

Principal's Message

TERM FOUR, WEEK ONE



Kia ora koutou

Welcome back as a community to Term 4.

I hope the break created opportunities to rest and relax and, for our seniors, some time usefully spent studying.

I said to Years 7 to 10 on Wednesday that we had toyed with not having Assembly because of the absence of the seniors... but then realised the importance of routine.

Looking in at ourselves as a school, we were reminded that one of the things that makes school feel like school **is routine**.

I shared with them that I like being spontaneous. Sometimes that is simply about what I wear each day... it's the possibilities I enjoy. But for me, routine also keeps my balance.

I do some things the same way every day because they keep me grounded. I'm sure I'm not alone in that.

Knowing certain things happen the same way, every time, creates predictability and, with that, a sense of safety.

So, we had Assembly on Wednesday. Routine.

Knowing today is a white shirt day. Routine.

Knowing that at 8.10 phones disappear, and if you are caught with yours after 8.10, **it also disappears**. Routine.

Knowing that at 8.30 Bell to Bell starts. Knowing lunch is at 1.00. Knowing that at Whānau time your phone returns.

Like it or not, there is something reassuring about predictability.

Each morning my alarm goes at 5.00. I growl. I get out of bed. And I make the bed before I do anything else.

Apparently, there are people who wake up cheerful and energetic at 5.00 in the morning. If that's you, please don't tell me. **I don't need that sort of negativity in my life.**

But I make the bed because it is routine.

And routines create certainty.

This week is Mental Health Week, with a theme of belonging, deeper connections and better mental health. At first, those things might seem a long way from making your bed or having Assembly on a Wednesday. But I think they are more connected than we realise.

Because belonging is partly about knowing where you fit. Knowing where you're meant to be. **Knowing there are people who would notice if you weren't there.**

So, as we move deeper into Term 4, I reminded our flock that they matter. They belong. **This is their place.**

Together, let's have a great term.

The term

Term 4 is both a winding up and a winding down. We wind up towards exams and celebrations, while gradually winding down towards Christmas and the summer break. The maths of all that is fairly simple: **it will be busy.**

One event not too far away is Book Character Day, where we will have the opportunity to **Look In** and dress as our favourite book characters. The day also invites us to **Look Out**, by providing new books to be donated to homes without them.

You may be asking, Kiri, we've had Look In and Look Out... what about Look Up?

Well, Advent is coming.

I think our Anglican calendar may have Look Up rather well covered.

I'd better start my Christmas list...

Have a great and safe weekend.

Ngā mihi





Boarding



What a great start to the final term of the year! Everyone has returned with their batteries recharged and ready to make the most of the weeks ahead. Hopefully we have also seen the end of the winter colds and sniffles!

The swimming pool is now open, so please encourage your daughter to remember her togs and sunblock. Swimming takes place after school and after prep on sunny days and is a great way for the girls to relax, have fun, and burn off some excess energy.

Our Year 11 girls have been completing their Derived Grade Examinations (DGEs) this week. These exams provide a valuable introduction to the NCEA examination environment. We aim to give the girls the best possible support and opportunities during their study time.

While on study leave in Main House, the girls were provided with clear study expectations to help them prepare. As expected, there have been mixed feelings about how the exams went.

This term we welcomed Lucy Gilbert from Wellington to Main House. Lucy is in Year 9 and first visited us late last term for an interview, followed by a sleepover in the boarding house to experience boarding life firsthand. She quickly formed friendships within her year group, and the girls have been wonderfully inclusive in welcoming her into the Main House community.



L-R: Molly Wrigley, Ilex Warin, Evie Dick, Lucy Gilbert, Tenley Richardson, Emily-Jane Edwards.

Year 10 girls enjoying a relaxing way to unwind before bedtime. Sarah, one of our day girls, is staying with us for the week while her parents are away. Boarding can be a flexible option for day students when needed, whether for family commitments, travel, or other circumstances. If this is something that may be of interest to your family, please contact Jo Booth to discuss the options available.



L-R: Sarah Kirkup, Georgie Didsbury, and Olivia Orsborn.



Sport

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

Expressions of Interest Sports Coaches & Managers for 2027

As we begin planning for the 2027 sporting year, St Matthew's Collegiate School is seeking expressions of interest from enthusiastic and committed individuals interested in coaching or managing our sports teams.

Sport plays a vital role in the St Matthew's experience, helping students develop confidence, teamwork, resilience and a lifelong love of participation. We are looking for people who are passionate about supporting young people and contributing to our vibrant sporting culture.

Whether you are an experienced coach, former player, parent, old girl, or community member, we would love to hear from you.

We are seeking expressions of interest across all sporting codes for:

- Coaches
- Team Managers

If you are interested, please email Rachel Shearing, Director of Sport, outlining your sporting and/or coaching experience and the sport(s) you would like to be involved with.

