



School Newsletter

1 July 2021

Dear Parents

Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou Māori - Happy Matariki! Matariki is the Maori name for the star cluster known as the Pleiades. When the cluster appeared just before dawn in late May or early June, it signalled the start of the Maori New Year. For some tribes, the rising of Punga (Rigel in Orion) signals the start of the New Year. This year, Matariki will be rising between tomorrow, Friday July 2nd and Sunday July 11th. More information about Matariki can be found [here](#)

This newsletter contains information on the following topics:

- **Term 3 & 4 Teacher Only Days (Staff Learning Days)**
- **Matariki Open Evening - Wednesday 7 July 2021**
- **Kapa Haka Performing at Matariki Open Evening**
- **Whānau Hui - Matariki Open Evening at 7.00pm**
- **Mihi Whakatau - Wednesday 4th of August 2:00pm**
- **PTA**
- **Dental Care during the School Holidays**

Teacher Only Days (Staff Learning Days)

Staff Learning Days enable us to spend quality time working on our school wide goals. Our professional learning focus this year is improving our understanding of assessment for learning in reading. We have been working with Chris Henderson, a national literacy advisor, to strengthen our practice. We have two more scheduled Staff Learning Days in 2021.

- Term 3 - Friday 10 September
- Term 4 - Monday 15 November (This is the Monday immediately after Canterbury Show Weekend)

Our Ilam OSCAR program will operate on both of these days, subject to adequate numbers.

Matariki Open Evening - Wednesday 7 July 2021 (6.00pm - 7.30pm)

To celebrate Matariki, Ilam School invites families to an open evening where tamariki can share and celebrate their learning from the term. Classrooms will be open to families following a welcome assembly at 6:00pm.

Kapa Haka Performing at Matariki Open Evening

On Wednesday 7th of July, Ilam School will be holding an opening evening to celebrate the learning the students have been a part of during Term 2. As this coincides with Matariki, there will be an assembly held in the hall at 6.00pm prior to classrooms opening. During this assembly, our Kapa Haka will be performing some waiata.

Tamariki involved with Kapa Haka will need to meet Mr Withers on the middle court at 5.50pm ready to perform on the stage at 6.10pm. Once the assembly ends, tamariki can wait in the hall for their parents to collect them or join their families before heading to classrooms. For this occasion, tamariki can come dressed in their non-uniform clothes. If your child is able to join us on this exciting occasion, please complete the online permission form below by tomorrow.

[Kapa Haka Performance Permission Form](#)

Whānau Hui: Matariki Celebration: Wednesday 7 July at 7.00 pm in the staffroom

At this Hui, we look forward to joining with you to:

- Kōrero about our curriculum work.
- Hear about our Cultural Narrative and answer any questions you may have. This presentation will take approximately 30- 40 minutes and be led by Teresa Johnston.
- Share kai (bread, chicken and salad).

To assist us with catering please RSVP to belinda.kennedy@ilam.school.nz by Friday, 2nd July to let us know if you are able to attend and how many whānau members will come along to the Hui.

Mihi Whakatau - Wednesday 4th of August 2:00pm

This year we plan (depending on COVID-19 Alert levels) on holding a Mihi Whakatau each term to welcome new families and staff to our school. Previously we have done this twice a year. Therefore, any children and their families who started their schooling at Ilam from 26th of May 2021 up until Wednesday 4th of August 2021 will be formally welcomed to the school at our Mihi Whakatau starting at 2:00pm. This event is not only for new families; current families are welcome to join us as we formally welcome our new whānau to our school. Parents and children will have an opportunity to speak in Māori, English or any other language if they so wish during this event. We anticipate the Mihi Whakatau lasting about 30 minutes. At the conclusion of the Mihi, families are invited to mingle and chat over a cup of tea and some afternoon tea.

Ilam School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10 August starting at 7:30pm in the school staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend. If you, like a number of our parents, cannot attend PTA meetings but would like to be informed about PTA events, where you might be able to help out, please email pta@ilam.school.nz and you will be added to the 'friends of the PTA' email list.

Calendar Art - PTA

The PTA wanted to let you all know that It's that time again where your talented children and teachers are gearing up for Calendar Art to be ready to order in Term 4. More information will be sent out closer to the time of ordering. There will be Calendars, Cards, Diaries and Notebooks all with your children's masterpieces on them, a fabulous Christmas gift for friends and family. It is also a great opportunity to get behind your children to support our wonderful School.

Dental Care during the School Holidays

The Community Dental Service will be providing dental care for children during the upcoming school holidays. The clinics will offer check-ups, treatment and relief of pain sessions by appointment. Please call/email (0800 846 983/commdental@cdhb.health.nz) the contact centre which operates between the hours of 8:00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday throughout the holidays. If your child has dental pain because of an accident, please contact your dentist in the first instance.

Nga mihi nui (Kind Regards)



Paul Dolan
Tumuaki/Principal