

Principal's Message

TERM THREE, WEEK NINE



Kia ora koutou

We often hear that we should make the most of today. We cannot change yesterday, yet we spend a great deal of time worrying about tomorrow. By the time tomorrow arrives, we have often missed today altogether. It is one of life's great "ARRGGHH!" moments.

Why am I writing this? Because we are already planning for 2027 and we have not yet finished 2026. Of course we need a plan, a destination, and a pathway. But sometimes we also need to stop on that path and look around.

Over the past few weeks, I have found myself deep in conversations about budgets, staffing, curriculum development, enrolments, buildings, and strategic priorities for next year. These conversations matter. They help shape the future of St Matthew's.

Yet in the midst of all that future thinking, I am reminded that something special is happening right now. Every day I see young women discovering their strengths, taking opportunities, supporting one another, and growing into the people they are called to be. That work is not happening next year. It is happening now.

Sometimes we become so focused on the next destination that we fail to celebrate how far we have already travelled.

As we head into the final part of Term 3, I am trying to remind myself to pause every now and then. To notice the growth, the friendships, the achievements, and the simple moments that make this place so special. The future will come soon enough. There is plenty happening right here, right now.

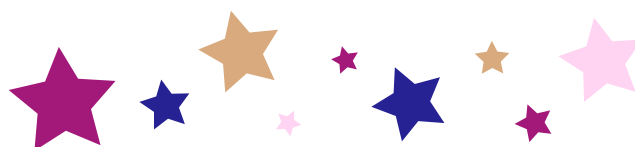
I could probably take my own words a tad more seriously at home too. Stop worrying about the angle of the cushions on the couch Kiri Gill...just sit on the darn thing.

2027 Leaders

Yes, I did just read that title and yes, I can see the irony and I can hear you saying "and here she is in next year." The reality is that today's young women are demonstrating what they have learned in their years thus far in order to undertake leadership roles in the future.

Leadership does not suddenly appear in Year 13. It is built over time through the lessons learned, challenges faced, opportunities taken, and relationships formed along the way. Today's young women are stepping forward because of everything they have already learned and experienced.

Have a safe weekend and be your best selves
Ngā mihi



Arts Evening Fundraiser Supports Gumboot Friday

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Arts Evening. We are delighted to share that the event raised \$433 for Gumboot Friday, helping to provide free counselling and mental health support for children and young people aged 25 and under across New Zealand.

Boarding

Ball Proposals Begin!

With the end of the year fast approaching, Senior College Ball proposals are starting to appear. Our Deputy Head Girl, Fiona Lin, received a surprise proposal this week. As did Ruby Ferguson.



Weekend Boarders' Outing

Making the most of the beautiful weather on Sunday, our weekend boarders enjoyed a trip to Greytown for fresh fruit ice creams, always a favourite! They then visited a local farmlet, where Chicka enjoyed feeding the horses and patting the Moko, while Fiona proved she was definitely more of a cat girl.



Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

To celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, our Year 7 and 8 students had fun playing hopscotch using Māori numerals, combining language learning with active play.



House Music & End of Term

After weeks of practice, House Music will take place this Thursday evening at Wairarapa College.

With the last day of term on Friday, parents are welcome to collect some or all of their daughter's belongings on Thursday. An option available is for girls to get room checks and sign out on Thursday and attend school on Friday without needing to return to the boarding house.

Boarding houses will close at 5.15pm and reopen after House Music.

Please note: New passes for every boarder will need to be sent using "End of Term". This is found on the pass section of Orah and is the black box.

Term Four Week One: Derived Grade Exams

Derived Grade Exams begin in the first week of next term. Boarders have been given a form to indicate which nights they will be staying and the meals they require. Please return completed forms, or email the information to mainhouse@trinityschools.nz, by Wednesday next week.



