

Principal's Message

TERM THREE, WEEK SIX



Kia Ora Koutou

Today is Daffodil Day and today I remember my mother who succumbed to Cancer ...it feels like yesterday. I know I will not be alone as someone who has lost someone or who is with someone who is facing this illness. I send you much Aroha.

I acknowledge our community and our girls who have worked so generously to raise funds for the Cancer Society who will utilise those funds with wisdom and compassion. St Matthew's celebrates their tireless mahi.

My muse for this week's message is around health and safety- that is the plan.

Wellbeing Day- Body health and safety

We were very fortunate to have had the expertise of individuals in our community addressing our year 10s and 11s on health and safety topics. From each presenter I took some little ditties of information to check in with myself, my daughter, and my granddaughters (the last part of my whanau in this chain is the part to send my offspring as a wee prompt and request). Anna Beetham from Wairarapa Sports Podiatry reminded our girls about maintaining good bone health and sleep. The best takeaway- put your phone outside your bedroom door each night. So simple and so true for them and for me.

Sophie Kittow from Your Yoga took the students through Yoga and I can tell you that some will have gone home practising the Downward facing dog. I suspect some family dogs became unwilling participants in a little yoga practice that evening. Senior Sergeant Nick Bunny – always giving straight up information about keeping safe in our community.

The wellbeing session with Dr Natsuko Fushida-Hardy from Wairarapa Skin Clinic is where I will close off this section of my newsletter. Given that today is Daffodil Day her medical wisdom for the girls about Skin care and skin cancer was important. She kept it simple and actually her message was also about simplicity- that their skin routines also should be simple. The girls were interested in tanning and the safest way to do so. Dr Nat cut right to it 'Don't tan. Fake tan instead'. Now that is not an invitation to a citrus event on Monday, but it spelled out the importance of using sunscreen and being aware of your skin and its vulnerabilities. Just a little shopping to be done parents- avoid buying white sheets (unless orange hues are your chosen colourway).

EOTC and RAMs

Education Outside the Classroom and when staff talk about completing the RAMs, they generally mean preparing the risk management documentation that demonstrates:

1. Hazards have been identified.
2. Significant risks have been assessed.
3. Appropriate controls are in place.
4. Supervision and emergency procedures have been planned.

Health and safety can sometimes sound bureaucratic, but at its heart it is simply about caring for people well. Whether it is sleep, sun protection, online safety or school trips, the goal is the same: ensuring our young people can learn, grow and participate safely.

At St Matthew's, RAMS = Risk Assessment and Management System (Risk Assessment & Management Plan) and I freely admit to becoming a little obsessive about ensuring these are scrutinised carefully. It won't stop the occasional soul from doing something entirely unexpected, but it does mean we have thought ahead and have a plan when the unexpected occurs.

Tournament Week

We wish our teams well. The RAMs are checked; the bags will soon be packed.

Safe travels and good fortunes

Have a safe weekend and be your best selves.

Nga mihi



Boarding

Our Year 7 & 8 boarders were certainly finding their groove last night, perhaps with a little too much energy! The girls created their own dance routine before leading a conga line through the dorms. There is no shortage of creativity and enthusiasm among our younger boarders.

Pictured left to right are Ruby, Lilah, Suzy, Melody, and Ada.



As the days grow longer, we are fortunate to enjoy some stunning sunrises from the boarding house. The large trees surrounding the grounds are beginning to burst into bud, providing a beautiful reminder that spring is on its way and a wonderful way to start each day.



Unfortunately, flu continues to circulate within both the boarding houses and the school community. If your daughter is unwell, even with mild symptoms, please keep her at home until she has fully recovered. This helps protect the health and wellbeing of all students and staff.

A reminder for boarders attending tournament week: the weekend you are due to return is an Exeat weekend. The boarding houses will close at 5.00pm on Friday and reopen at 6.00pm on Sunday.



