



NEWSLETTER

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He maurea kai whiria!

Ignore small matters and direct your energy toward important projects!

This whakatauki encourages us to keep things in perspective, not to get bogged down by the small things, the little details, but instead to maintain our focus on the vision, on what is important. It could be used to keep people on track, and/or to remind us/people to maintain focus on what's important even in the face of great complexity.

Kia ora koutou, whanau

I want to celebrate all the wonderful opportunities our tamariki get to develop leadership in our kura. We develop leadership in many ways and don't just leave this opportunity for Year 7 and 8 students. During the past few learning celebrations, we have seen amazing examples of our tamariki developing their leadership skills. Every student has an opportunity to lead in a variety of ways. Whether this is through supporting others, role modelling or organising. We have students taking the opportunity to take on roles that require organisation, responsibility, and being reliable. We have buddy classes which support our youngest students to be confident to lead the celebrations (leading the celebrations shows incredible confidence). We have students leading activities in the library, sorting sports gear and, what is so impressive, is seeing students of all ages integrating together in a range of play activities. We have had students from Room 6 develop a plan and organise a lunchtime disco. These are leadership skills that all our tamariki get the opportunity to develop.

Last week our Year 8s participated in a day developing Physical Activity Leadership and have now all been up-skilled in how to effectively facilitate physical activities around school. In the next few weeks, they will be developing a schedule of lunchtime events with an opportunity for all students to take part. It is impressive seeing our students' leadership skills shine through when working with students from other schools.

For the past five weeks, we have been making a conscious choice to not have students using digital devices. This decision was made at the end of last year in response to research about the impacts of screen time, and our own anecdotal evidence on students' work habits. While we still get asked daily by students when we'll get the devices back out, there has been some fantastic work being produced in all classes without the aid of technology.

As a staff we are exploring more the use of devices for limited times and for specific purposes. A key element of this is each class having a digital contract and what the expectations will be for the use of devices. We know many of our students engage in social media, we know many engage in online gaming, and we know that students are very good at trying to navigate to areas on the web that they shouldn't during school learning time.



Friends of the School
New meeting date to be advised



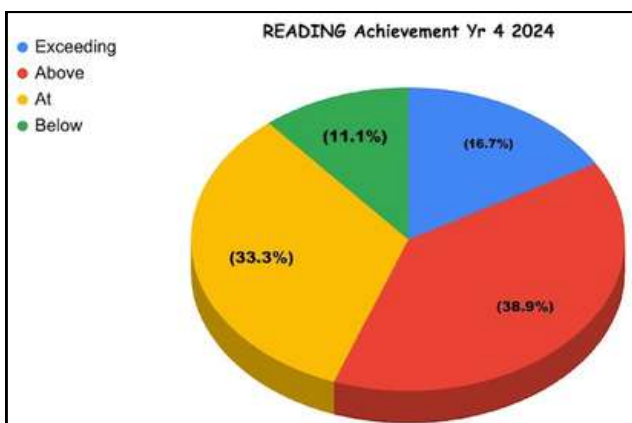
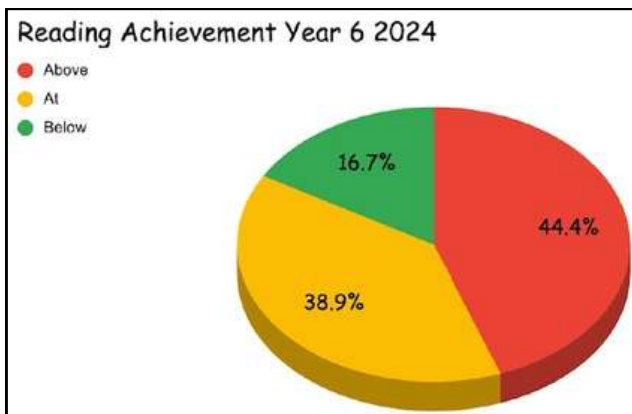
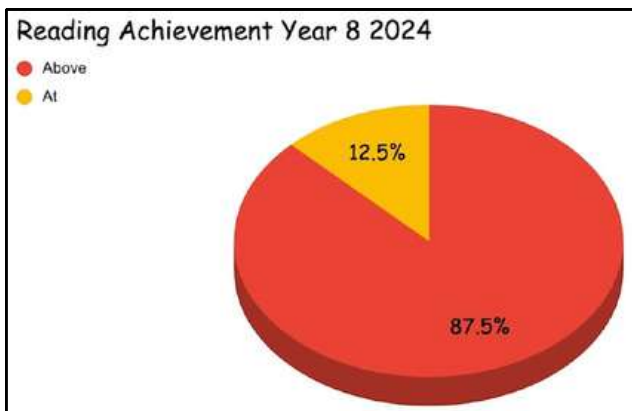
Bake Sale and Sausage Sizzle
...available on Athletics Day



