

**FINAL CELEBRATION - WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER****WELCOME**

We are all about to embark on a hugely busy and enjoyable few weeks as we journey through to the end of the 2023 school year. Events have been listed in this newsletter to ensure nothing is missed. Please be sure to have a careful read and log any dates in your diary. I will endeavour to add further 2024 dates as they become available. Term dates and Teacher Only Days will be coming home on a magnet - the same as previous years.

**YEAR 6 GRADUATION**

Last night we had a bumper crowd attend the Year 6 Graduation. It was awesome to share some kai, hear some great stories and celebrate a magnificent group of Year 6. A huge thank you to our students and their whānau and to the terrific organisers who made this happen. All photos have been added to our school Facebook page.

**FINAL CELEBRATION**

Our Final Celebration will be held next Wednesday 6th December. It is our school expectation that all students attend this evening as they will be involved in performances as well as possibly receiving awards. We ask that kids arrive at 5.45pm and come into the hall. Parents and whānau remain outside so that they can be welcomed in with a Haka Pōwhiri. This is a magnificent event and we look forward to celebrating a wonderful year of learning with you all.

**MAKINO FUN DAY**

Our Makino Fun Day is being held on Wednesday 13th December. All students, with the exception of those in Te Tipu, will be walking down to the Makino Pools for an awesome swim and a sausage sizzle. This is a free event and is part of our end of year celebration. Information will be coming out to whānau shortly.

**FEILDING CHRISTMAS PARADE**

On Sunday 10th December the Feilding Christmas Parade is being held. Once again Lytton Street School will be entering a float. This is a magic event and well worth attending. See you all there.

**LAST DAY OF THE 2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

Tuesday 19th December is the last day of the 2023 school year. This day will finish at 1pm. School begins again on Wednesday 31st January 2024. On Tuesday 30th January a 'Meet The Teacher' day will be available for you to bring your child in and catch up with their 2024 classroom teacher.

**A BIG THANK YOU**

A big thank you to Ross Thomson from Tip Top Ice Cream who has donated a substantial amount of ice cream over the years. This has been mainly used for our Year 6 Graduation event. Thanks to Ross and the team.

**150 YEAR COMMEMORATIONS**

The 150th Commemorations of Feilding and Districts is coming up in 2024. The commemorations will focus on the cultural diversity of our region and the growth it has experienced. Ngāti Kauwhata, tangata whenua of our rohe, will be part of the commemoration events. There are a range of awesome events taking place over the weekend of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March. Keep an eye out for what you and your whānau can be involved in. There is a Heritage Day, Through the Decades Float, Defence Force Parade, Time Chest, and a range of Kapa Haka and musical performances. The organising committee remain focused on making this a magnificent community event.



## TE AO MĀORI AT LSS

### TE TAU TORU NUI O MATARIKI ME TE MARAMATAKA MĀORI

This term, Pā Ronald has been participating in an 8 week wānanga (learning programme) led by 2022 New Zealander of the Year, Professor Rangi Mātāmua, called Te Toru Nui o Matariki (The three year cycle of the lunar months). Within this sits Te Maramataka Māori (the Māori Calendar). The maramataka is the traditional Māori calendar. Each year has 12 months based on the cycles of the moon. These lunar months begin and end when the moon is full, and lasts for about 30 days. Each of these lunar months and the moon phases have a direct effect on our environment and the activities associated with the respective realms.

*Professor Rangi Mātāmua (Tūhoe) is a pioneering Māori scholar who has revolutionised understanding of Māori astronomy, and in particular Matariki. His research has been ground-breaking in terms of its contribution to mātauranga Māori; he has enlightened both national and international populations on the mātauranga of astronomy.*

Over the past 8 weeks, Dr Mātāmua has shared his enormous wealth of knowledge and expertise about Māori astronomy, the reading of the lunar phases and how to interact with these and their impact on our environment. Pā Ronald is going to be using this knowledge and his learning to support his role in classrooms and across the school. There will be an opportunity for school whānau to attend workshops where Pā will share some of the key learnings about this kaupapa.

Below is an outline and key components of the course. We are very excited to have someone who can share this taonga mātauranga (knowledge) with our tamariki, and our kura whānau.

**'Kua hua te marama' The moon is full. This proverb is used to indicate when something has reached its maturity, or is completed.**

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### WĀNANGA 1

- > Time
- > Basics of the moon
- > Introduction to Maramataka

#### WĀNANGA 2

- > Sun, Star and Moon
- > Seasons
- > Months
- > Phases

#### WĀNANGA 3

- > Te Tau Toru Nui o Matariki
- > Origins of Moon
- > Impact of the Moon

#### WĀNANGA 4

- > Ngā mata o te marama
- > Application of Maramataka
- > De-colonization of time

#### WĀNANGA 5

- > Māori Astronomy
- > Matariki

#### WĀNANGA 6

- > Stars of Matariki
- > Connections

#### WĀNANGA 7

- > Māori New Year
- > Modern Matariki

#### WĀNANGA 8

- > Applying Matariki and Maramataka today
- > Recap Maramataka
- > Recap Te Tau Toru Nui
- > Recap Lunar Phases
- > Recap Matariki



## THE GREAT LSS CHRISTMAS DROP

A huge thank you to all our wonderful community who have supported the Christmas Drop. Once again we have had an extremely impressive response for funding and the purchasing of gifts for our tamariki has begun. A big thank you to Sarah who has done a large proportion of the gift buying. Our Christmas Drop will take place on Thursday 14th December. So, the Santa is booked, the Christmas Grotto is in the planning stages, and the gifts are being bought and wrapped... not long now!

## END OF YEAR REPORTS

On Thursday 14th December your child will receive their end of year report. This report is a cumulative profile of their achievement and progress across the year (and preceding years if your child has been at school longer than one year). Please keep an eye out for these when your child comes home. If you require an additional copy of this report, for whānau, please let your child's classroom teacher know.

## TE RAUKURA - OUR LEADERSHIP GROUP

Te Raukura, our Year 6 leadership group, has the final two activities of the year booked in for Monday 4th December (Beach Education at Foxton) and Friday 15th December (White Water Rafting). These are wonderful events. I would like to thank Whaea Ainsley for her organisation and to our whānau for their support of these events.