



Week 7 Term 1 2023

Kia ora Parents and Whanau

Last week we were presented with a very traumatic and challenging situation that has impacted throughout the Rangitikei region. As the events of Tuesday's bus accident played out, I was very proud of the way each part of South Makirikiri School played their part. It is incredibly sad that Joh Bellamore's life has been lost, but it was also amazing that she managed to ensure our six tamariki were safe and uninjured.

This week we are being presented with a unique situation. Schools around the region will be closing due to the Teacher Strike. We are able to continue to be open for supervision because non-union members are covering those students who need to attend school.

We are very fortunate here at South Mākirikiri School to have such dedicated and caring teachers who put their absolute heart and soul into your children and their profession. I would like to say that, over time, I have watched the support from the Ministry start to dry up. Funding for extra support in the classes and for individual children is harder to get and, trust me I am trying, which leads to mentally and emotionally tired teachers. They are doing everything they can with a limited budget and support, and feeling at their wit's end as to what to do next. This is a nationwide issue. There are fewer teachers out there available for relieving and fewer people are entering and being retrained in the profession. We are feeling that we need to do something in order to give your children the best opportunities to learn and grow, and teachers the best opportunity to teach. Added to this is the fact that a 17-year-old with no skills working in a distribution warehouse can earn more in a week than a teacher or a nurse on the front line. We need to see a change in the starting wage for our

beginning teachers. We need to see an increase in teacher salaries across the board and see parity with what secondary teachers are entitled to. Primary teachers get 10 hours per term of release time, secondary teachers have 5 hours per week. Secondary teachers receive more management units than those in primary schools and to a different value.

We will be able to continue to have school open on Thursday for supervision though we did not have enough support to make the field days trip work safely. While we will have some staff striking we also need to recognise that all our staff, whether they are part of the union or not, have the same issues that need addressing immediately so we continue to retain and recruit teachers for our tamariki.

On Monday we had a group of Year 8 students attempt to complete the Tongariro Crossing. The weather conditions presented some challenges and ultimately the decision was made to return to our starting point. This was a very valuable lesson for our senior students when leading groups which they are planning to do regularly at school. It is ok to stop when things aren't going right, it is ok to have multiple plans in place when things don't work out, and it is very important to be prepared for the worst case scenario. While we did not complete the physical challenge (we will set another date to do this), the students did learn a range of leadership skills in a challenging environment. It was great to have a large number of parents to support this activity and we look forward to completing this at a later date.

Nga mihi
Greg Allan, Principal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Bus Incident Update: As one week passes, I want to acknowledge the loss of our much-loved bus driver, Joh Bellamore. Joh was a treasured member of our school community, treasured by students, parents and staff alike.

Our directly impacted students and families from the bus route, as well as those that were very close to Joh in a familial sense, have shown courage and resilience as they come to terms with both the accident and losing someone they loved.

I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to our Friends of the School Committee and wider community for their support of both our students involved in the accident and to John and Joh's family with care packages and food.

At school, we have been humbled to receive gestures of support from local schools, support agencies and organisations, and I am moved by how incredible our community is in times such as this.

Our students have been able to return to "school bus regularity" as recommended by the Ministry of Education Crisis Trauma Intervention Team. Thanks to Feilding High School for lending us a mini van, and to Greg Allan for driving the van with the children last week. Thanks also to Brenna O'Neill for supporting our students as a passenger on the route this week.

Our teaching and support staff have provided safety, consistency, care and support to all of our students through what has been an exceptionally challenging week, and I thank them deeply for this.

Strike: Our school is extremely fortunate to be able to stay open for our students on Thursday 16 March which the NZEI has notified as a strike action day. As a board, we are supportive of the focus of this

strike. It is difficult to access the support needed to provide for our tamariki with additional needs and this places our staff under immense pressure in some situations. Not all of our staff are union members, and this has enabled us to have our school open for supervision.

