



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Updates from the Year 7&8 Team

Dear Parents,

We thank you for your support and patience while we have been looking for appropriate alternatives after the unfortunate cancellation of our camp. We are now able to tell you some of our exciting plans! More to come later, but this is a start:

1) Hamilton Zoo visit:

Tuesday 6 March - Rooms 1 & 3

Wednesday 7 March - Rooms 2 & 4

This zoo visit will be followed up back in the classroom - the purpose of the visit is to stimulate our curiosity about the role of zoos, conservation and the protection of species. Students will have a busy day including a session in the classroom with the Zoo Educator, zoo keeper talks and touring the zoo. The trip will be within school hours, leaving at 9.00am and returning to school by 2.30pm.

The cost for the zoo visit will be \$11.00 (\$6.50 for the Zoo entry & education programme, \$4.50 for the bus). This will be added to your school account.

We would like 2 or 3 parents to accompany each class to the zoo. Please indicate on the return slip if you are able to help and the class teacher will be in touch to confirm. **As this trip is next week, please send the zoo parent helper slip back by Thursday!** Parent helpers must hold current police vetting.

2) Waimarino Water And Adventure Park Day Trip: Monday 26 March

Depart: 7.00am Return 7.00pm

Waimarino is 10 minutes from Tauranga. Students will have a busy day with Kayaking lessons from qualified instructors, Team Building Challenges and some free time on the activities at the park. Please return the permission slip and risk disclosure (attached) by Friday 9 March.

For this day trip to Waimarino, **we need to have approximately 20 parents** who are willing to go on the water in the kayaks. Parents don't need to have kayaking skills, they are there to support the instructors. If you are able to come, please fill in the return slip - we would love to have you join us! Parent helpers must hold current police vetting.

What students need for the day: (and parent helpers):

- Swimming gear & towel
- Preferably wetsuit, or thermal top for kayaking. (A polar-fleece top or woollen jersey will do for kayaking on a cold day. Rash tops are ok for sun protection, but will make you cooler, not warmer) **Please try to borrow a wetsuit or thermal top if you don't have one.**
- Towel
- A set of dry & warm clothing to get changed into after the programme.
- Hat - a sunhat if it is hot, or a beanie for a cooler day
- Food & water - enough to sustain you for a long day

The cost for the whole day will be just \$38.00 for the programme. Due to our successful fundraising, we are able to pay for the bus from pizza profits! Thanks for your support.

Spelling - Home Learning

As mentioned in the school newsletter earlier this year, we are in the process of developing a comprehensive, school wide approach to spelling. Spelling will be taught explicitly in a systematic and structured way across the whole school. One of the changes is that we will no longer be sending spelling lists home to be learned for weekly testing. Research shows this is largely ineffective for learning to spell, compared to explicit, systematic teaching.

So, what can you do at home? If you wish to support your child with learning to spell, parents should focus on the 'irregular' words and high frequency or 'sight words'. These are often words that don't follow phonology, so they can't be spelled by 'sounding them out'. They have to be learned by committing them to memory. By the end of the week, **students will have lists of these irregular and high frequency words in their homework books, and they can be found on our website. They need to work through learning these words at their own pace.** It is important to remember that children all learn at different rates, and that your child should first be able to read the words, then learn to spell them. We recommend doing only a few words at a time - on the website there are **2 pages of tips for parents about how to make learning these words fun, not by testing them!**

Maths Buddy

Your child now has their log in for the Maths Buddy programme - www.mathsbuddy.co.nz. This is a subscription that lasts until January 2018.

