



Principal's Message

TERM THREE, WEEK FOUR

Kia Ora Koutou

I am the Principal of a Special Anglican Character school and that Anglican character does make us special. Every morning I remind staff, students and the community what we are focusing on for our Values. As a quick recap, for July to November 29 they are **TRANSFORM, INTEGRITY & INCLUSIVENESS**, and **LOOK UP -Unite with God**.

Looking In and Looking Out

As a school your daughters' teachers and support staff have with your help, contributed incredibly to the Daffodil Day collection through Bake Sales. There are sales and activities ahead on both sites to support this cause which has been an amazing demonstration of Looking in at our capacity to pull together to Look out to our community to serve others. The Foodbank Collection today- yet another demonstration of that service to others. Thank you for your part in this service.

Looking Up

On Wednesday I talked to the school about Looking Up to God...being clever with the use of the other Values, which remain in our focus there was a hope that what I said might be **transformative** in some way – big or small, but perhaps not immediately. That **by including** them in something personal to me they would be reminded that they and now you, are important to me. I had to dig deep to look at how to incorporate **Integrity**. I suppose it is matching our actions to our beliefs... let's see if this sharing on Wednesday did and might do that.

In 2022 Tony Gill: my children's father, my ex-husband, and my best friend for 42 years was diagnosed with motor neurone disease.

Motor Neurone Disease, or MND, affects the nerves that send messages from the brain to the muscles. Think of it like the wiring between a phone and a charger becoming damaged. The brain still knows what it wants the body to do, but the messages don't always get through properly.

For Tony Gill it meant it was harder to walk, talk, use his hands, and towards the end breathe. It doesn't usually affect who a person is inside and that was true for Tone. His personality, memories, sense of humour, and the things that mattered were all still there.

MND is quite rare, especially in young people. Most of us will never experience it ourselves. But some people may know a family member or friend who has it. When that happens, the most important thing you can offer is kindness, patience, and support.

While MND is a serious illness and there is no cure, today we're talking about it because understanding and compassion matter. Knowledge helps us support others rather than be afraid. But more as a family it took us all on a faith journey because Tony Gill taught us about humility and about valuing those we love. It also taught us to trust God -even when we didn't understand what He was doing.

I am not saying we never questioned things "If there is a God why is he taking Tony?" "It's not fair... Tony is one of the good ones!", "What are you doing God?"

Nobody ever said these things out loud. We believed there was a purpose for this journey- even we could not see it. God had a plan for us. We had to look up to God because this had to mean something.

Tony came to live with us so we could nurse him and he could be closer to his children. It was a logical decision, and I would make it again. What I remember most isn't the disease Tony was grappling with. I remember his courage, his humour, and the way he kept caring about the people around him. That's what stayed with us and remains with us.

We learned that the task we had to complete at work actually did not matter if you were not healthy. We learned that nothing should be taken for granted and we learned to let the people you care about know they matter every day.

For our family, it felt like one of those moments that reminded us God had been with us throughout the journey

But here is the twist...the beautiful twist...the faith moment.

Please do not freak out, on April 8 2023 we were present in Tony's final minutes. Callum his son (our son) asked him as he was failing where his thoughts were- he said 'My happy place- Papamoa'. Just before Tony passed Cal said to his father "can you tell us when you get there (Heaven)".

I have to say at that moment I was cross with God...

Five days later we made the journey back to his hometown Rotorua for his tangi. Our daughter Eden travelled up with us. Callum and his partner travelled separately.

We descended upon Tony's sister's family and awaited the arrival of Callum.

Finally, Callum arrived.

In he came "Mum – you are not going to believe this" But once said I totally did.

He continued "We set the GPS so we could keep an eye on timing and then the GPS went crazy'.

"What do you mean crazy' said I.

"It was redirecting us - to Papamoa"

Tony had arrived in Heaven.

In that moment our family looked at each other and smiled. You can call it coincidence if you like. We didn't.

For us it was one of those moments that reminded us that God had been with us throughout the whole journey.

