



Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK SEVEN

Kia Ora Koutou,

Your daughters continue to be wonderful, and the overall vibe across the school remains positive –though, as we approach the end of term, it is natural to see energy levels beginning to dip.

One factor contributing to the settled atmosphere has been the bell-to-bell approach, including the clear expectation that phones are handed in each day. While the removal of phones alone is not the sole driver of change, what this has reinforced is the value of certainty. When expectations are clear, consistent, and applied across the whole school, routines become predictable—and from predictability comes a greater sense of safety and calm.

Of course, routines in themselves are not always positive; poorly designed or inconsistently applied routines can have the opposite effect. However, this experience has highlighted how well-understood expectations and trusted structures can support positive behaviours, strengthen relationships, and contribute to a more settled school environment.

What we are also mindful of is what happens beyond the school day. I am not asking parents to manage or remove phones at home, although we recognise that many already do. What our experience has reinforced is the value of students having spaces where they are less reliant on constant digital connection for affirmation, conversation, or reassurance. The sense of presence and independence that develops during the school day is something we believe can continue to support their wellbeing outside of school as well.

Special Character Review

Next week we welcome a review team who will be spending time with us focusing on our Special Character as Trinity schools. As Trinity schools, we seek to Look In—to build unity within our schools, Look Out—to serve and connect with our communities, and Look Up—to ground our work in our Christian faith.

The review team will be considering how well we are doing all of the above. While there may be thoughtful questions (and some note-taking), this process provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on who we are, how we live our values each day, and how intentionally our Special Character continues to shape the life of the school.

Pimple Patches

You may also notice us continuing to apply this same thinking to smaller, everyday matters. A current example is the use of pimple patches. We treat these as a wellbeing and medical support rather than a fashion item. Neutral patches are fine at school; decorative patches tip into adornment and are therefore not appropriate as part of uniform expectations.

As with other non-uniform items, this is managed through quiet reminders rather than escalation. Again, the intent is consistency and clarity rather than unnecessary focus on minor issues – supporting students to understand expectations and feel secure within them.

NZ Uniforms Survey

You may shortly receive a survey from **NZ Uniforms**, sent to families who have used their service, particularly during the recent Back to School period. This survey is being sent directly by NZ Uniforms and is an opportunity for them to gather feedback on their service. I wanted to provide a brief heads up so you know to expect it in your inbox.

Have a safe and great weekend

Ngā Mihi

Boarding



Kia Ora Koutou.

Week 7 has been another busy week in boarding. In addition to the extensive extra-curricular programme, on Tuesday we celebrated St Patrick's Day with our annual dinner and quiz night. It was great to see the girls getting into the spirit of the event by dressing in green.

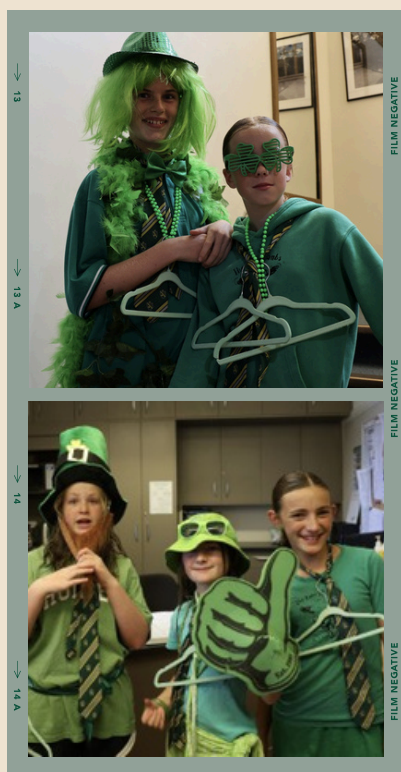
The photo above is of the "best dressed" for each year level.

Left to right- Lexi (Year 12), Grace (Year 11), Charlotte and Molly (Year 10), Susannah (Year 7&8), Kseniia (Year 9) and India (Year 13).

With the holidays quickly approaching, a reminder that our "End of Term Boarding Dinner" is on Wednesday 1st April and both boarding houses close on Thursday 2nd April. Please note that at the end of each term, boarders must take all belongings home.

Enjoy the weekend, and best wishes to those representing St Matthew's in the Summer Tournament week.