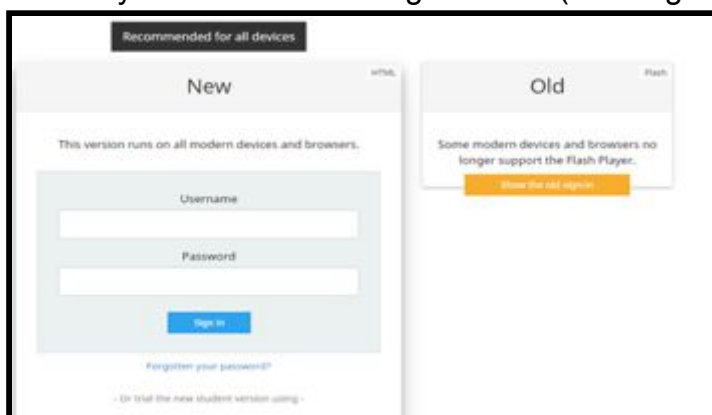
This programme will be new to Year 7's and our new students - it is an "online tutor" that has video tutorials of all maths objectives, as well as follow up exercises and tests. Students find it effective because they can stop, start and repeat the videos at their own pace, and do practice exercises and tests for areas of maths that they need to work on.

We encourage parents to log in to Maths Buddy to see what it can offer.

To see what your child will experience go to www.mathsbuddy.co.nz and chose Student Login from the black bar at the top:



- Ask your child for their login details (their log in is in their homework book) and enter here:



- Now you will have access to **every** lesson in the NZ curriculum from year 1 to 13 by selecting "Browse All Lessons"
- Have a go, and if you have further questions please come and talk to a teacher!

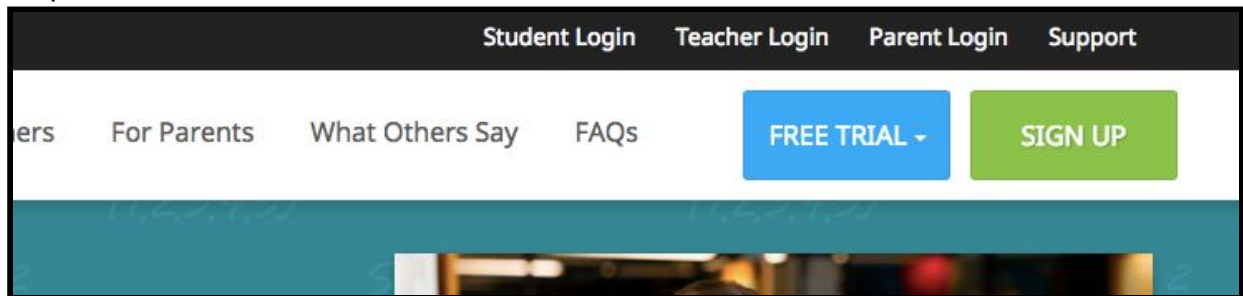
Maths Buddy Home Learning:

Maths Buddy also has a weekly homework activity which means students revisit a wide range of the maths curriculum weekly. Students enter their homework answers online, but we encourage them to use a page in their homework books to show their working out. This homework activity should take no longer than 30 minutes. Students are welcome to work on this in classrooms from 8.30am to ensure it is done each week.

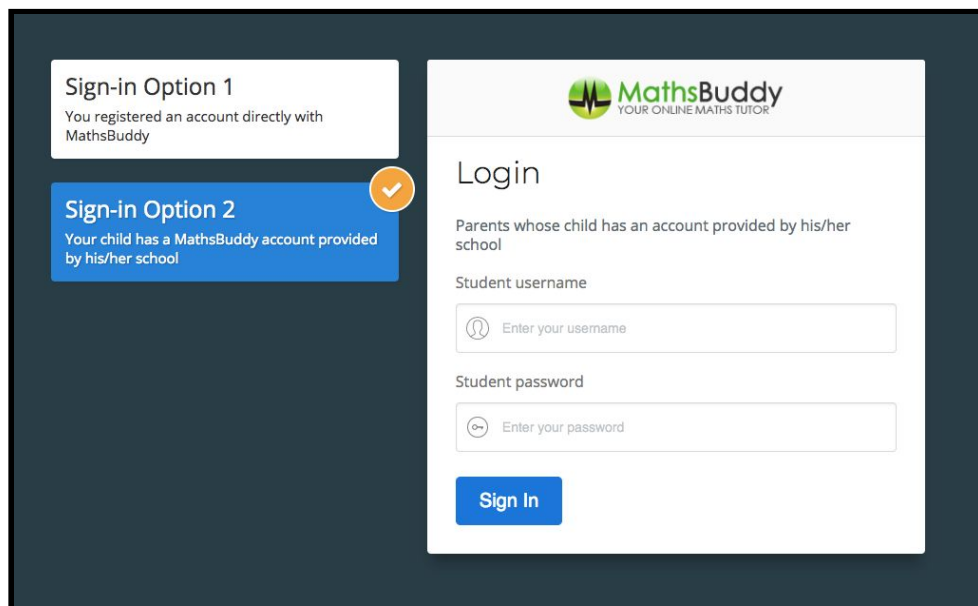
Maths Buddy - Progress Feedback for Parents:

