
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	October 2026	
--	---------------------	--

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to Term 4!

Everyone has come back looking refreshed and ready to go for a busy last term. Term 4 will be typically busy with much to look forward to.

As usual there are many excellent achievements to celebrate.

Well done to our Year 9 students for excellent co-req results with a 94% pass rate. Great work!

NZ Curling Champions

Congratulations to Jonty, Indi, Jake and Axel for their tremendous achievement winning the NZ Secondary School Curling Championships during the holidays. The team went through undefeated and won a very tight final. Great work team!

Attendance

It has been impressive to see the excellent attendance rates over the last term. Even with a particularly nasty flu season we still managed to have 85% of students attend over 80% of the term.

Let's keep up this good work right through to the end of this term!

Assessment and exams

Exam time is coming up. We have been talking with senior students about good study habits and how to manage time to ensure that they are well prepared for exam time. Having a study plan is really important. Please support and encourage your child to have a plan that works for them.

Kapa haka

Our kapahaka performed Polyfest in Queenstown this week. A big thank you to Whaea Amie and Whaea Leona for their leadership and commitment to the group this year.

Ngā mihi ki a korua mō tāu mahi whakamiharo!

As always, please contact me if I can help in any way.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Andy Hunter - Acting Principal



New Zealand
Education
Excellence
Awards

Ngā Tohu
Kairangi
Mātauranga
o Aotearoa

Winner

Excellence in Student Engagement & Attendance

2026



Maniototo Area School

Sargeson Short Story Success

A huge congratulations to Year 12 student Nadia Tan, who has been awarded Second Prize in the Secondary Schools Division of the prestigious Sargeson Prize, New Zealand's largest short story competition.

Sponsored by the University of Waikato, the Sargeson Prize attracts talented young writers from across the country. Nadia's award-winning story, *In My/Our Bedroom*, earned high praise from this year's judge, acclaimed author Becky Manawatu (Auē and Kataraina), who commended the story's vulnerability and heartfelt exploration of family relationships. She described Nadia's writing as elegant and relatable, allowing readers to connect deeply with the protagonist.

Along with a prize of \$1,000, Nadia has gained national recognition as an emerging young writer. Her story, *In My/Our Bedroom*, has been published on the Sargeson Prize website, providing a wonderful opportunity for a wider audience to experience her work.

Following her success, Nadia spoke with her English teacher, Mrs Sillibourne, about her writing journey.

Nadia said she was encouraged to enter the competition after learning about it through her English teacher. Although she had written very few short stories previously, she decided to give it a go and was delighted by the outcome.

Her passion for writing has grown from a lifelong love of reading, as well as the creative writing games she enjoyed with her family when she was younger. When it came time to choose a topic for her story, Nadia drew on a deeply personal experience. Inspired by her close relationship with her brother, who had recently moved out of home, she was able to write with both authenticity and emotion.

Like all great writing, *In My/Our Bedroom* went through several drafts. Nadia credits her family and teachers for providing valuable feedback and helping her refine the story into its final form.

Reflecting on the award, Nadia described the result as a huge surprise and said it has inspired her to continue exploring short story writing and entering future competitions. She also sees the recognition as a valuable stepping stone should she decide to pursue publishing in the future.

Nadia has some wise advice for aspiring young writers: write because you love it, not for recognition. She encourages young authors to seek feedback, continue developing their craft, and write wholeheartedly regardless of the outcome of any competition.

We are incredibly proud of Nadia's achievement. Her success is a testament to her talent, dedication, and willingness to challenge herself, and we look forward to seeing where her writing journey takes her next.



Maniototo Area School

Science Academy

The Science Department is proud to celebrate a significant achievement for two of our Year 12 students, Elle-Mae Lunam and Madi Hawkes, who have been selected to participate in the University of Otago Science Academy in 2027.

This is a remarkable accomplishment, not only for Elle-Mae and Madi, but also for Maniototo Area School, as it is the first time that two MAS students have been selected for the programme in the same year.

The Science Academy is a highly regarded initiative that attracts applications from students across New Zealand, with places offered to a limited number of successful candidates. Participants have the opportunity to experience university life firsthand through residential stays in the University's halls of residence, attendance at science lectures, and involvement in practical laboratory sessions.

The programme will provide Elle-Mae and Madi with an invaluable opportunity to further develop their scientific knowledge, explore future study pathways, and gain a deeper understanding of tertiary education. Their selection is a testament to their hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm for science, and will be a valuable addition to their academic portfolios as they consider future study options.

We warmly congratulate Elle-Mae and Madi on this outstanding achievement and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they take part in the Science Academy next year.



School Photo order forms

Personalised order forms have been sent home with students.

Scan the QR code to place your order.

Get your order completed by **12th November** to get FREE shipping to school.

Maniototo Area School

Polyfest 2026



Our Te Ao Haka group traveled to Tahuna to take part in Miharo Polyfest. A huge thank you to Whaea Amie and Whaea Leona for all their work with our group.