Ballot Zone Openings: South Makirikiri School is zoned by the Ministry of Education. This means that we are limited to the number of students we can accept from outside our "school catchment zone". At present, we have a number of spaces available where we can accept out-of-zone students through a ballot system. If you know of anyone interested in joining our great little school, encourage them to get in touch and apply for the ballot. Applications for enrolment are available from our school office and website but these need to be received at school by this Friday.

Board Staff Representative: I would also like to acknowledge and thank, Matua TeeJay Campbell for his tenure as staff representative on our board of trustees. TeeJay has contributed valuable insight and ideas, along with giving extra service in this space to our kura. TeeJay has stepped down from his role on the board to focus on his injury recovery.

A staff representative by-election was held with one valid nomination received. Therefore, we are pleased to welcome Sharyn Drylie to our board of trustees as staff representative.

Room 6 Complete: Our building and refurbishment renovations have been completed in Room 6. This will allow Miss Lester and her Room 7 class to move into this space in the coming weeks. Our focus will now shift to the upgrade of Room 7 which will be out for the remainder of the year.

Libby Rayner, Presiding Member



Left and following pages: Autumnal artwork by Room 3 students

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We are very excited to be celebrating the South Makirikiri School 150th Jubilee and acknowledging this significant milestone in our school's history.

We are looking forward to hosting students and staff (past and present), whānau, and all



those with a connection to South Makirikiri School over two days of reminiscing and connecting through our special school in the heart of the Rangitikei.

NB: You can register for the jubilee events by scanning the QR code above.

Friday 28 April 2023 - School in Action: 12.30pm to 3:00pm at South Makirikiri School

The school will be open for walk-throughs to see our school in action. Collect your registration pack, look through old school photos and archives on display, followed by afternoon tea. For those who wish to continue the reminiscing and connecting, there will be an informal gathering at Cooks Bar from 5:30pm.

Saturday 29 April 2023 - BBQ Lunch and Jubilee Celebrations: 11:00am to 4:00pm at South Makirikiri School. Registration Fee: \$30 per adult, all students free (includes digital copy of decade photos).

Collect your registration pack then enjoy a barbecue lunch, followed by student-led tours of the school, look through old school photos and archives on display, student performances, speeches, burying of the time capsule, planting and blessing of the Jubilee tree, cutting the Jubilee cake, decade photos, followed by afternoon tea.

Saturday 29 April 2023 - Dinner & Dance; 6:00pm until late at Marton Memorial Hall. Registration Fee: \$100 per adult (includes

barbecue lunch and Jubilee celebrations at school).

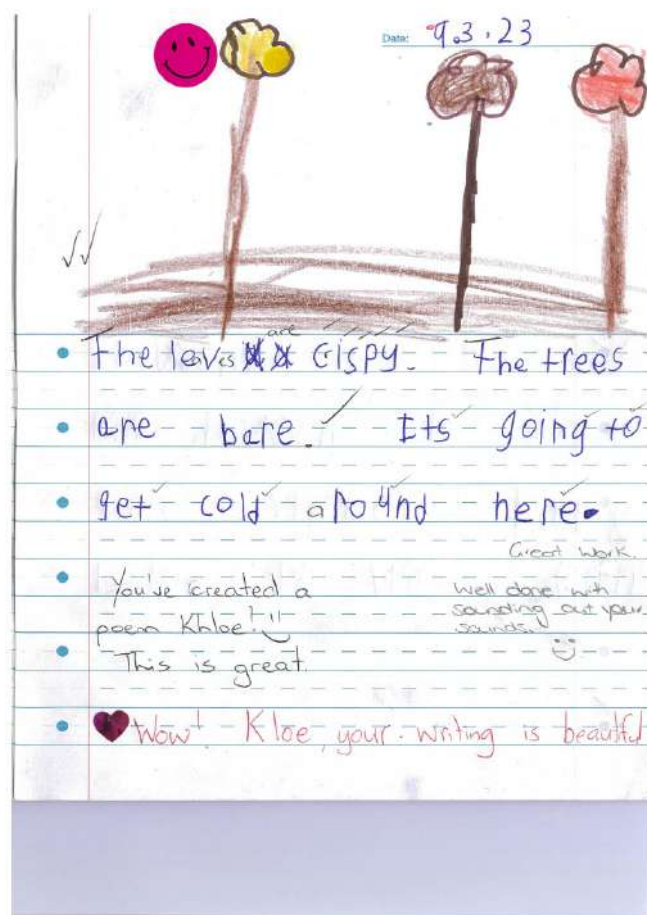
Drinks and nibbles, followed by dinner and dessert. Entertainment by local band; Brian Baillie and the Tinseltown Beggars. A cash bar will be operating throughout the evening. **NB: This is an adults-only event.**