Jo



Integrated Activity Schedule

Week 8 - Term 1
Monday Mar 23rd - Sunday Mar 29th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Interact Teachers Onsite	Deborah Percy (Voice) David Heath (Drums)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)	Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)		
Before School / All Day	Tournament Week (all week) ->						
During School	<p>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>1:10-1:55pm Junior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</p> <p>Swimming Pool open - Lunch time</p>	<p>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>Swimming pool open-lunch time</p>	<p>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice, unless in Junior Choir (Hall)</p> <p>1:30-2:00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite)</p> <p>Swimming Pool open-lunch time</p> <p>Cricket 2nd XI Game TBC</p>	<p>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice, unless in Kapa Haka (Hall)</p> <p>1:15-2:00pm Kapa Haka (Music Suite)</p> <p>Primary Touch Rugby Training for both teams with Audrey @ SMS Field</p> <p>Swimming pool open-lunch time</p>	<p>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>1:15-2:00pm Jazz Band (Music Suite)</p> <p>Swimming pool open-lunch time</p>		
	<p>3:30pm - 4:15pm - Tennis - lessons Starlings and Slicers</p> <p>4:15pm - 5pm Tennis lessons - Aces and hitters</p> <p>5pm - 6pm Regional 1,2+9 Tennis Training</p>	<p>3:15pm SMS Cricket 2nd XI vs Wairarapa College Yr9 Girls 3.45 @ SMS 1A</p> <p>SMS Development vs Wairarapa College Development 3.45 @ Wairarapa College 2A (Van departs 3:15pm)</p>	<p>3:15pm Primary Cricket Games SMS Primary Green vs SMS Primary Gold 3.45pm @ SMS</p>	<p>3:30-4:30pm Cricket training Development</p>	<p>3:30pm-6pm Tennis SMS Starlings vs SMS Hitters SMS Aces vs SMS Slicers</p>		<p>Winter Sport Trials</p> <p>Hockey (invite only) 2-4pm @ Clareville Turf</p> <p>Football 5-7pm @ SMS Field</p> <p>Netsball Yr 9-10 3:30-5:30pm @ SMS Outdoor Courts Yr 11-13 (+ invited juniors) 6-8pm @ SMS Gym</p>
	<p>3:30pm - 4:30pm Cricket Training Primary Green and Gold</p> <p>3:30-4:15pm Swim Club @ St Matts pool</p> <p>3:15pm-4:30pm Futsal @ Waikol turf SMS vs MC Red 3.30pm (Mrs Seishiro collect Rathkeale 3pm, Main House 3:15pm Return 4:35pm)</p>	<p>3:30pm-5pm Cricket 1st XI Training</p> <p>3:30pm-4:30pm Touch Rugby Falcons & Eagles Training @ SMS Field</p> <p>Fun Tennis with Hannah Beetham 3:30-4:30pm @ SMS</p>	<p>3:30-4:15pm Senior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</p> <p>3:20-4:30pm Poly Group with Heaven In Music Suite</p>	<p>4:00-5:30pm Schola Cantorum (Hall)</p> <p>Primary Touch Rugby SMS Primary Gold vs Gladstone Gladiators 5pm field 1 (Van departs 4:30pm pick up at 5:30pm) SMS Primary Green vs Chanel 5.30 field 1 (Van departs 5:15 & pick up 6pm)</p> <p>6:00pm Regional 3 Tennis Games TBC (GIRs to book van runs if required)</p>			

Live Integrated Activity sheet - available on our website:
<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/newsletters/>

Around School



Senior Pentangular

Congratulations to our Pent Touch, Cricket and Tennis teams for taking the Summer Pent win. You were great hosts and represented yourselves and our school wonderfully. Thank you to your coaches, managers, supporters, and all those who work behind the scenes



1st in cricket - unbeaten - 10th year in a row
1st in tennis - unbeaten
3rd in touch rugby



Overall winners of summer pent for 11 years in a row

Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

Honoring Hato Hohepa: The Quiet Guardian

On Thursday March 19th, our Junior students at chapel paused to celebrate Hato Hōhepa (St. Joseph), the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus. In our Anglican tradition, Joseph is often called the "Silent Saint" because the Gospels record none of his words—only his faithful mahi (work) and his unwavering kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Joseph reminds our students that leadership isn't always about being the loudest in the room or seeking the spotlight. Instead, he modeled a life of whakapono (faith) in action. When God called, Joseph listened with a heart of rangimārie (peace), protecting his whānau and providing for them through his integrity and skill.

In the Gospel of Matiu 1:24, we see the essence of his quiet obedience:

"A ka ara ake a Hohepa i te moe, ka meatia e ia ta te anahera a te Ariki i whakahau ai ki a ia..."
"When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him..."

