
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	MARCH 2025	
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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thanks to all families who attended our family evening on the 4th March. It was important to have the opportunity to speak about key changes in education especially regarding the corequisites, the new structured maths approach and attendance. I do encourage those who were unable to attend to read the information on the STAR attendance plan contained in this newsletter.

One of our goals in 2025 is to work on building a stronger reading culture within the school. Reading is one of the best things a child can do to lift their achievement across the curriculum. Children who read widely and frequently are better writers, they are able to access key information with ease and they are more critical and reflective in their thought processes. This year we have set independent reading times across both the primary and secondary school. We are also holding a Book week in the second to last week of term, commencing on 31 March to celebrate books, writers and literature. There will be plenty of quizzes and activities during lunchtimes, and we will have some special guests coming to school each day to read books to classes. The week will end in a dress up day where students can dress up as their favourite book character.

You can support this initiative by encouraging reading time at home, modelling reading and talking about your favourite books. Maybe it would be a good week for less tv/device time and more time with a book in hand. There are worse ways to spend time!

Thanks for your ongoing support of school.

Melissa Bell
Principal



Maniototo Area School

WELCOME

Kia ora, my name is Anna Sillibourne, and I am excited to be teaching History and Integrated Studies at Maniototo Area School. My other roles in the school include being a whānau teacher, NZQA Liaison and supporting ESOL learners in the secondary school.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts from Otago University, as well as a Bachelor of Education from the Dunedin College of Education. I was privileged to be Melissa Bell's student teacher twenty years ago, and her inspiring example has remained with me all these years. I have taught in a range of schools, including Lawrence Area School and Waitaki Girls' High School, where I served as Head of English and also in the pastoral team as a dean.

Outside of school, I enjoy the simple things in life, especially reading and spending time in nature with my family. Creative pursuits have always been a big part of my life, including singing, theatre and writing.

As an educator, my hope is to support all students to achieve their highest potential and perhaps encourage them to discover strengths they may not even know they have yet. I believe that learning is a life-long pursuit and privilege; I am delighted to be part of that journey with the students of Maniototo Area School.



Kia ora! My name is Hannah Thomas and I am teaching PE and maths at MAS. I grew up in Southland and then moved to Alexandra with my family. Before studying to be a teacher I worked at an American summer camp, travelled around Europe, nannied and worked as a gardener.

Most recently I have completed a Bachelor of Teaching, endorsed in Primary Education at Otago University.

In my spare time I enjoy getting outdoors with my partner Isaac, running, mountain biking, and going on adventures. I am thoroughly enjoying being a part of the MAS team and the wider Maniototo community.

Maniototo Area School

Buses

We are very lucky that out of six of our school buses, three of them have seatbelts.

It is the expectation that students who travel on these buses wear their seatbelts, **it is not optional**.

We appreciate your support as parents enforcing this legal requirement with your children.



2025 Prefects

Jake Smith (Head Boy)
Grace Farquhar (Head Girl)



Molly-Jo Munro
Yuan Macapondag
Althea Torres
Nicola Kinney



House Leaders



Danseys: Nicola Kinney & Billy Watson

Garibaldi: Althea Torres & Latrell Houpapa

Hamiltons: Ella Owens & Charlie Owens

Serpentine: Jae MacDonald & Molly-Jo Munro

Maniototo Area School

Cavalcade

On the 23rd of February our volunteers (on behalf of the PTA) set off on yet another successful Cavalcade catering fundraiser. This year our trail started close to Fairlie in the MacKenzie Country and finished up in Twizel. Not the easiest task for us with being so far away from home, however we were so lucky to have the commitment from the parents that joined us throughout the week. Their dedication and initiative is so greatly appreciated, you are the reason this week runs so smoothly.



Many thanks to:
Gemma & Simon Hore
Sarah & Simon Paterson
Charles & Tash Crutchley
Mat Weir
Amanda Graham
Craig Paterson
Deborah Paterson
Regan Harley
Kelly Smith
Kila Hepi
Donna Owens
Daniel Parker
Luke Dowling



We catered for 70 riders, breakfast, lunch and dinner for 6 days/nights, moving from Station to Station each day, serving them a wide variety of wholesome food. A huge thanks to all the families and teachers of the Maniototo Area School for all their generous donations. Everything from muttons, gas bottles, bacon and egg pies, baking, salads, pantry items or fruit and vegetables leads to the successful week and helps us to keep the costs down which of course brings the profit up. The riders love the home made baking and bacon and egg pies!!

If you're interested in hearing about what your PTA supports within our school or have some great ideas on what we could do for the future of our children then please come join us at our next meeting. (Date to be confirmed) We love to see new faces!