As a parent, you can also log in to the site and get feedback about your child's progress on the homework and other activities. To activate the feedback (sent to you by email):

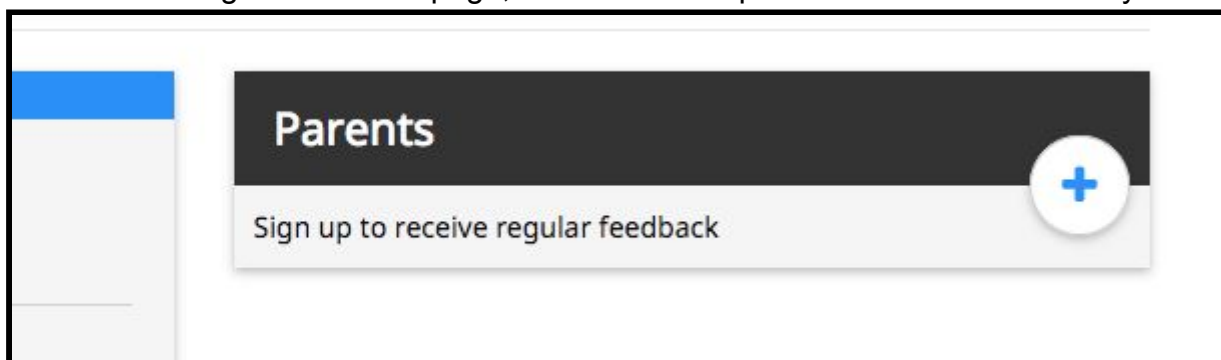
- Log on to the www.mathsbuddy.co.nz and select **Parent Login** from the black bar at the top:



- When you see the page below, SELECT SIGN IN OPTION 2 and enter your child's login details:

A screenshot of the Maths Buddy login page. On the left, there are two sign-in options. 'Sign-in Option 1' is white and says 'You registered an account directly with MathsBuddy'. 'Sign-in Option 2' is blue and says 'Your child has a MathsBuddy account provided by his/her school', with an orange checkmark icon to its right. On the right, the 'Login' form is displayed. It features the MathsBuddy logo at the top, followed by the text 'Parents whose child has an account provided by his/her school'. Below this are two input fields: 'Student username' with a placeholder 'Enter your username' and 'Student password' with a placeholder 'Enter your password'. A blue 'Sign In' button is at the bottom of the form.

- On the right side of the page, click to receive parent feedback and enter your details.

A screenshot of the 'Parents' sign-up section. It features a dark grey header with the word 'Parents' in white. Below the header is a white box with the text 'Sign up to receive regular feedback' and a blue plus sign icon in a white circle on the right side.

Digital Licence & Screenagers Parent Evening

Year 7&8 students are currently having a series of lessons on digital citizenship and cyber safety, with an emphasis on being safe and responsible online. We are using a resource called the "Digital Licence". Students complete 8 modules to achieve their digital licence:

- Digital Devices - Protecting Privacy - Searching and Researching
- Creating and Sharing - Social Networking and Gaming
- Communicating Safely Online - Friends and Strangers
- Credits, Coins and Tokens (ie in-app purchases)

After each teaching session, students complete an online quiz where they need to score at least 8/10 to pass, with the opportunity to re-sit the quiz multiple times. Each student has their own login to www.digitalllicence.com.au - ask them to show you!

