

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*We have to walk in such a way  
that we only print peace and  
serenity on the Earth.  
Walk as if you are kissing the  
Earth with your feet.*

*- Thich Nhat Hanh*

Kia ora e te whānau

A huge thank you to all of you who participated in the Working Bee on Sunday 17 May. We had a very good turn-out and your mahi has made the campus look spick and span before the onset of winter. Thank you once again to Ritchey and Sorie for their superb organisational skills, and to the Weavers for a scrumptious lunch.

We had an excellent turn-out at our combined Parents' Evening last Wednesday. Your positive participation and sensible suggestions really felt so supportive. We pulled together as a community, and I am looking forward to your feedback in the surveys. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey which

went out on Thursday last week. Your voice is really important to us. If for some reason, you did not receive the survey, please get in touch with the office.

This term we will have a Parent Enrichment afternoon with a focus on Outdoor Classroom and Handwork on Wednesday 24 June from 3:15 – 4:15. Childcare will be provided. We will send out more information and a sign-up sheet well before the time. The sessions will be offered back-to-back, so please ponder on which session you would like to do.

We are looking forward to this afternoon's cross-country. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this annual event such fun for the tamariki.

*He toka tū moana.*

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



## TERM DATES

|                   |                           |                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Friday 29 May     | MSS Cross Country         | 1:30 pm         |
| Monday 1 June     | King's Birthday           | No School       |
| Tuesday 2 June    | Teacher Only Day          | No School       |
|                   | Board Meeting             | 5:00 pm         |
| Friday 5 June     | School Concert            | 3:15 pm (Moana) |
| Wednesday 10 June | PT Meeting                | 7:00 pm         |
| Thursday 11 June  | MRSST AGM                 | 7:00 pm (Moana) |
| Friday 12 June    | Interschool Cross Country | TBC             |
| Wednesday 24 June | Parent Enrichment Eve.    | 3:15 pm         |
| Friday 26 June    | Kōhatu Lantern Festival   | 5:30 pm         |

# CLASSROOM CORNER

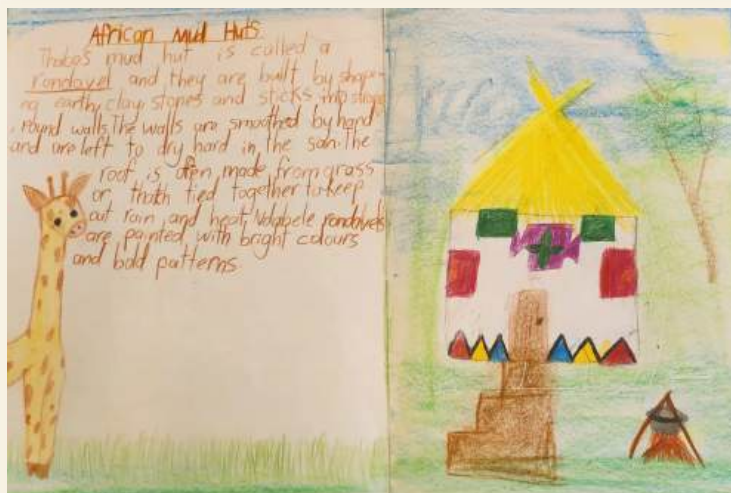
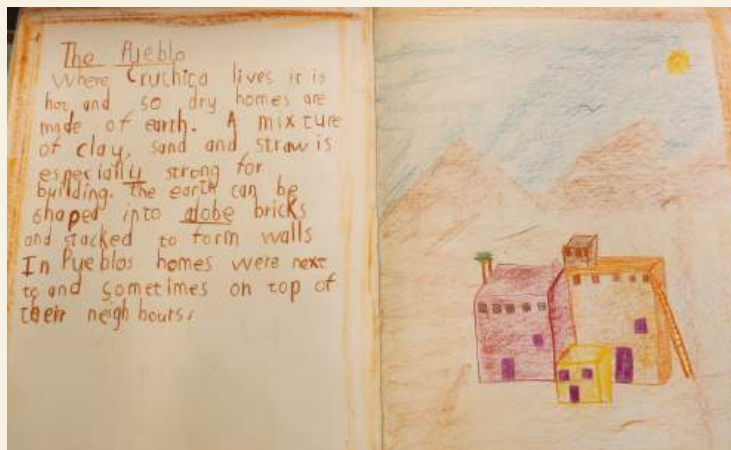
## MAHANA

What a busy and exciting term it has been in Class 3! We began by exploring the wonderful world of fibres through stories, observation, artistic work, and plenty of hands-on experiences. The children created beautiful Main Lesson books and worked together in groups to design stunning posters celebrating their chosen fibres.