Email: rachel.shearing@stmatts.school.nz

Expressions of interest will remain open over the coming weeks as we begin planning for the 2027 season.

Thank you for considering how you might support our students to thrive both on and off the field. We look forward to hearing from you.



Our 1st XI Hockey team celebrated a fantastic season at their wind-up last night. Congratulations to all the players who received awards.

Solway Interschools Dressage



Nine St Matthew's riders enjoyed a successful day at the Solway Interschools Dressage, achieving some excellent individual results. Congratulations to Isla Blackwood (two 3rds and a 6th), Bella Wallace (3rd), Lucy Boderick (5th and 6th), and Izzie Martin (5th).

Our St Matthew's Green Team of Isla Blackwood, Bella Wallace, Lucy Boderick and Mackenzie Boderick finished 4th overall in the Intermediate Teams competition.

A huge thank you to Miss Goodsir for managing the team, Clarissa Wallace for coaching, Mangan Graphics and Tackshop.co.nz for the new saddle blankets, and Solway for hosting a fantastic event.

Around School



kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz

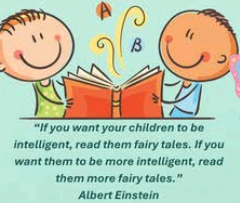
Book Character Day Monday 2 November

Kiwi Christmas Books Donation Drive

As part of our Book Character Day fundraiser on Thursday 29th October, we are collecting brand-new books to gift to children in need this Christmas through the Kiwi Christmas Books initiative.

We welcome picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction, especially by Kiwi authors and illustrators. To learn more about this wonderful organisation and the impact of your donation, please visit their website.

Donations close Friday 6 November, Please drop books to the School Library.
Thank you for helping us share the joy of reading this Christmas.



Mental Health Awareness Week

You don't have to have it all together to belong here. Belonging comes first. At St Matthew's, we believe every girl should know she is valued, supported, and not alone. From that foundation we grow, and through that growth we discover the confidence to shine. This Mental Health Awareness Week, let's be intentional about kindness, connection, and caring for our own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.

Connection helps us belong. Support helps us grow. Confidence helps us shine.

Mental Health Awareness Week 12-18 OCT | 2026

Health New Zealand
Te Whaiti Ora

maori tu, maori ora
Mental Health Foundation
of New Zealand

mhaw.nz

BELONGING Matters

Simple moments
Deeper connections
Better mental health

Library display for Mental Health Awareness week



Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

Salt and Light: Transforming Our World – Te Tote me te Māramatanga

In Junior Chapel this week we learned about how in Matthew 5:13–16, Jesus tells his followers, **“You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world.”** These are more than beautiful images; they are a call to action. Salt brings flavour and preserves, while light reveals what is hidden and helps people find their way. Jesus challenges us to live in ways that make a positive difference in the world around us.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

“Ko koutou te māramatanga o te ao. E kore e ngaro te pā e tū ana i runga i te maunga.”

— Matthew 5:14

As an Anglican kura Karaitiana, we are called not simply to talk about our Christian values, but to put them into practice. This connects with the Anglican Mark of Mission to transform. To whakawhiti i te ao—to help transform our world—means recognising injustice, speaking up when people are treated unfairly, and working towards a community where everyone is valued and included.

Jesus calls us to be people of manaakitanga (care and respect), ngākau pono (integrity) and whakauru i te katoa (inclusion). This means noticing those who feel left out, challenging bullying and discrimination and choosing peaceful ways to resolve conflict. It also means having the courage to Stand up for what is right, even when doing so is uncomfortable. **Integrity is doing what is right, not merely what is popular.**

Perhaps the challenge for us this week is to ask: Kei hea au e āhei ai ki te kawe i te māramatanga? Where can I bring light? How might I help make our school, our community and our world more just, peaceful and inclusive?

Kia tiaho tōu māramatanga! Let your light shine!



International Success for Sofia

Sofia Williams has been selected to represent New Zealand in Australia later this month before heading on to the Youth Olympics. To see her hard work, determination and talent recognised on the international stage is just amazing. Adding to her success, Sofia has also been featured in a UK television series after being spotted by an English sports journalist.

Sofia's story is the first featured in the episode!

We are so proud of all that Sofia has achieved and can't wait to cheer her on as she takes on the world. Congratulations, Sofia. Your St Matthew's whānau is behind you every step of the way! 💚 ✨



Acting Antics Holiday Production - The Map of Cheng I Sao

Last week students from St Matthews, Hadlow, Whareama, Opaki, St Pat's, Solway and Greytown schools attended Acting Antics holiday production at St Matthews School. They performed a rollicking pirate adventure called "The Map of Cheung I Sao" to a very appreciative enthusiastic large audience.