Sport Schedule

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

Sport Schedule

Week 10 - Term 3

Monday September 20th - Sunday September 27th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day							
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					
			Senior Dance Troupe 3.30-4.15pm @ Lazarus				

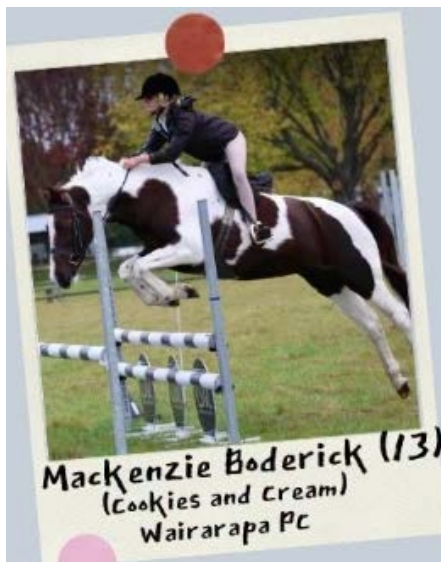
Smallbore Champs



A fantastic day at the 2026 Wairarapa Secondary School Smallbore Championships, with 33 students from Kuranui College, Makoura College, Wairarapa College, Rathkeale College and St Matthew's Collegiate taking part. Our rifle shooting team had some great results across both the Sling and School Rest events!

Lilly Boggs – 2nd individual Sling & Runner-up Sling Team
 Audrey Hall – 3rd individual Sling & Runner-up Sling Team
 Katherine Squires – 1st individual Rest & 1st Rest Team
 Maya Rosenbach – 2nd individual Rest & 1st Rest Team
 Katya Shi – 1st Rest Team

Congratulations also to Ruby Ferguson, Sophie Forbes and Tenley Richardson for some great scores and a strong effort on the day! Additionally, a big thank you to Ian, Nobby and all the volunteers and coaches who helped make the championship a success. An awesome day for our rifle shooting team, with some fantastic shooting, great results and plenty to fun.



Congratulations to Lucy and Mackenzie!

Lucy and Mackenzie have been selected by the New Zealand Pony Club Association to represent New Zealand in the 2026 Pony Club International Alliance (PCIA) Virtual Jumping Equitation Show. They will compete against Pony Club riders from around the world later this month.

What an incredible achievement. We wish them the very best of luck!

Around School



Last weekend our Kapa Haka rōpū had a noho marae at Te Wānanga Taiao o Manukura at Pūkaha. We were welcomed with a pōwhiri, and Anahera performed a karanga and whaikōrero on our behalf. We made uku pūtangitangi (clay flutes), played games and had an evening walk around Pūkaha, where we saw wētā, kiwi, and fed the eels. The next day Matua Keepa arrived and we had several hours of Kapa Haka practice to get ourselves ready for the upcoming Wairarapa Schools' Kapa Haka Festival. It was a fantastic trip and we hope to return next year.

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/>

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

This week in Senior Chapel we were reminded to “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!”
“Hamama ki a Ihowa, e te whenua katoa.”

Psalm 100 is a wonderful waiata whakamoemiti – a song of praise and thanksgiving. It calls ngā tāngata katoa – all people – to come before God with harikoa (joy), whakamoemiti (praise) and ngākau whakawhetai (thankful hearts).

The Psalm reminds us that God is not distant or disconnected from our everyday lives. “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.” We belong to God because nāna tātou i hanga – he made us. There is something deeply reassuring in knowing that our identity and worth are not determined by our achievements, popularity or circumstances, but by the God who created and loves us. Psalm 100 also describes God as a kaitiaki – one who watches over and cares for us:

“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

“He pai hoki a Ihowa; e mau tonu ana tana mahi tohu; puta noa, puta noa ki nga whakatupuranga.”

– Psalm 100:5

What a beautiful reminder that: he pai te Atua – God is good; he aroha tōna – God is loving; and he pono tonu ia – God is faithful.

Let us therefore haere mai – come – with joyful hearts. Let us sing, serve, encourage, and give thanks. For we are His people, the sheep of his pasture.

“Ko tatou hoki tana iwi, ko nga hipi o tana wahi kai.”



Carterton Bus Detour

From Monday 21st September for approx 2 weeks several bus stops will be closed on services to Masterton during a one-way road closure.

