



# Te Kāhui Ako ō Kawakawa

*Whakatupu, Tiaki, Manaaki*  
Grow, Protect, Sustain

## Matariki Special Edition Newsletter 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Please enjoy this special edition newsletter showcasing the many ways that our kura celebrated Matariki in Kawakawa.

Nā māua, ko the Kāhui Ako Leadership Team

**Colyton School:** Celebrates Matariki each year with a community breakfast to reflect on and celebrate all that we do, and also look ahead with excitement to what is to come. This year students welcomed their families to the school and shared Colyton tikanga including karakia used during the school day, examples of pepeha at the different levels, and waiata. This was followed by a cooked breakfast and a chance to share, laugh and catch up as a community. Years 6-8 then spent the day at the Manawātū Ki o Rahi Intermediate tournament.



**Waituna West School:** Celebrated Matariki with a community get-together. This year we included our Jumping June display and encouraged adults to join in. The school shared stories about the meaning of Matariki and the significance of each star. Students shared karakia before everyone enjoyed soup (made by parents) and buns for shared kai. Our junior class also invited whānau members to come to school to help bake Matariki star biscuits.



**Feilding High School:** Celebrated Matariki at the crack of dawn, laying down a school haangi. Students, staff and whānau participated in a Hautapu Ceremony, performed by Haimona Searancke and students from our Te Āo Māori class. The day continued with shared kai for breakfast. All students were then invited to participate in a series of student-led workshops including;



poi making, ukutangi, weaving, mahi toi and learning ti rakau. The haangi was then served for the whole school to enjoy at lunchtime.



**Kiwitea School:** Celebrated Matariki with a breakfast for whānau and the community. This included a performance from the students and a display of Matariki stars. During the day, students moved through a whole school rotation with songs and string games, weaving fish, making shortbread stars and playing Ki o rahi. This was followed by half our school cleaning the local cemetery and the other half gardening in the school grounds. The day ended with the eating of the baked Matariki shortbread stars.

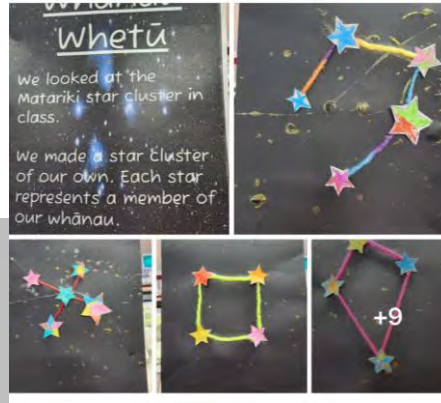


**Manchester Street School:** Sent our kapa haka rōpū to present at the Matariki Festival at the Civic Centre on the 27th of June. We also used our termly Enviro Action Day to celebrate Matariki with planting, kai, and arts & crafts activities. These activities continued within individual classes across the week.



**Hiwinui School:** Cooked breakfast for whānau before school. During the day everyone participated in activities within house groups where some made wind chimes, (to recognise the star Ururangi), made rākau from doweling and practised e papa waiari. Other groups created 'stained glass' feathers for Tupuārangī. After that, we had morning tea in house groups to foster tuakana teina.





**Saint Joseph's School:** We had our biggest celebration to date. Waiti was acknowledged at the start of the week with karakia, information and a litter clean-up of the local stream. Students then rotated around 4 different activities, each based on a different star. Our school's eldest and youngest students planted a fruit tree, an annual tradition. The afternoon centred around traditional Māori games. On Tuesday morning, the weekly liturgy was dedicated to Matariki, with each staff member taking part. Classes spent the rest of the week inquiring further into Puanga and Matariki. Wednesday had students preparing food for the school's first hāngī. Celebrations culminated with sharing the hāngī lunch at school with whānau and friends, whilst enjoying and viewing the He Whakaaturanga Toi/Art Exhibition where Matariki-themed artwork was displayed. Ahi/Aspiration bags with a candle inside were completed by staff and children and placed around the school field. The finale was an incredible performance by the school kapa haka rōpū.