We are also having our Community Constable, Peter VanTwout, come and speak to students later in the term about cybersafety.

We strongly encourage parents to attend our Parent Evening - "Screenagers" with Martin Hughes next week. As a school we often deal with issues arising from use of technology, and we urge you to come to this parent evening so that we can grow shared understandings about how to support students in this digital age. This is particularly relevant for parents of Year 7&8 students. We hope to see you next Monday evening, 5 March, in the library at 7pm.



St Joseph's Catholic School, in collaboration with Martin Hughes presents:

SCREENAGERS: Growing Up in the Digital Age

A documentary about the biggest parenting issue of our time

**Monday 5th March @ St Joseph's Catholic School Library
7pm -9pm - FREE ENTRY**

All Welcome - School and Community Members

Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? The use of digital devices is an increasingly more complex issue that affects children and young people in many ways, within their social and school lives. How are we as adults prepared for this? How can we speak to young people about the issues so that they will listen? What are the issues? What is the impact on children and teenagers lives?

Psychologists, authors and brain scientists explore issues including social media, video games and internet addiction in this documentary by physician and filmmaker, Delaney Ruston.

Martin Hughes will also run an open session on digital citizenship and give some concepts for parents to know more about what their children are doing in this digital world they are trying to navigate.



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PARENT HELPER - ZOO TRIP

Please return by Thursday 1 March if you are able to help.

Please note:

- We have limited seats on the bus, so parents will need to drive to the zoo and meet us there at approx 9.20am. We will be leaving the zoo at 2.00pm.
- Parent helpers must hold current police vetting through the school office.

I am able to be a parent helper on the trip to the Hamilton Zoo (please circle one):

- Rooms 1&3 : Tuesday 6 March
- Rooms 2&4 : Wednesday 7 March

Thanks for your support!

Child Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____



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PARENT HELPER - WAIMARINO WATER PARK TRIP

Monday 26 March 7.00am-7.00pm

Please return if you are able to be parent help on this trip.

Please note:

- Parents must hold Police Vetting through the school office
- Parents do not have to have kayaking experience but must be willing and able to support the instructors for the kayaking lessons
- There are limited seats on the buses so we will organise carpooling for the parents.

Thanks for your support!

Child Name: _____ Room Number: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

YEAR 7&8 WAIMARINO DAY TRIP PERMISSION FORM AND RISK DISCLOSURE

Details of event:

Year 7&8 day trip to Waimarino Water and Adventure Park
Monday 26 March 2018 - Depart 7.00am Return 7.00pm

Programme for the day: Students will take part in "The Maximus Programme" - a full on day which includes kayaking lessons, the Team Challenge Programme, and free time on the adventure activities in the park.

If you want to see more, the website for the park is great: www.waimarinotrust.co.nz

RISK DISCLOSURE / HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION:

Waimarino Adventure Park is a registered adventure activity operator with Worksafe NZ - (*phew!*) It has comprehensive safety management system, which includes how they manage less confident swimmers.

Parental Consent:

I agree to my child taking part in the EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) event and have received sufficient information on which to base a decision. I agree to their participation in the activities described. I acknowledge the need for them to behave responsibly.

Acknowledgement of Risk:

I have read the information about this event and I understand that there are risks associated with involvement in school EOTC events and that these risks cannot be completely eliminated. I understand that the school will identify any foreseeable risks or hazards and implement correct management procedures to eliminate, isolate or minimise those hazards. I understand my child will be involved in the development of safety procedures. I will do my best to ensure that my child follow these procedures.

I know that I am able to ask any questions of the school about the activities my child will be involved in, to gain a better understanding of the risks involved. I recognise that participation in such activities is voluntary and not mandatory through a 'challenge by choice' procedure. My child and I both understand that they may withdraw from an activity if they feel at risk. This must be done in consultation with the person in charge.

I understand that the school does not accept responsibility for loss or damage to personal property and that it is my responsibility to check my own insurance policy.

Parent Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____