I do not always agree with God's decisions, but I believe there is a plan.

When life is hard, when things do not make sense, when you are frightened or disappointed, my advice is simple: Look up.

You might not get the answer you want. You might not get the answer straight away. But I have learned that God is there, walking alongside us, even when we cannot see the whole picture.

I will leave it there and remember those who are unwell and those who are experiencing sad and difficult times. Kia Kaha.

I wish you an incredible weekend
Ngā Mihi

Phil



Boarding

Dame Whina Cooper Dormitory Nearing Completion

With the Dame Whina Cooper Dormitory renovation nearly complete, the girls will soon be ready to move back into their refreshed rooms. The curtains are ready to be hung, and only a final clean remains before the dormitory is ready for use.



Year 9 Bake Sale Baking

Our Year 9 boarders recently put their baking skills to good use in support of their year group's Cancer Society Bake Sale. Their chocolate brownies looked absolutely delicious and were undoubtedly a hit with everyone who had the opportunity to taste them. Well done to the students for their effort and support of such a worthwhile cause.



Boarding House Bird of the Year Activities

Bird of the Year Comes to the Boarding House!

From 4 September, boarders will be celebrating New Zealand's unique birdlife and taking part in the annual Bird of the Year voting campaign.

Activities include:

NZ Bird of the year voting 4 – 20 Sept

NZ Bird Quizzes Tuesday evenings 7th and 4th

NZ Bird creative activities Wednesday evenings 8th and 15th.

Opportunities to learn about and support some of Aotearoa's most iconic native birds

We encourage all boarders to get involved, have some fun, and cast their vote for their favourite feathered friend!   

Who will earn your vote for Bird of the Year 2026?



Sport Schedule

Sport Schedule

Week 5 - Term 3
Monday August 17th - Sunday August 23rd

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day	SENIOR PENT return approx 5pm						
	Junior Dance Troupe 1.10-1.55pm @ Lazarus	Hockey Primary Sticks Training 1.15-1.50pm	Netball Jnr Black Training 1.15-1.50pm @SMS Courts Netball Green Training 1-1.40pm @ SMS Gym	Hockey Primary Stars Training 1.15-1.50pm Football Primary Ferns Training 1.15pm-1.50pm		Netball Games @ Colombo Road Courts SMS Development vs C SMS Gold vs SMS Yellow vs	
	Football Trainings @ SMS Field TBC	Football Games @ 3.45pm Finals TBC SMS Steel vs SMS Strikers vs SMS Saints SMS Stars		Primary Football Ferns Game	Netball Games @ Colombo Rd Courts	SMS Snr A vs SMS 13's vs SMS Pink vs SMS Silver vs SMS Black vs	
	Netball Primary Kiwika Training 3.45-4.45pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Primary Kowhai Training 3.30-4.30 @ SMS Outside Courts	Rifle Shooting @ Masterton Miniature rifle club Van depart 6.20, Pick up 8.30	Netball Snr Yellow Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Gym Netball Development Training 5.30-7.00pm @ SMS Gym	Squash @ Red Star Squash Courts 3.30-4.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, pick up 4.50pm	Primary Hockey Games @ Clareville Turf	SMS 12's vs SMS White vs	
After School	Hockey Games @ Clareville Turf !!FINALS!! SMS 2nd XI vs Waicol 2nd XI 5.30pm Northern Turf	Primary Netball Games @ Masterton Netball Courts SMS Kowhai vs MIS Manawa 4pm Ct3 SMS Kiwika vs MIS Steel 4pm Ct5 SMS Kakariki vs Solway Silver 5pm Ct4	Hockey Primary 11s Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Turf	Netball Primary Kakariki Training 3.45-4.45pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Jnr White Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Jnr Silver Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Jnr Pink training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Gym Netball Jnr Gold training 3.30-5pm @ SMS Gym Netball Snr A Training 5.30-7pm @ SMS Gym			
	Badminton @ SMS Gym 3.30-4.30pm	Hockey 1st XI Training 5-6.30pm Van departs 4.30pm, pick up 6.40pm		DUNCE CUP Hockey 1st XI vs Waicol 1st XI @ Clareville Turf			