**Lytton Street School:** Celebrated Matariki throughout the term investigating celebrations as part of Integrated Learning. We were able to wrap up with our hāngī lunch which was enjoyed by over 500 students and staff. Students and whānau came together to peel, chop, and organise the food to be laid in our own hāngī pit. Thank you to Ronald who organised this massive event. Together as a school we have celebrated through performing at Pae Tamariki and the Matariki celebration concert last week at the Feilding Civic Centre. Classes have been creative through the arts, digital technology, and creative writing to retell the story of the 9 stars of Matariki. Our Te Manawanui ki te Reo team had their own whānau evening to celebrate Matariki. We invited whānau to an evening event where we all wove putiputi harakeke together, building whānaungatanga with our wider school community.

*Matariki hunga nui - Matariki, the gatherer of people.*





**Feilding Intermediate School:** Carried out Matariki celebrations throughout the final week of the school term. Each class, or pou engaged in a range of practical activities, for example some of our rooms created Matariki stars. One of the highlights was the whole school waita and shared hāngī.



**Apiti School:** Our learning this term has been around the Oroua River so we linked Matariki to Waiti. We focused on the whakatauki '**Ka kitea a Matariki, ka rere te korokoro**' - '**When Matariki is seen, the Lamprey migrates**'. Korokoro are Lamprey - an eel-like fish. They start their life in rivers, and when they are around 4 years old they swim to the sea, where they live for another 3-4 years. Towards the end of their life they return to freshwater to spawn. This happens in mid-winter when Matariki is seen in the sky. Students made lamprey art and a poster about them.



**North Street School:** Celebrated Matariki in a range of ways. Firstly, with a disco on Friday, themed 'Be the Stars in Your Eyes' or 'The Matariki Stars in Our Skies'. The Junior and Senior kapa haka groups performed at the Feilding District Matariki Celebration at the Feilding Civic Centre on Thursday the 27th of June, and the Kauwhata Iwi celebration the next day. Matariki was also the theme of the termly, school-wide celebration day, bringing all NSS whānau together. The school was split into two halves—NE-Year 4 and Year 5-Year 8. From there, our students were placed into groups to rotate around a wide variety of Matariki-inspired activities. For example: celebrating the Waitā star by making origami ika (fish), playing Ki-o-Rahi, etc. Ngāti Kauwhata helped with rotations; making fish and stars, weaving with harakeke. Lastly, everyone came together to share in a delicious hāngī and



rewana bread. All of these opportunities worked to ensure that our students were well-informed and educated about this important cultural event.



**Newbury School:** Manawatia a Matatariki at Newbury School consisted of a full day of activities to wrap up Term 2. The Cultural Rōpū Rangatira ran 4 activities for tamariki to enjoy: Matariki Star Art, Matau Maui, Rakau, and Paper Waka Creations. The school participated in house groups, utilising tuakana-teina. There was a full school waiata and hui to celebrate the classroom learning and students finished off with shared kai which had been made by the intermediate tamariki during their technology rotation. It was a wonderful day of reflecting, celebrating, and setting goals for the future.



**Mount Biggs School:** Te kura o Whakamoetākapu celebrated Matariki by inviting whānau and the community to join us for an afternoon of celebrations and sharing. The kapa haka performed some of the waiata we have been learning this term. The whole school then performed our very special school waiata, Haramai, Haramai, that Renee Strawbridge gifted to the school. Parents, caregivers, and whānau were invited into classrooms for the termly Share and Care session. This is where tamariki share the work that they have been doing throughout the term.

This was followed by the traditional tree planting ceremony and karakia, where the oldest and youngest children plant a tree together. Lastly, a shared kai prepared and served by the staff.



**Bunnythorpe School:** Celebrated Matariki on a Wednesday evening, starting with a picnic-style dinner outside under the stars. We shared cake and frybread. YUM YUM! It was a great chance to catch up with each other, and also to connect with teachers and staff. Following dinner we went

for a 'night bush walk'. Our bush area is a magical place at night! We were delighted to see our wētā house in action with a wētā in residence. The night walk was well-timed with the rain coming in not long afterwards.

