

Matikao Team Newsletter

Term 1 2019

Welcome back to everyone for Term One and a special welcome to new families joining our team. Our focus this term is Identity. We will also be spending time establishing classroom routines and practices in order to create a positive learning environment for 2019.

Our Enduring Understandings:

- I am…

- We are all unique but all made in God’s image.

- Our identity builds from where we come from, and who we come from.

Our Essential Questions:

- What makes you, you?

- How do we communicate our identities?

Our Marian Values:

Courage Compassion Empathy Faith Wisdom

Strength Obedience Loyalty Trust Service

Our Key Competencies:

Thinking, Relating to others

Using language, symbols and text, Managing self

Participating and contributing

If you have any concerns, questions or need more information about anything happening in the school, please talk to your class teacher first. They work with your children on a daily basis and have the most information about your child, their learning and social interactions. Pam Pyatt is Team Leader in Matikao. She is based in St Mary. If you would like to talk to her or email her, please feel free to do so at any time at pam@stellamaris.school.nz. We want the best for your children, so please let us know if you need any assistance at all. All of our emails are at the end of this letter for your information. It is a good idea to email your classroom teacher (no message required!) so that we can save your email addresses.

Routines:

With our younger students, establishing routines is critical. Children will need their Book Bags at school every day. They will also need PE uniforms at school each day and these can be left at school during the week. Every class has a Library session each week, so please ensure library books are returned by the class library day.

School time begins at 8.45 each day so please ensure your children are at school at least ten minutes before the bell to allow them time to organise themselves for their learning. It can be stressful for children who arrive late and it is disruptive to the class if latecomers arrive when morning prayers have started.

Independence

This is another critical skill that we encourage. We find that children who are involved in packing their own bags (with support initially) feel more in control and have a better knowledge about what they have with them on any given day. You may consider the drop off and pick up zone at the beginning and/or the end of the day. This has staff and older students to help younger students enter and exit their cars. It may be an easier option for parents who have pre-school children so you do not have to get everyone out of the car.

Reading

It is recognised that shared reading is a very effective way of modelling different aspects of reading and providing opportunities for peers to model reading skills. We are going to focus on shared reading initially in our classrooms. We will work on shared books as part of our reading programme, giving students opportunities to work on texts at a range of levels. Guided reading starts soon, and students will bring home readers when this begins. Please return readers each day. A new reader cannot go home if books are not returned. This can upset reading progress and will eventually result in a replacement charge of approximately $10 per book.

School Bags

We strongly encourage students to wear their bags on their backs. Please support us in this by allowing them to carry their own bags and unpack them independently. This is a part of your child learning to self-manage.

Uniform

Hats are compulsory this term. Please ensure long hair is tied back and children are not wearing extra jewellery or nail polish. More details about the uniform are on the school website http://stellamaris.school.nz Alternatively you can ask class teachers if you are not sure.

Absences

If your child is not coming to school, please either ring or email the office and leave a message with your child’s name and class - [absences@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:absences@stellamaris.school.nz)

Brainfood

Students have a brainfood break every day at 10am. This is a small healthy snack to help them retain focus and energy. It is not an extra morning tea and we encourage students to continue working while they ‘nibble’. Some examples of suitable brainfood include: a small pot of dried fruit, sliced cheese, vege sticks, cut up fruit, nuts (not peanuts). Please do not send in whole apples or oranges for brainfood as this takes too long to eat.

WasteWise

Our school is a WasteWise school and we are committed to reducing, reusing and recycling wherever possible. We encourage families to use re-usable containers in lunch-boxes. We have a school compost bin, so organic scraps will be collected. We encourage lunches that minimise, or have no landfill refuse. If you would like ideas or support in this, please talk to your classroom teacher. We thank you for your support in this.

Communication

Information about school and team events are included in the weekly newsletters that come home every Thursday. All this information is also on our website. You can be included in The Beacon, which is an email with information and reminders and events. Please see the office to receive these emails if you are not already on the list. In the next week or so PTFA class reps will be organised and they will also send out relevant texts to families for reminders. The school app also has notices and information: search the app store for ‘Stella Maris Primary school’. If you need any further information or detail, email or talk to your classroom teacher. We hope that all these options ensure you are informed of everything you need to know.

Sickness

This unfortunately happens from time to time. Please keep your child home if they are unwell and likely to spread bugs. If there is any vomiting or diarrhoea, it is advised that there is a 24 hour absence from school from the last episode. This to keep everyone safe and healthy, especially those with lower immunity.

Summer Heat

We encourage students to apply sunscreen before coming to school in this very hot weather. There is also a bottle of sunscreen for reapplication in each class. We also ask that students bring a drink bottle for water each day.

For the next few week Megan Foley will be in St Benedict class while Diana Pearson in on sick leave.

Class Needs

We would appreciate it if each student could please bring in a box of tissues and a pump hand sanitiser. These are so necessary for running a clean and pleasant classroom! Thank you very much for these.

We are excited about this year and we look forward to getting to know you all better over the coming weeks.

Thank you and God bless

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