



Lower Moutere School

SCHOOL ROAD, LOWER MOUTERE
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Dear Parents and whanau of Lower Moutere School –

7 August 2023

After a chilly few weeks, we are starting to see some warmth coming into the days. We still have a good supply of sweatshirts at school – mostly unnamed, which we would happily pass on to anyone feeling the cold! Please ask in the office if you would like us to hunt you out one!

Welcome to new staff

Continuing with the new additions to our school staff ...

Miss Angela Waterreus joins us from Auckland, and will spend 1 day a week in Room 2, as Mrs Karetai has one day out. Miss Watterus has come from a primary school of nearly 1000!!! I am sure we will convince her that our rural school is the way to go and that the Makos are a far better rugby team to cheer for!

Miss Emma McQuade joins us after 2 years teaching in Rarotonga. Miss McQuade takes over from Miss Tucker who is due to have her second baby very soon! Welcome to you both!

We are incredibly fortunate to be able to fill these roles so quickly in the current climate of no teachers available. Some schools have been unable to fill positions lately ... a big thanks to Angela and Emma!

BUS ACCOUNTS

The term 3 bus fees are now due. The accounts for this are \$35 for one student and \$70 for a family. As this is a 'user-pays' system, it is important that it is paid to ensure continuation of service.. If you are needing to set up an automatic payment for this, please come and see us and we can help. Passes will be handed out this week - please see Mrs Matthewson for your pass!



The school bank account is ASB -[12-3158-0184739-00](https://www.asb.co.nz/branches/12-3158-0184739-00) . Use your child's name and bus as the reference please! Remember we also have Eftpos in the office for any payments.



Whanau connections – meeting with our parents

A HUGE thanks to the parents and our teaching staff for taking the time to discuss the learning and next steps for our students, at the recent whanau connects. The 10 minutes may seem like they went super-fast and our staff value the opportunity to have dedicated time with you.

Biking to school

Last term a group of students met with the council. We can make a difference ... Waka Kotahi have advised us through the Tasman District Council that they have approved three of our requests. They are all for supporting safe cycling to and from our school and around the Lower Moutere area.

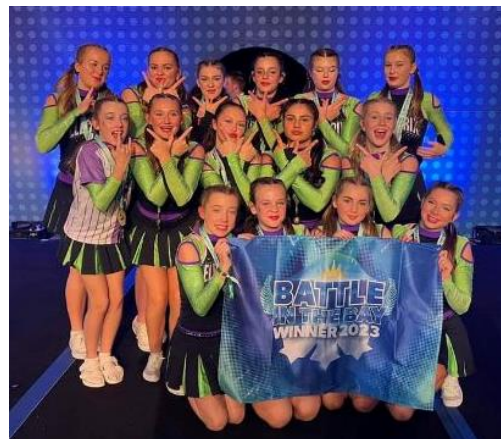
Congratulations to Mateo!

Well done Mateo for making the Nelson U13 rep team for basketball. Mateo practices every day, demonstrating 'being the best that he can be'. Well done – we might see you playing for the Giants in years to come!



Celebrating our twin dancers!

Congratulations continues!! – Well done Ava and Elyse with their 'Lytes' mates who competed in Tauranga over the weekend. They gained 1st place in the level 4 senior grade and are the grand champs of their division!!



Attendance matters!

The Ministry of Education is really emphasising regular attendance and ensuring that schools are doing all they can to have students in school and attending regularly. Last term, our average attendance was 88%. Ideally, if we could reach 94%, that would be fantastic! Acknowledging that there have also been significant illnesses circulating, our fingers are crossed that this is behind us now!

Our attendance for this term is averaging 89%.



What happens if it is not??

At whanau connect time, staff may have mentioned to you if your child had attendance that was lower than 80%. We are now obliged to work with the attendance services for all students who have attendance that is below 80%, as part of the government strategy to increase attendance. If this is something that does concern you, please talk to your child's teacher in the first instance.



18 OR MORE DAYS

Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. Absences add up before you even know it.



10 TO 17 DAYS

Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year.
- When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.



9 OR FEWER ABSENCES

Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.
- Children benefit and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.

