel with this group of students and providing the opportunity to participate in sporting events at a national level. I know you both have very young children and to make this 4 day commitment is appreciated enormously by the taura, their families and our school community. Mei kore ake kōrua.

After School Work Centre (for students in years 9 to years 13)

From Monday 29th of July, we will be resurrecting our After School Work Centre. The centre will operate after school from 3.15pm to 5.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (for the time being). Depending on need it may be extended to include Fridays too. We will monitor how things progress during term 3.

The purpose of the centre is to give students the opportunity to work here at school alongside a teacher, and to utilise the schools resources to help them satisfactorily complete their homework and study. Particularly, those students who continually fail to complete homework, assessments and tasks during the school week.

Too often students have said they could not do their work because there was no-one to help or they didn't have the computers/books/resources at hand, to finish their work. It is envisaged the centre will achieve our goals in assisting students to complete their homework and to also help develop great study habits and research skills. These skills are so very important for secondary studies and NCEA.

Finally, the centre will also be for students who need time and space to reflect on their behaviour and attitude, which is causing issues while at school. Consequences for responding inappropriately and not adhering to our kaupapa and mātāpono will be reiterated and a shared learning of these in our centre.

Parents will be given 3 days notice their son/daughter will be attending the centre. As parents/guardians your responsibility will be to ensure your son/daughter attends and to uplift them at 5pm each day the centre is open.

Contractors at Wharekura

Thank you all for keeping clear of the Kura while workmen are on site. I know tamariki would love to play at school however, workmen will be present throughout this week too. I appreciate observance of this notice.

Te Tupua

Te Tupua will be performed here on Wednesday 31 July at 1pm. Te Tupua is a one man solo performance by John Davies (actor, writer, director). Te Tupua – The Goblin is all the more powerful because it is a story about one of Davies' own ancestors. The travails of the 10-year old Scottish lad are drawn from history but are not a factual recounting of his enslavement in the early 1800s and 15 years aboard a British ship. His fight for survival after he is cast ashore on Aotearoa is not merely told but fully enacted.

John G Davies is a consummate storyteller. Not only powerful play, and he performs all 13 characters in it. He gives each character its own voice, becoming Scottish or Māori, male or female, cowering or commanding – even his stature morphs from tall to small and tall again. Stories are how we understand our world, our culture, ourselves.

This performance is suitable for year 9s – 13s. However, if there are adults in the whānau who may want to attend please contact me.

Teacher Only Days Thursday 8 – Friday 9 August

Wharekura staff will be attending a two-day professional development symposium organised by Ngā Kura ā Iwi in Rotorua for all affiliated Kura/Wharekura.

I'm signalling this now, so caregivers have ample lead in time to organise care for your children during these two days.

We appreciate your understanding when it comes to teacher only days and the necessity to send staff away to upskill themselves to be more effective Kaiako for our tamariki.

Report Evening years 1-10

Feedback and comments have been very positive. Thank you all for making the effort to arrange times to talk with your children's teachers and to catchup with your daughters/son's successes and achievement levels. Of course, there is still a lot of work to do, and staff are committed to ensuring every student experiences success and a sense of achievement.

Absenteeism

Absenteeism has a significant negative impact on students' achievement levels. Please ensure your tamariki attend school regularly. If your child is away from wharekura, please advise the office.

Gaming

A few students are arriving at school and falling asleep just after classes have started. When asked why they're so sleepy invariably the answer is because they've stayed up well beyond midnight gaming with their mates. Whānau, kei te inoi atu, please monitor the length of time children are allowed to use their devices and insist they get a decent night's sleep and be ready for school the following day.

Te Reo Māori

E hoa mā, please think carefully about learning Te Reo. Our Wharekura kaupapa is Te Reo me ōna tikanga and we all need to contribute to the achievement, learning and understanding of our tamariki mokopuna. Te Whare Tāhuhu Kōrero o Hauraki is providing Reo/Tikanga wānanga and of course there are other online courses being provided by other learning institutions too. If you need help navigating your way through the options, please contact the school office.

Term 3 Begins

Term 3 starts on Monday 22nd July. Looking forward to seeing all of your children a te Rāhina nei.

Noho ora mai.