



Principal's Message

TERM TWO, WEEK ELEVEN

Kia ora koutou katoa,

I shared these words with our school in our final assembly.

Finding our feet in Winter

As we move towards the end of the school day and the end of term two, I have been reflecting on this season and on a theme that emerged through our recent production, Footloose.

One line from the show has stayed with me:

"Sometimes you've got to lose it... to find it."

If we are honest, that has felt a little like this term.

Winter has certainly made its presence known. The weather has challenged us, muddy fields have become familiar territory, and for some members of our community, the term has brought circumstances far more significant than cold mornings and wet afternoons.

There have been moments when it would have been easy to simply put our heads down and focus on getting through.

Yet our character is often revealed not when things are easy, but when they are difficult.

Another message from Footloose reminds us:

"Life's not about what you can't do... it's about what you can do."

That does not mean pretending challenges do not exist. Sometimes things do not go the way we hoped. Sometimes the result disappoints us. Sometimes we carry burdens that are much bigger than school.

In those moments, a simple "stay positive" is not enough.

Instead, we are reminded of the whakataukī:

He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

What matters is how we choose to show up for ourselves and for others.

This term I have seen countless examples of this in action: students turning up to training and games despite difficult conditions; friends quietly supporting one another through challenging times; girls demonstrating perseverance, effort and resilience every day; acts of kindness that may never make headlines but make a genuine difference.

These moments matter because they reflect character.

One of the themes running through Footloose is that life is about more than simply playing it safe. It is about engaging fully, bringing energy and hope into the spaces around us, and choosing to contribute positively even when circumstances are less than ideal.

As we head into the holidays and the final stretch of the term beyond them, perhaps the challenge for each of us is to consider: where can I step up rather than step back? how can I bring a little more positivity and energy to those around me? who might need encouragement, support, or simply to be noticed?

Joy is not something that only appears when everything is perfect.

Ka kitea te ora i roto i te ngākau – life is found in the spirit we bring.

Sometimes joy looks like showing up on a cold, wet day. Sometimes it is sharing a laugh with friends when everyone is tired. Sometimes it is choosing kindness when it would be easier to walk on by.

To our Footloose cast, crew and staff, thank you for reminding us that even in the middle of winter there is still music, movement, creativity and possibility.

And to those who will be representing St Matthew's and Reps during the holidays—on courts, fields, courses, tracks and stages—remember that finding your feet often happens when you step into the challenge.

You may face tough opposition, early starts, long journeys or moments that test your confidence. Trust your preparation, support your teammates and embrace the opportunity in front of you. When you wear the St Matthew's uniform, you carry with you the character, courage and spirit of this community.

We are incredibly proud of you and will be cheering you on.

As a community, let us continue to keep turning up. Keep backing one another. Keep finding our feet, even when things feel uncertain. Keep embracing opportunities, whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or beyond. Keep bringing light and life into the rooms we enter.

After all, even in the middle of winter, there is still music, still movement, and still possibility.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Go well. Be your best selves and be safe over the holidays.

Ngā mihi nui,

Phil



Boarding

Kia ora koutou.

Packing up and cleaning out rooms at the end of the term is not exactly fun, but when the holidays are in sight and sleepovers are on offer, our boarders are usually highly productive.

Although we have been in cleaning mode, it was great to take our boarders to the Senior College production of Footloose on Wednesday. Well done to the students and staff involved. It was a very entertaining night which was enjoyed by all.

Last night we had our end of term boarding dinner where we acknowledged our Year 13 and Year 11 boarding leaders and announced the winners of the Main House tidy dorm competition. Congratulations to Suzy McCreary, Tenley Richardson, Tilly Giesen and Ella Brader whose rooms have looked fabulous throughout the term. Congratulations also to Rhiannon Clark whose name was pulled from our boarding "Good Sort" draw.

A few reminders before everyone departs for the holidays-

- All boarders are to return on Sunday 19th July between 3-5pm, dressed in formal winter uniform.
- There will be a meeting for all boarding parents and caregivers at 4.30pm on the Sunday.

A huge thank you to all boarders and boarding staff for another fabulous term in boarding.

Wishing everyone a very happy and safe holiday.

Ngā mihi.

Jo



Around School

Wellington Regional Primary Cross Country Champs!

Beautiful sunny day at Harcourt Park on Tuesday.