Acting Antics December production is from Wednesday 16 to Saturday 19 with the performance at 3pm on the Saturday.

Students will be performing "Santa's in the Can".

Register online at www.wairarapa.actingantics.com or contact Deborah Percy (Director) at deborah@actingantics.com



Current Policies under Review

Term 4 policies	Review open 12 October-13 November
• Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy	Board review
• Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement	Board review
• Learning Support	
• Māori Educational Achievement	
• Religious Instruction*/Religious Observances*	
• Health Curriculum	Board review
• Privacy Policy	Board review

*Not all schools have this policy

Mr Beach had the year 8 students swinging from the trees yesterday during a lesson about teamwork, problem solving and perseverance. Well done to all students for their involvement and Mr. Beach for his efforts.



Year 8 PE



Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust – Requesting your assistance with a Residents Survey

The Wairarapa Five Towns Trail Trust was formed in 2024 to work alongside community groups, councils, landowners and iwi to create a network of recreational trails linking Featherston, Martinborough, Greytown, Carterton and Masterton.

Angus & Associates is conducting a brief survey on our behalf to understand how Wairarapa residents use, or might use, existing trails and proposed new routes.

Community feedback is vital in shaping a network that serves our communities and connects us to the landscapes and culture of the Wairarapa. You can assist by completing the brief survey by 1 November - see angusassociates.co.nz/five-towns-trail-resident-survey.

If you have any questions about the Trust, please email info@fivetownstrail.co.nz. A copy of Angus & Associates' Privacy Policy can be found [Privacy policy](#) | [Angus and Associates](#).

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>

The St Matthew's second-hand uniform shop will close in February 2027

The process of winding down the shop starts now.

IMPORTANT: If you need a senior skirt or winter uniform for next year, please come to the second-hand shop as soon as possible to try on and buy.

Currently there is a fairly good selection of second-hand uniform, but that stock will diminish quickly with no further uniform being accepted for sale.

Tracksuits: Second-hand tracksuits for sale at the uniform shop have now been heavily discounted as the new tracksuit with the standardised green has arrived at NZ Uniforms.

Shop hours during term four: Thursdays 1pm-4pm. The shop will then be closed for the summer break, re-opening the week starting 26th January; days and hours will be posted on the school App.



Key Dates:

Friday 23 October - Yr7 / 8 Orientation Day
Monday 26 October - Labour Day
Tuesday 27 October - TEACHER ONLY DAY
Wednesday 28 October - Yr10 Social Studies Trip
Friday 30 October - Yr9 Orientation Day
Saturday 31 October - Bronze Duke of Ed Qualifying Journey
Thursday 5 November - Senior College Prizegiving
Tuesday 10 November - NZQA Exams Start
Thursday 12 November - Scots College Primary Fixture

2026 Term Dates

Term Four - Monday 12th October to Saturday 5 December

2027 Term Dates

Term One- Monday 1 February to Friday 9 April

Term Two - Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July

Term Three - Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

Term Four - Monday 11 October to Saturday 4 December





THE FRIENDS OF RATHKEALE COLLEGE

Donate Designer Clothing & Make a Difference!

We are looking for donations of designer and brand-name clothing for our pre-loved charity clothing stall at the upcoming Rathkeale Christmas Fete.

Help us turn high fashion into high impact! All proceeds go directly to the Friends of Rathkeale to support student resources.

We are collecting: (clean and in great condition)

- Adult and teen clothing
- Designer handbags and shoes
- Popular labels

Please only donate items in **great condition**, just one or two quality items would be greatly appreciated.

Donation Drop-Off:

Please drop any donations into either the Rathkeale or St Matthews school office during October.

Thank you for your support!

*"Ma tui, mā mano, ka rapa te whai
Many hands make light work"*



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.

All proceeds go towards facilities for students at Rathkeale College.
Entries close 3.00pm on 01/11/2026. This raffle will be drawn under supervision on 09/11/2026 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 1001 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



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



DEVOTUS



BOOK NOW AT
www.wairarapaec.co.nz

GERALDINE INDER SCHOOL
OF DANCE & DRAMA PRESENTS

Goldilocks AND THE Three Bears

TE HUINGA TĀNGATA WAIRARAPA EVENTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER - 4.00PM
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER - 4.00PM
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER - 6.00PM

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 WAIRARAPA A&P SHOW

31 OCT - 1 NOV 2026

SAT & SUN 9am-4pm
CHESTER ROAD, CARTERTON

TICKETS: GATE SALE OR EVENTSBRITE.CO.NZ
ADULT \$10 OVER 65'S \$5 CHILDREN \$5 UNDER 5'S FREE
FAMILY \$20 (2 adults & 2 children)

FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY - FREE ENTRY
5PM UNTIL LATE. CARNIVAL AREA ONLY
Scavenger Hunt | Wood Chopping | Lawn Mower Racing | Trade Exhibitors | Animals
Carnival Rides & Amusements | Equestrian
Goldilocks Port Corner | Fencing | Shearing

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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HALLOWEEN AT NGĀ TŌTARA DOJO

31ST OCTOBER

205 NGAUMUTAWA ROAD,
MASTERTON

PARKING ON ROADSIDE OR
MAKE IT PART OF YOUR
TRICK OR TREAT WALK

LITTLE SPOOKERS
(5:00PM - 6:30PM)
SPOOKY-FUN,
NOT SCARY

BIG FRIGHTS
(7:00PM - 9:00PM)
ENTER IF YOU DARE
SOMETHING SINISTER
IS LURKING IN THE
SHADOWS...
AND THE BUTCHER
IS ON THE HUNT!

\$5 ENTRY INCL. LOLLY BAG

SAUSAGES \$2

COLD DRINKS \$2

BLOODY SHERBET BAGS "BUTCHER'S SNACK BAR"

**FUNDRAISING FOR OUR
OKINAWA KARATE TRIP
APRIL 2027**
SUPPORTING
MASTERTON GOJU RYU KARATE

FRIGHT NIGHT

AT THE
MUSEUM

8.00PM SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

TICKETS \$20.00 AT **eventfinda** R12+

COBBLESTONES
WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE
169 Main St, Greytown 5712

Thank Teacher

and help a Kiwi kid

Create a thank you card for a teacher who's made a difference!

For each card, we'll donate \$2 to The Salvation Army, up to \$50,000, to support Kiwi kids who need a hand with school essentials and supplies.

warehouse stationery

THE SALVATION ARMY
Te Ope Whakaora

Conditions apply. Runs 5 October - 1 November 2026. Maximum donation of \$50,000. Visit www.warehousestationery.co.nz/thank-a-teacher for full terms.

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!

63 Manaia Road

Contact: 0800 727 924

www.pw.org.nz

Wairarapa Cricket 2026-27 PLAYER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are seeking expressions of interest from players keen to be involved in the below teams.

Please note that these age groups are based upon the players 2026 school year

- Year 6 Boys
- Year 7 Boys
- Year 8 Boys
- Year 9 Boys
- Year 10 Boys
- Year 11+12 Boys
- Year 7+8 Girls
- Year 9+10 Girls
- Year 11-13 Girls

PLEASE FILL IN THE
GOOGLE FORM LINK



Wairarapa

Spitfires

2026/27
SEASON

BASEBALL CLUB



NEW SEASON
REGISTRATIONS OPEN IN
SEPTEMBER!
Pre-season training starting soon!

Pre-Christmas Season
October 22nd - December 12th

Post-Christmas Season
TBA (Usually Feb-Apr)

OPEN DAY
Kuranui
College Field
Saturday
October 17
10-12PM



ROOKIE BALL - Ages 5 to 8
MAJORS 10 & 12U DEVELOPMENT - Ages 9 - 12
MAJORS 14U & 16U DEVELOPMENT - Ages 13+
12U/14U/16U TRAVEL TEAMS

More info: www.sporty.co.nz/spitfiresbaseball

HELP SHAPE WHAT'S NEXT

Wairarapa Spaces & Places Organisation Workshops

Help shape the Wairarapa Spaces and Places Network Plan.
Hear early survey findings, share local needs and help identify future priorities for play, active recreation and sport.
All organisations welcome — whether or not you completed the survey.



MASTERTON

Tuesday 27 October 2026 | 5.30pm
Rangitumau Room, REAP House
340 Queen Street, Masterton



SOUTH WAIRARAPA

Wednesday 28 October 2026 | 12.30pm
WBS Room, Greytown Town Centre
89 Main Street, Greytown



CARTERTON

Wednesday 28 October 2026 | 5.30pm
Te Huinga Tāngata – Wairarapa Events Centre

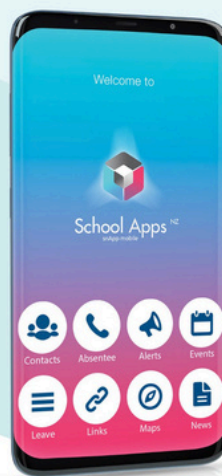
Choose whichever workshop suits you — you only need to attend one.
To RSVP, reply to your invitation with your chosen workshop and organisation.



An active
Wellington region

Don't miss a thing this spring!

One app. All our school news

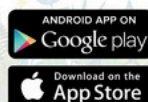


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information.

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Contacts, School
Events, Daily
Notices. Plus Much
More!

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'SchoolAppsNZ' & choose our school once installed.



School Apps NZ
snApp mobile