



TE KURA O MAUNGATAPU MAUNGATAPU SCHOOL

School newsletter - Week 3 Term 1 2025

School roll -

Kia ora koutou katoa.

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year and a special warm welcome to all our new whānau who have started at Maungatapu School.

You are in a great school with happy kids (2023/24 survey) and a supportive school community. This year as we set our compass bearings to navigate what lies ahead, we welcome 5 new staff members to our kura, to help us with our journey to success.

1. Kate Bird

Whaea Kate grew up in Rotorua with her whanau and siblings. She joins us as a second year teacher having moved from Insol Ave School in Hamilton where she was based in 2023 and 2024. She is teaching out of Room 5 (Year 2) and has a passion for working with junior school learners. She joins the Pātiki house (Kowhai) at our school and is a wonderful addition to our school community



2. Jazmyn Taipari

Whaea Jazmyn starts her teaching career here at Maungatapu School after obtaining her teaching qualification last year. She has adjusted well to our school and community with the support and advantage of her mother being an ECE provider at our local kindergarten. Jazmyn was previously a teacher aide here in New Zealand and spent time as a teacher aide in Australia. She brings a wealth of experience to our school alongside her knowledge of Te Reo Māori for the children of room 20, year 3/4.



3. Natalie Bidois

Whaea Natalie was raised by her mum and dad on Matakana Island, among her 5 brothers and one sister. She is teaching a year 3/4 class within our Te Pūwhāriki team, starting her professional career here at Maungatapu School. She is an asset to our school and community and will add value to the fabric of our kura. We are very fortunate to have a person of Natalie's calibre and care here at our school.



4. Jakob Rauhihi-Collis and Whaea Te Kihiora Kuka

This year we have two new teacher aides working among our children here at Te Kura o Maungatapu. Jakob Rauhihi-Collis and Te Kihiora Kuka, who started as a teacher aide at the end of last year. Jakob comes to us from Palmerston North with a sporting background, in particular rugby. He was a carpenter and has a building background working under an apprenticeship in the Manawatu. Jakob will mainly have a roll as a sports co-ordinator/coach at our school.



Whaea Te Kihiora has been a great asset to our team this year, following on from her stint last year when she came on board as a teacher aide. Te Kihiora works well with our tamariki and was an ex student here, having finished off her last year at Tauranga Girls' College in 2024. Te Kihiora is both a teacher aide and sport assistant/coach.



School communication

We use a range of methods to communicate general information with parents and our school community including Facebook, Seesaw, regular newsletters, email and the school website.

Facebook This is used for many different purposes. Facebook allows us to post messages instantaneously to our whānau and community.

Seesaw Our most popular and preferred method of communicating last year. These messages are more personalised to your child's class and cohort. See your child's teacher if you are not yet connected.

The school newsletter This is shared via email 3 times a term. If you would like a paper copy, please let the office know.

Our school website There will be a new website design for our school this year. On our current website, there is a google calendar so you can view upcoming school events.

Reporting and conferences These will be held and conducted throughout the year.

Absenteeism

Parents are asked to contact the school if their child will be absent or late that day. Please keep your contact details up to date, especially your emergency contact details. Our office staff will notify you if your child has any injury that is of



Join MASH - Our fundraising committee needs YOU! We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our committee.

Come along to our **AGM Monday 3 March at 7pm in the school staffroom** to learn how you can be involved and help make a difference!

He mihi

Thank you Tauranga PaknSave and The Warehouse Fraser Cove for kindly donating products for our Breakfast Club. Our breakfast club operates from 8.30am every school day, from the hall foyer/kitchen.

Health and Safety

A reminder to adults/parents that you are role models for our tamariki. If you could please use the pedestrian crossing whenever possible rather than crossing the road 'close to' the pedestrian crossing when dropping off/picking up children.

School changes

Bell time - early release. We are in the trial period with a 2.45pm bell and a second bell at 3.00pm to dismiss children. This is a health and safety measure to try and mitigate the traffic congestion at the front of the school. We appreciate your understanding with this initiative.

Arrival time to school

We encourage children to be at school at around 8.30am which is when classrooms are open. We have noticed children being dropped off before 8am, which is too early! There's no staff supervision at this time of day.

School docs policy website

Below is the link to SchoolDocs, a website for our school policies and procedures.

The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school and where necessary, SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines. Our board has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented.

We invite you to visit the site by following these steps

1. Go to schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click **Search for your school**.
3. Start typing the school's name and select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter the username: maungatapu and password: tui



Police urge parents & young people to be alert when online

The Team from [New Zealand Police](#)

The New Zealand Police are urging parents to be alert to the potential risks facing children and young people online. For parents and caregivers:

- Supervision is essential. This means knowing what your children are doing online, who they are interacting with, and what platforms, apps, or games they are using.
- Check privacy settings. We recommend parents and caregivers research and understand app settings, including privacy settings. This can include turning off location settings, setting profiles to private, or turning off chat functions.
- Long term impact. Offenders will often use tactics such as fear or shame to manipulate young people, and make them feel alienated or trapped, like they cannot escape the situation. These situations can be very distressing and can have long term impacts and need to be addressed appropriately.
- Report suspicious behaviour. Make a report online at 105.police.govt.nz, clicking "Make a Report" or by calling 105. Seek support by calling: 0508 NETSAFE (0508 638 723).

Upcoming events

Wednesday 19 February	Music lessons start with Jacob
Thursday 20 February	Rippa Rugby Starts (all grades)
Monday 24 February	Water Skills for Life starts (whole school)
Monday 3rd March	MASH Meeting 7pm Staffroom
Wednesday 12 March	Teacher Only Day (note change of date - previously Monday 10 March)

Kia kaha kia māia - Be courageous Kia tika kia pono - Be honest Manaakitia te tangata, tiakina te tāiao - Be respectful