Yr7 girls
Ada Gaffney 43rd
Ruby Wyeth 56th

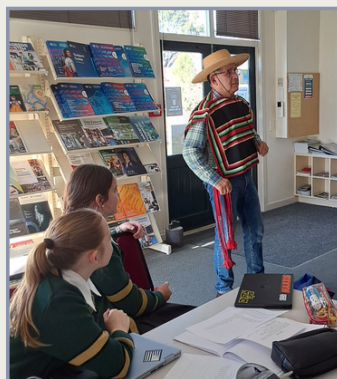
Yr 8 girls
Melody Bazley 21st
Emilie Cunliffe 34th



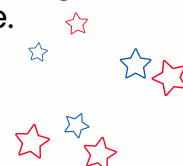
Well done girls, what an incredible effort!



Yr 8 Spanish



Muchas gracias a Jorge Sandoval, our Acting Director of Sport. When Jorge learned that the Year 8 Spanish class were learning about Fiestas Patrias, the national holiday of Chile, he brought his traditional Chilean costume for the girls to see, which he also wore to Government House when he was presented with the Queen's Service Medal. We finished our class by learning some steps to La Cueca, the Chilean national dance.



Matariki Week Celebrations

As we approach Matariki, we invited all students to join in a week of activities as we came together to reflect, connect, and celebrate.

Monday – Star Crafts

Create a star, connect with friends, and shelter from the storm. The stars will be used to decorate the Common Room throughout the week.



Tuesday – Stars in Their Eyes Karaoke

Sing your favourite tunes and enjoy performances from your peers.



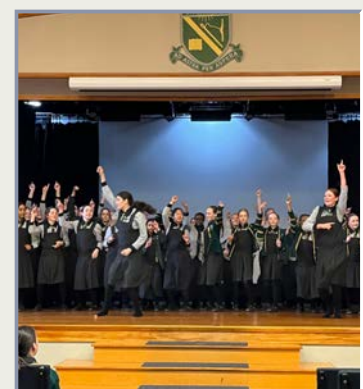
Wednesday – Remembrance and Reflection

Acknowledge those who have passed and set goals for the year ahead.



Thursday – Shared Morning Tea and Games

Shared morning tea in Whānau class. Then, at lunchtime, burn off some energy with SMOSL's games in the Gym.



Friday – Whole School Celebration

A special whole-school Dance Competition.

We enjoyed celebrating Matariki together as a school community. ✨

Wairarapa SLANZA Readers cup Competition 2026

This year's regional Readers Cup Year 9 competition was held in the school hall yesterday. St. Matthew's had two teams competing: Jellycats and Dux don't Quack. Seven teams from five local secondary schools competed for the cup by reading six set books over a school term and then answering questions on each during the competition. Congratulations to the winning team from Kuranui College. Dux don't Quack came second and Solway College third. Well done to our nine students who conscientiously read the texts and attended weekly meetings. Thanks also to Rosalie who mentored both teams.



Christina Bate
Librarian



Chinese Language Week at St Matthew's



A big thank you to Fiona Lin, who led a Chinese calligraphy session in the Art Room on Thursday lunchtime as part of our Chinese Language Week celebrations.

Students enjoyed learning the art of Chinese calligraphy and exploring an important aspect of Chinese culture. Thank you, Fiona, for sharing your knowledge and skills with us!



Languages Lunch



To celebrate the end of term, on Thursday the two Year 7 languages classes came together in the Food Room for a special languages lunch. As Year 7 Spanish have been learning about Mexico, they prepared some delicious tacos, while Year 7 French made an impressive tarte aux pommes. Both groups were able to taste what the other group had made.

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, it is a wonderful opportunity to pause and give thanks — kia whakawhetai tātou — for all that has been learned, achieved and shared within our St Matthew's School community. Throughout this term, we have seen growth, not only in knowledge, but also in kindness, courage, perseverance, and faith as we have supported one another in the spirit of aroha and manaakitanga.

In the life of a school, each term brings moments of challenge alongside moments of joy. As a Christian community, we are reminded that God walks with us through all seasons, strengthening and guiding us as we meet each challenge together. We give thanks for the many ways we have seen our students and staff reflect Christ's love in the way they care for others and contribute positively to our school whānau.

As we head into the holiday break, may this be a time of rest, renewal and connection with those we love — he wā whakatā, he wā whakahou i te tinana, te hinengaro, me te wairua.

We are reminded of the words of scripture:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you."

— Deuteronomy 31:6

"Kia kaha, kia māia. Kaua e matakū... nā te mea kei te haere tahi a Ihowā tō Atua i a koe."

— Te Tiuteronomi 31:6

May God's peace be with you all over the holidays.

Ngā manaakitanga o te Atua ki runga i a koutou katoa.



