

Kia ora koutou  
Dear Parents and Caregivers

**Keep up-to-date with what is happening at Firth Primary School on our Website. Firth Newsletters are now available at [www.firth.school.nz](http://www.firth.school.nz)**

**Firth Primary School Facebook page.**

**We have a facebook page - please 'like' our page to keep up to date with what is happening at Firth, and other important information and stay "in the loop" in 2019 with our school app.**

**Text reminder – We have an alternative to our automated absentee phone service. You may prefer to text the school when your child is absent on 027 266 0365**

Reminder next Newsletter will be **Thursday 30 May - Week 5 - Term 2**

Our school success key is Resilience.

Welcome to our new students Sativa Watson, Shorna Tuakeu and Anna Higgins and their families who have joined us at Firth Primary School.

### **STRIKE DAY**

This week we received confirmation of the planned strike for both primary and secondary teachers across New Zealand.

Consequently school will be **CLOSED on Wednesday May 29th.**

We fully appreciate that this will be an inconvenience to our families, but also feel strongly that change and action is urgently needed in order to support our learners and our teachers.

The media tends to focus on pay as the key issue, but there are a range of important factors impacting on our ability to do the best for your children and our students.

1. Support for learners with special needs. We have a number of students who would benefit from having extra help either with their learning or to improve their behavior but we do not have adequate funding to provide them with the help they need. I would love to employ a teacher assistant in each class but this is not possible.
2. Over the last five years the number of people entering the teaching profession has greatly reduced- almost 40%. Many, who do become teachers, leave early due to the heavy workload and the demands on their non-contact time. Many of our experienced teachers are due to retire within the next 5 years and this will leave a big gap in our work force. Who is going to fill this gap?
3. On average a beginning teacher receives \$47,000 per year and they work around 50 hours per week. This works out at around \$18 per hour little more than the minimum wage.
4. Our children deserve the best quality teachers. We need to attract the very best people to become teachers. Salaries need to be part of this equation to ensure we are competitive with other university qualifications.

All of us here at Firth ask for your support as we take action on May 29th. We really do understand the inconvenience and impact on parents/whanau, however we can assure you that this decision is not taken lightly.

### **Friday Assembly**

Assembly will be at 9.00am Friday morning. Next Friday 24 May Rooms 6 & 10 will be sharing. We look forward to seeing you

### **Advanced Warning. Whanau Evening**

Please keep **Wednesday 12 June** free.

We are holding an open evening on this night where everyone is invited to visit his or her child/rens' classroom with the emphasis on how mathematics is taught here at Firth. The evening will start at 6:pm. Sausages will be available for \$2.00 a sausage. Around 45 minutes has been set aside for you to visit classrooms and then we will all meet in the Multi Purpose room for a small concert. A kapa haka group, choir, drummers and ukulele players will entertain us. The evening should finish by 7:30. Looking forward to seeing you all on the night. Order forms for sausages will be sent home closer to the date.

### **Anti Bullying Week**

To show our support for this project children have been encouraged to wear a pink shirt tomorrow-Friday 17 May.

### **Cotter Cup Tournament**

Many of our senior students will be taking part in this annual event tomorrow- Friday 17 May. Players will be involved in Hockey, Soccer, Netball and Rugby games. Good Luck. Many thanks to all helpers and drivers.

### **Sausage Sizzle - Camp Fundraising**

We will be holding a sausage sizzle on Thursday 30 May. Order forms will be sent home next week.

### **Board of Trustee Elections**

A reminder that the triennial Board of Trustees Elections are being held in May/June this year. Nominations must be received by Friday 24 May. This is an opportunity for any parents wishing to join the Board of Trustees to become involved and who believe in making a positive difference to our children's learning. Please check with the school office that you are on the BOT Voting Roll and that we have your correct postal address.

### **Board of Trustees Election Key Dates**

Friday 10 May	Nominations open
Friday 24 May Noon	Nominations close
Friday 7 June	Voting closes
Thursday 13 June	Votes counted and results declared

### **Improve our Communication - Your email is required.**

If you have an email address could you please send one to your child(ren)s class teacher(s). This way the teacher can bounce you an email to inform you of when your child will receive a certificate at Friday celebration assembly.

### **Headlice**

Reminder - please check your child/ren's hair for signs of nits and if present please treat them. A united front will help to eradicate this common problem. We do have a supply of Kids Can treatment products.

### **Please check and update your school records if your mobile number has changed.**

Unfortunately, we are still trying to contact some parents on non-exist phone numbers.

