

Maniototo Area School

NEWSLETTER: 28 May 2021

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

The BIG news for this newsletter has got to be the handing over to the school of our new Technology Block. We are hoping to begin using the new rooms from Tuesday 8 June 2021. Then on Friday 11 June 2021, we are planning a brief 'opening' ceremony at 2:15 pm. All are welcome to attend. Following the ceremony, parents, caregivers, students and members of our community are welcome to walk through the block and see the new facility.

Do read about our Area Schools Tournament successes in this newsletter. Without sounding biased in any way, I would like to mention that our students were by far the most well-mannered and polite group by far. We are so proud of them.

Our best wishes go with our Ripa teams and to their coaches, for the tournament in Dunedin. Some of our Yr. 8 students will be heading to Dunedin for the Young Leaders Day too.

Our Policy on 'Reporting to Parents on Student Progress and Achievement' is up for review this term. Please have a read through and send us any suggestions you may have. A Policy Review Form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Finally, I must acknowledge Robbie Dobson who has so generously offered to help out as our Hard Materials Technology teacher this term. We are thrilled to have him on our team.

Nga mihi nui, Joe Ferdinands



SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING

**THURSDAY JUNE 24TH 7PM - 8PM
IN THE NEW TECHNOLOGY HUB**

We invite all students and parents interested in choosing MAS for their Secondary education to our Information Evening. Come along and find out what Secondary education is like at MAS and also take the opportunity to talk to teachers to find out more about individual subjects.

We look forward to seeing you!

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SOUTHERN AREA SCHOOL'S TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 19 May brought the beginning of the Southern Area Schools Tournament, which this year, was hosted by Roxburgh Area School.

Our small but highly committed team loaded into vans and journeyed to our destination, full of excitement (and a touch of nervousness), but ready to take on the next three days of competition and comradery.

After the warm welcoming, competition began ... in the form of items performed by each school. The following two days would see immense competition across numerous sports, some of which would result in Tournament Team selection for a number of MAS students. A highlight of the three days would have to be the social held on Thursday evening; this helped forge more friendships and great memories.

For us as Sport Leaders, seeing our whole team show all the PRIDE values made us particularly proud of who we are and where we come from.

Thank you to our great team of students, ALL of the teachers that provided support in some way, and also to our awesome hosts at the Commercial Backpackers who made our stay memorable.

The following students deserve special mention: Abby, Harmony, Jasmine, Reef, Hope, Kass & Jeremy for making selection for the Tournament Squad heading to Dunedin for Nationals in July and to Abby Ferdinands & Jake Smith for deservingly being awarded Fair Play awards.

Well done to these people, and to the whole team for making MAS proud!

Tayla & Zoe (Sports Leaders 2021)

SELECTIONS

- Jasmine Balloch - Netball A & Basketball
- Harmony Devitt - Netball A & Volleyball
- Reef Becker - Netball B & Basketball
- Abby Ferdinands - Netball B & Ki O Rahi
- Hope Devitt - Volleyball & Ki O Rahi
- Jeremy Dumapis - Volleyball
- Cassidy Pont - Volleyball & Football



HOCKEY

Our Maniototo school team has made top 6 of B grade this season after two wins in the grading games. We look forward to some tough competition to follow!

A huge thank you to Food Stuffs South Island Community Trust and Maniototo Four Square for the grant of \$1079 for new uniforms and balls. This is very exciting and greatly appreciated!

(Team Photo: Samantha is missing & Case is obscured)



Writing Corner

Charlotte Gregan, Year 12, Maniototo Area School



GREED

Hooves scuffed rough stones and dried dirt, leaving behind a solitary trail of prints on the path. A clear sign to any traveller that a shod horse had passed this way. It was an old blue roan stallion, ridden by fortune-seeking miner. The pair were on their way back to town for a good week's rest, the white-bearded miner having found nothing at their last campsite by the river, where he'd panned for gold.

The trail taken by man and horse was a risky one, as the high-country hills of this area of New Zealand were frequented by thieves looking to steal the valuable stones the miners brought home with them. And if they had no stones of worth, the robbers were apt to run off with something else—like their horses.

The old miner settled down for the night on the shore of a lake, hidden up in the tops of the hills, and, after a small meal, had promptly fallen asleep in his little makeshift tent. Leaving the blue roan to wander as he pleased.

A trained horse, the roan found it best to stay close to the tent. He stood near the warm, smouldering branches of the fire as a cold wind swept across the lake, stirring up small waves that rattled the pebbles on the shore. Darkness had fallen long ago, but for the blue tonight was not a good night to sleep. He drifted in and out of slumber, watching the rippling water until he could close his eyes again.

