



NEWSLETTER

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Mt Biggs Tough Kid participants

Kia ora koutou, whanau

As I am writing this week’s newsletter I cannot keep the smile off my face thinking about all the learning that has been taking place in our kura over the past few weeks. As I have been in some classes taking some of the learning, it is clear our students are engaged, focused and positive about learning. I have been able to see first-hand the confidence and character of each of our students grow so quickly with all of the learning opportunities being provided. What is so rewarding for me personally is seeing the confidence and willingness of our students to give every opportunity a go. Speaking with many other principals and teachers at other schools, they cannot believe the experiences our students receive at very minimal cost to parents. We have science being explored in our senior school through Miss Lagah leading the purchasing of science kits to support the teaching and this will flow down to the junior school next term. I have been inside most of our classes this week and have students sharing how they are improving their learning and talking confidently about their learning. Towards the end of this term we as a staff have been impacted by sickness and for the first time this past week we have had to split a class through not being able to find a reliever. This is our last resort having to split amongst other classes but it is also unavoidable at times. What is so great is our team can continue the learning for the classes through group teaching, having our teacher aide supporting the learning and also our team being flexible to move things around. Over the past few weeks, we have had Jayde Murray join us working in a part-time Teacher Aide capacity and we really appreciate her skills in being able to come in and work alongside all our tamariki.

Last Monday our Year 8's took on the physical challenge of the Tongariro Crossing. This was not only physically demanding but the conditions also provided the extra challenge. It was a very valuable lesson on why we are prepared for really cold conditions. Fortunately, we had the sun break through on the tops and the students experienced the beauty of one of the greatest one-day walks in the world. Throughout the 20.2km walk, I think the only asking ‘How much further?’ may have come from adults as the students’ fitness well and truly shone through.

Many of you may have seen the photos and video of our Junior school’s river adventure to Awastone at Mangaweka on Wednesday. This was such an amazing way to see water safety in action. The water confidence of the students was on display with the way they controlled their rafts and listened to their guide’s instructions



Do-a-Duathlon
Henry with his medal



Mt Biggs Tough Kid
A South Mak student takes on the hill climb



Rocket science
Archie anticipates his rocket’s launch

On Tuesday our Year 0-3 participated in a sports day with Clifton, Bulls and Turakina school. The day was facilitated by Sport Whanaganui but our Year 8's lead the activities for the students. It is impressive to see the way our tamariki interact with students from other schools and how our Year 8's can confidently take a group of 12 students for a activity and effectively teach the students. The parent support for these activities has been amazing and shows all of your commitment to supporting our team to make these trips possible. It is so great that we do not put limits in place on how many parents can come along and as a school we value your involvement in making these activities happen.

Winter Sports Registration: Please scan the QR code below to complete the form to register for Hockey and Netball. We would also like to have as many parents as possible assisting with each team to share the load through the season.

Next week will be sending out team lists, getting in touch with parents about coaching/ managing and sorting training times. We will be working a timetable around using the turf to fit all the practices in.

Reminder: Easter Break. This week we have school closed for Easter Friday, Monday and Tuesday. The Tuesday is a traditional school holiday but normally Easter falls in the school holidays.

Greg Allan, Principal



Friends of School Update

As this term is going so fast, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff at South Makirikiri School who consistently go over and above to provide engaging learning opportunities for our tamariki.

The Junior School had a blast on their recent trips to Foxton Beach and rafting down the Rangitikei River. Meanwhile, the Year 8s demonstrated perseverance completing the Tongariro Crossing.

Friends of School are proud to support the Water Safety Programmes and EOTC events that engage our tamariki on a regular basis.

Bike Track Project: Thank you to everyone who attended the Bike Committee meeting last week. It is great to see the enthusiasm to get this project underway. We will be sending out a Bike Track Community Consultation Survey next week and would appreciate it if you would take the time to share your thoughts on the project.

RADRs Fundraiser: Friends of School will be holding a BBQ at the Rangitikei Area Distance Riders event at Rob and Annie Simpson's farm on Saturday 6th April. If you are available and keen to help, please get in touch ASAP. We would also like to thank Richard and Laura Morrison for their generous donation of a night at the Cottage at the Gullies for the raffle we will be running at the event.

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.

Hay Party: A big thank you to all of the farmers and contractors who support our annual Friends of School hay fundraiser. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Hamish Wing for coordinating this season and the members of our school community who showed up to the hay jobs! If you lifted a bale or supported the crew, lock in Friday 12th April for the annual Hay Party at Brett and Megan Illston's place, 10 Williamsons Line. This is a great event to celebrate the end of the hay season! Bring a plate and BYO. Adults only.

