

VISION STATEMENT

*Equip for Life
Prepare for Eternity
Whakarawe mā mataora
Whakareri mā āke tonu atu*



Weeks: **10 - 11**

Term 1 2025:
31 Poutū-te-rangi (March)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Class Trips

See p2



Stations of the Cross
See p4



Athletics Day

See p5



INTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Last week our Year 4—8 students spent the day in Hamilton for the annual Inter Christian Schools Athletics Competition. This takes place at Porritt Stadium in Hamilton, a purpose built Athletics venue with excellent competition facilities.

This year more schools were involved than in previous years. Our students were up against Hamilton Christian School, Southcity Christian School, Hamilton SDA, Waipa Christian School, Bethlehem Chapman College, Rotorua SDA, Lake Taupō Christian School and Whakatāne SDA—eight other Christian schools of various sizes from a huge geographic spread across the central North Island.

This day provides amazing competition in sprints, relays, high jump, long jump and throwing with students competing in their specific age groups and gender. The competition is stiff and our students performed valiantly!

There are two levels of competition. A few compete at championship level with the rest competing at non-championship level. We were the defending school for the non-championship trophy which we have held for the last two years.

This year honours went to Hamilton Christian School who successfully defended the championship trophy, and Hamilton SDA who took the non-championship trophy. Matamata Christian School can certainly hold its head high though finishing in second place for both competitions! That's an impressive result given the level of competition and knowing we beat seven other schools each time to get there! We certainly have some impressive athletes performing at a high level.

Photos courtesy of Gavin Dearns. See page 5 for more pictures.



WHAT'S IN A NAME

Over the years Matamata Christian School has had two names. It started off in 1988 as Rainbow Park Christian School. This was derived at the time after a stunning rainbow prominently shone over the Kaimai's during stormy weather when the school was being set up in its previous site on Tower Road.

Several years later the school was renamed Matamata Christian School and was shifted to our current site here on Smith Street. Last year, in collaboration with one of our local iwis, Ngāti Hauā, the School Board decided to include the Māori version of our name to our official school name too. Te Kura Karaitiana o Matamata is a direct translation of the name Matamata Christian School and will be used alongside it won't replace it. It is a name that we have made reference to in the past but is now officially part of our school name enabling it to be used interchangeably.

Our thanks goes to Mike Jansen for his work on the logo.



From the Desk of the Tumuaki

This is the final school newsletter of the term. Though we are in the final two weeks there is still a lot happening so please keep reading to keep up with everything.

We are thrilled to welcome a new student into our Year 8 class this week. Klara van Blerk joins the group and we warmly welcome the van Blerk family into our school family.

Changes

You will have noticed that the school has been going through a lot of change lately and there is a little more to come.

This term there has been a focus on property upgrades with ranch sliders being fitted to three classes, rooves over decks to two classes and new carpet fitted to another class. These holidays the Senior class will receive new carpet too.

Over the last six months there have also been bathroom upgrades and technology upgrades in each class. This has been in the form of new Interactive TV technology and an increase in iPads across the school.

Soon we are expecting the arrival of a new classroom block that will sit alongside Room 5. This is the first increase in classrooms for the school in 30 years so it is a pretty exciting time for the school. Our proprietors have already bought the block of two rooms that were built by and used in another school.

These classrooms are a big thing for us and we believe God has really blessed us with them. One is a standard classroom that is fully equipped with everything but furniture, and the other is a science lab! As a science lab it comes fully equipped with sinks, gas lines and even an emergency shower. This takes us quickly into the next level of development for the school for teaching science at the older years in the school.

We are hoping that this new classroom block will arrive early in Term 2. We are currently working through the consenting process with the Council and then the building will be able to be moved onsite and the school will be allowed to expand its roll from 120 students to 150.

You will also be aware that the school has had an application in with the Ministry of Education to expand our year levels to include Years 9 and 10 and to expand our numbers again to 175. This has come about as a request from a parent survey done in 2023 where the majority of parents asked us to consider moving up into Years 9 and 10. The Ministry are currently working through our application and have begun talks with us. We are hopeful for a successful outcome. The next three months is a crucial time in this process and will be when the bulk of this consideration is done. If successful Year 9 could start as early as next year with Year 10 starting in 2027. We know there is a lot going for us including the running of a successful Year 1—8 school at present and large population growth expected for Matamata over the next few years. Please pray earnestly with us in this process.