Reminder – key dates from TSTB for Trinity Futures

TSTB will host a Trinity Futures Hui on **Wednesday 29th July from 7–8.30pm, in the dining hall at St Matthew's**. This is an opportunity for our community to ask questions about Trinity Futures. TSTB will meet in late August to consider all our community feedback and decide on a future-focused operating model for Trinity schools. By attending the hui you will hear directly from TSTB and can engage with governors who will be available for discussion. Please RSVP to future@trinityschools.nz by Friday 24th July.

Final survey to Trinity schools parents / caregivers – a final survey will be going out on Wednesday 22nd July. We encourage all our parents/caregivers to complete this – your voice matters. The survey will close on Sunday 2nd August.

TSTB online portal – if you haven't already done so, please register on the [TSTB online portal](#). We have moved to fortnightly topics linked to Trinity Futures. If you have already registered, you can [login here](#) – look for the Community Portal tab in the top righthand corner. This portal will close on Sunday 2nd August.

Wishing our Trinity schools community a safe and happy Term 2 school break. I look forward to seeing you at the Trinity Futures Hui on the 29th July.

Cheers,

Cath Archer, CEO

Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB)



Parent/Teacher Interviews Term Three

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS TERM THREE

**THURSDAY 23RD JULY
2.10PM - 5.30PM**

**FRIDAY 24TH JULY
3.30PM - 5.30PM**

To book your interviews
please go to:

www.schoolinterviews.co.nz
Code: epcz8

In the first week back in Term Three we will be holding Parent/Teacher interviews:

These are for Year 7-11 across all subjects. Please make sure when you book you have the correct teacher for the subject. This is especially for Year 7/8 Literacy and Year 7/8 Mathematics, and all Year 10 Trimester subjects, as they may not have the same teacher for the whole year. For Year 10, we are in Trimester 2. Please ask your daughter for this information.

The interviews have a 5-minute allocation. They will be held in the Upper classroom block with the Common Room being the central point for afternoon tea. The teachers will be in designated areas. A map will be up in the Common Room. Mrs Booth, our Director of Boarding, is available for boarding families and for others that may be thinking of going boarding in the future. She will be available to discuss options with you. Please book appointments for her as you would for teachers.

Stay 'Connected'
With our School App!

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

Key Dates:

Monday 20 July – First Day of Term Three
Thursday 23 July – Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday 24 July – Parent Teacher Interviews, Hokonui
Fashion Design Trip, Yr12 Ag Trip, Lincoln Uni Open
Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 July – Hokonui Fashion Trip
Wednesday 29 July – TSTB Trinity Futures Hui
Tuesday 4 August – St George Primary Fixture
Thursday 6 August – Yr7/8 Daffodil Bake Sale
Friday 7 August – Senior College Parent/Teacher
Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 August – Exeat Weekend

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



Bonjour

End of term celebration for Year 7 French



Merçi

SELLING YOUR UNIFORM SECOND HAND

The St Matthew's Uniform Shop sells second hand uniform, on your behalf. When an item of clothing sells, the shop retains a 30% commission, the amount owing to you is credited to your daughter's school account, this is done three times per year. For uniform that is sold after your daughter leaves, a bank account number, name of the account and email address will be required.

Clothing will get the best price when it is CLEAN; the Blazer, Tunic Dress and Senior Skirt should be dry cleaned. Please attend to discoloured underarms and collars before soaking white blouses in a stain removing laundry soaker (don't use bleach as this will fade the crest).

Uniform can be brought into the shop on Thursdays 1pm – 4pm during term time. Uniform may alternatively be left at the school office, marked "For Sale, attention UNIFORM SHOP". Please make sure that it is securely boxed up, with your daughter's name included.

Ties & caps are sold second hand, but any money generated will be a donation to the shop.

ITEMS NOT SOLD SECOND HAND IN THE UNIFORM SHOP:

- Old style Hoodies
- Togs
- Hockey/Football socks
- Shoes & Sandals
- Black ankle Socks
- Old style PE tops & shorts

UNIFORM INFORMATION:

[HTTPS://WWW.STMATTS.SCHOOL.NZ/PARENTS/UNIFORM/](https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/)

Cobblestones
Winter Fair
 SATURDAY 18 JULY
 10.00AM – 2.30PM
 A VICTORIAN COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
Artisan stalls, Live Entertainment, Kids Games & Yummy food!

COBBLESTONES
 WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE
 169 MAIN STREET, GREYTOWN COBBLESTONESMUSEUM.ORG.NZ

NEW ZEALAND
FESTIVAL
 OF CHRISTMAS
 GREYTOWN

Cater PLUS

What's on the menu this week?

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

Wairarapa District Council