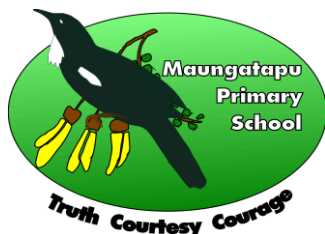


MAUNGATAPU SCHOOL

Newsletter Number 1

2012



stepping up to the crest

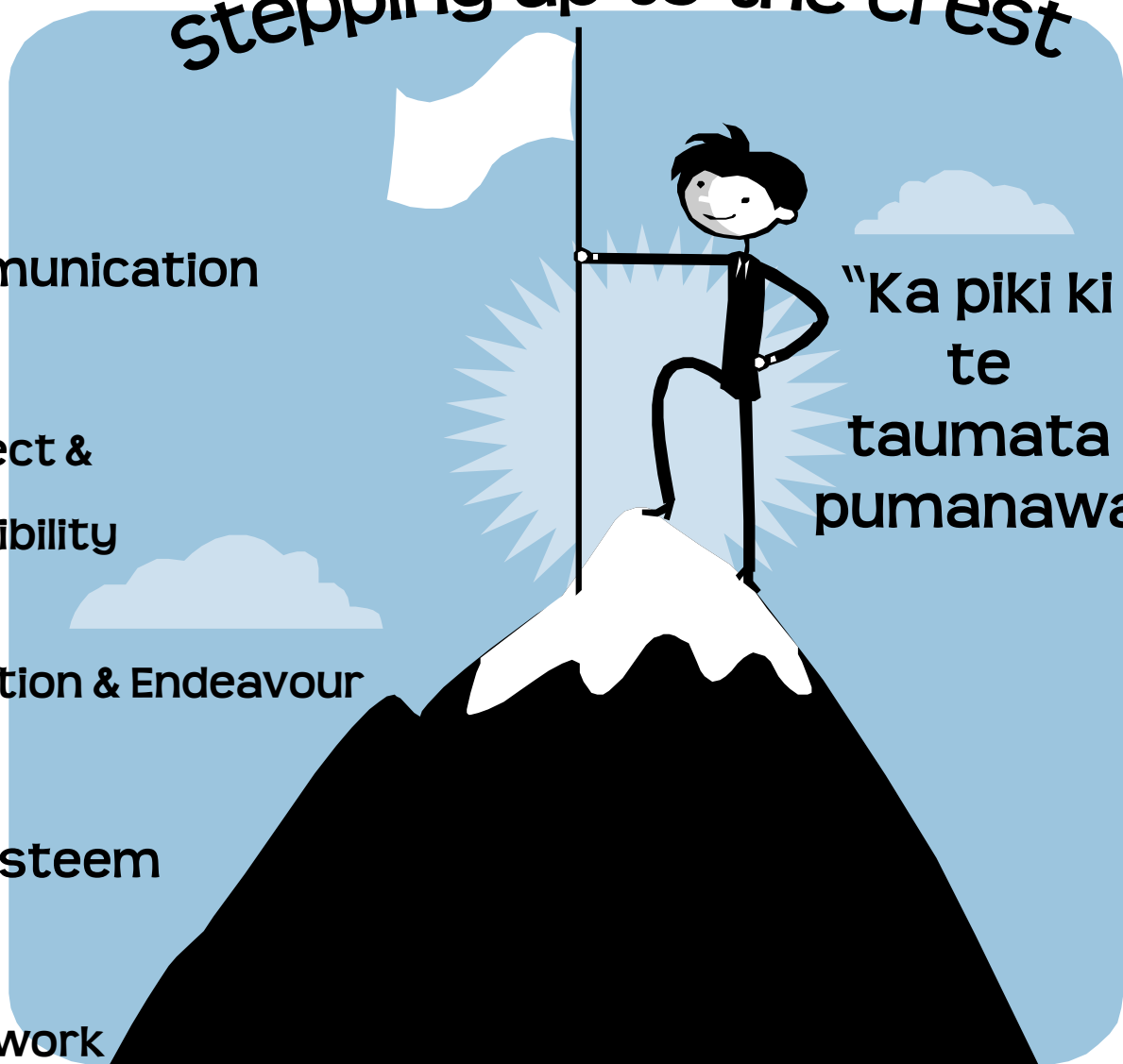
Communication

Respect &
Responsibility

Education & Endeavour

Self Esteem

Teamwork



"Ka piki ki
te
taumata
pumanawa

Kia ora

Greetings from the Principal, staff, and Board of Trustees to all of our pupils and families and a warm welcome to the 2012 school year.

A very special welcome to new pupils, new teachers, and families who are beginning their association with Maungatapu School in 2012.

Welcome to 2012 - a year with many exciting possibilities, programmes and events in store.

We trust that all families have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer holiday despite the unsettled weather which has been a feature of the New Zealand summer.

- During the holidays, a number of school maintenance and repair projects were carried out to ensure our classrooms and buildings are ready to cope with the demands of the year ahead.
- Mrs Budd has all stationery packs ready to go for our new entrants and our teachers have spent many hours in classrooms and offices over the holidays preparing for a great start to 2012.
- Our grounds and swimming pool were enjoyed by many people during the holiday break with many families taking advantage of hiring pool keys so that they could use the pool in the holidays, weekends and after school. Pool keys can be hired from the school office for \$72.00, with a \$20 refund given at the conclusion of the season when the keys are returned.

New staff members.