Our Proprietor Board have been working very hard on planning to accommodate this new growth and expansion. We look forward to sharing some of this with you at our mid-year AGM that is coming up.

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Diligence Quote

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."
- Thomas Edison

We also have staffing changes coming up. On the next page we introduce you to our new Junior teacher who replaces Miss Thomasen during next term. We are working through the immigration process at present and would really value your prayers here too please. Additionally Ash Stewart joins us from the start of next term as we create a new PE teacher position who will work with all our students once per week, will help run Sports Academy and will join the sports coaching team. It is pretty exciting to include this position again, something that few primary schools get to offer.

We have watched God move in amazing ways in our school and community this term. We are so grateful for the opportunities He is giving and the people and facilities He is granting us. We can't wait to see what He's going to do here next term too! God is so good!

God bless

Alistair Paterson

Prayer Requests...

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

- Please pray that our new Junior teacher's immigration visa will come through quickly and everything will fall into place for her arrival with her husband.
- Please pray for our property development. Particularly pray for the consenting process, that there will be no barriers to the approval of each step.
- 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 growth, development and success of every student academically, physically, spiritually and in their wise emotional development throughout this year.
- And please pray for our Stations of the Cross next week to be God inspired and glorifying to Him, helping turn people toward Him.

News - Kawepūrongo

JUNIORS FIRTH TOWER TRIP

This **Thursday the 3rd of April** our two Junior classes (Miss Thomassen and Mrs Atkin's classes) will be having their local fieldtrip to Firth Tower. This is part of the work they have been doing in local Matamata history this term. This promises to be an exciting trip and students are very welcome to dress up in olden day attire to help get the most out of the day.

This trip has been made with previous Junior classes and we can really recommend it to you.



MIDDLE SCHOOL WAIKATO MUSEUM TRIP

On **Thursday the 10th of April** Year 4—6 students (Mrs Bloomfield's and Mrs Uerata's classes) will be having their fieldtrip to the Waikato Museum. This is part of the work they have been doing in Waikato history this term. Students need to be in uniform for this trip please.

Further details have already come home including a request for transport.



YEAR 7/8 NORTHLAND CAMP

When we get back after the school holidays it will be time for the Senior class to have their history trip to explore early New Zealand history in Northland. Northland is where much of New Zealand's early formative years took place and the journey we take retraces some of those key events.

We have great parent support for this trip and are excited to take a group of 50 with us. This includes 30 of our senior students and 11 adults, and we will be joined by six further students from Whakatāne SDA School and three of their

adults.

Please remember that this trip is in Week 1 of Term 2. We leave early on 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 the night before.



Over the next two weeks of this term more details will come home and there will be some more forms to complete and return too please.

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.

NEW JUNIOR TEACHER

The school is pleased to announce that it has appointed a new Junior teacher to start during Term 2. Mrs Stroebel is coming to us from South Africa and is currently based in the former Port Elizabeth.



Mrs Stroebel comes to us with immense experience having taught for the last 28 years in her current school where she is head of the Junior school. We are very excited to be able to appoint her to this role.

For the last few weeks we have been working through the Immigration process with her. We would appreciate you joining us in prayer over this to enable her to join us as soon as possible. The good news is that teachers are being fast tracked by Immigration at present but there is still quite a process and she still has to give notice to her current school as soon as New Zealand Immigration confirms her eligibility to come.

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

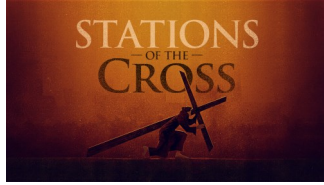
This is our nation This is our heritage

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

News - Kawepūrongo

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each year, as part of our preparations for Easter, we hold a Stations of the Cross event. This year we are aiming to have this next week on the evening of **Tuesday the 8th of April.**



Stations of the Cross is a contemplative event and we invite you to bring your whole family and to invite others. It is free and open to the whole community. We will set up stations for you and your family to move around and engage in some of the events surrounding Jesus time leading up to what He did for us on the Cross.