And now... we have quite literally moved on! Class 3 has climbed aboard a *waka* and set off on a journey around the world to discover how children in different countries build their homes. Along the way, we have met new friends and explored fascinating dwellings: Aitoak's igloo in Alaska, Wolf Dancer's teepee in North America, Cruchita's pueblo in South America, Michele's trullo in Italy, Thabo's mud hut in South Africa, and Balpa and Sanur's Dogon village home in Mali.

There are still a few more stops ahead before we return home to Aotearoa, where we will visit a local marae and enjoy a special marae-style sleepover in our classroom. The children are already buzzing with excitement for the hands-on projects to come – as our whakataukī reminds us - we are all in this waka together. Keep an eye out for some wonderful photos of our creations soon!

Miss Terry



# JAPANESE STORYTELLERS

## 'KAMISHIBAI'



Japanese storytellers and writers, Yuka and Doozy dropped by one afternoon to share their life stories using traditional storytelling 'paper play' media. Children were mesmerised by the stories, the unique instruments and their beautiful voices. Thank you Yuka and Doozy!

# WORKING BEE

## FOSTERING KAITIAKITANGA



# SCHOOL NOTICES

## REMINDERS

- The oak trees beside Robinson Road are off limits to students. Children are not allowed to climb those trees. This is due to the proximity to the road and the risks involved.
- Drop off time is from 8:30am. If a child is needing to be dropped off prior to 8:30am please contact their class teacher to make arrangements.
- Children are released at 2:55pm. Please ensure that you collect your children by 3:15 pm. If you are running late, please phone the office 03 528 0246.
- Bus riders:
  - For safety reasons, we have been asked for bus children to wait behind the Motueka High School fence under the shelter. Only approach the bus once the bus has stopped and the High School children have left the bus.
  - Please ensure no fixed-frame scooters are used on the bus. Only foldable scooters that can be stored under the seats can be carried on board.



# SCHOOL BOARD

We are looking for nominations for one or possibly two new "Parent Representative" board members. Parent representatives are elected by the parent community.

If you have skills in any of the following areas and have passion, energy and time for helping support our school and principal, we would love to hear from you:

Governance

Finance

Education

Conflict management

Policy

A small, tax-exempt honorarium is paid to board members to help cover the cost of attending the usual two meetings per term, to help cover the cost of transport and possibly childcare. Meetings are usually held on a Tuesday at 5pm in the staff room, and last a couple of hours. We are looking for people who can offer a commitment to our board long-term. For more information, see <https://www.schoolboardelections.org.nz/become-a-board-member/>.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please email our Board Secretary Lisa Algje at [bot.secretary@motuekasteiner.school.nz](mailto:bot.secretary@motuekasteiner.school.nz). Nominations close at 12pm on Tuesday, 23 June.

We thank Philippa, Marie and Dunja for their contributions to our Board.

Ngā mihi mahana

Paula Robertson

Acting Presiding Member, Board of Trustees

# NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Another planting season has come! This year the following plants are available for sale:

Five fingers (200)  
Akeake - red (100)  
Akeake - green (64)  
Swamp flax (26)  
Geminata (160)  
Harakeke (160)  
Lemonwood (40)  
Coprosma (50)  
and more!



Plants are \$2 each and available to purchase from the school. Please contact us via email to arrange the details.

[tree.nursery.group@motuekasteiner.school.nz](mailto:tree.nursery.group@motuekasteiner.school.nz)

All the funds raised from the school tree nursery this year will go to Ahi end of year graduation camp. Thank you so much for your continuous support for our rangatahi!

