MĀKARA MODEL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Term Dates

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Principal Message

Kia ora koutou,

It is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through the term. As always, the weeks seem to fly by when there is so much happening around the kura.

This term it has been wonderful to welcome several new faces to our school community. Whaea Amy and Whaea Jenae have joined the team and have already made a fantastic contribution to the positive feel around the kura. We have also welcomed Whaea Georgia, who is completing her student teacher placement in Pīwakawaka, and Whaea Amber, a student counsellor who will be working with us this year. If you would like to know more about the support and opportunities Amber can offer our students, please feel free to get in touch.

We have had some fantastic events and achievements to celebrate recently. Earlier this month our students showed incredible determination and sportsmanship at the school cross country event. A huge congratulations also goes to our Lit Quiz teams who represented the school so well last week. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and the way they represented our kura.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our upcoming Quiz Night later this term. More information can be found later in this newsletter — we hope many of you will be able to join us for what promises to be a fun evening for our community.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Information Evening on Tuesday. We really appreciated your engagement, questions, and support. There is further information about the evening later in this newsletter.

As we move into the colder and wetter months, please remember to send a spare set of clothes to school with your child. We will continue to make the most of our wonderful outdoor spaces whenever possible.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our kura.

Ngā mihi nui,

James

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 2 June: WZ Cross Country
- Tuesday 9 June: Board Meeting
- Thursday 11 June WGC meet the Principal
- Sunday 21 June: Quiz Night Fundraiser
- Friday 26 June: Matariki Celebration
- Friday 3 July: Last Day of term and Whānau hui

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to the parents and whānau who attended our Curriculum and Reporting Information Evening on Tuesday night. We appreciated your engagement, thoughtful questions, and the positive discussions about learning at Mākara Model School.

As discussed during the evening, both the English and Mathematics curricula have changed in 2026. These updated curricula are based on the science of learning, are knowledge-rich, and include clear year-level expectations for students. The content — particularly in Mathematics — is more challenging than the previous curriculum and is designed to build strong foundational knowledge and skills over time.

We also shared changes to the way we will report student progress to parents and whānau. Rather than using the previous three descriptors (Exceeding, Meeting, Working Towards), we are now required to use five progress descriptors:

- Emerging, Developing, Consolidating, Proficient and Exceeding

What each of these mean, will be explained in the report themselves. Teacher judgements will be based on a wide range of information, including teacher observations, class work, book work, in-class assessments, and standardised testing. This new reporting format will be used for student reports at the end of this term.

A key focus of the evening was how important it is for children to see themselves as capable learners. We encourage all conversations about learning at home to remain positive and supportive. Comments such as “I was never good at maths at school” can unintentionally impact how children view their own abilities. Instead, we encourage families to model positivity, persistence, and a growth mindset around learning.

The slideshow from the evening is available on HERO for you to read through. It includes a link to the Ministry parent portal, which contains a range of helpful information and practical ways families can support learning at home.

If you have any questions, please speak with your child’s teacher or get in touch with Andrew. If you would like support with helping your child at home, please also reach out to your child’s teacher.

Kids Lit Quiz





Congratulations to our two teams who competed in the Wellington Lit Quiz competition last Friday!

Well done to our 8 students who represented our school so positively and gave the competition their best effort. We are proud of all you. One of our teams placed 14th out of 61 teams competing — an outstanding achievement!

A huge thank you to Matua Andrew for organising and supporting the teams, and to James Ryan for providing transport. We appreciate all the support that helped make the day such a success.

Learning with Mountains to Sea









Over the past few weeks, our tamariki have enjoyed some incredible hands-on learning experiences with Mountains to Sea, exploring both our local stream and the Mākara Beach and Estuary environment.

The students investigated the health of our stream and discovered the biodiversity living within it through a range of engaging activities and investigations. They also had an amazing day at Mākara Beach and Estuary testing water quality, searching for stream and estuary bugs, and exploring the rock pools through a fun scavenger hunt. 🌿💧🦗

These experiences provided wonderful opportunities for our students to learn more about the health and biodiversity of our local environment, while developing an understanding of the importance of caring for our natural spaces.