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

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter weekend and enjoy the last few weeks of Term 1!

Regards

Tessa Nitschke, President

Board report

Kia ora e te whānau o South Mākirikiri!

South Mākirikiri's Strategic Aim #2 is that the board will have a clear idea of the well-being of students, staff, and their whanau to support enhanced outcomes. We are exploring and gathering feedback in various ways to gain an understanding of wellbeing in our school community. One of these ways was to request a report from our Dental Team who have been onsite for the majority of Term 1. We were pleased with the feedback that you can read in the column on this page. Thank you for providing healthy food options for school lunches. We are supportive of children having a piece/item of treat food, just not the whole lunchbox! Flushing the mouth with water after eating is a great way to support dental hygiene and preventing food build up and decay. We are analysing your feedback from the end of year pin-wheel survey responses, and look forward to reporting back to you what we have started and plan to do with your feedback.

What an amazing couple of weeks our students (and parents!) have had on Education Outside The Classroom activities! The Junior School Beach and River Rafting trips; Year 8's Tongariro Crossing; Senior School Swimming at Marton Pool; Mt Biggs Tough Kid; Junior School Athletics Interschool supported by our Year 8 Leaders; and the Rangitikei Athletics Interschool for our top athletics placegetters. I want to reiterate how valuable these experiences are for our tamariki and to sincerely thank our staffing team for the hours of planning and coordination that goes into providing these awesome opportunities.

Ngā mihi

Libby Rayner, Presiding Member

DENTAL REPORT

On average, there is a lower rate of dental decay at South Makirikiri School compared to the rest of the area covered by Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora Whanganui.

We see the highest rate of decay in children between 5-8 years old. It is important for parents to help their children brush their teeth until they are 8-9 years old. We recommend using an adult strength fluoride toothpaste twice a day, and not rinsing the teeth with water after brushing. Flossing is also encouraged, as the majority of decay that we see starts in between the teeth. We do a lot of work to prevent dental decay by placing fluoride varnish and preventive coating/fissure sealants on teeth while we are here. It is great to have the support of the community in this.

We find that South Makirikiri School has good protocols in place regarding sugar intake while the children are at school.

It is excellent that South Makirikiri School is a water only school, and that healthy lunchbox options are encouraged. The staff are great role models with this.

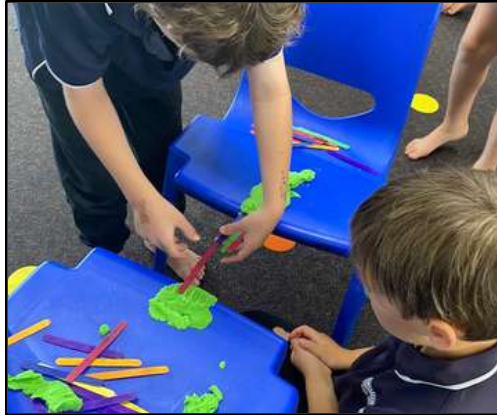
We are also pleased to see that children are not rewarded with sweet treats, such as lollipops, while at school, as these are not good for the teeth.

It is great that the school has fixed "eating times," and discourages the children from grazing on food throughout the day. Constant grazing and snacking increases the risk of dental decay, so it is good to wait around two hours in between meals to avoid this.

The children at South Makirikiri School are very positive in the dental mobile and enjoy coming to see us. It is great to have the support and encouragement of the staff and the community to enforce this. We always enjoy our time at South Makirikiri School.

From the dental team – Kelly Ryan (registered Oral Health Therapist), and Jacqui Alderton and Jo Stewart (Dental Assistants)





Photos this page: Room 5 students build bridges as part of their STEM learning. STEM is the abbreviation for four closely connected areas of study: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

South Mak students with their medals for completing at least three out of four, Do-a-Duathlons. Well done to you all!



CALENDAR

Friday 29 March to Tuesday 2 April:

- Easter – no school

Thursday 4 April:

- Swimming sports

Friday 5 April:

- Learning celebration @ 2pm
- Kiwi Cricket Festival, Victoria Park

Tuesday 9 April:

- Year 8 Space Place trip

Wednesday 10 April:

- Senior School Space Place trip

Friday 12 April:

- End of term 1
- FOS Hay Party

Monday 29 April:

- Start of term 2

Thursday 16 May:

- Board meeting @ 6pm



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