AUGUST	
Friday 25 th	Daffodil Day
Tuesday 29 th to Friday 1 st September	Year 7 & 8 Camp – Lake Rotoiti and Skiing
SEPTEMBER	
Thursday 7 th	School Photos
Thursday 14 th	Board of Trustees meeting 6pm in staffroom
Friday 22 nd	Last Day of Term 3
OCTOBER	
Monday 9 th	First Day of Term 4
Wednesday 11 th to Friday 13 th October	Year 5 & 6 Camp - Marahau
Monday 23 rd	Labour Day – Public Holiday
Thursday 26 th	Board of Trustees meeting 6pm in staffroom
NOVEMBER	
Friday 3 rd	Gumboot Friday – Wear your gumboots to school!
Thursday 30 th	Board of Trustees meeting 6pm in staffroom
DECEMBER	
Friday 15 th	Last day of Term 4

School internal review for the Board

Every term, the school Board is required to review the procedures that support the governance and management of the school. These help set 'the rules' of what does and doesn't happen at school, and how we operate. This term, the major review of procedure is Learning Support. Our school makes a significant investment in supporting all learners, and ensuring that those who are needing extra support, receive the right support to help them 'be the best that they can be'. What makes it tricky for us at times is that the school funds this too – there are very few 'top-ups' that we can get to help us. If you are interested in helping with feedback on our learning support programme, go to <https://lowermoutere.schooldocs.co.nz/> - our user name is lower moutere and password is respectful. Head to 'current review' and you will see what to do from there!



What's the buzz about at school!!!?

This term, we are having a school wide focus on ecology – how animals and plants work together to exist as a community. Thanks to the great team at BeeQuip, Lower Moutere (<https://beequip.nz/>) we now have some hives built, bee keeper outfits and loads of equipment ... our new homes are nearly ready for the bees! There is a HUGE amount of learning happening at all levels around bees and how they can teach us so much in 'lessons for life and living'.



DID YOU KNOW .. that bees can be trained to fly high in their flight path! We are placing the bees in the large, fenced area in our playing field. There has been lots of planting in there for bees, plus the many good trees around the school boundaries. We have learnt what to do to train the bees to fly high when leaving the hives, therefore avoiding flying low through the field. Thanks to Cory Rusbatch, we will be guided by his wisdom once the hives become active.

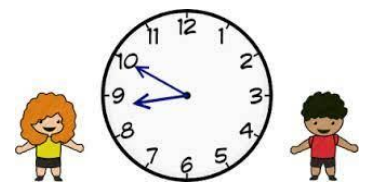
We often hear that **it takes a village to raise a child** ... let's look at the bee village for a few thoughts about bees being a village community.

- **Use TEAMWORK** - Honeybees are nature's ultimate team-players. They cooperate in everything they do. They also behave as if individuals matter, while at the same time keeping the common good of the hive as their priority. If one bee is suffering or falling behind, the others step up and do the work, making sure that collective productivity is never reduced.
- **Do good, for goodness' sake** When honeybees pollinate flowers, they don't do it with the reward in mind. Yet it is pollination itself that ensures continuity of the bees in the long run
- **Be efficient** Honeybees don't multitask. Instead, they focus only on the top priority. They each have different jobs and they stick to them.
- **Evolve** Honeybees survive by adapting to their surroundings. They are continuously evolving. They are not discouraged by new locations or temperatures...they are not discouraged by change.
- **Live your work ethic** Bees have an innate sense of responsibility. They are driven by the desire to work, produce and sustain the colony.
- **Be a true leader** Colonies have queens, without the bureaucracy or the dictatorship. The queen knows her role and she performs her duties without interfering with the work of her subjects
- **Communicate well** Bees are deeply engaged with each other. They keep each other informed about changes in their environment.
- **Take time to rest** Contrary to the common belief that they work all the time, honeybees actually spend two-thirds of their time doing nothing. They work hard with unwavering dedication and discipline, but they also get plenty of rest in order to recharge.



Let's get to school before 8.50!

It would be great if we could aim for being in school by 8.45am each day! This really helps your child have a relaxed and prepared start to the school day. Rushing in the gate after a bell is quite stressful for a child as they have no time to prepare for the day, say hi to friends and their teacher and run about. So – help out your child and aim for a no later than 8.45 start! It means they can get to Breakfast club too!!



Sue, our Office manager has had to quickly get back to the UK for a family matter, therefore is away this week ahead. Andrea will be covering the office so a big thanks Andrea as she juggles her current role with the Admin job too! Many thanks for your support for the school!

Chris Bascand (JP) - Principal