Sport Schedule

Sport Schedule

Week 7 - Term 3

Monday August 31st - Sunday September 6th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day	TOURNAMENT WEEK	TOURNAMENT WEEK	TOURNAMENT WEEK	TOURNAMENT WEEK Net A Netball Returns	TOURNAMENT WEEK 1st XI Football Returns	TOURNAMENT WEEK 1st XI Hockey Returns	
During Day	Junior Dance Troupe 1.10-1.55pm @ Lazarus						
After School	Badminton @ SMS Gym 3.30-4.30pm	Rifle Shooting @ Masterton Miniature rifle club Van depart 6.20. Pick up 8.30	Hockey Primary 11s Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Turf	Squash @ Red Star Squash Courts 3.30-4.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, pick up 4.50pm	Primary Hockey Games @ Clareville Turf SMS vs Gladstone 4pm. Southern Turf, Van Depart 3.15pm, Collect 5pm		
			Senior Dance Troupe 3.30-4.15pm @ Lazarus				

Live Integrated Activity sheet - available on our website:

<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/newsletters/>

St Matthew's Collegiate Sport Results

Week 5 Term 3

Football		
Primary Ferns	MIS Kahurangi	N/A
Saints	BYE	N/A
Steel	Waicol Development	N/A
Stars	BYE	N/A
Strikers	Solway 2nd XI	N/A
1st XI	Chanel	N/A
Pent	Iona	draw 3-3
Pent	Woodford	loss 3-0
Pent	Samuel Marsden	loss 2-0
Pent	Nga Tawa	loss 1-0

Rifle shooting		
Amy Kuipers	64	
Lily Boggs	88.2	88.1
Thea Collinson	82	
Elsie Dry	72	
Sophie Forbes	80.1	
Audrey Hall	93.1	95.3
Michelle Kooiman	80.2	
Eva MacManus	58	
Tenley Richardson	79	
Maya Rosenbach	80	
Katya Shi	77	90.2
Madi Duckett	84.1	

	Opponent	Score
Hockey		
Primary 11s	Kia Kaha	loss
St Matts 2nd XI	Waicol 2nd XI	win 3-0
1st XI	Waicol 1st XI	loss 3-0
Pent	Iona	loss 2-0
Pent	Woodford	loss 3-0
Pent	Samuel Marsden	draw 1-1
Pent	Nga Tawa	win 10-0

Netball		
Primary Kowhai		Cancelled
Primary Kiwika		Cancelled
Primary Kakariki		Cancelled
Jnr Gold vs	Waicol Junior B	win 22-14
Jnr Silver vs	Solway College Navy	loss 25-11
Jnr Pink vs	Kuranui College Jnr C	loss 26-8
Jnr White vs	BYE	N/A
Jnr Black vs	Solway College White	win 20-18
Snr Green vs	Waicol Intermediate Blue	win 16-14
Snr Yellow vs	Solway College Green	win 15-14
Stars vs	Waicol Intermediate Gold	win 9-8
13s vs	Waicol Snr Blue	WBD
12s vs	Waicol Junior Gold	N/A
Development vs	CNC JK&Co Maroon	win 23-11
Snr A vs	Opaki Vixens	win 49-34
Pent	Iona	loss 38-31
Pent	Woodford	loss 44-32
Pent	Samuel Marsden	loss 37-27
Pent	Nga Tawa	win 48-19

Good Luck

To all our Girls going to Tournament week

Netball Senior A- Wellington

Football 1st XI - Napier

Hockey 1st XI - Whangarei

30 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026



Around School

Netball Thanks

St Matt's Silver played their netball final on Saturday. Unfortunately, they lost to Solway College. They have had an awesome season moving up from College 3 to College 2 and playing in the final.

Many thanks to their coaches Ribh Holden and Ava Edge.



Netball Success

Congratulations to SMS Gold, SMS Green, SMS Yellow, and SMS Black on winning their grade finals over the weekend. A huge thank you to all our coaches and managers for their support throughout the season, and a special thanks to Andrea Didsbury, our Teacher in Charge of Netball, for her dedication every Saturday. Well done, everyone!



1st XI Football - Wright-Milne Cup Retained!

St Matthew's and Wairarapa College played an evenly matched contest last night in the annual Wright-Milne Cup fixture which ended in a draw. We are delighted to have retained the Cup for another year.

A special congratulations to Paige Shearing, who was presented with the Kerry Duncan Plate.

Thank you to our team, Chopper, Megan, and all our supporters for your dedication and encouragement. Thank you to Wairarapa College for hosting.



