

## Principal's Greeting

After a trip to Australia it's great to be back at school. Thankyou to Ms Maeva, Mrs Nano and Mrs Fifth for getting our year started while I was away. This term, at 12 weeks, is our longest term, nevertheless the time has gone very quickly.

Other thanks are due to Papa Orometua, not only for Maori classes (which are a part of the Cook Islands Curriculum), but also for leading our students and community in preparations for the tourist boat. Thankyou also to family and community members for joining in. Thanks also to Will for his IT skills and the tutoring role he has taken on.

Welcome back to Joy who spent most of this term in Rarotonga with her family getting Nauma enrolled and settled into Tereora College. Despite being away from school Joy continued with her PACE work and we are very proud of her commitment to her learning. Nauma similarly is doing well and the whole school wishes him all the very best.

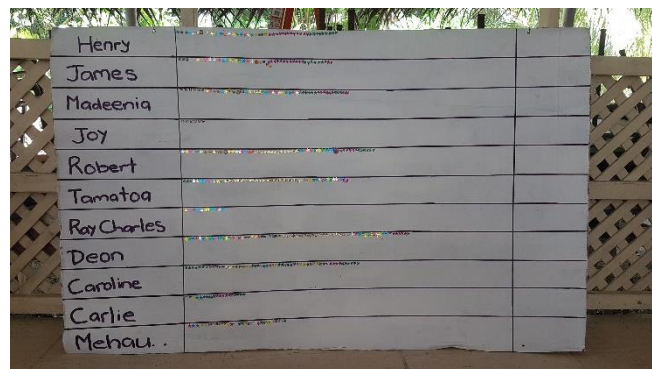
## AGM

Our AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Marconi retains the position of Chairperson. Arthur Neale will continue in the Secretary's position, Ms Maeva continues as Treasurer and Mrs Nano will continue as Staff Representative. Our elected Committee Members this year are Papa Orometua, Charlie, Mrs Fifth and Metua. I very much look forward to working with all of you.

## Reward System

This year we have introduced the "Positive Behaviour for Learning" model to encourage our students to be the best they can be. Each student has a "privilege" card. When students display the behaviours we want to encourage teachers sign and date their card. Once a student has six signatures, they are entitled to negotiate a privilege – sit outside to work, score without asking, five minute early mark and so on. At the end of the week each signed card is worth six stickers which are placed on our Reward Chart next to each students' name.

At the end of the year each sticker can be cashed in for play money that can be used to bid for prizes.



*Reward Chart with stickers for good behaviour, helping others, good work and so on.*

## Cruise Ship Visit

The cruise ship visit was a great success. The students showcased island culture to over a hundred visitors through song, dance and music. We are grateful to the community who came along to the school to pass on their knowledge and skills to our students.



*Students performing*



*School stall manned by Ms Maeva*



*Performing with Community*

## Clean Up Day

Just before the cruise ship, our school had a much needed clean up. The back of the school had become very overgrown and in the playground, the grass was growing faster than we could hoe it. A very special thankyou to all who came and helped. Your hard work is most appreciated.



*Clean up crew - thank you for helping clean up our school*

## Nurse's Presentation

With Rarotonga experiencing an outbreak of dengue fever, Nurse Malvie gave a presentation to school staff and students on how we can protect ourselves should dengue infected mosquitoes reach Palmerston. Students learned that dengue fever is carried by mosquitoes and symptoms include headache, nausea and fever. We learned that covering our stored water containers is a good way to prevent mosquitoes from breeding and we should take every precaution not to get bitten.



*Nurse Malvie's presentation on dengue fever*

## Swimming Carnival

Not knowing if Tapi's boat would arrive on the day, and the many community members working at the water catchment, our end of term 1 event for this year, a swimming carnival, is postponed until the first Friday of next term, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. It will be a fun morning and a great opportunity for all our students to demonstrate their swimming and water safety skills. Everyone is invited and we ask that everyone bring a plate to share.

## Computers in the Classroom

We are excited to finally have internet in our classrooms. When students read about things in their PACEs it can sometimes be difficult for them to relate to the explanations given. With the internet, it is now possible for students to connect to their learning in meaningful ways. It also gives students the opportunity to undertake research and share their learning whilst for those students getting through their work in a timely manner, a short youtube clip can be used as a reward for their focus. It is a wonderful tool to bring the world into our classroom. We connect using ethernet cables, not wi-fi, so that we know what our students are viewing at all times. Computer, keyboard and research skills are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills every student should be competent in.

## Students' Gardens

This term all students built their own garden bed from scratch. Students planted seeds and seedlings of bok choi, capsicums and cucumbers and are



responsible for watering, weeding, pollinating and just generally taking care of their garden bed. The results have been mixed mostly due to an outbreak of aphids affecting some capsicum plants whilst some cucumber and some bok choy seedlings did not survive transplanting or did not sprout from seed. Nevertheless all students will have a harvest and are looking forward to reaping what they sowed.



*Students working in their garden beds*

## Palmerston Lucky School Citizen Science Clam Monitoring Project

This term we again undertook a clam survey of the lagoon. For a range of reasons, we were unable to replicate the survey from last term nevertheless, it was a great opportunity to gain more in-water survey experience and students acquitted themselves well. Students' swimming abilities stood them in good stead in the fast moving water and this term, there was greater care to follow the transect line. In setting up and recording the data, all students demonstrated great teamwork and excellent communication skills. All students did a fantastic job.

The sighting and measuring of the pa'ua was made easier thanks to the new swim goggles provided for student use.

As a science project, the clam survey means students gain real-world experience in data collection, analysing, evaluating, report writing, critical thinking and problem solving. These are "Higher Order Thinking" skills and go well beyond just memorising and understanding facts.



*Students with their new swimming goggles*



*In the field*



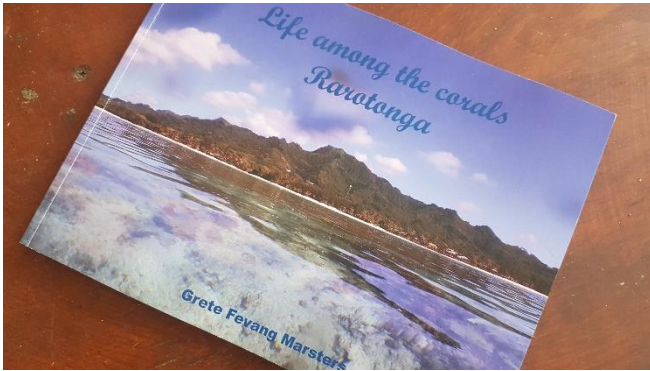
*Ongoing end of term clam survey*

## Book by Grete Favang Marsters

We were thrilled to be presented with a copy of Grete Marster's book, *Life Among the Corals: Rarotonga*. This beautiful book is a very comprehensive photographic guide to the marine life of Rarotonga. With a whole-school research



project on coral reefs planned for Term 3, Grete's book will be a useful resource.



Grete's book, "Life Among the Corals: Rarotonga".



Easter decorations hung up in the multi purpose classroom.



Fantastic resource for our students

## Easter

Henry, James, Madeenia and Joy worked with Mrs Nano to make decorations in preparation for Easter. Their work was displayed in the multi purpose classroom for all to enjoy. The students made their decorations from recycled materials including cardboard rolls and old plastic. Well done.



Henry and James making decorations for Easter