Dear parents, caregivers, students and friends of the school
Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2018. School finishes next Wednesday at noon and we can all look forward to a holiday break. School will reopen for 2019 on Monday 4 February. Please note: there will be a powhiri on the first day to welcome new students and new staff. School starts at 8.50am for Year 8s and 9.45 am for Year 7s and Year 8 students new to the school. All parents and whanau are welcome to attend. The powhiri (starting at 10.00 am) will be followed by morning tea for the adults attending.

Plans for 2019 are well underway. There are to be 4 syndicates rather than 5 next year which will cause some changes to syndicates, teaching teams and classes. Green Syndicate will be absorbed into the other 4 syndicates and there will be a need to move some students between other syndicates in order to balance out numbers. This will not be a random process, rather, much thought and care is put into placing students especially if they are moving. Year 7 students will be notified of their Year 8 classes later this week and if you have any concerns please contact one of the Deputy Principals.

By moving to four syndicates, it will allow us to provide more programmes for our gifted students - these programmes will be known as ‘Friday Academies’. Academy Programmes in Term 1 will include; Literacy, Japanese, Maths/Science, Foods, Digital Art plus the continuation of the MAD (Maidstone Athletic Development) programme. Students will be able to apply for places in these programmes early in the New Year. There will be limited places and students will need to demonstrate ability plus attitude to earn those places.

Class sizes will be a little larger next year, as we will not have the benefit of extra staffing that we have been fortunate to have in the last 2 years. Most classes will be 30-32 rather than the 28-30 we have had this year. However, we have created a part-time position for Literacy Support for students who require that bit extra. Mrs Di Nuuk will be teaching this programme.

There will be major building works beginning here over the Christmas break. The roof of the Admin/Performing Arts/Hall block is to be replaced. This building has been leaking for many years and it is finally being addressed. There will be some disruption because of this, with the Office moving to the Learning Centre and Performing Arts moving to where Red Syndicate are now. We will have everything signposted for visitors so it should all go smoothly!

We have several staff changes with the end of the year: Mrs Rachel Van Der Gulik and Mrs Gemma McIlroy (both Rm 7) are moving to another shared position at Fergusson Intermediate, Mrs Liz Moka (Rm 8) is going to Avalon Intermediate, and Mr Nick Wells (Rm 17) is leaving the classroom to follow other opportunities. I’d like to thank them for all the work they’ve done for the students at Maidstone and wish them well for the future. We welcome Mr Bradley Manser to Purple Syndicate. An appointment will be made later this week for Rm 8.

The Maidstone Today magazine for 2018 has arrived - another event-filled year! Congratulations to Desiree Mitchell and her team of supporters for the outstanding job of putting this together. Happy summer reading!

Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou - me nga whanau.
I wish you and your families a very happy and restful Christmas break
Mary O’Regan, Principal/Tumuaki
Many of you will be aware that on Friday Bali Haque announced proposed major reforms to our schooling system. Many media reports focused on, “Closing of Intermediates”. This was part of one option. Our National Executive of NZ Intermediate and Middle Schooling (NZAIMS) have issued this statement:

NZAIMS have always supported the concept of ‘Middle Schooling’ and would support a system that includes Primary 1-6, Middle 7-10 and Secondary 11-13. They see the potential this system has as a means of addressing the learning needs of young adolescents through the delivery of a local, seamless curriculum.

NZAIMS would strongly oppose the alternative proposal of a system that has Primary 1-8 and Secondary 9-13 as we do not believe this has the potential to ensure seamless learning journeys for young adolescents except in isolated and rural settings. Our education system needs to reflect an awareness of the specific stage and age requirements of students so in the middle years they can achieve to the best of their abilities across the breadth and depth of the NZ Curriculum.

To be put simply, we need schools that meet the needs of our young people as they grow and these schools need to be different at every major developmental stage.

- NZAIMS

Lunches on line finish on Friday. The Tuckshop will be open on Monday and Tuesday next week.

If you are taking your child home from Lane Park after the prize giving, they will need to be signed out with the teacher before they can leave. The teachers will have class lists with them and the class phone box so these can be to be signed out as well.

The Hams will now be delivered on Tuesday 18 December. The date has changed because Prize giving is on Monday 17 December.

During the month of November Room 5 took part in Nanowrimo or National Novel Writing Month.