We want families to be able to come, think and engage with this together. It is meant to be a relatively quiet experience, so to help with this, we will be closing off the school playground and play areas. This is to control the noise which has proven to be a distraction in the past. Please be prepared for this and keep your children with you as you engage in the stations.

You are still very welcome to gather, stay and chat with friends around the fire pit. Out of respect for others though can we please ask you not to let your children run off and play or be overly noisy.

HELPING RAISE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY

During our recent Teacher Only Day 30 of our students went and supported the local Colour Run event, a fundraiser for the new Matamata playground.



This involved most of Matamata's local schools, pre-schools, and many in the wider community.

A big thank you to all those who participated and helped raise money for the community.



INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING *Written by Mrs Bloomfield*

On Monday 24th of March, Mrs Bloomfield took 10 children to compete in the Interschool swimming competition against eight other local schools. This was a unique opportunity in that only a few students from our school were selected to participate and it allowed them to compete against peers that are of above-average capabilities.

All the children did very well, tried their best, and were a wonderful representation of our school. Two of our 10 made it to the finals of their swim competition which was a great success to be within the top eight fastest swimmers in their age range for girls or boys. Kaden Muir and Sadie Thorne-George both made it to the finals for freestyle and backstroke and both came within the top five swimmers for these races. Kaden even managed to come away with a 2nd place position for backstroke for the second year in a row. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY: TUESDAY 8TH APRIL ANYTIME BETWEEN 6—9PM @ MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



METER CHAMPION SCHOOL ATLETICS 2025 *Photos courtesy of Gavin Deans and Shelly Park*



April 2025

Holiday Programme

8:30-3:00 \$40
8:00-4:00 \$45
8:00-5:00 \$50
8:00-6:00 \$55

Some days will incur additional charges for outings.
These will be included in the price shown at the time of booking.

Supported by MSD



Monday 14

FIESTA OF PAINT

We're having some messy fun with paint activities!



Tuesday 15

MINI GOLF ROTORUA

Could you be the next Ryan Fox? Let's go practice our putting!



Wednesday 16

MATAMATA POOLS

Bring your togs for a fun day at the Pools!



Thursday 17

EASTER EGG HUNT

You love chocolate, right? So come and find some!



Friday 18

GOOD FRIDAY

NO PROGRAMME



Monday 21

EASTER MONDAY

NO PROGRAMME



Tuesday 22

FOOD AND FOOTBALL

Come along for a skills session, and make some yummy treats!



Wednesday 23

TEAM CHALLENGES

Your team will need the brains and the brawn to tackle today's challenges!



Thursday 24

MATAMATA POOLS

Bring your togs for a fun day at the Pools!



Friday 25

ANZAC DAY

NO PROGRAMME



Venue: Matamata Christian School,
91A Smith Street, Matamata.

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Or email childcare@starfishservices.org.nz

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Sports News - Kawepūrongo

LEARNING JOURNAL NIGHT

Next Wednesday, in the final week of term, family members are invited to your children's Learning Journal night. At the end of each of Terms 1 - 3 students bring parents and family in to share about their learning and work from the preceding term. This is a student led interview where your child does most of the talking. Research shows that when students can understand and talk about their learning they will engage in and take more responsibility for their own development. Once this happens learning becomes deeper and more powerful. We really want to encourage you to take the time to be involved in this as your involvement is a key factor in your child's learning success helping demonstrate to them what importance you place on their learning.



This night will be held next week on **Wednesday the 9th of April**. Classrooms are open between 3:15PM and 7PM. You do not need to make an appointment, just come along anytime between these times. This is not a parent - teacher interview but teachers will be there to help with explanations as necessary.

As part of these sessions we will be giving you our parent-student goal setting sheet. We know that learning at school is only a part of the overall learning a child is involved in. At home it is likely you are helping them work on non-school related things too. These can be fun or important and personal. It might be about them learning to tie their laces, wanting to master doing a cart wheel, or a discipline such as learning an instrument, or something to do with benefitting their health. Whatever it is this is part of their holistic learning and we want to give you the opportunity to include it in their goal setting.