At one point, when he was awake, and the clouds had cleared enough for the moon's rays to shine on the lake, the roan discovered that they were not alone.

Slinking near the shore like a ferret was a man. A thief.

"You're a beauty, aren't you?" the thief cooed. "Worth a bit by the looks of that coat."

The blue roan felt something shift beside him: another stallion, with a gleaming black coat and long sweeping mane.

The black stallion nickered softly and trotted closer to the strange man, allowing him to pat its neck and stroke its soft nose. "Such a beauty," the thief repeated. "My beauty now."

The man scrambled onto the stallion's back, the strange horse waiting patiently, its head down, only lifting its head again when the thief tugged its mane, trying to steer it away from the camp.

But the black horse ignored his commands, and instead approached the blue roan, bringing its nose close. The blue roan recoiled at the foul stench reeking from the black stallion's mouth. Smelling blood, he gave a shrill neigh.

The cry broke the quiet and, with a roar, the black stallion took off, streaking along the shoreline, kicking up pebbles in its wake.

"Woah!" the thief cried. "Woah!"

(continued on the next page)

The stallion paid him no heed, skidding to a halt, pivoting, and racing back. Then it bucked and thrash wildly, prompting screams from the man on his back.

Hearing the commotion, the old miner came out of his tent. To the human, the horse might have appeared to be making a desperate attempt to throw the man off, but in the eyes of the blue roan, it was a game.

The black stallion whinnied in cruel enjoyment as it jumped and kicked and spun. The thief screamed in fear as the horse danced on the shore, his shouts growing louder and more frantic as he tried to wrench himself from the horse’s back—to no avail.

The stallion’s mane was terrifying. It moved like striking snakes, wrapping around the man’s limbs and torso, and creeping up his neck and face. Tangling its prey in a web of black locks. When the man’s thrashing grew less frequent, the stallion’s attitude changed, becoming a proud, dignified beast once again. For it had captured an animal’s most dangerous enemy: man.

The black stallion took a final glance back at the old miner and the blue roan before galloping into the waves.

The thief begged for rescue.

Yet neither man nor horse moved, transfixed by the sight of the horse as it ploughed deeper into the water. Further and further the black stallion swam, until finally, it arched its head and neck and dived beneath the surface, the man entangled in its mane going down with it.

The old miner blinked, then blinked again.

Reaching up a trembling hand, he rubbed the blue roan’s nose. “I can’t believe we just saw that, old fella,” he croaked. “A kelpie, living here in this lake. And here, I’d thought they only lived in the old countries. We were very lucky, weren’t we? Very lucky, indeed. Had that thief not been here to steal you, the monster probably would have taken me instead.”

He forced a small smile.

“In a way, that kelpie did help us, though. Without its intervention, that greedy thief would likely have made off with you. But I’m not going to stick around ‘till it shows its handsome face again. Let’s move on.”

The blue roan nickered softly, waiting for the wild black stallion to come up for air and join them back on the shore.

The ripples on the lake stilled. The monster had gone.

Charlotte Gregan (Year 12)

YOUNG NZ WRITERS' 2021 NATIONAL SECONDARY WRITING COMPETITION

Charlotte’s story (Greed) has been shortlisted into the finals of the Young NZ Writers' 2021 Secondary School writing competition. Congratulations Charlotte, this is an outstanding achievement!

What makes this even more special for Charlotte is that this is the second year in a row that she has been selected as a finalist!

The Judge’s summary:

A cautionary tale set in the New Zealand southern gold fields, where a thief attempts to steal a miner’s horse, only to be captured by a mythical kelpie. Great mix of New Zealand context and with selkie mythology. Some lovely imagery. Overall, an engaging and entertaining piece imbued with a wonderful sense of place.

Well done.

UNIFONE is proud to support Maniototo Area School
 Unifone’s high speed wireless broadband services extend across Otago and now include The Maniototo.

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MUSIC

Last term the Year 9 and 10 students learned to play the guitar and they were introduced to a Theory programme as well as completing a study on artists. This term the students are learning how to play keyboard. They are also learning theory through NZ Modern School of Music, soon we will have five students sitting their Grade One Theory Exam. Some students have already completed Grade One and have moved onto Grade Two.

Thank you to those people who have loaned their keyboards for the students to use.



COUNTRY COACHING

BASKETBALL

Earlier this term, we had a visit from Isiah Moss from the Otago Nuggets. He ran a coaching session at the school for our secondary pupils.

This was a great opportunity for our students to upskill their dribbling, passing and shooting techniques.