All the students (and the teacher) set word count goals, and the aim was to write that many words as part of a novel during the month of November. We spent a few weeks before November started looking at narrative writing, what makes a good novel, and planning what we were going to write about. Then on November 1, we started writing our novels! A lot of us had to change our word count goals during the month, as we quickly realised some of them were a bit unrealistic. Everyone worked hard on their novels, with everyone writing over 1000 words during November, and most of us writing a lot more than that - one person wrote 12,500 words! In total six people meet their word count goals, and as a class we wrote over 100,000 words.

Nanowrimo was a really different and interesting experience, and we all enjoyed getting to work on our novels. Well done everyone in Room 5 for taking part!


Congratulations to both the Maidstone Flippaball teams on their second season for the year. Both the Sea Eagles and the Orcas worked hard and showed excellent teamwork. After coming 2nd last season, the Orcas really pushed themselves and took out 1st place, winning the trophy for Maidstone. Well done to all the players!
Blue Syndicate Change Symposium

Come and check out our Inquiry projects!

Over the last two months, Blue syndicate have been studying ‘Change’ (Changes they want to see in the world). Each student selected their own topic, formed questions, developed a research plan and turned their findings into something thought provoking or persuasive to share with you.

You are invited to come and have a look at all the hard work we have been doing!

When: Friday 14th December
Where: School Hall, Maidstone
Time: Between 06:00pm - 07:00pm

We would love to see you there!!!

MAIDSTONE’S GOT TALENT!

WOW what an absolute AMAZING season of Maidstone’s Got Talent!!! It has been a whirlwind of incredible talent, skill and hard work from every single performer who participated. Maidstone has such a wide range of talent with magicians, drama extraordinaries, singers, hip hop crews, comedians, rappers and dancers. Was fantastic to see so many students getting involved. It was a whirlwind of a term with Auditions in week 2, quarter-finals in week 4, semi-finals in week 6 and then the Finals in week 8. Contestants only had a 1 1/2 weeks to come up with new material to perform and they wowed us with their creativity every time. Finals were fantastic with 3 guest judges and 7 performers. In Third Place Equal went to Sophie W and Georgia B both dancing, Second Place went to Mackensie T P who sang and First place was taken out by Mackensie R and Lily M the hip-hop duo.

Well done to everyone involved it was a great display of all the wonderful talent we have at Maidstone!

PHOTOS FROM RED SYNDICATE TRIP

LEARN TO PLAY TENNIS

Holiday Programme For Children From 5 Years- 13 Years

Supported by Hutt Valley Tennis Association

Dates: Wednesday 23, Thursday 24 and Friday 25 January, 2019. (wet or fine)
Venue: St Joseph’s School Tennis Courts, Royal Street, Upper Hutt. If wet the programme will be in the St Joseph’s School Hall (Royal Street)
Timetable: 10.00am-11.00am- Boys and girls from 5-8 years old; 11.00am-12 noon - Girls from 9 years +; 1.00pm-2.00pm - Boys from 9 years +
Cost: $33-00 for the 3 days. Money to be paid on the first day.
Registration: Contact Gary Nelson –Ph. 5897178 or Email - a.nelson@xtra.co.nz
Note: Enrolments must be received by—Wednesday 16 January, 2019. EARLY ENROLMENT is advised as this programme is very popular and the first 12 enrolments in each age group will be accepted.

“WHAT NOW” – Children’s TV Programme – Sign up to be part of the audience

During 2019 we are broadcasting our first 10 shows from around Wellington, show casing a different community each week. On Sunday 10th March our show will be coming live from Upper Hutt and I would like to invite your families to be part of the live audience!

Families (including adults) are all invited to come and experience live tv being made while being part of our awesome audience...& it’s FREE!! As space is limited, we work on a ‘first in best dressed’ approach.

Use this link to register online to be part of the audience www.whatnow.tv/bonus/audience.

Ground Location: Upper Hutt Primary, 49 Martin Street, Wallaceville, Upper Hutt. We look forward to joining your community in 2019!
COMMUNITY NOTICES

HELP US GET CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL.
Just mention our school by name when you shop at
Warehouse Stationery & 5%* goes back to our school.
See supportourschool.co.nz for details
*Exclusions & Terms & Conditions apply.

SHOE CLINIC – School Rewards Scheme
For every pair of school shoes sold, the Shoe Clinic will give a $10 donation to our school, helping give your child more opportunities… Simply nominate Maidstone in store.

Thank you to the following firms for sponsoring this Newsletter and the Maidstone Gold Ticket “Wheel of Fortune”

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