

KILBIRNIE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Friday 10 June 2016

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16 June	Matariki Day
20 June	Board meeting 7pm staffroom – first formal meeting for the new board
21 June	Kapa haka group performing Kilbirnie Library 3.30 as part of Matariki.
23 June	Alastair Fraser Performance: Taonga Puoru
28 June	Senior Swimming Sports Rooms
4,5 July	Footnote Dancers at school - workshops
6 July	Sausages for sale at lunchtime
8 July	Term 2 ends

NEW STUDENTS

Vala Room 1

MATARIKI DAY

What is Matariki?

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in mid-winter – late May or early June. For many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year.



Matariki literally means the 'eyes of god' (mata ariki) or 'little eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

Celebration of Matariki

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event – crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for singing, dancing and feasting. Matariki, or Māori New Year celebrations were once popular, but stopped in the 1940s. In 2000, they were revived. Only a few people took part at first, but in just a few years thousands were honouring the 'New Zealand Thanksgiving'. A special feature of Matariki celebrations is the flying of kites – according to ancient custom they flutter close to the stars.

For children Matariki is an important time to learn about whakapapa (ancestry), the land, the stars, and what it is to be Māori. The Matariki stars were used to navigate, to keep time, know what season they were in, and to learn about the legends of the stars.

Learning about family and whakapapa was also very important around the time of Matariki. It was time to come together to exchange stories, learn about ancestors who have passed from this world to the next, and hand down knowledge and practices to ensure the Māori culture is preserved.

The land and the preserving of it was a big part of Matariki, crops were being planted for the next season, and learning about the land and forest was essential for everyone. Matariki is a time when children can learn about and celebrate the unique culture that they are a part of through school, family and friends

Source: Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand

Next Thursday, 16 June, we are having our own Matariki Day. We will be having a special elective programme for the day with fourteen different electives; each child will choose one morning elective and one afternoon elective. Session 1 will start at 10.45 and finish at 12.15; session 2 will start at 1.20 and finish at 2.50. We have a great range of Matariki-based electives for the children to choose from.

Flax weaving with Kay Mudge: Learning about the harakeke (flax) and how to gather it the correct way, as well as creating a flax object to take home.

Weaving and koru patterns with Jacqui Brown and Ros Moses: Creating an artwork using the traditional koru patterns, as well as learning to weave to make an amazing star.

Battle of the Mountains with Jessica White: Reading about and making the mountains then using drama skills to act out the story.

Preparing kai for the evening celebration with Rochelle Coker and ParentLink whanau: Harvesting, cleaning and preparing school veggies, as well as making soup and bread.

Māori Wool Stars with Margaret Maher: Learning the story of Matariki and then creating an awesome star using red, black and white wool.

Seven Stars of Matariki with Mike McGimpsey: Learning about the seven stars and the gifts given to Papatūānuku.

Sand art, digital Matariki learning, Manu Tukutuku – traditional kites and more with Peter Dobson and Glenys Johnston: A variety of awesome hands-on and computer based activities to learn about Matariki.

Waharoa pillars with Jake Yocum: Working on actual carvings that will be placed at the entrance to the school – sanding and filing the designs then adding oil to finish.

Manu Tukutuku – Matariki Kite Art with Pearl Tuohy: Creating beautiful kites to celebrate Matariki.

Poi with Nanny Ora, Chris Montgomerie and Olivia Boyd: Learning about the traditional poi, making some awesome poi and learning to use them

Native Birds of Aotearoa with Alison McPherson: Learning about our wonderful birds with Alison who has been a guide at Zealandia.

Te Rakau with Amanda Bulman: Learning about the traditional long sticks and then using Te Rakau

Kumara with Tony Austin: Learning about it, preparing, cooking and finally eating it!

Kapa Haka with Rachel France: Playing games and doing lots of Waiata a Ringa (action songs)

VISIT TO MARSDEN

This week three of our senior students were fortunate

enough to visit Marsden College to spend a morning with Michel Tuffery, their resident artist. The three students,



Townsend, Emily and Luther, spent the morning working with students from other schools on a Matariki theme, using special ink pens on clear vinyl. A wonderful experience, thanks also to John Denton for inviting our school.

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

This year our school councillors will be meeting regularly to discuss projects around the school. Last term the whole school looked at various aspects of healthy living. This term the school council are putting this into action and are looking at ways to promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle within the school.

2016 Councillors:

Matylda (Rep for Room 1 & 2)

Jessica (Rep for Room 1 & 2)

Paris (Rep for Room 7)

Jaguun (Rep for Room 8)

Eamon (Rep for Room 9)

Esme (Rep for Room 5)

Grace (Rep for Room 6)

Sam (Rep for Room 10)

Sophie (Rep for Room 3)

Samantha (Rep for Room 4)

EASTERN ZONE CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all of the runners who represented our school in the eastern zone cross country, held at Wakefield Park this Wednesday. Special congratulations to Jaguun, Thea and Hugo who will be representing the eastern zone in the Wellington finals. Once again I would also like to thank Tony Austin and Barbara Ryan for their organisation, as well as the parents who provided transport.

Mike McGimpsey
Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Winter Performance W/Shop for budding actors

Years 5 – 8 at Rata Studios, Strathmore

Jackie@ratastudios.co.nz or [facebook.com/ratastudiosnz](https://www.facebook.com/ratastudiosnz)

Holiday Computer Classes

5-15year olds – Minecraft, 3D games, coding and much more

www.grandtraining.co.nz or Ph Ed 499 2211

Soccer Italian Style coming to Wellington

18-22 July for 7-14 year olds – limited spaces

Professional coaches from Empoli & ACF Fiorentina Clubs

www.fsof.co.nz/sis/ for more info

Artrageous Kids July Extravaganza

Follow this link to view the [July 2016 Schedule](#).

Follow this link to view the [Big Kids Week](#) schedule.

www.artrageous.kids.co.nz

Learn Mandarin Chinese

Island Bay Comm Centre Term 2

www.nihaocc.org.nz for more info

Wgtn Diving Club at Aquatic Centre

5-17 years old www.wellingtondiving.org.nz for info

Free trial

LCF Fun Languages

After school language club French, Spanish, Mandarin

Annick 021 462042