St Matthew's Collegiate Sport Results

Week 3 Term 3

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



	Opponent	Score
Hockey		
Primary Sticks	Solway Intermediate	Win 5-3
Primary Stars	Hadlow white	Win 6-1
St Matts 2nd XI	Solway	Win 3-0
St Matts Gold	Solway	Loss 1-7
St Matts 1st XI	FAHS 1XI	Loss 4-0
St Matts Green	BYE	N/A

Rifle shooting		
Lily Boggs	88.3	87.3
Thea Collinson	71.1	
Elise Dry	77.1	
Audrey Hall	90	93.3
Michelle Kooiman	61	
Eva MacManus	70	69
Tenley Richardson	82.1	
Maya Rosenbach	79.2	75
Katya Shi	69.1	80
Ava Wilson	58	
Madi Duckett	74.1	
Amy Kuipers	37	

Football		
Primary Ferns	Lakeview	Win 3-0
Saints		Cancelled
Steel		Cancelled
Stars		Cancelled
Strikers		Cancelled
1st XI		Cancelled

Netball		
Primary Kowhai	MIS Pulse	Cancelled
Primary Kiwika	Lakeview	Cancelled
Primary Kakariki	MIS Tika	Cancelled
Jnr Gold vs	Waicol Jnr B	Win 36-21
Jnr Silver vs	SMS Stars	Win 38-12
Jnr Pink vs	Kuranui College Jnr C	Loss 17-8
Jnr White vs	BYE	
Jnr Black vs	Solway College White	Win 21-13
Snr Green vs	Waicol Intermediate Blue	Win 15-11
Snr Yellow vs	Solway College Green	Win 14-12
Stars vs	SMS Silver	Loss 38-12
13s vs	Kuranui College Jnr A	Win 29-15
12s vs	BYE	
Development vs	CNC JK&Co Maroon	Loss 17-19
Snr A vs	Opaki Vixens	Loss 40-44



Ko tō reo. Ko tō kura.
Your Voice. Your School.



Returning officer:
Haley Feringa-Howley
Principal's PA

NOMINATIONS Open Wednesday 19 August
become a Student Board Member

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

This week in Senior Chapel, as we journey through another busy season of learning, our reading from Psalm 119 reminds us, *kia maia, kia kaha, kia manawanui*—be brave, be strong and be steadfast. God's wisdom often grows most deeply through life's challenges. While none of us seeks difficult moments, they can become opportunities to draw closer to God, learn perseverance and discover the goodness of Te Ariki.

The psalmist writes:

"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."

"He pai mōku i whakamamaetia ahau, kia ako ai ahau ki āu tikanga."

Psalm 119:71

And again:

"The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

"He pai ake ki ahau te ture a tō waha i ngā mano hiriwa, i ngā mano koura."

Psalm 119:72

At St Matthew's, we seek not only academic success but also the growth of te ngākau (the heart), te hinengaro (the mind) and te wairua (the spirit). Every challenge, every success and every ordinary day offers an opportunity to trust in te aroha o te Atua and to grow in wisdom. May we continue to encourage one another with manaakitanga, show aroha in all we do and remember that God's Word is a treasure that guides our footsteps each day.



Solo Performance Success



Zara Jorgensen was entered into the Manawatu branch of the Registered Music Teacher's solo performance competition for Violin which was held in Palmerston North on Sunday. The competition was open to all music students of any age who learn from registered music teachers in the Manawatu. There were four divisions – Piano (grades 1 to 3), Piano (grades 4 to 5), Instrumental (grades 1 to 3) and Instrumental (grades 4-5). Zara played two of the pieces she has prepared for her upcoming grade 5 violin exam, and was awarded the trophy and gold medal for the overall winner of the instrumental (grade 4-5) section

ASTRA

CHOIR

Sing. Grow. Shine

A PLACE TO MAKE MUSIC & BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

HARMONY COURAGE CONNECTION

Practice
THURSDAY 3.30pm

ALL STUDENTS YR9 AND ABOVE WELCOME.