As we go about our week, let us look to Joseph as a model of how to be a humble kaitiamaki of those around us, acting with integrity (ngākau tapatahi) and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

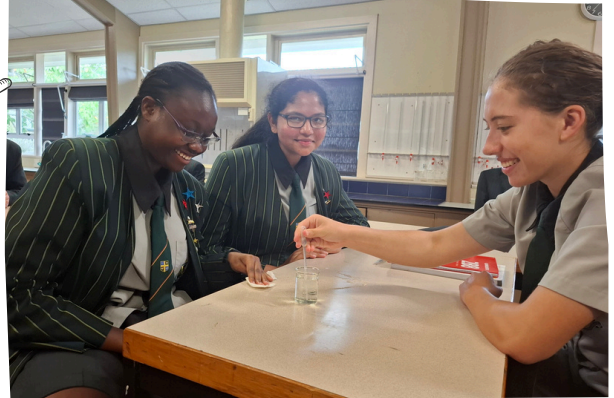


Senior College

Year 12 Chemistry looking at intermolecular forces. "How many drops of water can you get on a 20cent coin without it overflowing?"

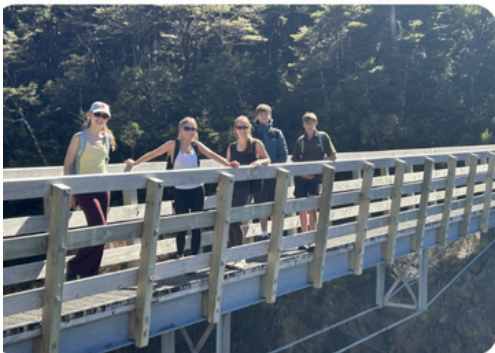
Brianna Benkie, Evelyn Renil, Isabelle Lynn
Sophie White, Emily Kirk

Mrs Tash Kyle's Yr 12 Calculus
Students hard at work



$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

Yr 12 Tongariro Trip



Stay 'Connected'
With our School App!

Simply Download 'SchoolappsNZ' from the Google Play or App Store & search your school once installed.

SMOGA Grants Now Open!

The St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA) is delighted to open applications for two exciting student opportunities

Outward Bound Grant – A \$2,500 grant (incl. GST) toward an 8-day or 21-day Teen Outward Bound course.

Apply here:
<https://forms.gle/GWIRJ4qiwJ4tCboK7>

Spirit of Adventure Grant – A fully funded voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand.

Apply here:
<https://forms.gle/xDER84v7JRyi2b9Y8>

These grants are open to current students in Years 11–13 who are either daughters, nieces, or granddaughters of SMOGA members, or who join SMOGA as part of the application process.

For full details, please visit:
www.stmatts.school.nz/academic/scholarships/



PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

WED 25TH MARCH | 3.30 - 6PM

FRI 27TH MARCH | 3.30 - 6PM

Bookings can be made at www.schoolinterviews.co.nz with the code x8tz8.

These are held in the Upper Classroom Block. Maps will be available to guide you to your daughter's teachers.

Afternoon tea will also be served in the Common Room.



Effort Grade Report One is now on the parent portal



Filming of international student video

Over the next two weeks we will be filming footage (including with a drone) at St Matthew's and at Senior College to use in a promotional video for international students. If you have any concerns about your daughter appearing in this video, please contact lucy.clearwater@trinityschools.nz.



Key Dates:

Monday 23 March - Friday 27 March - Summer Tournament Week

Tuesday 24 - Wednesday 25 March - Special Character Review Evaluation

Tuesday 24 March - Yr7 / 8 Coast trip

Wednesday 25 March - Parent/Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 25 March - Boarders Chapel

Thursday 26 March Yr11 Food Tech trip

Friday 27 March - Yachiyo Shoin Visit SMCS

Friday 27 March - Parent/Teacher Interviews

2026 Term Dates

Term One - Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April

Term Two - Monday 20th April to Friday 3rd July

Term Three - Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

Term Four - Monday 12th October to Saturday 5 December

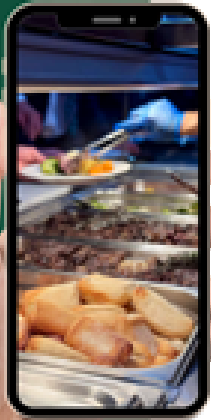




What's on the menu this week?



Launch the Camera App and aim your camera at the QR Code to scan it.



REFORMER PILATES

Pilates is an exciting low-impact exercise that connects your taha hinengaro to your taha tinana. Strengthening the core, improving posture, flexibility, and overall strength. It's a vibe that will challenge and nourish you!

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PASEFIKA STUDY HUB THURSDAYS



Yr7 - Yr13

from 3:30pm - 5:15pm!

Yr7 - Yr13

Professional Assistance provided

Snacks Provided !!

Yr7 - Yr13

Homework to catch up on! Need Help!



23 Intermediate Street

Contact: 0800 727 924

www.pw.org.nz



ACTING ANTICS

Self Discovery Through Performance™

School Holiday Production
St Matthew's Collegiate School

ROSIE

Directed By Deborah Percy



1920s Gangsters and Flapper Girls

Youth Theatre Ages 8-13yrs

14/04/2026 – 17/04/2026

<https://wairarapa.actingantics.com>