Ahi class whānau native tree nursery team

# VOLUNTEERING POSITIONS

## WANTED: After-School Sports Coordinator

We're looking for someone to organise our after-school sports programme for the rest of the year. Not sure if you can commit long-term? You're welcome to give it a go for the current term and decide from there!

The role involves sharing term sports options via email, managing enrolments, entering teams with the appropriate coordinators, and posting weekly draws on the office door.

If sports is your thing, you enjoy organising, or you're keen to support our wonderful school community, we'd love to hear from you!

# MATCHBOX CASTLE



The Matchbox Castle is one of our Spring Fair activities dear to many of our children. We have already started making the little soft animals in preparation for the fair. Collect a kit from the school office with

ready cut pieces that only need to be sewed and decorated. These are projects that can be done by beginner sewers. For more information please contact: [davina.clarke@motuekasteiner.school.nz](mailto:davina.clarke@motuekasteiner.school.nz)

DO WE ABSORB INFORMATION BETTER ON PAPER,  
RATHER THAN SCREENS?

Erik D Reichle and Lili Yu

*Reading on digital devices comes with many distractions.*

The Swedish government recently announced it was moving from the classroom use of digital devices [back to physical books](#). It cited concerns over declining test scores and increasing screen time.

Are these concerns well-founded? And what does the science of reading say about the possible consequences of reading on digital devices versus books?

To address these questions, it's worth remembering that, although reading might appear to be an easy task, this impression is false. Reading is arguably the most difficult task one must learn – one that requires years of formal education and practice to master.

Reading requires the brain systems that support vision, attention, word identification, language processing and eye movements to operate in a highly coordinated manner.

*Why is reading so difficult?*

To understand why reading is difficult, one must first understand the physiology of reading.

As you are reading this sentence, your eyes are making a series of rapid movements, called [saccades](#), from one word to the next. During these saccades, the processing of visual information is suppressed and is only available during brief intervals, called fixations, when the eyes are stationary. Experiments that measure readers' eye movements [have shown](#) we fixate most words because our capacity to extract visual information during each fixation is extremely limited.

In languages like English that are read from left to right, our capacity to perceive the features that distinguish letters is limited to a small region of the visual field called the perceptual span. This span extends from 2-3 letter spaces to the left of fixation to 8-12 letter spaces to the right of fixation.

The span's asymmetry reflects the movement of attention through the text. It extends to the left in languages like Arabic, which are read from right to left. The size of the span is smaller for dense writing systems, such as Chinese.

As you are reading this sentence, your eyes are making a series of rapid movements, called saccades, from one word to the next.

We also know from eye-tracking and brain-imaging [experiments](#) that words require time to identify. Our best estimates suggest visual information requires 60 milliseconds to propagate from the eyes to the brain and words then require an additional 100-300 milliseconds to identify. (A millisecond is one-thousandth of a second).

These constraints limit the maximum rate of reading to 300-400 words per minute, depending on the difficulty of the text and one's level of comprehension.

Speed-reading [advocates](#), who falsely promise faster reading speeds, teach you how to skim a text. Comprehension declines at a rate inversely proportional to the gain in speed.

Importantly, the upper limit for reading speed requires years of practice to attain, because it requires the brain systems that support vision, attention, word identification, language processing and eye movements to operate in a highly coordinated manner. Anything that prevents this coordination will therefore reduce comprehension.

*Consequences of digital reading*

So, what are the likely consequences of digital reading?

With some devices, such as e-readers, there is little reason to suspect digital reading differs from the reading of books, because both formats support the mental processes required for skilled reading.

The more questionable devices are those introducing distractions (such as news websites interspersed with ads) or which have suboptimal formatting, such as centre-justified text with large or unequal-sized gaps between words. The latter is rarely a feature of paper-based texts.

Although the consequences of these two factors are under-researched, enough has been learned about human cognition to make informed predictions.

For example, images and audio unrelated to a text, such as pop-up ads, can capture attention. Although most adults have developed a level of executive control sufficient to ignore such distractions, young children have not.

Years of practice are needed to coordinate the mental systems that support adult levels of reading skill.

