



MARTINBOROUGH SCHOOL

Wednesday 2 April 2025

How time flies. Term 1 is almost gone, and there has been so much happen. The first term appears to be the most difficult to navigate, for a number of reasons. Students are often getting used to their new teacher (if that is the case), new class mates, a different set of expectation, as well as new learning and being pushed that little bit harder to be successful. And it is the longest term, so I know that everyone is ready for a bit of a recharge.

Our focus for learning.

The three areas of focus for this year are Literacy, Numeracy and Te reo Maori. Along with gaining more content knowledge, and learning how to navigate the new resources, our main focus is on effective teaching practice – and all that goes along with becoming the most effective practitioners we can be. There has been a major shift in teacher practice, and an increase in systems that help us all function more effectively. The role that you, the parents, play is very important in helping your child succeed at school. Please meet with your child's teacher regularly, and ensure that you play an active role in your child's learning.

Teacher Only Days in Term 2 – 16 May and 27 June

As mentioned in the first newsletter of the year, we have a Numeracy Professional Development day planned for Friday 16 May. We are working closely with Greytown School and a Ministry of Education approved facilitator, to make this day a valuable learning experience for all of our teachers.

The second Teacher Only Day for the term will be the last day of Term 2 – Friday 27 June. We will be exclusively working with Learning Matters – our Structured Literacy provider, to focus on writing development across the school. “Why can't these days be run during the holidays” I hear you say. And we did try to arrange the writing workshop for the holiday break. Companies like 'Learning Matters' run their own PD during the holiday breaks, as well as providing their staff with time away from their rigorous travel and PD schedules. These companies work closely with schools during term time to facilitate teacher improvement, while the teachers are at the coalface, so to speak. Active learning, and individual teacher improvement is better facilitated while there is an audience of students present. Both of these professional development opportunities are valuable experiences for our staff to participate in, and we thank you for your understanding.

Cyber Safety – Parent and Family Workshops

There have been some great Heartland workshops for parents and families with kids experts going through things we all remember feeling as kids and know about as parents.

Tonight, 2 April at 7 - 8pm will be tips and tricks on how to raise confident and resilient kids at Heartlands, 39 Jellicoe St. On Wednesday, 7 May at the Carterton Events Centre, well-known kids neuroscientist Nathan Wallis will be talking teen brain - giving you a chance to actually know what's going on in there.

On the back of this we're stoked - as this speaker would say - to have kids cyber safety expert Rob Cope at the school on Wednesday, 4th June to tell us what's what with Our Kids Online. Here's a sneak peak - so save the date and come along.

video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddiGsp4lmg>

Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all of our students who participated recently in the Wairarapa Regional Swimming Sports. Having a look at the results, Martinborough School were certainly well represented in all events, with some top three finishes for a number of our students. Special thanks to all of the parent helpers for your transportation of students and timekeeping duties. Well done Amanda for your organisation and enthusiasm in getting our students to perform so well.

Year 7 and 8 Camp

I recently attended the Year 7 and 8 Camp, based at Kaiteriteri, near Nelson. What an absolute pleasure it was to spend the week in that part of the world, watching our students experience some fantastic opportunities. We walked to Cleopatra's Pool from Anchorage Beach, swam in the river and the sea, kayaked, Paddle boarded, made sandcastles – pretty flash ones actually, went trampolining, water sliding, and mini golfing. Played spotlight and volleyball –not at the same time. Many thanks to all of the parents who supported us throughout the week. They all did a fantastic job at making the week successful for everyone. And well done Martinborough Staff. Putting a camp together of this magnitude is not an easy task. Well done and thank you to Charl, Chris and Courtney for all of your work. It was a great experience, enjoyed by everyone.



Property Update

As you no doubt would have noticed, there has been a lot of work happening around the school, replacing the roofs on a number of our blocks. With one building still to go, we hope to have the work completed by the end of the school holidays. These projects are Ministry of Education funded, and are part of the 10 Year Property Plan. We are currently reviewing the current 10YPP, and making adjustments for the next 10 years. Often the MOE priority list will not be able to include the projects that we would like to have happen around the school – it would be great if we had a spare couple of million dollars. Anyway, we are thankful for the money we can invest in ensuring our buildings are safe and waterproof 😊

Uniform Update

With winter just around the corner, students will have a little more uniform available to lose. Please ensure your child's uniform is named – you would be amazed at the amount of uniform we can't find an owner for.

On the back of needing more uniform, the Uniform Shop is open on a Monday morning from 8:30 in the School Library.

Have a wonderful holiday break, starting next Friday, 11 April. And we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 28 April.