SEE YOU THERE!

Junior Music Classes Brass Lessons

Over the past two weeks junior music classes have been visited by Campbell Smith, a Wellington-based brass musician who comes into St Matthew's every Friday to teach privately. Campbell is a highly talented musician actively involved with orchestral groups in Wellington, included the NZSO. We are exceptionally fortunate to have such a high-level and experienced musician coming in to our school on a weekly basis.

Campbell has been teaching our junior students how sound is produced through a brass instrument and all students have had an opportunity to play different brass instruments together in class. St Matthew's students have demonstrated a remarkable affinity for brass instruments, playing sounds through instruments significantly faster than is typically expected of beginners. Our school has rich potential for a brass band, however we need students to take the initiative and seize this opportunity. If you are interested in trying out a brass instrument and forming a group of brass learners with your friends, please come and see Mr. Sharp for Campbell's details and take some lessons.



Year 9 Cancer Society Bakesale

The Year 9 students did not disappoint with their items for the bake sale today. More money for the Cancer Society for Daffodil Day! Big thanks to our school community for getting behind this important fundraising.



Netball snaps from 8th August



Black netball team on Saturday with coaches Orlagh, Katelyn and Bella



Samantha Fawcett and Georgie Didsbury playing for SMS Development Team

Squash Success



Annabelle de Groot has had a stellar squash season. Starting the season off in D2 and is now 20 points away from B2. This success is tribute to her dedication on and off the court. Annabelle is driven to do the best she can and is an excellent role model to her peers.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS



Usual shop hours during term time: Thursdays 1pm- 4pm during term time. If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith: smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz or

sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz

Payment in the shop at the time of sale by EFTPOS or credit card only. Uniform information: <https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/>

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 INFORMATION:

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

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

Aotearoa NZ School Library Week

For Aotearoa NZ School Library week and with assistance from Read NZ / Te Pou Muramura author Philippa Werry visited the school on Wednesday. She gave entertaining talks and two workshops on the writing process to students throughout the day. Students were interested to meet the author of The great chocolate cake bake off and The other sister as they are books read for English. We are fortunate to hold many of Philippa's books in the school library including Degrees of Happy published earlier this year.



Y7 make salad wraps



Suzy Mc Creary and Sienna Martin
rolling up a healthy storm

ATTENDANCE NOTICE

AS YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A NEW SYSTEM OF ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR. SOME FAMILIES WILL HAVE RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION OF YOUR DAUGHTER BEING 5 DAYS ABSENT. THIS IS RESET EVERY TERM. THIS IS JUST AN INDICATION TO YOU OF THE THESE NUMBER OF DAYS. AFTER THIS THE RANGE IS 10 DAYS AND 15 DAYS PER TERM. WE MONITOR THIS CAREFULLY AND DEANS WILL BE WORKING WITH FAMILIES IF THERE IS NOT A EXPLAINED REASON FOR THIS ABSENCE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VIEW YOUR DAUGHTER'S RATE OF ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR, THIS IS ON THE PORTAL. ONCE LOGGED IN, GO TO THE 'SCHOOL LIFE' TAB AND CLICK 'ATTENDANCE'. YOUR DAUGHTER'S TIMETABLE WILL BE VISIBLE. IF YOU SCROLL DOWN THE ATTENDANCE RATE WILL BE IN BLUE UNDER THE TIMETABLE. THE PREFERRED RATE INDICATED OF ATTENDANCE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS 90% OR ABOVE.

Senior College - Ag Students Massey Campus Visit



Senior College - Agrisports at FAHS





SMOGA Grant Now Open!

Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship

Applications are now open for the Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship, available to Year 13 students intending to study Commerce at tertiary level. This prestigious scholarship offers \$5,000 in funding over two years, as well as mentorship from Gretchen Williamson – a leading financial adviser and St Matthew's Old Girl.

Gretchen is passionate about supporting young women into careers in finance and investment. This scholarship is part of her ten-year commitment to helping close the wealth gap for women through education and opportunity.