We welcome Ms Alana Watson and Mrs Janine O'Connor who have joined our teaching teams as new staff members and we welcome back Mr Dennis Pointon and Mrs Anne Spiers who are both returning to resume teaching duties following their terms of leave. In the holidays, Miss Poa married and is now known as Mrs Hargreaves.

Meet the 2012 team

Principal	Sue Horne
Deputy Principal	Lester Stephens
Associate Principal	Keryn de Lacy

Puwhariki Whanau Unit

Room 1. Alana Watson Team Leader.	YEAR 4/5/6
Room 2. Matewai Karaka Clarke	YEAR 2/3
Room 3. Ngawai King	New Entrants and YEAR 1
Kaiarahi i te reo - Raheera Forrester	
Part time teacher-Fran Baker	
Classroom release teacher- Delwyn Little	

Junior Team

Room 22 Cindy Mawson Team Leader	YEAR 1
Room 11 Julie Rogers	New Entrants
Room 7 Joy Elder	YEAR 1
Room 23 Cathy Hardaker	YEAR 1

Room 6 Janine O'Connor	YEAR 2
Room 8 Michelle Lassing	YEAR 2
Room 12 Anne Spiers	YEAR 2

Middle Team

Room 14 Judy Eagleson Team Leader	YEAR 3/4
Room 4 Paula Heyes	YEAR 3/4
Room 5 Donelle O'Neill	YEAR 3/4
Room 13 Diana Price	YEAR 3/4
Room 18 Adele Huka	YEAR 3/4

Senior Team

Room 15 Jo Naera Team Leader	YEAR 5/6
Room 16 Deirdre Duggan	YEAR 5/6
Room 19 Kahurangi Hargreaves	YEAR 5/6
Room 20 Dennis Pointon	YEAR 5/6
Room 21 Matu Pene	YEAR 5/6

Glenys Reid continues her Reading Recovery role in 2012 and will also be providing literacy and mathematics support for pupils across the school.

CRT (Classroom Release Time)

All New Zealand teachers have a component of non contact time called Classroom Release Time. This equates to 10 hours per term where the teacher is released from classroom teaching to engage in administrative tasks, research to inform their teaching, reflective practice, and additional tasks related to teaching and learning.

Our Classroom Release Teachers work closely with each syndicate to provide continuity to classroom programmes.

