MAIDSTONE Intermediate School
Te Kura ō HINEPŌHATU

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9 June 2022 **Newsletter # 8**

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Important Dates

10/06 - Yr 8s visit UHCollege
17/06 - Mufti Day
20/06 - School Photos
20/06 - Ignite Sport - SRC Deputies
20/06 - Matariki Celebration Cushion Concert
20/06 - Puberty Information Evening for Whanau
22/06 - MAD Trip
22/06 - Kapa Haka Matariki Performance at Upper Hutt School
24/06 - Matariki Holiday Observed
27/06 - BOT Meeting @ 6pm
28/06 -Tararua Trip
29/06 - WPC Trip
29/06 - Pākuratahi Trip
1/07 - Yr 8 Ignite Sport
5/07 - Regional Cross Country

HOODIES

Last day to order
Friday 10 June
Order forms at the Office

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – MONDAY 20 JUNE

All students' photos will be taken on this day.
To order copies of the photos please use the following link
https://orders.lcscott.co.nz/ordering Access Key = M7MBSEEK
Family photo orders must be made prior to photo day to ensure the photo is taken.
If you are unable to order online, photo envelopes are available at the office.

A word from our Principal

Kia ora e te whānau
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

We did it!! You did it! We managed to not only reach our goal of $25 000 for the **Fun Run Fundraising** - we smashed it. It looks like we will be closer to $27 000. I know I have said "thank you" many times before. And I mean it every time I say it. It is scary how much power we have when we stand together and work together in the interest of our ākonga. Currently we have a team collating the final numbers. We will have a special assembly on Wednesday 15 June to celebrate the success and announce the winners of the different prizes.

The Fun Run on Friday 27 May was the highlight of the year so far. It was an opportunity for our ākonga to let their hair down and enjoy the day of fun. And it was FUN with capital letters. What made me feel immense pride in our students, was the positive behaviour they displayed during the event. You can be so proud of them; they were real ambassadors for having fun while showing manaakitanga.

This week I want to share with you information regarding three important events in the next few weeks at Te Kura ō Hinepohatu. To celebrate the first year of having Matariki as a public holiday we decided to have a **Matariki Cushion Concert** in the Hall on Monday 20 June (2:30 - 5:30). We want to invite you to join us in the festivities that include Kapa Haka performances, food and other items on sale. After the celebration we will have our annual **Puberty Information Evening** (6:00 - 7:00). This is a standard annual event where we communicate with the community regarding the content of our Puberty Education Programme.

Our first **Whanau Evening** for the year will take place next term. Mātua Pat is currently organising and preparing for the evening. The plan is that we will have an informal evening with kai, and getting to know each other will be the main goal. We invite all those who identify as, or have particular affiliation with Maori to this evening.

We are now twelve weeks away from **camps**. These will take place in Week 8 of Term 3. We know that this will be a highlight for many of our students. The different rōpū (syndicates) are all currently putting the final details in place. At this stage I ask parents to please look at the financial costs of the camp. I know $125 is a large amount to pay at once. Therefore I want to ask parents to consider the following:

- Arrange with us a weekly/fortnightly or monthly debit order
- Talk to us if the cost creates a barrier to your child being able to attend we can help
- Let us know if you can sponsor a child (full or partly)

Please email us if you need more information (wikus.swanepoel@maidstone.school.nz or catherine.mason@maidstone.school.nz or mary.winiata@maidstone.school.nz). Last day of payment is 31 August 2022.

Recently I became aware of a **funding** option provided by the Upper Hutt Council for whanau who are experiencing financial hardships. Two of these funds are specifically for students at school. The first one is the Sporting Chance fund assisting with sporting costs. Have a look and see if you qualify for the funding. The council also has an Arts Participation fund for students who are participating in dance, drama or music activities. This includes the itinerant music lessons at school.

I want to publicly acknowledge our **gardener,** Rachel Voigt, for the amazing mahi she puts in at Maidstone. This weekend Rachel came in with her whanau to create a new garden in front of the Foods and Codebotiks Room. But equally important is the work she is doing teaching the garden club all about planting. Currently they are looking at a sensory garden, and also entering a competition where they have to design a sustainable garden. It is a privilege to see how the students thrive in this learning environment.

