

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2016

1/2/16	Term 1 Commences
10/2/16	Yr 7 & 8 Parent/caregiver meeting at 3.00pm
12/2/16	Kepler Field Trip (date to be confirmed)
19/2/16	Meet & Greet Barbeque, 6.00pm at school
23/2/16	Basin Swimming Sports
26/2/16	Northern Swimming Sports
21/3/16	Life Education Van Visits Mararoa School
11/3/16	Basin Athletics
15/3/16	Child/Parent/Teacher Interviews
18/3/16	Northern Athletics
25-29/3/16	Easter – Return to school Wednesday 30/3/16
1/4/16	Clubs Day
11-15/4/16	Yr 7 & 8 Routeburn Track Tramp
15/4/16	Term 1 Concludes

Welcome back to the start of the 2016 school year. The staff have all enjoyed the summer holiday break and after spending time catching up with family and friends around the country, we have spent time over the past ten days back at school preparing for the new year ahead.

We are excited about the new programmes we are implementing this year especially the changes to our Year 7&8 Leadership Programme. Over the summer holiday break these students have been preparing for their first major event of the year which is to tramp the Routeburn Track in the last week of term 1. We are also looking forward to the implementation of our new school house system and this year's school inquiry topic which is themed "Music is a Language the Whole World Speaks."

As usual there are a number of house-keeping matters to bring to your attention in the first newsletter of the year.

Notification of absence from school

To ensure your child's safe arrival at school it is important that we are notified prior to the beginning of the school day if they are going to be absent. If you are unable to raise anyone in the office please leave a message on the answer phone.

Hi Viz Vests

Vests have been issued to all children for the school year. School Policy dictates that it is compulsory these are worn when travelling to and from school. Each child is responsible for looking after their own vest. These vests are the property of the school and will be collected back at the end of the school year.

Bus Messages

Bus messages left on the school answer phone will be cleared each day and delivered to the children at **2.30pm**. We **cannot** guarantee messages left after this time will be actioned, however we will always endeavour to do our best. As part of our health and safety procedures they must be given to us by the child's own parent/caregiver. Please make sure they are short, clear and concise.

School Uniform

It is a BOT requirement that **every child is in full school uniform every day**. Please ensure that each item of clothing is clearly **named** so it is easily identified. It is amazing the quantity of new, good quality, unnamed clothing that is never claimed. **All children with long hair are required** to wear it tied up and kept off their faces.

Consent Forms

Instead of sending out a separate consent form for every extra-curricula activity and school/class field trip the children participate in, we ask parents/caregivers to complete one consent form to cover all activities for the whole of the school year. Please fill in the attached form and return it to school ASAP.

Sunhats

All children must wear sunhats when they are outside on sunny days. If they do not bring their own hat we do have some hats at school, however we do not have enough for every child in the school. They will be issued on a first in basis to those without hats and those who miss out will have to stay under the shade sail at the front of the school.

Swimming

For the first half of this term swimming will part of our daily curriculum programme. All children are required to bring their **named** towel, togs, and bathing cap to school **every day**. For children to be excused from swimming the parent/caregiver needs to contact the classroom teacher.

Don't forget all our parents and everyone in our wider community are part of our school family so, whether you are new parents to our school or have been around for a while, please feel free to pop in and join us for a cuppa when you are passing. We love catching up with you all.

Mary Baigent
Principal



Athletics Training

We need to start athletics training next week, because we have about a month before our Te Anau Basin athletics day. Mararoa School students have always performed extremely well, due to their excellent preparation. We need parents to help run our coaching programme. We will be training every morning, 9.55am until 10.25am. If you can help, please phone Susan at school by **Thursday 4 February**, with your preference of day and athletic discipline (running, high jump, long jump, discus, shot-put). No experience is needed, and lots of help with coaching tips is given!

Stationery

Class teachers will begin issuing your child with their 2016 stationery at school tomorrow and it will be charged to your stationery accounts. Please contact the school as soon as possible if you wish to purchase your stationery from a different vendor. The school sources quality stationery at competitive rates and there is no mark up on these rates for parents. Each child will be charged \$10 to cover the cost of class sets of pencils/glue sticks/twink rollers etc.

Parent Concerns

Often parents have concerns relating to their child's academic, emotional or physical wellbeing. In order to have these issues resolved quickly and fairly for all parties concerned, it is important you contact your child's classroom teacher **at school** to **discuss** the issue. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the procedures you need to follow. Please keep this in a safe place so you can refer to it should the need arise. Mrs McDonald is always happy to forward a copy to you from the school office if it can't be found.

Meet and Greet Barbecue at Mararoa School Friday 19 February 6pm onwards

We look forward to catching up with all our school families, pre-school families and friends of the school at our 'Meet and Greet Barbecue'.

Bring your own food and utensils. We have a barbeque for your use.

Bus Notices

Please notify the school office of standing bus arrangements for after school activities ie, tennis, trampolining in Te Anau. Thank you.

Year 7 & 8 Parents Meeting

A meeting of all Year 7 & 8 parents/caregivers will be held on Wednesday 10 February at 3.00pm to discuss this year leadership programme.

Tissues 2016 Supply

Please supply one box of tissues per child. These are for emergencies only. Please check that your children bring their own handkerchief or tissues to school every day. This is a lifelong habit/skill that they need to learn.



School Uniform

We have limited stock of new uniform at present, as we are investigating changing suppliers. We will let you know as soon as this is finalised.

We have some second hand items available, if you require some or have some for sale please contact the school office.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for items to be included in the school newsletter is Tuesday 10 am. Items received after this time will be placed with the following week's information.

Contacting the Classroom Teacher

We have changed the time of our daily morning staff meetings so teachers are more accessible to you before school. They will now be held from 8.15 to 8.20am. Please either phone the classroom teacher before or after school, there is usually a teacher available up to 5.00pm, or phone Mrs McDonald during the school day so she can schedule an appointment. Otherwise leave your name and number on the school answer phone and we will return your call.

Please, no phone calls to teachers at home.