In addition, our Team Leaders also require non contact time to attend to leadership and administrative tasks, and responsibilities associated with their leadership roles. Team leaders are released for an afternoon each week, usually on a Tuesday.

Our CRT, Team leader and Beginning Teacher release teachers are:

Juniors - Sally Stuart and Vanya Dodunski

Middle - Hayley Derry

Senior - Bernice Wright

Whanau - Delwyn Little and Fran Baker

Administrative and Support Staff

Office Administration - Wendy Budd

Bursar - Gaylene McCarthy

Administration Assistant - Stephanie Ashton

Librarian - Alison Muir

Computer Technician - Tony Bailey

Caretaker - Ross Prestidge

Cleaners - Anne Boswell, Bill Autridge

Dental Therapist - to be confirmed

Teacher Aides - Jane Sibley, Vicki Robb, Barbara Pratt, Suzi Quedley, Judy Deed, Katrina Edgecombe, Karl Andrews, Linda Nyhoff.

Sports Co ordinator - Celeste Moffatt.

Attendance.

We will continue to monitor the attendance of our students as well as pupil punctuality in arriving at school on time in the mornings, during 2012. This year we will be utilising an electronic system for recording and monitoring attendance which will assist us to maintain a very clear and accurate picture of individual and whole school attendance trends.

We still have a core group of children regularly arriving at school after 9 o'clock. Please make every effort to ensure all family members are organised so that children can be at school on time.

Many important notices and classroom information are shared by teachers with their pupils at 9 am when the school day commences.

Pupils coming to school after 9 am must report in to the school office before going to class.

Please avoid taking students out of school during school time e.g. for holidays, shopping days, or other parent condoned unjustified absences.

Wherever possible, arrange family holidays during the school breaks.

We ask that you give your full support to your child's learning and achievement by making sure that they are at school by 9 am every day and ensuring that they attend school every day, unless they are sick,

Phone the school office to report a child absence on 5440858

between 8.00 am and 9.00 am, or leave a text message on 0274 191314.

Our session times are listed below for your information.

Teaching block one 9.00 - 10.20 am

Seated morning tea 10.20 - 10.25 am

Morning play 10.25 - 10.45 am

Teaching block two	10.45 - 12.45 pm (teachers provide pupils with a five minute break during this block)
Seated lunch	12.45 - 1.00 pm
Lunchtime play	1.00 - 1.30 pm
Teaching block three	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Pupils dismissed	3.00 pm

2012 Term dates.

Term One: Wednesday February 1 - Thursday April 5

NB April 5th is a Teacher Only day for teacher professional development, so term one will conclude on Wednesday, April 4th

Term Two: Monday April 23 - Friday June 29

Term Three: Monday July 16 - Friday September 28

Term Four: Monday October 15 - Wednesday December 19

Teacher Only days.

March 21st

April 5th.

Statutory Holidays

Waitangi Day Monday February 6

Good Friday April 6 (In school holidays)

Easter Monday April 9 (" " " ")

Anzac Day Wednesday April 25

Queen's Birthday Monday June 4

Labour Day Monday October 22

Term One reporting

Term One Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for week 8 on March 21 and 22. March 21 will a Teacher Only Day, so that the day can be devoted to teachers meeting with parents and caregivers to discuss all aspects of children's learning and goal setting for the year. March 22 will be a shortened day, with the afternoon also available for parents and teachers to meet for conferences from 2.30 to 6.30 pm. Further information will be circulated later in the term regarding parent teacher conferences.

We invite parents and caregivers to come and have lunch with the children on Wednesday February 15th from 12.30 to 1.30 pm and to meet informally with the teachers. This will be followed by an invitation to attend a session in the Life Education classroom after lunch, and for those parents, familiar with the Life Education programme, an overview of our learning journey presented by the leadership team.

Queries and concerns

If you have a concern about your child's progress or wellbeing, please contact the office to make an appointment to discuss your concerns with your child's teacher. It is important that concerns are talked through immediately in a manner which supports a solution.

