

Matariki events 2019

Tirohia atu nei ka wheturangitia Matariki, te whetu o te tau.
(Behold Matariki the star of the year has made its appearance)

Friday 24th May 2019

Tenā koutou te whānau o te kura o Birchville,

Matariki signals a time of reflection and setting goals and aspirations for the year ahead. The physical appearance of the stars in the sky was traditionally used as a forecast for the coming year. Clear and bright stars signalled warm and productive seasons. Hazy or shimmering clusters meant a cold winter was in store and the ground for crops must be prepared accordingly.

Today it is more commonly celebrated as the beginning of 'The Māori New Year'. For the past few years we, as the Birchville community have celebrated together at **the top of Akatarawa Hill** to launch the beginning of Matariki. This year we will be having a week of activities starting with our traditional dawn ceremony. All whānau are invited to gather on **Monday 17th June at 7.30am** at Birchville School. (Sunrise is estimated to be at 7.44am) We will travel by convoy to the destination (see map over page). All children are expected to travel with a parent or whānau member. If you do not have transport, please let the office know and we will try to organise carpooling.

Following our gathering we will travel back to school and have a shared breakfast. (This year it will be good old porridge and toast to warm you up, if you would like to donate some porridge/oats please drop off at the office beforehand). We will have a gold coin bucket drop at the door. We do need to know numbers for catering, so please fill in the slip indicating the number of whānau attending and also if you are needing transport. We hope to see you all there!

Please circle and return the slip below before Friday 31st May or complete via Kindo



Child's name: _____

- ★ We will / we will not be attending the Matariki gathering and dawn ceremony on Monday 17th June 2019
- ★ We will take our own vehicle / We need assistance with transport.
- ★ How many people are needing a seat if you need transport? _____
- ★ For catering purposes, how many will be attending the shared breakfast?



Turn off Akatarawa Road and follow Fairview Drive all the way to the end. See you there!