Our moment of extra pride this week is the first podcast that was produced by Ms Gemma McLean and the Podcast group:
Podcast Hosts - Aaliah I and Tyler M
Script Writers - Summer H and Kaylee L

Please click on the website to listen to the first podcast. As part of Bully-free week they created a podcast on Peer Pressure.

Our Te Reo tip for the week.

This week the staff are learning how to ask and answer the question, "How are you?" This is an opportunity to practise with your child, as we all learn the words for the different feelings.

Enjoy a great weekend with your whanau.

Ngā mihi nui
Wikus Swanepoel
Principal/Tumuaki

Don't forget to check out the school's Facebook Page which has the latest updates about what is going on at school.

Te angitu o nga akonga (Student success)

Congratulations to the following students:

Connor M - Rm 1 - Selected for Upper Hutt Rugby reps

Aurora H and Grace M Rm 4 - Being brave enough to inform the principal about the damage to the school bathrooms

Aria B - Rm 10 - Receiving a scholarship from her acting group

Ryan T - Rm 10 - Starred in one episode of the show 'Brainbusters'

Hannah E - Rm 12 - Came 4th in a UH writing competition

Tips for parents re 'Akonga in the cyber world'

Netsafe Youth Action Squad:

Netsafe has teamed up with Bricks4Kidz to create engaging videos for children about online safety. Bricks4Kidz provided our Youth Action Squad (YAS) the equipment and opportunity to collaborate in workshops so they could learn how to make stop motion animation videos using Lego.

Click here if you are interested in YAS or want to learn more.

Pākuratahi Whirinaki Matariki Trip

For a long time, the Māori holiday Matariki, was uncelebrated because of British colonisation. Matariki is a big occasion for Māori people because it marks the beginning of the Māori New Year. But now, for the first time it's a holiday! We will be able to spend time with our families and celebrate this special day! To spread the word, Whirinaki Whare Taonga had created an exhibition about the seven (or nine, depending on the way you look at it) sisters that create the Matariki star cluster.

When we arrived, a lady named Claire came out of a door and led us into a room with lots of arts and crafts stuff. We sat in small table groups, and on each table, there was a sheet with key information about one of the seven Matariki sisters. Our task was to create a drawing of a person based on the description on the sheet. We could use glitter, pens, cotton puff balls, and lots more. The only thing we couldn't use was paint. When everyone was done (well, more like half done), we sat down on the mat to present our figure we got, group by group. One of the funniest drawings was one of Tupu-a-nuku, the sister in charge of food that came from the ground. She was a kumara spirit! Although it was hilarious, it was still really good.

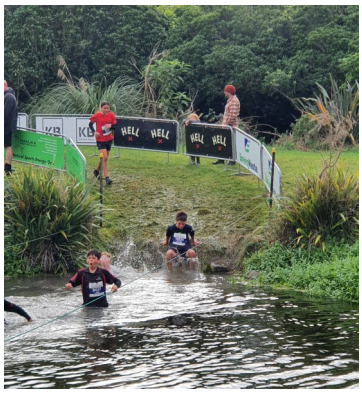
After learning about who the sisters were and what they did, we left the arts and crafts room, and walked into the exhibition room with clipboards and pencils and a sheet we had to fill out. The room had dim blue lighting, and there were painted foam stars hanging from the ceiling. There were eight boxes, designed to look like fortune teller boxes. Each one had one of the Matariki sisters (Except Waiti and Waita, the sisters in charge of saltwater and freshwater, who were in the same box). The figures also had accessories that had cool powers, and Greek names of the sisters were painted on the boxes. Our task was to find our star, and answer the questions on the clipboard.

When we were done, Claire asked us which character was the odd one out. You see, there were seven Matariki sisters, but there was also another character as well. He was their father, Rohua. In one of the Matariki stories, the sisters sped around the galaxy, annoying basically everyone in the universe, until Rohua gave them an important job. The sisters had to become the sign that a new year was beginning. So, they became a cluster, and appeared on Māori New Year.

Police Dog Handlers Visit

On Tuesday 7th June, Pākuratahi and Tararua Syndicates were lucky to have a visit from four police dog handlers and their dogs. They spoke to us about their job and then gave us a demonstration of what their dogs could do. We really enjoyed their visit.