A huge thank you to Alice and Ngahuia from Mountains to Sea for leading such engaging and meaningful sessions. The children had an absolute blast while learning so much about the environment right on our doorstep.

We would also like to thank all of the parents and whānau who supported these trips and learning opportunities — we simply couldn't do these experiences without your help.

We are also very grateful to our wonderful parent group who recently cleared the stream area, making it possible for our kura to once again make use of this fantastic local resource.

Tough Guy and Gal Challenge



Early this term, many of our students had an amazing time taking part in the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge!

Throughout the day, our tamariki showed outstanding fitness, determination, resilience, and teamwork as they tackled the muddy obstacles and challenges with enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. It was wonderful to see students encouraging and supporting one another every step of the way.

A huge thank you to Kat for organising this fantastic opportunity for our students, and to all the parents and whānau who helped with transport and supported the event on the day. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps make experiences like this possible.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated and represented our kura so well. Ka mau te wehi!

School Cross Country





What an awesome day we had at our School Cross Country! It was fantastic to see all of our students getting involved, challenging themselves, and showing great perseverance throughout the event.

We were especially proud of the encouragement and support shown by our tamariki. The cheering, chanting, and positive encouragement for one another created an amazing atmosphere and highlighted the strong sense of community within our kura.

A huge thank you to all the whānau who came along to support the event. Your encouragement and presence helped make the day so special for our students.

Well done everyone on a fantastic day!

Quiz Night


WHERE POINTS MEAN PRIZES....
...BUT SO DO LUCK AND STYLE!
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE AT 7PM
THE 2026
MĀKARA MODEL SCHOOL
QUIZ NIGHT
BAR 1852, 55 CLEVELAND ST,
BROOKLYN, WELLINGTON 6021
COME AS YOU ARE,
OR GRAB UP TO 5 MATES TO MAKE A TEAM
TICKETS INCLUDE A GOODIE BAG
TO TAKE HOME, AND THE CHANCE
TO WIN SOME AMAZING PRIZES-
FOR YOURSELF
AND YOUR TEAM
$20
A TICKET
TO BOOK:
EMAIL SARA (OFFICE@MMS.SCHOOL.NZ) WITH YOUR
NAME, # OF TICKETS WANTED, & TEAM NAME IF YOU HAVE ONE
PAYMENT BY CASH, EFTPOS OR BANK TRANSFER INTO THE
SCHOOL ACCOUNT:
MAKARA SCHOOL
12-3223-0142499-000
REF: QUIZ AND NAME

Quiz Night

With less than a month to go we wanted to remind you about our Pub Quiz Night – Sunday 21st June at Bar 1852 in Brooklyn!
Here's everything you need to know:

Teams:

Teams can have up to 6 people – you can either organise your own crew or let us know if you'd like to be popped into a team. We'll make sure everyone is covered!

Tickets:

Just $20 per person – this includes:

- Your quiz night entry
- A goodie bag
- Prizes for at least 3 teams, as well as the chance to win HEAPS of your own spot prizes.... and if we sell over 120 tickets the Bar will even add to our prize haul!

To book:

Simply pop in and see, or email, Sara (office@mms.school.nz) with your name, number of tickets you're after, & which team you're in – or if you'd like to be added to one.
Payment can be made by cash, Eftpos or Bank Transfer into the school account:
Makara School
12-3223-0142499-000
ref: Quiz and name

Raffle With a Twist:

After the amazing gifts you provided us with last year, we're running our whānau raffle again. We'd love for parents to help out by choosing an item from our Kiwiana Shopping List (link here!) and bringing it into Sara in the office by Friday 5th June. Please pop your name in the column next to the item you've picked so we avoid double-ups!

The list is just a suggestion guide, so if anything else quintessentially Kiwi inspires you, please feel free to grab that instead!
See you there!

It's going to be a fantastic night of community fun and a great fundraiser for our kura – we can't wait to see you there!
If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your class fundraising rep.
Posters with all the details are attached – feel free to share it far and wide!

Ngā mihi nui,
Your Fundraising Committee x