Thank you, Fern!
South Mak total currently at \$779.39

Each class will be creating their contract and when devices are being used they will be expected to uphold what they have agreed to. If at any time students are not using the device for the intended purpose they will have their access to devices removed. We are a very fortunate school that has devices available for the students but we will continue to limit the amount of time these will be available.

At our last board meeting, I had the opportunity to share some of the results of our students' achievement in reading, writing and maths. We have exceptional results and we know that the students that leave us in Year 8 go on to do exceptional things at whichever high school they choose. It is great to share a selection of these achievements that are being attained each year. While the government is making noise in the media about teaching an hour of reading, writing and maths, this is not new for us. What is important to note is that reading, writing and maths happens in all of the curriculum areas so we will be continuing to provide science, technology, arts, PE and health all while trying to have our localised curriculum in place to engage our tamariki. What is so impressive with the sample of data here is the high percentage achieving AT or ABOVE the desired curriculum level.



Friends of School Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting last week. It was wonderful to have a group of parents engaged in supporting our students and school.

Sports Uniforms: All sports uniforms need to be returned to the school office ASAP. A friendly reminder that these are owned by Friends of School and are to be returned to school at the end of the season and not given away or sold. Please come along and help sort the sports uniforms on Tuesday 16th April at 7pm in the Media Centre.

Sweetcorn Fundraiser: A massive thank you to everyone who supported our sweetcorn fundraiser. We sold around 250 bags of sweetcorn and the funds raised will go towards school camps for 2024.

Athletics Day Fundraisers: Room 5 will be running a sausage sizzle and Room 4 having a bake sale at Athletics Day to fundraise for their camps. Please bring some cash along to support these fundraisers.

Welcome Morning Tea: Friends of School are hosting a morning tea to welcome new families to our school community on Thursday 7th March at 8.30am-10am in the staffroom. Come along before Athletics to have a cuppa and a chat.

Hay Party: Lock in Friday 12th April for the annual Hay Party! Location TBC. This is a great event to celebrate the end of the hay season and to connect with our South Makirikiri community. Adults only.

Clearing Sale Fundraiser: Friends of School will be selling food and drinks at a clearing sale on Tuesday 26th March. If you are a baker, helper, or keen on the BBQ we would love some extra support for this event.

If you would like to join our Friends of School email list, flick us an email at fos@southmak.school.nz. Please also join us on Facebook.