Here are the details:

This information is available on our website, here is the link

[Timetable 366 Masterton Schools - Ponatahi & Martinborough | Metlink.](#)



UNIFORM SHOP NOTICE

Please note that the St Matthew's Second-Hand Uniform Shop will be closing in 2027.

We kindly ask that no further uniforms be brought in for sale. The exception is donated uniforms, which will continue to be accepted until 4 December 2026.

The Uniform Shop will cease operations in mid-February 2027.

Thank you for your support of the Uniform Shop over the years.

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>



Friends of St Matthew's Treasurer

The Friends of St Matthew's is a fundraising committee that supports our school community and helps provide valuable resources and opportunities for our students.

We're looking for a new Treasurer to join our friendly team.

You don't need to be an accountant — basic bookkeeping skills, good organisation and a willingness to help are all that's required.

The role involves:

- Keeping track of money coming in and going out
- Paying bills and banking funds
- Keeping simple financial records
- Providing a brief update at meetings
- Helping prepare the annual accounts

We meet approximately twice each term, and there will be support to help you get started.

Interested or want to know more?

Please contact Rachel Garrity at rachel.garrity@gmail.com or 021 122 2296.

Key Dates:

Wednesday 23 September - Patronal Service Assembly
Thursday 24 September - House Music Event
Friday 25 September - Last Day of Term 3, 2027 Prefect Speeches, Sport Awards
Monday 12 October - First Day of Term 1, Yr11 Derived Grade Exams
Friday 23 October - Yr7 / 8 Orientation Day
Monday 26 October - Labour Day
Wednesday 28 October - Yr10 Social Studies Trip
Friday 23 October - Yr9 Orientation 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





Masterton Lions Club Christmas Cake Project



Back in 1971, Ernest Adams created a special cake recipe exclusive to Lions – the cakes were moist, they kept for a long time, and they were delicious!

55 years on, Lions Christmas Cakes, this year, will be made by Couplands Bakeries in Christchurch using the original recipe and not sold anywhere else.

- Over 50% Fruit – Tastes rich and fruity, and keeps well
- Large 1kg cake – Plenty to share with family & friends
- Great Value! – Premium quality for a competitive price

These cakes are attractively boxed and by buying Lions Christmas Cakes you are helping your local Lions Club raise money to support youth projects in the community

\$25 each

They can be ordered individually or in cartons of 12

Please contact

Email: mhwilions@gmail.com

Or phone or text.....Glenys 0272301231.....

Direct credit bank account number.

Westpac 03 0687 0470403 000
The Lions Club of Masterton Host Waipoua Charitable Trust

CARTERTON SPACE WEEK

ROCKET REVOLUTION
4 – 10 OCTOBER 2026

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS,
CARTERTON BECOMES
A SPACEPORT.