Y13 Cakes

Gabriella Nicholson and Victoria Booth with their layered carrot cake



Spanish Dance Project 2026

Earlier this year our students studying Spanish participated in the Spanish Dance Video Project, where they learned the same choreographed dance as hundreds of other Spanish students around the country. The finished video is a compilation of all these schools. You can watch the video here:

[Spanish Dance Video Project Aotearoa New Zealand 2026](#)



Yr10 Fashion

Last week the year 10 Fashion Technology students in Option Rotation B completed designing and making their personalised embellished Hoodies. Earlier in the unit of work they experimented with different ways of creating embellishments then personalised a design that was meaningful to them. Students then selected the application method that would give them the result they were after. Several students opted to hand embroider whilst others beaded or applied and stitched applique. After discovering that there was an ink jet printer in the art room 4 students chose to photo/ print with photo paper and the assistance of Ms Theng. A group chose to use the Cricut machine making then applying vinyl heat set designs to their hoodie. Charlotte McAuley kindly came to their classes and took them through this process. The students can be very proud of their results and the originality of their designs. Look out for them being worn.



Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

This week in both Senior and Junior Chapels, we have been learning about how our words have te mana – power. A few carefully chosen words can encourage someone, restore hope and make a person feel valued. Equally, unkind words can hurt deeply and create mamae – hurt or pain. The Bible reminds us that what we say matters.

James gives us a powerful image of the tongue:

“Ko te arero hoki he ahi.”

“The tongue is a fire.”

– James 3:6

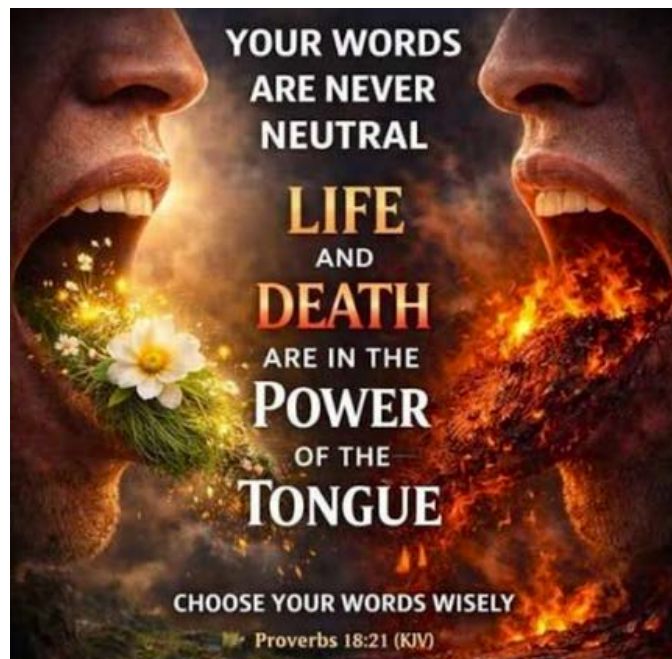
Just as a small fire can grow and spread, our words can have an impact far beyond the moment in which they are spoken. He kupu ora – words can bring life. They can build others up, strengthen whanaungatanga (relationships) and remind people that they are valued and loved.

Paul encourages the Christian community to choose words that bless others:

“Kaua tetahi kupu kino e puta i o koutou mangai, engari ko te kupu pai hei hanga ake.”

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up.”

– Ephesians 4:29



What a wonderful challenge for us as a school / kura. Before we speak, perhaps we can ask ourselves: He pai tēnei kupu? Is this a good word? Ka whakatenatena, ka whakaora rānei? Will it encourage or bring life?

This week, let us use te mana o te arero wisely. Let our kupu be kind, truthful and encouraging. May our conversations reflect te aroha o te Atua – the love of God – so that the people around us know they are seen, valued and loved.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia atawhai – be strong, be courageous, be kind. And may our words bring life.

Swimming Success at the Wellington Short Course Swimming Champs



Congratulations to Year 9 student Olivia de Zwart, who achieved outstanding results at the 2026 Wellington Short Course Swimming Championships over the weekend. Olivia competed in five events, achieving a personal best and a top 10 placing in every race. She also claimed silver medals in both the 50m and 100m Backstroke events for the 14-year-old girls' category. As an added highlight, Olivia had the opportunity to meet New Zealand swimmer Lewis Clareburt. Well done, Olivia!



Year 10 and 11 Wellbeing Day

On Wednesday, our Year 10 and 11 students took some time to check in on their own health and wellbeing, gaining valuable information from experts about skincare, nutrition and keeping safe in our community.