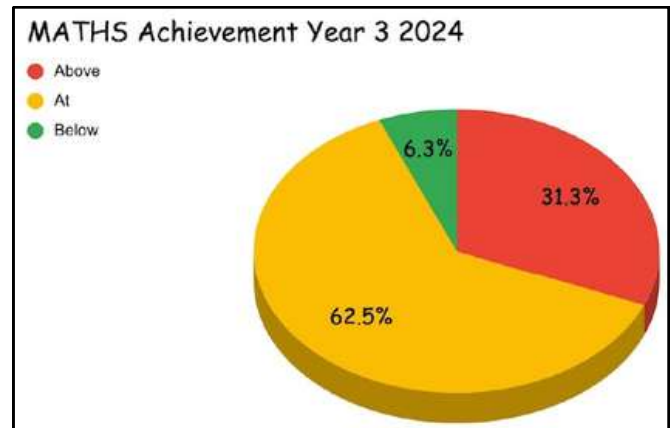
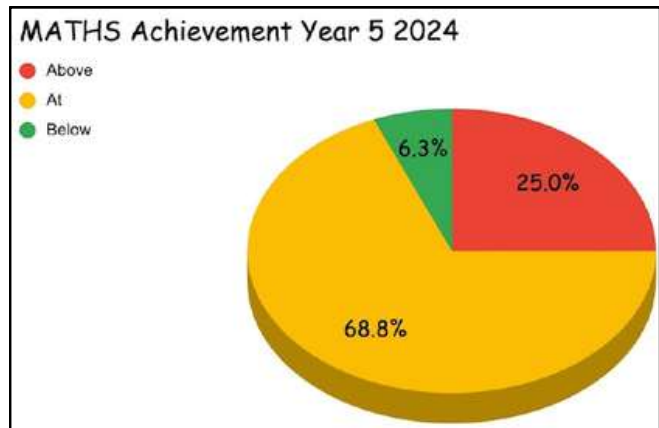
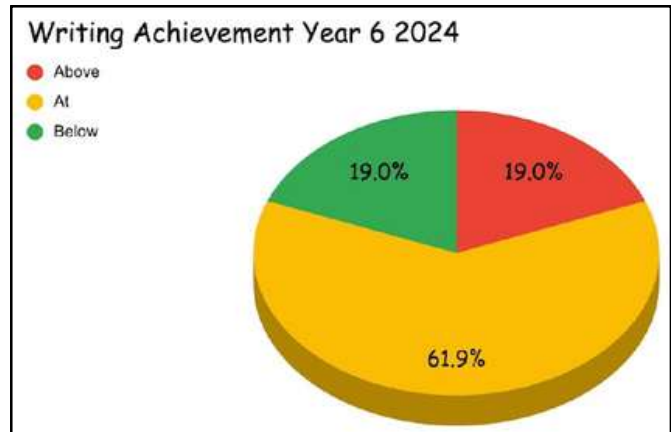
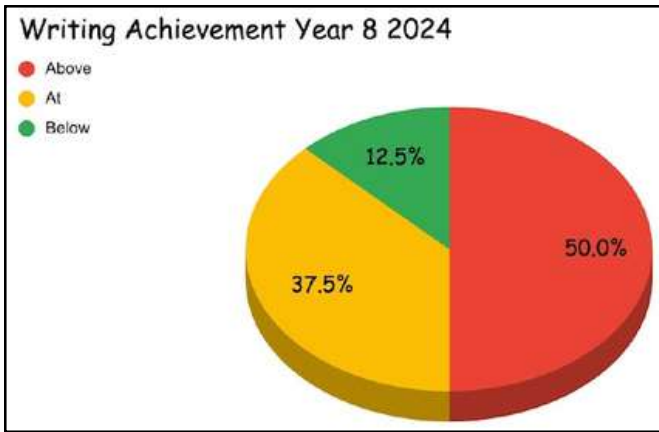
Tessa Nitschke, President

We will soon be sending forms out regarding winter sports. We need parent support with coaching and management of these teams, and while there is no expectation to be the next "Razor", we need your support so our students can participate. We can help you coach, or find the right people to help. The local associations also need assistance to administer the sports so if you think you could help there, it would greatly appreciated also. Hockey really needs a parent to be part of the association so South Mākirikiri School has a voice in decisions. Thank you to Annie Simpson for already supporting with netball.

Hockey is catered for tamariki from Year 0 to Year 8 with games mostly during the week, and Year 3 and 4 play on Saturday mornings.