Jenna Huddleston - Maniototo Area School PTA President



Maniototo Area School

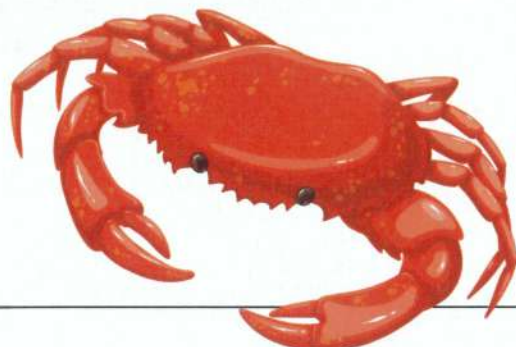
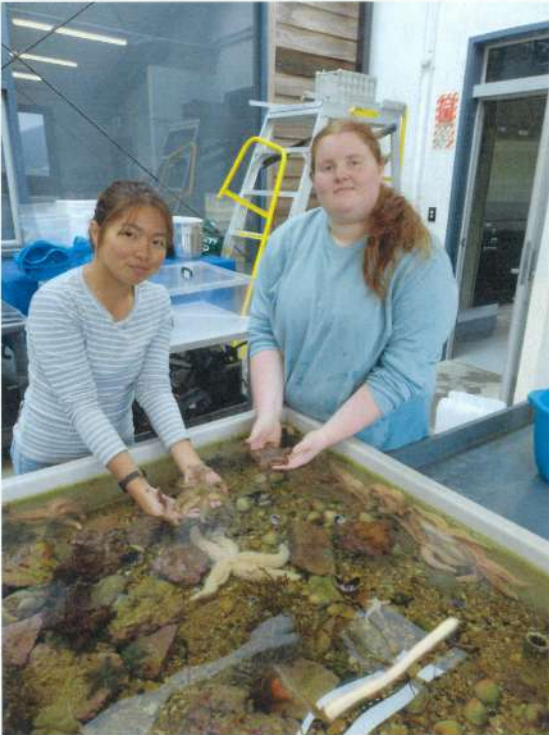


Crab Camp

The Level 3 Biology Students experienced a slightly different "Crab Camp" this year, with a change of schools that we attended with. This year we all made new friends and connections with students from East Otago High School, Lawrence, Twizel and Roxburgh Area schools. It was wonderful to see how much the students all had in common and get along so well.

The downside of the trip was the horizontal rain that we faced, which dampened our stay at Quarantine Island, however everyone made the most of card games and some good yarns.

The Maniototo students learned many valuable skills in preparing them for Polytechnic and University Studies, especially in how to follow the investigation process and interpret their data using Excel. The University of Otago Marine Biology laboratory, was the perfect venue as the students had access to university equipment which was invaluable for creating fair testing.



Maniototo Area School

P.A.L's Training

On Tuesday the 4th of March, the Year 8's hosted a P.A.L's morning for students from Omakau and Poolburn schools. P.A.L's stands for Physical Activity Leaders and is designed for students who would like to promote physical activity and well-being at lunchtimes with junior students. Kate Hamilton, Play and P.E. Advisor from Sport Central, facilitated this session along with her colleagues Jo and Ben. Students participated in lots of team building activities, some of which involved blindfolds and lots of trust in their partners!

Everyone learnt the importance of clear communication when introducing new games and explaining rules. Students identified the types of leaders they thought they were and Kate explained how to utilise different leadership skills for maximum benefit. Part of the morning included how to adapt games to ensure everyone was included, particularly students with disabilities. Modification of games was a focus towards the end of the session.

It was a really fun morning and the feedback we received from Kate was how exceptionally well-behaved and positive our kids were. She loved the way the students listened, and looked her in the eye when they were speaking. Jo also said she'd had the best morning with our tamariki and was impressed by their manners.



Maniototo Area School

Swimming Sports Results

7 Year Olds - Widths

Girls: 1st Briella Graham, 2nd Millie Harley, 3rd Briar Gillespie
Boys: 1st Ghiahn Lewis, 2nd Conrad Shaw, 3rd Blake Sutherland

8 Year Olds - Widths

Girls: 1st Maddie Norman, 2nd Alex Macapondag
Boys: 1st Kahu Houpapa, 2nd Musa Ismail, 3rd Oto Kernot-Berke

8 Year Olds - Lengths

Boys: 1st Hemi Huddleston, 2nd Hudson Crutchley

9 Year Olds - Lengths

Girls: 1st Quinn Andrews, 2nd Abbie Graham, 3rd Mackenzie Davis
Boys: 1st= Blake Scott & Reuben Hagen, 2nd Jaxson Downes, 3rd Liam Hamilton