Photo credit: Jaffe Santos



Maniototo Area School

Prizegiving Sponsorships

Please hand scholarship application forms into the school office by 1st November.

Hadlee Trust: For Students from Year 7 and above who excel in their chosen field of endeavour
(Sporting Cultural or Academic)

Maniototo RSA, Maniototo Lions & Centennial Trust: For school leavers

Application forms can be found on the school website: <https://www.maniototo.school.nz/prizegiving>

End of Year Information

The last day for Year 11-13 students, before they go on Exam leave is Thursday 5th November

Secondary Prizegiving (Yr 9-13) will be held at the Ranfurly Town Hall on Wednesday 9th December
commencing at **7pm**

Primary Prizegiving (Yrs 0-8) will be held at the Ranfurly Town Hall on Thursday 10th December
commencing at **12 noon**. Students are welcome to go home with their parent/caregiver at the
conclusion of the Prizegiving.

The final day for school is Friday 11th December, closing at 12.30pm.

Term Dates

Term 1

Monday 1st February - Friday 9 April 2027

Public holidays: Waitangi Day observed - Monday 8 February

Otago Anniversary Day - Monday 22 March

Easter: Good Friday – 26 March, Easter Monday – 29 March, Easter Tuesday – 30 March

Term 2

Tuesday 27 April - Friday 2 July 2027

Public holidays: King's Birthday – Monday 7 June

Matariki – Friday 25 June

Term 3

Monday 19 July - Friday 24 September 2027

Term 4

Monday 11 October - Tuesday 14 December 2027

Public holiday: Labour Day – Monday 25 October

Maniototo Area School

Term 3 Values Awards 2026



At the end of Term 3 we celebrated students who embody our value of “Someone Who Tries to Make a Difference.” These students were recognised for the positive impact they have on others through their kindness, determination, leadership, encouragement, and service to both our school and wider community.

Congratulations to Brynley, Nevaeh, Ronnie, Blake, Maddie, Chenny, Richard, Jr, Finn, Antonia, Katelyn (absent from photo), Madi and Nadia. We are proud of the way you lead by example and make a positive difference every day. Well done!

Year 7 & 8 Camp Fun



Healthcare

We would like to make families aware that there have been cases of chickenpox and impetigo (school sores) reported in our community.



Please keep an eye out for symptoms and seek medical advice if you are concerned your child may be affected. Chickenpox typically presents as an itchy rash with red spots and blisters, while impetigo often appears as red sores or blisters that can become crusty.

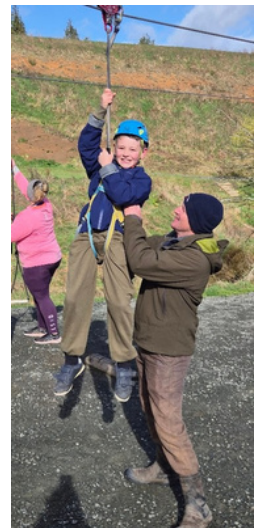
To help prevent the spread of infection, please keep children at home if they are unwell and follow your healthcare provider's advice regarding when they can return to school.

Maniototo Area School

Camp Columba

The Year 7 and 8 students had a fabulous three days down at Camp Columba in Southland from the 22nd to the 24th of September. Spring rain and even a light dusting of snow on the second morning didn't deter this hardy bunch from donning wetsuits in order to build rafts and go kayaking. These were just some of the many activities that were on offer. Abseiling, high ropes, low ropes, archery, bush craft and an activity called the Flying Kiwi, as well as a newly built flying fox, ensured our days were action packed. The evenings were spent building towers made from pasta, playing Bingo and Spotlight. As usual, the catered food option was exceptional, with brownie, donuts and icecream for pudding.

An amazing group to take on camp, the instructors were very complimentary about the students' can-do attitudes, and the support and encouragement they gave each other. Thank you to Miss Lucia Dowling for accompanying us on camp, along with our parents: Sarah Paterson, Simon Hore, Kyle Hagen, Kirsty Sloan, Sal Byrne, Sam Mulholland and Hamish Wade. We would be lost without our helpers, and appreciate you being with us on camp. Thank you.



MĀNIATOTO RŌPU

Te kāhui o Māniatoto

After a successful first gathering, the wider community has once again indicated its need for more te ao Māori locally.

So, we're starting with a couple of get togethers:

Arts Centre, Reade Street, Ranfurly
Sundays - NOV 8th & 29th from 3-7pm

Nau mai, haere mai. All welcome, all ages.
You do not need to whakapapa Māori to come along.
Share food and music. Please bring protein and salad.
BBQ available as well as use of the Arts Centre facilities.
Bring good vibes and a gold coin koha.
Mauri ora!