It is Board of Trustees policy that if you have a complaint it is firstly discussed with the Principal. If you feel that your complaint has been inadequately dealt with, then a letter of all the details needs to be forwarded to the Board Chairperson. Letters to the Ministry of Education or the Education Review Office will be redirected back to the school. The Board of Trustees is the governing body and has a complaints policy.

School Uniform

The school uniform is compulsory for all pupils and they are expected to be in correct uniform every day at school. Please send a note of explanation to your child's teacher if your child is unable to be in uniform for any reason. **Please name your child's uniform clearly.**

Families are encouraged to purchase sufficient uniform items to allow for washing and wet weather.

Some of our children have taken it upon themselves to mix and match items of their own clothing to wear with the school uniform - this practice is discouraged, and pupils seen wearing additional items of clothing will be asked to remove them and take them home. Please help us to maintain our uniform standards by checking your child's clothing on a regular basis.

If you have surplus items of uniform no longer needed, you can sell them via the school newsletter, or donate them to the school by dropping them off at the school office. Our School and Community Association runs a second hand uniform sale from time to time during the school year.

Fundraising

Maungatapu School is fortunate to have a wonderful fundraising group called "**The School and Community Association**". This group works throughout the year organising fundraising activities and initiatives which help to provide resources and programmes for our students. New members are always welcome - check at the office for further details if you are interested in being part of this friendly fundraising group.

Life Education Programme.

The Life Education mobile classroom will be visiting our school on February 7th until February 22nd.

Life Education is a health based education resource that aims to give children of New Zealand the knowledge and skills that will keep them free from harmful substances.

Life Education provides a valuable resource for our school to use in the Health and Physical Education curriculum.

Life Education provides young people in their formative years with an awareness and an understanding of their incredible body. Students are taught how the body functions and why the body is affected by substances that upset its delicate equilibrium.

Life Education uses positive, dynamic messages, conveyed non-judgementally, to encourage students to make informed decisions about what goes into their bodies. Students are also encouraged to recognise that everyone has a unique personality.

This approach builds an awareness in children of this uniqueness. It guides them to develop responsible, respectful attitudes towards themselves, towards others and towards their environment.

The Life Education mobile classroom is now a familiar sight to the majority of students in our school. The classroom is air conditioned and equipped with electronic aids which make learning a totally new and exciting experience. There are sophisticated sight and sound techniques, a transparent anatomical manikin, a talking brain and modules revealing the circulatory, nervous and digestive systems.

And then there is Harold, the giraffe, loved by children from one end of the country to the other.



*Our pupils will be visiting Lea, the Life Educator, along with their classroom teacher, in the mobile classroom for two sessions per class. The cost for this programme is **\$3.50 per student.** Please forward the money to your child's teacher this week.*

Life Education Parent session.

Every year a parent session is offered about Life Education.

This year's parent session will be on February 15th. This coincides with an invitation to join your child for lunch at school on the same day. This gives a wonderful opportunity for your child to show you their classroom and playground, and to introduce you informally to their classroom teacher. The parent information session in the mobile classroom will begin after lunch at 1.30 pm.

Road Safety.

Parents and caregivers are requested to exercise great care when dropping off or picking up children at any of the school entrances. For children walking or cycling to school, it may be necessary for parents to accompany them initially, to check the traffic flow in the mornings and afternoons.

Please take advantage of the Walking School Buses which operate very successfully. Details and information about the Walking School buses are available at the school office.


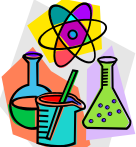


Please do not park in the staff car park when picking up or dropping off children before and after school. We now have a designated drop off zone for parents and caregivers to use when dropping off or collecting children, which is for parent use. It is important that parents and caregivers do not leave their cars unattended in the pick-up and drop off zone, or park in the bus stop areas.

