



### **Week 1 Term 1 2023**

Kia ora Parents and Whanau,

Tē tōia, tē haumatia; Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce and way of doing things.

We welcome all whanau back to the start of 2023 and for some a welcome to your education journey at South Mākirikiri School. Talking with many of our community the summer break has been an adventure, challenge and absolutely indifferent weather around the region.

It has been an exciting first few days welcoming back some former staff along with new staff to our school setting.

Ms Kerry Robson, as our Office Administrator, has met many of our whanaū already and the students are making themselves known to her with some lovely visits to the office.

Mrs Ange Wightman has already begun working with some of our students in small groups as our Board Funded Intervention Teacher. Whaia Ange comes to us from working in Whanganui and has a passion for numeracy and literacy and increasing students' confidence.

Mrs Maddy Speirs has returned after a few years to take up being the release teacher where she will work in each class throughout the term while full-time teachers have release. She will be in Room 5 each fortnight on a Monday, sharing some release for Miss Drylie and Matua Teejay on Tuesdays, and in each of the classes on Wednesday.

Mrs Ryder is continuing working on Mondays in Room 4 where she is sharing the teaching load with Mrs O'Neill. Mrs Ryder has been associated with South Mākirikiri for the past 7 years in a range of roles and it is great to have her continue to work with our tamariki.

Miss Lucy Richards has moved into Room 5 and has created a great working space for a class of Year 4 and 5 students. Miss Richards has been teaching in the wider Waikato region in 2022 and has moved back towards whanaū.

Matua Teejay is continuing in Room 1 with Year 7 and 8 students and is looking forward to having his injury improve to be able to get back involved in sport with the students.

Miss Lester will start the year based in Room 7, but we will be making a change once Room 6 repairs are completed so we can then focus on having some remedial work completed on Room 7.

Mrs O'Neill has continued in Room 4 with a very vibrant group of Year 3 students. It is exciting to see that Room 4 already has their plans for EOTC experiences in place for the year.

Miss Drylie has made the move to teach in Year 2 and is based in Room 3 for 2023. This will support Miss Drylie being in the middle of the junior team as the team leader.

Miss Coleman is based in Room 2 utilising her expertise in working with New Entrant students. This space is a brilliant place to nurture our newest students to learning.

Sam Simpson and Sonya Kiddie are continuing to provide Teacher Aide support across classes and work with individuals or groups to support the learners.

Brenda Robinson works away when most people do not see her getting the classrooms and work spaces clean each day as our cleaner.

Pete McKinley as caretaker has been continuing to improve the grounds and exteriors of all our buildings to in top condition for the start of the year.

### **Values and Graduate Profile:**

One of our areas of work over the past 12 months is reflecting on our values and what this means for students. We have gathered parent voice during 2022, students' ideas and staff's ideas on what is important to support well-rounded students at South Mākirikiri School. We now have three key values that we feel will contribute to our tamariki being absolute role models and prepared for the challenges presented to them when they graduate from South Mākirikiri School:

**Self Manager, Contributor, Mindful** will be the key language we will be exploring with all our tamariki and as the year progresses the students will be able to reflect on how well they meet these expectations. We are trying a new system for identifying these values in all our students which will occur during the fortnightly Learning Celebrations.

### **School Improvements:**

Throughout the holidays we have had some great projects completed, and not far from being completed, to enhance our environment.

A huge thank you to Bryan and Olivia McCarthy for managing the removal of the trees on the sports field. With all the weather events around the country, we can confidently say we have removed a hazard from our sports grounds. In the coming weeks, classes may start to investigate options for filling this space with an interactive space for the students to enjoy.

We have had a very water damaged wall repaired in Room 6 and are awaiting the final painting and carpet install so that we can get this classroom operational again. We are sorry for the inconvenience accessing rooms 5, 6 and 7 but it will hopefully only be for a short period of time.

Michael Knox and some helpers removed a rotten tree from around the sandpit area which has made a difference to this area which is appreciated, and in the last week, Tim O'Neill assisted fencing contractor Matt Hyland to complete a fence on our road frontage with Mākirikiri Road. We will look to replant an effective hedging in the future to reduce the traffic noise along this side of school.

All these improvements enhance our environment and, after spending the past two days out in the playground, we can see that the students love the space and variety our school environment provides.

### **Swimming:**

Water safety will continue to be our focus for swimming programmes where we will be teaching skills that will assist our tamariki to have confidence around water. There is an element of stroke

development but our focus is on providing skills to assist their confidence in the water. Rooms 2, 3 and 4 will be utilising the Turakina School pool which is brilliant for having each class in the water all at the same time.

The Senior classes of Room 5, 7 and 1 will be using the Marton pool for their sessions. Each class will be notifying you of swimming times and days. We will be busing the students to the venues and both teams have swimming celebrations and sports already sorted for in a couple of weeks.

### **Athletics:**

Fitting around swimming, all classes will be also focusing on Athletics and we have school athletics scheduled for later this term where senior students can compete for places to compete against other Rangitikei schools.

### **Class Celebrations of Learning:**

For term 1 we will have class lead celebrations of learning (Assemblies) occurring fortnightly on Thursdays at 2:00pm. We are working around swimming and fitting in all of the learning programmes. The focus of these celebrations is examples of students' work, sharing learning or presenting new ideas to the school.

### **Whole school Picnic/Camp Out:**

We will attempt to have a camp out at school on Friday, 10 Febraury. This will be the first opportunity to meet teachers formally, along with making connections within our community. Families will be able to stay on the school grounds for the Friday night and we will provide a warm breakfast on the Saturday morning for those who want to stay. More details to come.

### **150th Jubilee Celebrations:**

South Makirikiri School 150th Jubilee - we are looking for interest from the South Makirikiri School community, past and present, to form a Jubilee Committee.

Our first meeting will be Thursday, 2 February at 7:00pm in the school staffroom.

For those who have parents and grandparents who are past South Makirikiri School students, or if you are in contact with an ex-staff member, please invite them to be part of the Committee. Their knowledge about our school's history will be invaluable and their involvement will help ensure we reach everybody who has been part of the South Makirikiri community over the years, so we can all come together and celebrate this significant milestone for our school!

Please contact Kylie Knox 0276321446 with any questions, otherwise we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Details about registering to attend the Jubilee will be circulated in due course.

We need your support without people to help make this work we won't be able to have this event.

### **Term Events:**

Monday 6th February	Waitangi Day- School Closed
Thursday 9th February	Learning Celebration 2:00 Media Centre/around school
Friday 10th February	Camp Out/ School Picnic
Monday 20th February	Year 8 Tongariro Crossing
Thursday 23rd February	Learning Celebration 2:00 Media Centre/around school
Tuesday 28th February	Junior Swimming showcase, Turakina school pool. 11-1:00

Wednesday 8th March	Senior Swimming Sports, Marton Pool 10:30-2:00
Wednesday 22nd March	Athletics Day

Nga Mihi,

Greg Allan  
Principal