The implications for a child who is struggling to understand the meaning of a text are obvious. Their comprehension will suffer to the extent that additional effort is required to ignore distractions, or if they do not yet have the mental coordination to understand the text has been disrupted.

There is also evidence from [eye-tracking experiments](#) that many digital environments, such as webpages, can induce specific reading strategies, such as skimming for gist or searching for information.

Although such strategies might be adaptive in some contexts, they reduce overall comprehension. This possibility should be especially concerning for children, because years of practice are needed to coordinate the mental systems that support adult levels of reading skill.

Such concerns have recently drawn more attention because the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a shift to online education and a marked increase in digital reading. Although these changes were motivated by practical necessity, their long-term consequences remain unclear.

So far, eye-tracking research has been carried out on computer screens. New technology is becoming available, which will allow us to directly compare eye movements and comprehension between digital devices and paper. This should give us more clarity about the benefits versus the costs of digital devices.

Given that reading ability is predictive of one's education, socioeconomic status and wellbeing, the importance of assessing the long-term consequences of digital reading cannot be overstated.

*Erik D Reichle is a Professor of Cognitive Psychology at Macquarie University. Lili Yu is a Senior Lecturer in Cognitive Psychology at Macquarie University.*

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/life/books/do-we-absorb-information-better-on-paper-rather-than-screens>



## Motueka Steiner Kindergarten

Parent enrichment kōrero with Sarah Richards

### The Lantern Night

*Contemplating the light within.*

The Motueka Steiner Kindergarten  
welcomes you on  
Wednesday the 3rd of June 2026 at 1:30  
in PIHI to a kōrero about the purpose  
and the intention of our  
upcoming Lantern night.

The lantern ceremony is an outer visible sign  
of an inner invisible grace that we create  
to honour the inner light, which lives in  
all human beings. We will investigate  
how we channel this impulse, direct  
the experience of the inner light  
and which wisdom it can  
bring forward.

RSVP:

+64 3 528 6453 office@mskindergarten.nz

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### Short-term rental available

We've got a three-bedroom home in central Motueka available for short-term rent from mid-June through to spring, with the possibility of extending for the right family. It's fully furnished and would ideally suit a family relocating to the area and needing somewhere to settle in, or anyone after a comfortable short-term base.

A few details:

Three bedrooms, fully furnished  
Great for families, central Motueka location  
Available mid-June, flexible end date

Happy to send through photos or chat to anyone who might be interested. Please contact Sumaia  
sumaiaawalshkelly@hotmail.com

### MOTUEKA HIGH SCHOOL

#### Become a Host Family & Welcome the World into Your Home!



Motueka High School is looking for **warm, caring** families to host international students from around the world! Hosting a student is a **rewarding** experience that allows you to:

- ✓ **Experience a new culture** without leaving home
- ✓ **Build friendships** with students and their families
- ✓ **Share Kiwi hospitality** and your way of life
- ✓ **Receive a fortnightly financial reimbursement**

You won't be doing this alone—our international team provides full support to ensure both you and your student have the best experience possible.



What's involved?

- ✓ Providing a **safe, welcoming home**
- ✓ Including the student as part of your family
- ✓ Supporting them as they adjust to life in New Zealand

Hosting is a life-changing experience for both students and families! Whether you have **teenagers at home** or an **empty nest**, have a **spare room inside your home** and all persons over 18 complete police vetting, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Fiona Bryan today to find out more! 📞

📞 021 147 4639 | ✉️ [fiona.bryan@motuekahigh.school.nz](mailto:fiona.bryan@motuekahigh.school.nz)  
see [www.motuekahigh.school.nz](http://www.motuekahigh.school.nz) for more details



## Motueka Steiner School



We welcome new enrolments  
throughout the year for all classes.

## The Sauna Project Motueka

Blue Gums ~ Motueka River  
Seaside ~ Ruby Bay

Book at:

[www.bookwhen.com/  
motuekasauna](http://www.bookwhen.com/motuekasauna)

for 15% off use code:  
Steiner - on single passes  
(until 31 August 26)

SAUNA TOGETHER ~ FEEL BETTER