Tough Guy & Gal Challenge



On Thursday 26 May, William Pike Challenge and MAD students went to the Junior Tough Guy 'n' Gal Challenge in Wainuiomata. We caught a bus there, and got our numbers when we arrived. We went over to the stage, where very loud music was playing. Then it was time to start the course, but it took a while to get going because there were so many people! The first obstacle was a net to go under. Next was a tunnel. Then there were no more obstacles for a while, until we reached three wooden climbing frames that you had to go over. There were a lot of people so it was hard to climb. Some people decided to go under, which was against the rules! Around a few more corners…. the dreaded barbed wire! You had to crawl under it, in the mud, with knee-harming rocks. After that most of the track was bush. When we came out of the bush there were three more wooden climbing frames; then a dirt mound that we climbed. Then the final stretch…. the last obstacle …. a very small lake. We had to wade through it to get to the finish line. After we finished we went to the showers, and got changed in the cramped changing tents. Prizegiving was a little later; Mackenzie and Ryan got a bag of cookies each, and Jackson D won the dancing competition. Then it was back on the bus and back to school.
By Mackenzie D-P, Hannah E and Willow L.

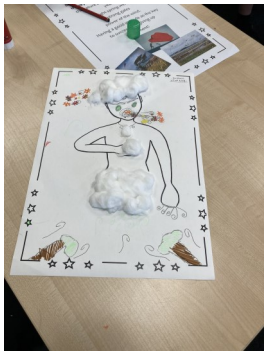
Mangaroa visit Whirinaki Whare Taonga

This week, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Mangaroa Syndicate classes went to Whirinaki Whare Taonga in Upper Hutt to see the Matariki exhibition. We walked up; luckily the weather was good!
Claire, the Whirinaki teacher, met us when we arrived and talked to us about Matariki and the nine stars. The nine stars are: Matariki, Waitī, Waitā, Waipuna-ā-rangi, Tupuānuku, Tupuārangi, Ururangi, Pōhutukawa, and Hiwa-i-te-rangi. Each star means something. For example, Tupuānuku symbolises everything that grows in the ground to be harvested for food.

We also learnt that Matariki is the Maori New Year, and is now a new public holiday on 24 June! After Claire's talk, she let us get into small groups and use different art supplies (felts, pastels, cotton wool, shape cutters etc) to design a character for one of the stars. To help us, she gave us a sheet with words and pictures that symbolised our particular star. Once we finished out artworks, we had a korero on the mat about our characters. We all did a pretty good job!

We then went through to the gallery to see the actual Matariki exhibition and look at what someone else's artistic ideas about the nine stars were. It was really cool; the artist represented each star to look like a super-hero, and they were all in their own recycled cardboard box. They were brightly painted, and had lots of interesting features.
We really enjoyed our trip to Whirinaki Whare Taonga; we learnt lots!

By Rooms 17 and 19



Celebrating

MATARIKI

CUSHION CONCERT

Join us for an afternoon of entertainment. Bring your cushion and come to the school hall to enjoy a range of performances from our amazing tamariki!

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2022

The performances will run between 2:30 - 5:30

Come along when you can make it

There will be a sausage sizzle and sweet treats that you can buy, as well as a table of crafts for sale.

Community Notices

Upper Hutt College

Open Day 2022

Year 8 students 'come and do'

Friday 10 June, 9:00–11:30am or 12:00–2:30pm
starting in the Hall

Open Evening 2022

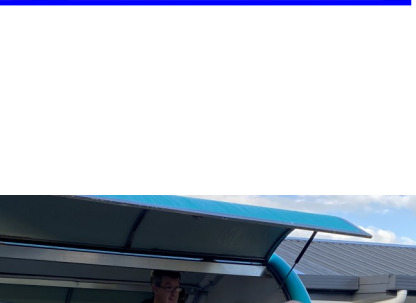
Whānau 'come and see'

Wednesday 15 June 6:00pm – starting with a welcome
in the Hall followed by a student-led tour

Modern Learning Environments, BYOD, Broad and Diverse Curriculum, Strong Wellbeing Support, Leadership and Service Opportunities, Academic, Cultural and Sporting Excellence.

For further information please contact Kirsten Hicks, Enrolment Officer:
hicksk@upperhutt.school.nz

We welcome enrolments from all students, regardless of the area in which they live.



Upper Hutt College is a community, passionate about learning, that encourages pride, participation and excellence.

Many thanks to Kickstart for supporting our Teacher Only Day.

Great coffee - great service