### **Term Dates 2019**

Term 2 - Monday 29 April - Friday 5 July.  
Term 3 - Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September  
Term 4 - Monday 14 October - Friday 13 December

### **Term 2**

Friday 17 May	Cotter Cup - Hinuera
Tuesday 21 May	Parent Workshop
Friday 24 May	Fun in 1
Tuesday 28 May	Parent Workshop
Thursday 30 May	Sausage Sizzle
Monday 3 June	Queen's Birthday Weekend
Friday 7 June	Fun in 1
Monday 10 June	Hiwi the Kiwi Show
Saturday 8 - Friday 14 June	Firth Parent Group Op Shop
Wednesday 12 June	Whanau Open Evening
Friday 14 June	Teacher Only Day
Thursday 20 June	Winter Sports
Friday 21 June	Fun in 1
Tuesday 25 June	Poetry Finals
Friday 28 June	Grandparents Day
Monday 1 July - Friday 5 July	Book Week
Friday 5 July	Book Character Parade
Friday 5 July	Last day of term 2

## Coming Events

### Firth Parent Group

A reminder that our school is rostered on at the Opportunity Shop (Arawa Street) Saturday June 8 - Friday 14 June. The shop is open from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. daily. Please note that Friday 14 June is Teacher Only Day. If you can help on any of these days please contact Robyn McRae-Aoake, on 027 500 4666 or leave your name at the office. We really need your assistance.

Any unwanted, unloved, must of shrunk in the wash, items of clothing, linen or furniture can be dropped off at school or contact Robyn to arrange pick up.

Team Energise

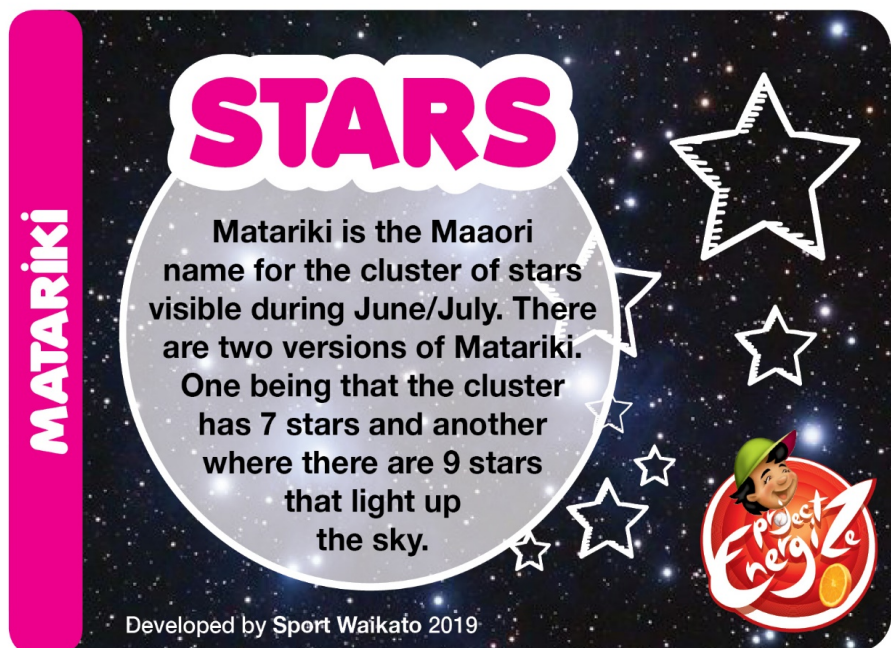


**MATARIKI**

Matariki marks the Maaori New Year. It's a time to reflect on the year gone by, plan for the year ahead, prepare land for crops and planting and celebrate new beginnings!

Developed by Sport Waikato 2019

The poster features a blue vertical bar on the left with the word 'MATARIKI' in white. The main background is black with white stars of various sizes. A large white star is on the right. A circular inset contains the text. A small cartoon character wearing a green hat and a red shirt is in the bottom right corner, holding a red circle with the word 'Energise' in white.



**STARS**

Matariki is the Maaori name for the cluster of stars visible during June/July. There are two versions of Matariki. One being that the cluster has 7 stars and another where there are 9 stars that light up the sky.

Developed by Sport Waikato 2019

The poster features a pink vertical bar on the left with the word 'MATARIKI' in white. The main background is black with white stars of various sizes. A large white star is on the right. A circular inset contains the text. A small cartoon character wearing a green hat and a red shirt is in the bottom right corner, holding a red circle with the word 'Energise' in white.

*The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fail.  
– Nelson Mandela*

Have a great week.

Jeanette Malligan and the team at Firth.