BUILD & LAUNCH
ROCKETS

STARGAZE

STEP INSIDE THE
PLANETARIUM

LOOK THROUGH
TELESCOPES

MEET REAL SPACE
PEOPLE

FREE + LOW-COST EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



SCAN FOR
FULL PROGRAMME
& BOOKINGS

www.cartertonspaceweek.nz

CARTERTON
**SPACE
WEEK**
ROCKET REVOLUTION
4 - 10 OCTOBER 2026

JUST 1 HOUR FROM WELLINGTON

FUN FOR ALL AGES

LEARN ABOUT SPACE



Rathkeale College Christmas Fête Raffle 2026

- 1st Prize** One year UNLIMITED MOVIE PASS FOR TWO and a \$50 meal voucher per month at The Screening Room Cinema & Eatery, Masterton. Value Incredible! Est. value \$1,500. Donated by Eve Buchanan.
- 2nd Prize** Daily Life - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$300 Vetcare Voucher, \$300 Petrol Voucher and \$100 New World Voucher. Value \$1050. Donated by Devotus, Vetcare Masterton, Anneka Joll and New World Masterton.
- 3rd Prize** Martinborough Treats - a one-night stay at The Martinborough Hotel and a \$350 Devotus Vineyard Experience Voucher. Value \$700. Donated by Devotus, and The Martinborough Hotel.
- 4th Prize** Wairarapa Treats - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$50 Wingate Lane Voucher, \$50 Clareville Bakery Voucher. Value \$450. Donated by Devotus, Wingate Lane and The Clareville Bakery.
- 5th Prize** A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Wraps. Donated by Breadcraft.
- 6th Prize** Home Supplies - \$200 Bunnings Voucher, \$100 New World Voucher and a trailer of firewood delivered to your door. Donated by Island Bay Builders, New World Masterton and McCarthy Transport.
- 7th Prize** A Day's Surfing Tuition for up to 6 people at Castlepoint. Donated by David Woodcock.
- 8th Prize** One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 9th Prize** One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 10th Prize** A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Bagels. Donated by Breadcraft.



\$5 per Ticket
Book of 5 for \$20



DEVOTUS



All proceeds go towards facilities for students at Rathkeale College.
Entries close 3.00pm on 07/11/2026. This raffle will be drawn under supervision on 08/11/2026 at Rathkeale College.
Winners will be notified and published. Prizes are not transferable and cannot be taken in cash.
Organiser: Sarah Summers, The Friends of Rathkeale College Incorporated, 217 Willow Park Drive, Masterton 5875.
Tel 06 370 0175. Limited to 5000 tickets numbered from 1000 to 6000.

Super prizes to be won!

\$20 for 5 tickets or \$5 a ticket.

Contact Rathkeale College to purchase.

06 370 0175 or office@rathkeale.school.nz



PIFA Holiday Programme in October.

Please see details below:

- 👉 7-15yo
- 👉 All abilities
- 👉 Mon 5 - Weds 7 Oct
- 👉 9am-12pm
- 👉 In association with Rathkeale College, Masterton
- 👉 Register [HERE](#)

Spaces are limited so please book in ASAP to secure your spot!

If you have any challenges with the sign up form, please email
paulifillfootballacademy@gmail.com



Stay 'Connected'
With our School App!

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

Ngā Manu presents

Zappo The Magical Chef!

Ngā Manu
Nature Reserve



**SCHOOL
HOLIDAY
FUN!**

Join Zappo The Magician as he whips up magical surprises alongside Pedro, his silly sidekick and sous chef, and Clarissa the talking cookbook.

- Tuesday 29 September 2026
- 11am
- \$6 per ticket

ngamanu.org.nz

74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road Waikanae

FYA LIVE

WEIR ROSE BOWL
FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

3 NIGHTS. 3 EXPERTS. REAL TOOLS FOR A STRONGER YOU.

FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS & COACHES



**ANNA
VEALE**
MENTAL PERFORMANCE COACH

**RESET &
GO AGAIN**

MONDAY
28 SEPTEMBER



**FRANCIS
DE VRIES**
NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL

**BECOMING THE
BEST PLAYER
YOU CAN BE**

TUESDAY
29 SEPTEMBER



**KATIE
SCHOFIELD**
REGISTERED NUTRITIONIST

**FUEL. RECOVER.
REPEAT.**

WEDNESDAY
30 SEPTEMBER



7 PM - 8 PM NZST



LIVE ONLINE



FREE TO JOIN

REGISTER HERE:

fuelingyouthathletes.com/live



FYA

FUELING
YOUTH
ATHLETES

&



WEIR ROSE
BOWL

THE GREAT KĀPITI Bird Rescue

Calling all local bird lovers, big and small!

Join the search to find Piki the Kererū and his friends.

Interactive science sessions and be in to win prizes!

MONDAY 5 - FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

10:30AM

11:10AM

11:50AM

Parents or appropriate adults are to remain present at all times.
Not suitable for 5 years and under due to small parts.



COBBLESTONES
WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE

10am - 3pm

\$5 per adult.
Children free



SPRING FAIR

Farm Animals - Entertainment

Food and Games

Saturday 3rd October

169 Main St, Greytown