As always, if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's learning further, please make a time with the teacher. This applies all year round as we want parents to feel able to come in any time of the year and as often as is necessary.

END OF TERM ASSEMBLY

Our end of term assembly celebrating student achievement is on the last day of term, **Friday the 11th of April**, and all parents and family members are very welcome to attend. Please note that because these assemblies run a little longer it will be held at the **earlier time of 1:30PM** instead of the normal 2:15PM time.



This assembly celebrates our famous Rockstar Awards and our core value badges. This term badges are being given for diligence with only two from each class being able to receive this award.

PARENT CONNECT GROUP

The next Parent Connect Group is being held after school on the last day of term. All parents or family members are invited to stay after school, chat and have afternoon tea while your kids play on the playground. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents in the school so please feel encouraged to come and be a part of this.



EPRO8

Over the next two weeks a number of our Year 5—8 students are preparing for the Epro8 competition after being part of team selection trials here at school.



Epro8 is a Mathematics, Engineering, Technology and problem solving challenge that a team of four enters. They are given a couple of hours and presented with a set of challenges to choose from. They must create and problem solve solutions with equipment and earn as many points as they can. They can embark on more than one challenge but the time limit is firm.

Working as a team is a crucial element of success in this environment, no teams ever succeed without it. The team is not allowed to communicate with anyone outside their group so it can sometimes be an agonising watch for spectators!

The teams of four have now been selected, one team at Years 5—6 and one at Years 7—8. Congratulations go to those selected; Ezra Dearn, Karo Potgieter, Zinaske Hamann and Alexander Godbey at Years 5—6, and Tabitha Madanawa, Rafael Pana, Adriel Magan, and Darzy Ugalde in Years 7—8.

On Wednesday the 2nd of April this week the Year 5—6 team will travel to Hamilton to compete in the morning, while the Year 7—8 team will compete in Morrinsville next week on the evening of Tuesday the 8th of April.



CONGRATULATIONS SOPHIE BURGESS

We were thrilled to hear that Sophie Burgess continues to add to her trophy collection at the A&P shows. She has recently picked up a new trophy and ribbon from the Morrinsville A&P Show for achieving the highest overall points for the Central North Island Bell Booth Junior Young Handler Series with her calf after performing at three A&P shows.

As you may understand this is quite a stunning achievement! Our sincerest congratulations go to Sophie with our acknowledgement of all the hours of hard work she has put into this.

In addition to this award Sophie also took 2nd in Senior Rearing, 2nd in Dairy Type Heavy, Reserve Champion Overall Dairy Type, and 5th in the Junior Young Handlers.



Even More News - Kawepūrongo

TOUCH RUGBY COMES TO AN END

Last week the Touch Rugby season came to an end. Lots of our kids were involved and had a successful season. A huge thanks go to all who played and to all our coaches in Touch Rugby, Futsal, Cricket and Miniball. We really appreciate you all!



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

ROCKIDZ

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 next week, **Friday the 11th of April, straight after school at the end of the term.** Come and enjoy afternoon tea, and chat and meet other parents and community members while the kids play. Pre-schoolers are very welcome.



Dates for your Calendar

March

31st Futsal Years 3—6

April

1st Year 7 Vaccinations
 1st Futsal Years 7—8
 1st School Board Meeting
 2nd Epro8 Competition Years 5—6
 2nd Future Ferns Netball
 3rd Firth Tower Trip (Years 1—3)
 3rd Sports Academy
 7th Futsal Years 3—6
 8th Futsal Years 7—8
 8th Epro8 Competition (Years 7—8)
 8th Stations of the Cross
 9th Learning Journal Night
 9th Future Ferns Netball
 10th Waikato Museum Trip (Years 4—6)
 10th Junior Netball Mini Tournament
 10th Sports Academy
 11th End of Term Assembly
 11th Parent Connect Group
 25th Anzac Day



Available Fridays

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).