Netball is based at the Centennial Park courts in Marton for New Entrants up to Year 8s on Saturday mornings.

Greg Allan, Principal



Board report

Kia ora e te whānau o South Mākirikiri!

At our last board meeting in Week 3, I was appointed Presiding Member for 2024. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow board members for their support and belief in me to continue to do this role justice. The magnitude and workload certainly took me by surprise in the earlier period of my tenure for what is a volunteer role. However, over the past 18 months I have completed numerous professional learning opportunities, seminars, webinars, meetings, networking events and professional readings and I feel as though I have got my head around the requirements and expectations of this job. Being a School Board member (previously known as Board of Trustees) is a volunteer role that requires proactive decision-making and responsiveness in times of change, the ability to ensure effective relationships set the long-term vision, create and review enabling policy (in line with legislation and community aspirations), and monitor and review school performance are key indicators of effective governance.

I am extremely grateful to those that sit alongside me at the Board table and for each person’s contribution to furthering our school.

The South Mākirikiri School Board comprises of:

- Greg Allan - Principal/CEO
- Maria Clayton - Policy, Health & Safety
- Sharyn Drylie - Staff Representative
- Michael Knox - Property
- Kate Nitschke - Personnel
- Libby Rayner - Presiding Member
- Rob Simpson - Finance

Even though each of us have portfolios, we are all equally responsible for ensuring the mahi gets done. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Kerry Robson in the role as Board Secretary and minute taker, her resourcefulness and efficiency are second to none!

Ngā mihi

Libby Rayner, Presiding Member

Events in 2024 brought to you by Sport Whanganui

- Football in Marton for Term 2 - if you can help to get this set up, please contact Libby Rayner
- Basketball – 10 weeks in Term 3 input required regarding venue and days/times.
- Rangitīkei Tough Kid: Friday 9 August hosted by Clifton School
- Touch Competition in Term 4
- Ki-o-Rahi Tournament Friday 15 November



<https://sportwhanganui.co.nz/>



Hugo



Vanessa

Picasso-inspired Self Portraits by Room 3 Artists



Kyrie



Mabel

CALENDAR

Thursday 29 February:
Junior swimming

Friday 1 March:
Senior swimming

Thursday 7 March:
FOS morning tea @ 8.30am
Athletics from 10am

Friday 8 March:
Senior swimming
Learning celebration @ 2pm
(hosted by Room 5)

Tuesday 12 March:
Junior school trip to Foxton Beach

Friday 15 March:
Senior swimming

Monday 18 March:
Tongariro crossing

Wednesday 20 March:
Junior School Trip - rafting

Friday 22 March:
Mt Biggs Tough Kid event
Senior swimming

Tuesday 26 March:
Junior athletics at Bulls School

Thursday 28 March:
Interschool athletics, Hunterville Sch

Friday 29 March to Tuesday 2 April:
Easter - no school

Friday 5 April:
Learning celebration @ 2pm

Friday 12 April:
End of term 1
FOS Hay Party - details to come



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Fern Fuel for Schools has advised that South Mak School is well on its way to reaching the \$1,000 threshold for redemption. Our current total is \$779.39! Once we have reached our \$1,000 target, we can redeem from a range of sports, technology, literacy, music and now Vegepod packages. The Fern Fuel for Schools sponsorship programme has helped put over \$1.7 million dollars of resources into more than 600 rural schools in the last fifteen years. We would like to thank our local business and farms who nominated us: Fraser Auret Racing, Waipuna Land Company Limited, Taylor Contracting 2007 Ltd, Wigglesworth Partnership, Knottingly Farm, Puketiro Farm, R & A Simpson Farming Ltd, AC Major, Bushmere Partnership, Transom livestock Ltd and Waimutu Trust.

Our thanks to the JBS Dudding Charitable Trust which continues to support our school

JBS Dudding
Charitable Trust
Managed by Public Trust