Applications close on 23 October 2026, with the recipient announced at Prizegiving in December.

For more information and to apply,
<https://forms.gle/owWyycFXJZdhqS74A>

SUBJECT INFORMATION EVENING

for 2027 Subject Selection

Venue: Rathkeale College Dining Hall

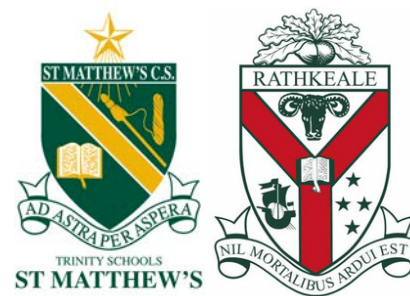
Date and time: Friday 21 August, 3.30pm to 5.30pm

All Year 11 and 12 students, and their parents, are encouraged to attend this event.

The purpose of the evening is to provide information about the subjects which will be offered at Rathkeale and Senior College in 2027.

Subject displays will be set up, and Heads of Faculty and Subjects will be present to answer questions. Careers information will also be on display.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Careers Advisor will be available to answer any questions too.



Key Dates:

Sunday 16 August/Monday 17 August - Senior Pent
Tuesday 18 August - Yr10 Spanish Trip
Wednesday 19 August - BOT Student Election Nominations Open, Wairarapa Careers Expo
Thursday 20 August - Daffodil Day Bake Sale Yr10, Duncce/Annear Cup, Nga Tahi trip to SMCS
Friday 21 August - Senior College Subject Evening
Tuesday 25 August - BOT Student Election Nominations Close, Yr11 PE Trip
Wednesday 26 August - Yr10/11 Wellbeing Day

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



ONE DAY WITH

**FOOT
NOTE**
New Zealand DANCE
WORKSHOP

CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUE
COMPANY REPERTOIRE
IMPROVISATION PRACTICE
CHOREOGRAPHIC PRACTICE

A FULL DAY DANCE WORKSHOP
TAILORED FOR YOUTH AND
YOUNG DANCERS AGED 13-18

Weds 30th September
Footnote Dance Studios | Cuba St
Register at www.footnote.org.nz



SUPPORTING THE SALVATION ARMY

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP
THOSE IN POVERTY



WEEK 5

PLEASE BRING IN ITEMS
IF YOU HAVE THEM AT HOME.

WE ARE COLLECTING:



OLD
CLOTHING



STATIONERY



BOOKS



SHOES



BAGS



CARE
PRODUCTS
(SHAMPOO
& SOAPS)

RATHKEALE STUDENTS

PLEASE BRING YOUR
DONATIONS TO THE

RATHKEALE CHAPEL



ST MATTHEW'S STUDENTS

PLEASE BRING YOUR
DONATIONS TO THE

SCHOOL OFFICE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



**New
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Worldwide**

Safe, structured volunteering placements for young people across the world. Build real skills, genuine confidence, and experience that actually matters.

Free online info session

Tuesday 18 August, 6pm AEST / 8pm NZST. Explore volunteering placements in Spain, Canada and the UK. Free to join.



8 countries, 30+
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Real responsibility,
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PŪKAHA NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE



Looking for a meaningful way to spend time as a family?

Join us at Pūkaha and help care for our beautiful native wildlife and forest. Come and make a difference together! 🌿🦆

Volunteering is a fantastic opportunity for our young people and adults to connect with nature, learn new skills, and give back to one of Aotearoa's special conservation spaces. Whether you're planting, helping with maintenance, or supporting visitor experiences, every helping hand makes a real impact.

Bring the kids, enjoy the fresh air, and create memories while making a positive difference for future generations. It's such a special place that it will keep you coming back over lifetimes and generations!

♥ Families of all ages are welcome. Contact Christine by emailing volunteer@pukaha.org.nz or call the Centre on 06 3708004

Get involved and be part of something special. Together, we can help Pūkaha thrive.

Stay 'Connected' With our School App!

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