Maniototo Area School

Curlers Complete Clean Sweep at Nationals

Congratulations to Jonty Russell, Jake McMillan, Axel McAuley and Indianna Hepi, who won the 2026 New Zealand Secondary Schools Curling Cup with an undefeated record. Their national title follows another undefeated campaign at the Otago Invitational tournament earlier this year.

Competing on home ice at the Maniototo Adventure Park in Naseby, the team produced a series of strong performances to claim the championship.

The team extends its thanks to the Maniototo Adventure Park, umpire Pete Becker, ice makers Nelson Ede and Chris Steele, coaches, supporters, volunteers, and the J.E. Mulholland Memorial Curling Trust for their support with travel, entry fees, and equipment.

This national title is an outstanding achievement for the team and a proud moment for both Maniototo Area School and the wider Maniototo community.

Congratulations to Axel, Jonty, Indianna and Jake on their national championship success.



Junior School Athletics

Excitement is building as we prepare for our 99th Maniototo Primary Schools Sports Association Athletics Day on Friday 6 November. Students are currently practicing hard in their PE classes to get ready for the big day. Please check the email sent from the school office last week for all the details and timings.

Junior Volleyball

This term, we have two teams competing in the Central Otago competition, supported by two of our strong senior players, Jacob Mayo and Trisha Buragay, who have stepped up into coaching roles. Both teams play their first home games this Thursday in the school gym at 5pm and 6pm. Come along and support them!

Sports Council

We are excited to announce the establishment of our Sports Council, led by Chairperson Logan Dowling. Made up of staff, parents, and community volunteers, the council was set up to boost sport and active play across our entire school. Our goal is to make running sports easier, support our coaches and helpers, and make sure every student - from our youngest kids to our seniors - has access to gear, teams, and fun activities.

Our "why" is simple: we want sport to bring our school community together and be something every student can enjoy. We believe that playing sports should be inclusive, affordable, and welcoming to everyone. **Geraldine Duncan - Sports Coordinator**

MANIOTOTO AREA SCHOOL
COMMUNITY EVENT

SOCIAL TOUCH

Get Active
Have Fun
Be Part of It

A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY HOSTED BY
MANIOTOTO AREA SCHOOL

LOCATION
MAS Fields

DATES
Wednesday 18th, 25th November,
2nd, 9th, 16th December

GAME START
from 6pm onwards

ENTRY FEE
\$120
(helpful if you could provide
your own ref)

Contact Geraldine Duncan
at jnrsports@maniototo.school.nz
for an entry form or text on 0273272408

All welcome - players, friends, whānau!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL | BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Maniototo Area School

Maniototo Swim Squad 26-27 Season

When: Mondays (Swim squad starts on Monday 23rd November)

Where: Ranfurly swimming pool

Who: Students are eligible to attend swim squad if: they can swim at least one length of the Ranfurly pool, they can float and they feel comfortable in the water.

What: These sessions are for students to improve their swimming technique and improve their swimming fitness; they are NOT learning to swim lessons.

Cost: \$70

Swimming block one: Monday 23rd November until Monday 14th December.
Swimming block two: Will begin when term 1 2027 starts and will finish late March/early April (depending on when the pool closes for the season).

Please contact Gabby Love on 027 724 0786 if your child/children are interested in joining swim squad for this season.



**Maniototo Junior
TENNIS CLUB**
Lessons with Jim Hoffman
Learn • Improve • Have Fun
Ages 5 – 13 years old

When?
Starting Wednesday, the 11th of November
Each week through to Wednesday, the 2nd of December.

Lesson Time
30 minutes long,
starting at 3:10 pm.

Location
St John's School Turf.

Limited Spaces!
Per group, so first come, first served,
with full payment of **\$45** per child.

To book a place and for payment details
Email Kate Dowling at dowlingk@maniototo.school.nz
or **0274036433**
to secure a place and for payment details.



Important Dates

- 29 October - PTA Meeting 7pm in Whanau Room
- 3 November - Ki o Rahi tournament
- 6 November - Maniototo Primary Schools Athletics
- 10 November - Central Otago Ki o Rahi Tournament
- 12 November - Primary Pet Day
- 13 November - Teacher Only Day (**School is Closed**)
- 17 November - Otago Primary Athletics
- 1-4 December Year 9 & 10 Camps
- 9 December - Secondary School Prizegiving
- 10 December - Primary Prizegiving



Unifone

Your Local Internet Provider
0800 894 114
unifone.nz

Maniototo Area School



PTA Christmas Hamper Raffle

Our PTA Christmas Hamper Raffle is now underway, and students will begin bringing their class raffle cards home this week.

To help create our wonderful Christmas hampers, we are asking each family to donate 2-3 grocery items. Donations can be given directly to your child's classroom teacher and will be used to make up the raffle hampers.

Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of our PTA fundraising efforts. Your contributions help strengthen our school community and support valuable opportunities for our students.

Save the Date

Maniototo Area School Pet Day

12 November 2026

