Matamata Intermediate

Kia ora e te whānau,

20th November 2026

As we move through our end-of-year assessments, I have been genuinely impressed by the focus, resilience, and commitment our tamariki have shown across the school. It is clear they are determined to give their absolute best and show just how much they have grown this year.

A personal highlight of my week was having the privilege of reading every single student's persuasive writing assessment. The task was to write directly to me to convince me to change something to make our school even better.

As you might expect, there was a very strong push for longer break times, shorter school days, free food, no uniforms, and an immediate ban on homework! Alongside some well-crafted arguments, there were plenty of one-liners that genuinely made me smile—and a few that gave me a good laugh. I couldn't resist sharing a small sample with you (spelling and punctuation kept as the glorious originals):

- *"And we need Aotearoa to have the best school in the universe. We must let every school in Aotearoa grow and flourish."*
- *"...because doing a whole day of learning can overfill the brain."*
- *"Let us play games—they are the gold at the end of the rainbow."*
- *"Our jerseys aren't warm—we would be warmer in the nude."*
- *"School punishes us—we have to sit inside and do maths and reading."*
- *"'We will email your parents,' as if that will do anything. It won't change our minds."*
- *"If I was a police officer and I was going home to go to bed, I'm gonna bring a criminal I caught with me."* (A creative argument against homework!)
- And my personal favourite, which really sums up what school is all about: *"...means you'll be sitting in a classroom for the next hour and a half doing nothing but learning."*

Reading through their work reminded me not only of how hard our students and kaiako have worked on their writing skills this year, but also of the wonderful humour, creativity, and big ideas our kids bring to school every single day.

Thank you for your ongoing support at home during this busy lead up to the end of the year. While I can't promise we will be introducing "nude jersey days" or scrapping maths anytime soon, I can promise we will keep working together to make this the best school in the universe.

Ngā mihi nui
Debbie Currie
Principal

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 24th November
Inter Schools Athletics

Thursday 26th November
Sports Prizegiving

Friday 27th November
Primary schools music tour

Wednesday 2nd December
Orientation Day

Thursday 3rd December
Piako Whānau Celebration Day

Friday 4th December
Mangawhero Whānau Celebration Day

Monday 7th December
Waihou Whānau Celebration Day

Tuesday 8th December
Waitoa Whānau Celebration Day



MIS COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Matamata Intermediate is getting behind our local community with a Whānau Food Drive Challenge next week!

Each day has a different donation focus, with our whānau competing to see who can show the greatest generosity and community spirit. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference!

Let's come together, support a great cause and show what our MIS community is all about!

Donations will be collected on Thursday 26th November.

ATHLETICS DAY

What a great day at MIS! So much effort and encouragement on show, with students giving events a go and challenging themselves.

Four records were broken Fantastic achievements!









WILLIAM PIKE CHALLENGE

Your student will have seen a short video this week to introduce the William Pike Challenge, this will be available for our 2027 Y8 students. If your child missed the video here is the link

If your child would like to apply to be part of the William Pike Challenge Group, we envisage there will be around 20 students for our first year, then please fill out the application form linked below. Within the form there is a parent information document should you require further details.

https://forms.gle/zG45Rnkd3sUMavz49



SchoolDocs PLATFORM UPDATE

Our school works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs has recently changed the way users log in to SchoolDocs sites. All community users can now access our SchoolDocs site by entering their email address, which sends them a one-time code. Google users can also use their Google account to access the site.

You can create an account and then view our school's policies by visiting

https://policies.schooldocs.co.nz/matamataint

For more information - Community Login Information

RIPPA RUGBY COMP



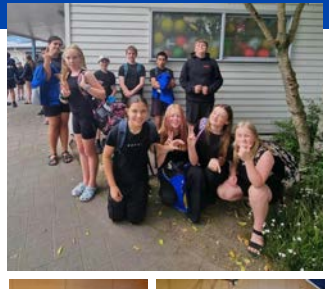




What a massive day for our in-house Whānau Rippa Rugby competition!
The energy and vibes out on the field were awesome from start to finish. A huge highlight was seeing our whānau step up to perform their haka, with the teams jumping right in to join them such an incredible display of pride and spirit!
A massive congratulations to Waihou for taking out the double and winning both the girls and boys finals!
Even better than the results was watching all of our tamariki grow in confidence and sharpen their skills with every single game. Ka pai to all the players, whānau, and supporters who made today one to remember

WIMS DRAMA DAY

We had the pleasure of taking amazingly active, beautifully brave, cheerfully creative, daringly dramatic and terrifically talented students to Fairfield for WIMS Drama day. They were split into groups and had to plan a traditional tale, including sound effects, props, costumes, script, music and characters, then perform it to everyone at the end of the day. Performances were so entertaining and it was amazing to see what the students had learned in their workshops, then included in the performance. We had a very rowdy drive home with everyone reflecting on what an awesome day they had. I have to say they were a super group of students to take and it made my day very enjoyable. Thanks for your enthusiasm and participation today team.







WIMS LACROSSE CHAMPIONS!

A fantastic achievement for Matamata Intermediate, taking out the WIMS Lacrosse title!

Our team showed tremendous teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition, finishing with a hard-fought final against Cambridge Middle School to secure the win.

Congratulations to all of our players on an outstanding effort. You represented Matamata Intermediate with pride, and we couldn't be prouder of you!

A well-deserved result.
Ka mau te wehi



INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



As we begin to plan ahead for 2027, we are looking at the international opportunities we offer as a school.
Each of our trips has a different purpose and different organisation and details.
If you wish your child to be part of one of these trips, please complete this form, indicating which trip/s and order of preference.
This form closes on Wednesday 25th November. We then follow our process of balloting the spaces that are available for each trip. You will be notified if your ballot has been successful by the end of the following week.

Clink on the links to the forms below:

International Opportunities

Makuhari Homestay

Each year we have a group of Japanese students from Makuhari come to New Zealand and stay with whānau from Matamata Intermediate. They arrive on March 11th until March 23rd. We are needing to find 24 families who are willing to welcome these students into their homes for 2 weeks. Please fill the form to express your interest.



COMMUNITY NOTICES







HELENSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Celebrating 150 YEARS in 2027!

Helensville School is turning 150 years old in 2027!

Are you a former student or staff member of Helensville School? We welcome you to be a part of our alumni community!

Please join us in celebrating our history - share your memories with us and connect with past whānau of Helensville School.

If you would like to be kept up to date on all the festivities to celebrate our special 150th birthday occasion to be held in 2027, please email: admin@helensville.school.nz