

Term 2 2022 Calendar

8	20 BOT Meeting 6pm	21	22	23 Assembly – 2pm	24 Matariki holiday -School closed
9	27	28	29	30	1 July
10	4	5 Regional Cross Country	6 Teacher – Parent Conversations	7 Teacher – Parent Conversations	8 Last day of Term 2 Family Merit – 2pm

SchoolDocs: A reminder that our policies are on SchoolDocs;
postgate.schooldocs.co.nz
 User name: postgate
 Password: pride



Postgate School Newsletter

**Term 2: Week 8
2022**

Mission Statement

To Create Life-Long Learners

**“He aha te mea nui o te Ao? You ask Postgate what is the most important thing in the world?
 He tamariki, he tamariki, he tamariki. It is the children, it is the children, it is the children”**

Supporting statement:

We will promote life-long learning in our children by developing their social, intellectual, emotional and physical skills in a creative and caring environment.



**“Together, We Learn and Achieve”
 “Ma te mahi ngatahi,
 ka tu pakari te matauranga”**

June 20, 2022

Kia ora mai anō tātou katoa whānau

Matariki – The Maori New Year: This weekend we celebrate Matariki with a public holiday. Matariki is a time for fresh beginnings, to remember those who have passed and also be thankful for what we have.

Matariki is also a time to let go of things that may have been bothering us for a while; to put pen to paper and burn these thoughts. Or if you are me, send them out in a school newsletter!

Parent/Teacher Conversations – Formerly Learning Conversations: During Week 10 we will be having our Parent/Conversations. We have purposely renamed them, as we, parents /caregivers and teachers, need to talk, honestly. Talk? About? What's up?

We, have a big problem, and it is not just Postgate. All New Zealand schools have this problem and many will be avoiding having this discussion as it is uncomfortable or this 'new' way is easy; less accountability, easier and they are happy being a babysitting service. Not us, that is not the Postgate way.

The last two and a half years have impacted education and society; things have changed, people have changed, society is different, behaviours at Postgate have changed and as a school, we need to reset and return our focus to what is the most important thing for Postgate School; our tamariki, our children.

“He aha te mea nui o te Ao?” You ask Postgate what is the most important thing in the world?

“He tamariki, he tamariki, he tamariki”. It is the children, it is the children, it is the children.

COVID has changed the landscape; loss of learning, anxious children, worrying parents, declining attainment levels, poor attendance, lateness, early pick-ups, and worst of all, behaviours that are not Postgate PRIDE and interactions that are not respectful. Families have disengaged from school and I know I created this through our COVID response. At the time, it was the right thing to do.

Now we are saying, “Please come back. We need you!” We need to get back where we need to be. Hence, starting with a conversation between parent/caregivers and teachers; face to face, kanohi ki te kanohi.

Currently, we cannot give parents/caregivers the guarantees and assurances that our children will be successful at school and in their future schooling. There is a tonne of work we need to do and Postgate will continue to struggle without the partnership we enjoyed a few years back. We must restore this. Without whānau fully back on board, we are going to be understrength and will struggle to ensure children continue to enjoy future academic success.

We know we can all do this. We had an amazing response from whānau with our recent aquarium and zoo trips, and the parental support with netball and cross country shows us that we all want to get back into living and supporting our tamariki.

It used to be explicit that if you want to drop your child at the gate, pick them up again and do nothing in-between, Postgate is not your school. But unfortunately, this has now become the norm. We have parents/caregivers who do not know who their child's teacher is or what room they are in. Despite all the communication about Hero, there are a large number of families who have not downloaded the app.

Our staff is working extremely smart and bloody hard to better all children. I see the great work they are doing. I see the commitment they have for your child/ren. I see the passion and aroha they bring every day. Now teachers are becoming frustrated.

Our staff will make greater gains with everyone back fully invested in our school and your child's schooling. This is called a partnership.

The New Zealand Curriculum is our bible for teaching. One area that compliments Postgate PRIDE is the Key Competencies; Managing Self, Relating to Others, Thinking, Participating and Contributing, and Using Symbols, Signs, and Texts.

Our first focus for our conversation, which will be one way (teacher to parent/caregivers) to start with, will be from four of the Key Competencies and Postgate PRIDE. If these areas are not in place, accessing the New Zealand Curriculum/learning (Using Symbols Signs, and Texts) is near impossible. We need a foundation in place to build on our learning.

Sure, you'd like to hear the positives, we all do. The conversations may be direct but they will be an honest assessment of what we need to be working towards to reach the common goal; the best possible outcomes for our children.

Our partnership together is more important than ever, we need to get back to where we should be. We need parents/whānau's support to get fully involved in the learning process and to reinvest in education.

If you are unwilling and/or unable to invest in your child's education, we cannot give you the guarantees or assurances that your child will be where they need to be to continue to assess the New Zealand Curriculum or have the “capabilities for living and lifelong learning”.

These conversations will be different; this is not a 'people pleasing' exercise. They will be professional, business-like, focused on facts, and very

clear so that there is no confusion about what is needed to get everyone focused back on the best possible outcomes for our children; the reason why children come to school, to learn as opposed to us being a babysitting service. As always, as parents, you have choices/options. If Postgate's values and beliefs vary from yours, then Postgate is not the school for your children or family. Getting the early years right is very important and if we are not right for you we understand. That is the freedom of your choice.