Registration will be confirmed when payment is received into the following bank account (please use your name as a reference): South Makirikiri Friends of the School 03-0683-0008158-000

Please complete the online registration form ([click here](#)) for all members of your family attending the Jubilee. Registrations close Thursday 6 April 2023 - **numbers are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.**

Email: jubilee@southmak.school.nz if you require any further information.

Below: Kloe's writing (Room 3)



SCHOOL NOTICES

Parent/Teacher Interviews: Our Parent/Teacher Interviews are being held this afternoon from 2:45pm - we look forward to meeting with you!

Athletics: Our Whole School Athletics Day is scheduled for Wednesday 22 March. A timetable will come out shortly. The first events will start at 10:30 finishing with some relays at the end of the day.

Inter-School Athletics will be held in Hunterville on Friday 31 March. Students will be nominated for events from our school events.

Mt Biggs Tough Kid Event: Information was shared on our Community Feed about the Mt Biggs Tough Kids event next Friday (24 March 2023). We have 30 students who registered for this event from Year 3 to year 8. If you haven't already done so, we would appreciate it if you could complete the survey regarding transport. Students will wear school uniform, and change into clothes they don't mind getting dirty for the event.

Parent accounts: Our new student management system (Hero) has the function to raise invoices, receipts and statements for uniform purchases, entry fees, etc. We are currently implementing this option, and you may have already received a notification through the app that there has been action on your school account for the Tough Kid event. We will be emailing statements out this Friday; if you have any questions regarding your statement, please do not hesitate to contact Kerry Robson in the office.

Scholastic Book Club: Edition 2 catalogues have been sent home with students and online orders can be placed until 3:00pm, 20 March 2023 (this is to ensure that orders are received before the end of term). More catalogues are available from our school office.

Swimming: We have been able to secure a booking for the Marton Pool on Wednesday 4 April to hold the Senior School Swimming event. Races will take place from 11:00am with many water safety focused activities along with 25m and some 50m races.



TERM EVENTS

Wednesday 15 March.....	Parent/Teacher interviews from 2:45pm
Monday 20 March.....	Scholastic orders close at 3:00pm
Wednesday 22 March.....	Whole School Athletics Day
Friday 24 March.....	Mt Biggs Tough Kids Event (Yr3-8 students who entered)
Wednesday 5th April.....	Senior Swimming Sports, Marton Pool from 10:30am to 2:00pm
Thursday 6 April.....	Room 4 trip to Whanganui Museum
Thursday 6 April.....	End of Term 1

Please [click here](#) for our school calendar (this can also be accessed from our HERO app).

Marton Harvest Festival - 10:00am to 3:00pm, 26 March 2023, Sir James Wilson Park

Featuring the famous scarecrow trail, a home brew competition, live music, free entertainment, great food and a bunch of pumpkin hilarity.

Model Train Show - 8 and 9 April 2023, Bulls Scout Hall, 28 Wilson Street, Bulls

The 2023 Model Train Show features model railways from the North Island, stalls, sausage sizzle, cake stall and Thomas and Friends. Entry fee is \$2.00 for kids, \$5.00 for adults, \$12.00 for a family concession. NB: Cash only - no eftpos available. Open on Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

