

# Newsletter

**Rāmere 3 Poutū-te-rangi 2023 / Friday 3 March 2023  
(Term 1, Week 5)**



Kia ora, e te whānau

In this newsletter edition, I will be sharing and celebrating recent events at Maranatha Christian School and talking about the current post-cyclone situation in Hawkes Bay.

## Maranatha Update...

Over the holiday period, contractors worked hard to upgrade and renovate areas around the school. In addition, ngā mihi (thank you) to all who helped at our Working Bee on Saturday.



*Welcome Back 2023, New to Us Furniture, Peer Mediator Training, Assembly & Whānau Fun & Info Evening*

School programmes have been gathering momentum with recent lessons on Keeping Ourselves Safe (KoS) being taught across the school. This important learning reinforces the message that God wants us to exercise wisdom around our safety.

Recently, student leadership positions have been filled. These included Whānau Group Leaders and Student Councillors who were voted into positions by their peers.

Yesterday, the head councillors were announced and commissioned. Congratulations (Head Student Councillor) and Orla Wierenga (Deputy Head) who will lead the student council this year and represent the school at events.



Last week, we held our Whānau Fun & Information Evening. This was a wonderful time with families enjoying sausages and ice blocks for dinner (courtesy of our Parent Teacher Association), playing games around the school, joining in prayer and worship in the hall then hearing about the year ahead. This was a wonderful display of whānaungatanga, which is the Māori concept of forming and maintaining relationships and strengthening ties between family and community.

This year, the school will be strengthening digital means of communication. This will include more frequent posts on the school's Facebook page, the use of Class Dojo in junior classes, the introduction of the (free) 'Edge' app for smart devices (see attached documents), a digital Parents & Whānau Information Book and a brand new website (under development).

We are excited to explore the effective use of these technologies to connect with you.

## Cyclone Update...

As you will be aware, recent floods in Hawkes Bay and other areas of the country have left many families displaced and struggling in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. As a school community committed to showing Christ's love to others, I am asking for your assistance in the relief effort, if you are able.

During our information evening, I shared how Maranatha is part of a community of Christian schools and early childhood centres called the Lower North Island Christian Community of Learning (LNIC Kāhui Ako). Gavin Clark, the Principal of Hastings Christian School and I are privileged to co-lead this amazing group that ranges between Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Dannevirke, Whanganui and Wellington.

Gavin recently shared the following...

*The past seven days have certainly been challenging as we have sought to support our communities and come to terms with the unbelievable devastation. While our school was spared damage the cyclone left in its path, the same cannot be said for so many of our school families and the wider community.*

*I had the opportunity today to take a van load of students out to the back of Taradale to help a couple who have had their farm decimated. Words like apocalyptic or harrowing don't even do justice to what we saw.*

*What has been encouraging is hearing the overwhelming gratitude, often with tears, of those that we have been able to practically serve over the last few days. What's even more encouraging are the incredible opportunities for the gospel this has opened up.*

*I appreciate the encouragement through texts and emails that we have received, and in particular, the commitment to pray for us. I realise that it can be difficult to know how to help, however, there is an opportunity that I would like to let you know about.*

*Our school, and many of the affiliated churches, will be helping provide meals for 120 Civil Defence workers. As food in local supermarkets is in short supply, we are extremely grateful to Cornerstone Christian School, in Palmerston North, who have kindly offered to purchase or donate food items for each day's menu and transport this up to us.*

*Any money your school communities can raise could be sent to Cornerstone to help purchase these items. Excess funds will then be donated to approved relief organisations.*

The staff felt that it was appropriate (given the situation) for students to 'serve others' when raising funds, rather than hold a traditional 'fun day'. One way that families may choose to do this is by using the school's Home Learning Challenges (attached), such as earning money for doing chores around the home or helping out in other ways.

If you would like to contribute via Home Learning Challenges or to make a one-off donation, please send money raised to the school which will be collected by classroom teachers and sent on to Cornerstone CS by the school office. Cash donations can be made from now until Friday 31 March.

### **Looking ahead...**

Next week, junior classes have their scheduled visits to Wellington Museum. I am looking forward to joining the Piwakawaka class for their trip on Monday. Please keep an eye on the school's Facebook page for updates and photos. If you are not a member of our (closed) Facebook page, please contact the school office for information.

Kia pai tō rā whakatā (Have a fantastic weekend).

Steve Farrand  
**Principal**



goodbye

### **Colossians 3:23 (NIV)**

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”*

# Schedule for Next Week

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 6/7/9 March  
Wednesday, 8 March  
Friday, 9 March

Junior Museum trips  
Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Lunch Online (Hot Dogs)

## Coming Up...

Monday, 13 March  
Monday, 13 March – Friday, 24 March  
Wednesday, 15 March

Wednesday, 22 March  
Tuesday, 28 March  
Wednesday, 29 March  
Friday, 31 March  
Wednesday, 5 April  
Thursday, 6 April

Additional Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Bee Healthy on site  
Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Welcome Assembly (1:45pm – 2:45pm)  
Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Assembly Day (2 - 2:45pm)  
Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Staff Only Day (School Closed)  
Final Year 7 & 8 Technology  
Last day of Term 1

## Notices:

### Term Dates for 2023:

Term 1: Wednesday, 1 February – Thursday, 6 April  
Term 2: Monday, 24 April – Friday, 30 June  
Term 3: Monday, 17 July – Friday, 22 September  
Term 4: Monday, 9 October – Friday, 15 December

### Enrolment cut off dates:

For a child who turns 5 between:  
14 November 2023 – 11 March 2024

Receive applications by:  
1 May 2023

### Reminder:

Please be mindful of cyclists when driving up and down Hill Road.

### Welcome Assembly:



Welcome to our new students: Luke, Stella, Luke, Elisha, Noah, Ephraim, Juliet, Haven, Corey, Harvey and Samuel who join us this term. We hope you have settled in well in the Kiwi Burrow!

The children have really enjoyed being creative using the loose parts play items that were donated by Hutt City Council. If you have any equipment that you would like to donate towards our play box, we would welcome any donations. Please see photo below for ideas of what we are looking for: i.e. pipes, hoses, plastic pallets, large clean buckets, rope, large fabric. Thank you.



(Example of equipment)





**FREE Dental Checks!**  
Maranatha School

The Bee Healthy Dental Mobile will be parked at your school in term one from 13th to 24th of March. Once seen, your child will be given a completion certificate which will inform you of what happens next.

Please search your child's school bag for one of the following:

- Your child requires no further appointments this year
- Your child needs an appointment at your local Dental hub for further care.

Your local Hub clinic is: **Naenae**

If your child is not enrolled in the service please check their bag for an enrolment form. This is to be completed and returned to the school office so that we can see you child for their free annual checkup.

If you have pre-school aged children please call us to arrange an appointment for their annual dental checkup at the Dental Hub.

To book or reschedule your appointment, or update your contact details, please call 0800 TALK TEETH (825 583)

  
Private Bag 21907 Lower Hutt  
[www.beehealthy.org.nz](http://www.beehealthy.org.nz) | 0800 TALK TEETH (825 583)