For those families who are in boots and all, we are extremely excited to see everyone fully invested in the one thing we all have in common, your child/ren. Matariki is a time for fresh beginnings. Let our Postgate School community make this new journey together.

All the booking forms etc will be sent home on Wednesday; via Hero, email, and paper copies.

School Board Parent Election 2022: Nomination round

Our school will be undertaking a parent election for 3 School Board vacancies. This process will start with the issuing of nomination papers to our caregiver community by Friday 15th July 2022.

We have employed CES to undertake the election process on our behalf. This year with legislative change, our nomination form and full instructions on how to place your nomination into our own School's Election website will be emailed to you if we have your email address in our database or you will receive it by post if we don't have your email in our database.

Nomination papers will also be available at the school office. The school will send those on to CES for processing upon receipt from candidates.

Nominations close on Friday 5th August at 12 noon.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

Health and Wellbeing update: As of early this morning, we have 4 students (that we know of) either with COVID or isolating because of COVID. Thank you for letting us know as this helps us monitor the situation at school.

There are 47 children away from school today, for a variety of reasons; colds, coughs, flu, COVID, isolating, Monday, or unknown.

Last week, due to a wide variety of reasons, we had, on average, 55 students away each day.

We strongly recommend that children, if they can, wear a face mask in class.

Celebrating Matariki: Friday is our first Matariki public holiday. Postgate School is closed.

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in mid-winter and for many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year.

Matariki literally means the 'Eyes of God' (mata ariki) or 'Little Eyes' (mata riki). According to myth, when Ranginui, the sky father, and Papatūānuku, the earth mother, were separated by their children, the god of the winds, Tāwhirimātea, became so angry that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens.

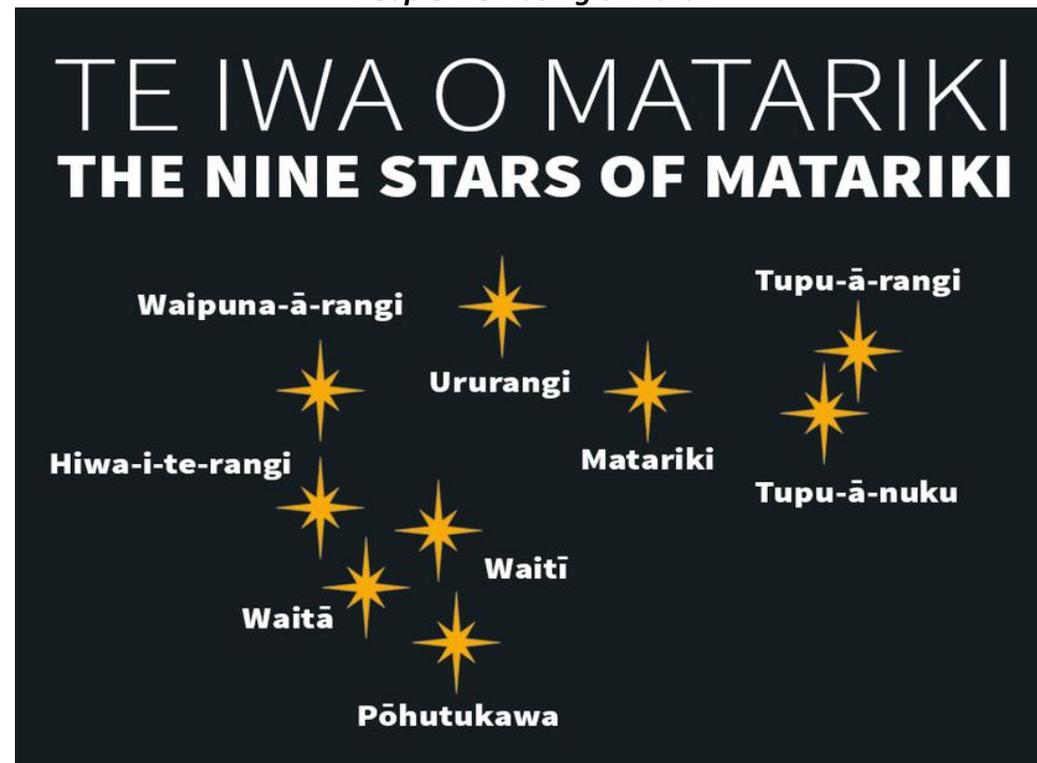
Traditionally, it was a time for remembering the dead, and celebrating new life.

Matariki whetu ki te Rangi

Tāngata ora ki te Whenua

Pleiades stars in the Sky

People well-being on Earth



Term Dates 2022

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| Term 2 | Monday 2 May to Friday July 8
(Queen's Birthday Monday June 6 - Public Holiday)
(Matariki – Public holiday – Friday 24 June) |
| Term 3 | Monday July 25 to Friday September 30 |
| Term 4 | Monday October 17 to Thursday December 15
(Labour Day – Monday 24 October - Public Holiday) |

Cohort Dates 2022:

Term 3 = 25th July and 29th August

Term 4= 17th October and 14th November

Please notify us via the HERO app or phone 235 9358 or email the school office at absence@postgate.school.nz before 8:55am if your child is going to be away.

Thanking you for your support.

Maururu kotahi ano koutou mo to koutoa tautoko o Postgate School.