The students also enjoyed a little yoga session to break up the day and explored practical strategies for resolving conflict. It was a day filled with valuable lessons, honest conversations and helpful information to support our students' health and wellbeing.

A big thank you to Anna Beetham from Wairarapa Sports Podiatry, Dr Natsuko Fushida-Hardy from Wairarapa Skin Clinic, Sergeant Nicholas Bunny from Masterton Police, and Sophie Kittow from Your Yoga for taking the time to educate, engage with and support our students throughout the day.

We really appreciate you sharing your knowledge and expertise with our students!



ARTS EVENING



CULTURE



FASHION



MUSIC



ART



DANCE

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 6PM

ST MATTS HALL

Koha entry - all proceeds to Gumboot Friday



Ko tō reo. Ko tō kura.

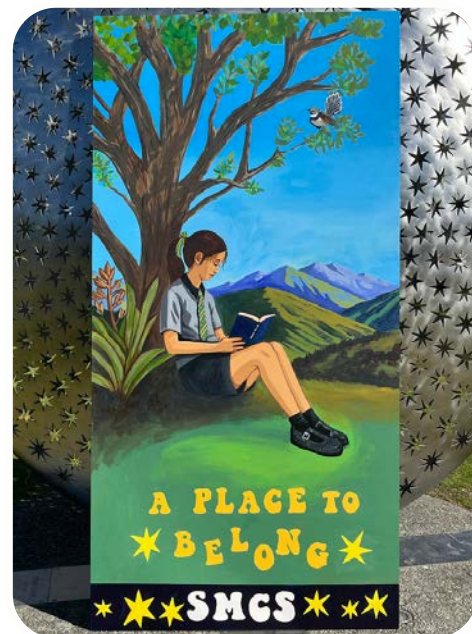
Your voice. Your school.

Voting Opens Monday

Mrs Christina Bate coordinated a challenge for the school librarians - to create a design for a mural to be displayed on the Masterton District Library construction fence on Queen Street. The design brief was to respond to the theme of books, libraries and birdsong. Maddison Duckett's idea was the winner - a St. Matthew's girl sitting under a tree reading. A distinctly New Zealand landscape is evidenced by the flax, fantail and Tararua mountain background.

Well done to leaders Maddison and Emma Richardson, along with help from Ms Theng, Rosalie, Elise, Piper and Phoebe!

Mural for Town Library Wall



Cancer Society's Daffodil Day appeal.



Four weeks of bake sales, donations, and collecting for Daffodil Day! We are so proud of the generosity of our students, staff, families, and wider community in supporting the Cancer Society. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make a difference.





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/owWycFXJZdhqS74A>

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 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/)

Key Dates:

Sunday 30 August - Friday 4 September - Winter Tournament Week.

Tuesday 1 September - Yr 7 2nd Vaccinations

Friday 4 September - Senior College Subjects Due

Saturday 5 September - Exeat Weekend

Wednesday 9 September - L2/3 Drama Performance

Friday 11 September - Kapa Haka trip to Pukaha

Sunday 13 September - Yr12 Ski Trip

Monday 14 September - Māori Language Week,

Numeracy CAA Exam

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**
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COMPANY REPERTOIRE
IMPROVISATION PRACTICE
CHOREOGRAPHIC PRACTICE

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

Weds 30th September
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A YOUTH HOLIDAY PRODUCTION
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REGISTRATIONS AT:
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CONTACT: deborah@actingantics.com

SEPT 28 - OCT 2

SPORT AND MOVEMENT

REGISTRATION:

\$30 PER DAY **\$50** PER DAY FOR 2 KIDS

GIVE YOUR CHILD AN ACTIVE & FUN HOLIDAY PROGRAMME!

ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ FOOTBALL
- ✓ BASKETBALL
- ✓ PARKOUR & GYMNASTIC
- ✓ FLOORBALL
- ✓ + MORE!!

FOR AGES 5-14

EVERY DAY
9AM-12PM

YMCA
371 QUEEN STREET,
MASTERTON

REGISTER NOW

ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL:
HELEN@KIAHAKINAKINA.CO.NZ

Spring's Sprites

Wellington Botanic Garden
Te Wā o te Kōanga Spring Festival

Sunday 20 September 2026
10am - 3pm

Interactive readings at the Joy Fountain
11.30am | 2.30pm

Dress as Puck or Bottom for our costume competition

Judging 12 and 3pm

Stay 'Connected' With our School App!

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