HOCKEY

Ethan from North Otago Hockey came to school recently to provide hockey coaching for all the primary classes. He taught the students how to dribble and pass the ball and they played lots of fun games during the coaching sessions.

We are lucky to have Ethan coming back for 3 more coaching sessions.



PINK SHIRT DAY

The student council organised a successful mufti day last Friday to celebrate Pink Shirt Day. The school raised a total of \$161.80 was raised for The Mental Health Foundation.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Maniototo Area School is looking for an Executive Officer. The successful candidate will be a reliable, well organised, collegial person with excellent financial, communication and IT skills. Knowledge of school systems is preferred. Familiarity with Xero will be an added advantage. The working hours are 28 hours a week (4 days a week) during school term-time, starting 26 July 2021.

A job description and application form are available on the school website.

CHEQUES

Due to Westpac going cheque-free we can no longer accept cheques as a method of payment.

Payments can be made by cash or by online banking to our school bank account number 03-0951-0081459-00. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

PRIMARY CLASSES SPEECH/POEM COMPETITION SCHEDULE

<u>Wednesday 2nd June</u>	8.45am-10.15am	Year 6	in Kakariki Room
	10.15am	Year 7	in Room 16
	1.45pm	Year 5	in Kahurangi Room
<u>Thursday 3rd June</u>	8.50am	Year 8	in Room 16
	8.50am	Year 4	in Whero Room
	9.45am	Year 3	in Whero Room

LIFE EDUCATION TRUST

Pip and Harold from Life Education Trust visited us for three days, working with students from Years 1-10. Students all loved going into the specially designed trailer to meet Harold, learning about keeping their bodies healthy and being a good friend.

The older students learnt about the importance of making good choices and health advice about substances.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT MANIOTOTO AREA SCHOOL

31 May	NYLD Dunedin (Year 8) & Ripa Otago Champs
1 June	YES Pitch Day (Dunedin)
2-3 June	Primary class speeches
4 June	Debating Competition Year 9/10 (Cromwell)
7 June	Queen's Birthday—SCHOOL IS CLOSED
10 June	Combined Primary Schools Speech Competition @ Ranfurly Town Hall
11 June	Technology Block—Proposed Opening Ceremony 2.15pm. All welcome.
15 June	Primary Assembly 2pm
21-23 June	NCEA pre mock exams
24 June	Open Day/Open Night 7pm-8pm (Note: change of date)

Reporting to Parents on Student Progress and Achievement

Maniototo Area School adequately and appropriately records and reports on student achievement by:

- keeping records of student achievement (systems allow for monitoring of student progress at both a course and qualification level)
- informing students and caregivers on progress and final achievement via school reports and interviews
- reporting appropriately and regularly to the school community on the overall achievement of students and groups of students via the newsletter
- collecting and storing information on extra-curricular achievements on the student management system (year level and homeroom teachers are responsible for maintaining information on student co-curricular achievement)
- managing information in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982
- submitting accurate, timely student achievement to NZQA.

Procedures

Maniototo Area School uses an electronic reporting system.

- Student achievement of standards is transferred to the NZQA database, accurately, regularly, and only in relation to the scope of our accreditation.
- Procedures for reporting and sorting curricular achievements are outlined in the Assessment Statement.
- Student achievement information is archived securely.
- All written reports are checked and monitored by senior management.
- Report forms clearly indicate NQF achievements.
- Any appeals on report comments are referred to the class teacher in the first instance.
- High achievement in extra-curricular activities is recognised by the Maniototo Area School Sporting and Cultural (Hadlee) Trust Awards, which are presented annually after nomination and approval by the Hadlee Trust Committee.
- Academic awards and scholarship attainment are awarded for general and subject excellence.
- School prizegiving and assemblies recognize high achievement in a wide range of school activities.

Evaluation

- The principal is responsible for evaluating policies and procedures for formal reporting. We review our process annually, and as issues arise.
- The principal evaluates the procedures for awarding Hadlee Trust Awards.
- The delegated senior management team is responsible for evaluating the procedures for prizegiving.
- Any changes resulting from the evaluation process are communicated before the next reporting cycle.

POLICY REVIEW FORM

Your Name (optional)

Policy Name

Rate the **content** of this policy (1 = poor, 5 = excellent):

1 2 3 4 5

Your feedback about the content of this policy

Rate the **implementation** of this policy (1 = poor, 5 = excellent):

1 2 3 4 5

Your feedback about the implementation of this policy

Thank you for your input. Please deliver this form to the school office.

Office use only

Go to your SchoolDocs website, search for the named policy, and click Policy Review to enter the details from this form.

Entered by

Date / /