Curriculum focus areas for 2012

Focus areas for staff professional development in 2012 will be related to continuing to embed in teacher practice, aspects of personalized learning for our Maungatapu School Learners, through inquiry based learning, incorporating ICT, and extending our understanding of the SOLO taxonomy. Our school is concluding its involvement in a three year ICT contract with four other local schools this year. The teachers and pupils will again have access to some high quality initiatives and experiences within the ICT framework during 2012.

Our integrated Curriculum Overview for 2012 has four big ideas with a related curriculum focus, and key concepts and understandings which underpin each term theme.

Literacy and numeracy are the core learning areas and the school monitors pupil progress and achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics, against national expectations.

Term	Theme	Curriculum focus	Concepts and understandings
 Term 1	How can I change?	Setting up for success and stepping up to the CREST. <u>Health</u>	Getting set for learning. Building relationships between teachers and pupils and pupils and pupils. Building a class culture, setting up routines and learning expectations.
 Term 2	Oh! How things change.	<u>Science</u> The Material World	Building an understanding of the fundamentals of chemistry, including the study of matter and the changes it can undergo.
 Term 3	Global creations A change for the better?	<u>Technology</u> Intervention by Design.	Providing an opportunity for children to look at the development of products and systems.
 Term 4	How is our world changing?	<u>Social Sciences</u>	Learning about society, communities, cultures, and identities of people.

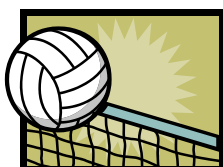
Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Australasian tests in 2012. These are held during the year and will be organised by Mrs de Lacey.

Maungatapu School encourages all pupils to participate in sports and physical activity pursuits such as clubs, hobbies and family recreational activities.

The teachers have many skills and interests which they promote through classroom programmes as well as during lunchtimes. All children are expected to be involved in some form of major sport or game during intervals.

Mrs Celeste Moffatt is our sports co ordinator who will be continuing to assist with the organization and promotion of sports and physical activities throughout the year. She has some exciting events and opportunities planned for children to experience a variety of physical activities and sports.

Parents and caregivers with an interest in sports team coaching or team management are invited to make contact with Mrs Moffatt via the school office to indicate areas of expertise, interest and availability, prior to team sports getting underway for the year.



Homework

A feature of homework expectation at Maungatapu School is for pupils to participate in some form of outdoor recreation once the school day is over, as well as keeping up with reading practice and other homework requirements set by the classroom teacher. Please respect the fact that children have worked hard at school during the school day and need to extend their interests in pursuits such as sports, clubs, hobbies, and enjoying family life and family activities after school and at the weekends.

CREST assemblies.

Stepping up to the CREST to be an effective citizen, is about being a citizen of Maungatapu Primary School - communicating, being respectful and responsible, applying oneself to learning and challenges, developing and modelling self esteem, and working together as a team in a range of co operative and interdependent situations. To encourage this, allowing for opportunities to articulate what "stepping up to the CREST to be an effective citizen" is all about, and to celebrate those who do, we have CREST awards which are presented to pupils at our CREST assemblies held on a fortnightly basis. Parents, caregivers, and family members are most welcome to come to our CREST assemblies which are held very second Friday in the hall from 9.30 to 10.20 am.

Newsletters.

This year we are fortunate to continue with our sponsored newsletter cover which has been made possible through a range of local business sponsors. Newsletters are usually circulated every two to three weeks and can also be viewed on our school website, along with other items of interest. www.maungatapu.school.nz

Please check your child's bag regularly to locate any newsletters they have forgotten to pass on to you.

Trips and Visits in 2012.

For trips and visits, we require all money and permission slips to be handed in, to teachers, or the office, no later than **a week before** the date of the trip. This is to assist us with our planning for transport arrangements, trip organisation, and supervision. Teachers provide notice of intended trips and visits to parents and caregivers at the earliest opportunity to allow for payment and planning to be organised by the close off date.

We look forward to making personal contact with all parents and caregivers during the next few weeks.

Noho ora mai

Sue Horne
Principal / Tumuaiki