10 Year Olds

Girls: 1st Osharne Huriwai-Kirk, 2nd Rose-May Poihakena-Jackson, 3rd Sophie McAtamney
Boys: 1st Richard Wade, 2nd Oscar McAtamney, 3rd Toby McFadyen-Beck

Junior Swimming House Points

1st Danseys, 2nd Hamiltons, 3rd Garibaldi, 4th Sertentine

U12

Boys: 1st James Meehan, 2nd Sam Hore, 3rd Marshall Newth-MacDonald
Girls: 1st Thalia Hepi, 2nd Tayla Smith, 3rd Evelyn Hagen

U13

Boys: 1st Hugo Paterson, 2nd Liam Hamilton
Girls: 1st Laura Paterson, 2nd Bonnie Spooner, 3rd Vanessa Kinney

U14

Boys: 1st Vlad Badillo, 2nd Karl Suplente

U15

Boys: 1st Mac Dowling, 2nd Max Gregan, 3rd Jake McMillan
Girls: 1st Indianna Hepi, 2nd Sophie Meehan, 3rd Katelyn Hughes

U16

Boys: 1st Jae MacDonald
Girls: 1st Charlie Owens

Seniors

Boys: 1st Jack Kiri Kiri, 2nd Rawiri Huriwai-Kirk
Girls: 1st Nicola Kinney, 2nd Grace Farquhar

House Relay

1st Hamiltons, 2nd Serpentine, 3rd Danseys

Senior Swimming House Points

1st Danseys, 2nd Serpentine, 3rd Hamiltons, 4th Garibaldi

Maniototo Area School



**Thanks for
the awesome photos
Mr Pacey!**



Maniototo Area School

Otago Secondary Schools Championship Athletics

On Saturday 15 March Mrs Lithgow took a team of athletes to the Otago Athletics in Dunedin. These students showed grit, determination, and empathy. They tried their absolute best and supported each other from the sidelines. Dakota was placed 7th in the long jump and Indi was 8th. Nate was 4th in the long jump and was only 5cm off 3rd place. He also jumped really well in his high jump and came 5th. They all loved the experience and are looking forward to giving it a go next year. Well done team!



Science Class

On Monday the Year 9 and 10 Science classes performed a dissection on a lab rat. They are learning about the internal organs of animals and having this practical experience was invaluable to their understanding.

They are lucky enough to be able to be given this opportunity as the rats are specifically grown by the University of Otago for Science.



Maniototo Area School

Board of Trustees

On behalf of the School Community we express our thanks and gratitude to Kym Smith for her term serving on the Board of Trustees. Kym joined in 2022 and brought experience in governance alongside a balanced approach of enthusiasm and considered thinking. Kym, you have been an invaluable member of our board, and you will be greatly missed. We wish you and your family all the best, and think of you often.



Event Calendar - 2025

- 20 March - EOHS Jack Martin Sports Exchange
- 21 March - Teacher Only Day (School is Closed)
- 24 March - Otago Anniversary Day (School is Closed)
- 29 March - Community Quiz Night for Jake
- 31 March - Year 12 Biology Field Trip
- 31 March - 4 April - Book Week
- 2 April - BOT Meeting
- 4 April - Dress as a Book Character
- 6 April - Otago Swimming Champs
- 7 April - PRIDE Assembly 2.30pm
- 8 - 22 April - Vietnam Trip
- 11 April - Last Day of Term 1
- 14 April - Dental Bus due to arrive on site
- 28 April - Term 2 commences
- 2 May - Waste Free Wanda
- 2 May - School Anzac Service

Term Dates 2025

Term 1 : 3rd February to 11th April
Teacher Only Day - 21st March
Otago Anniversary Day - 24th March

Term 2 : 28th April - 27th June
Kings Birthday - 2nd June
Matariki - 20th June

Term 3: 14th July - 19th September

Term 4: 6th October - 11th December

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

Unifone

unifone.net.nz / 0800 894 114

Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences

The Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) provides guidance to schools and communities to address every absence early.

It acts as a series of recommended activities schools should consider when students meet absence thresholds. The actions schools take will be tailored to the reasons for absence, for example a student with a chronic illness will require tailored supports for their education.

Day-to-day operations

Schools:

- Assess attendance history of new students and share attendance history when students move between schools.
- Survey students and parents to support effective teaching practice and engagement
- School Leadership and Boards actively minimise disruptions to the school day and week e.g. use callback days, parent teacher meetings held after school
- Support students to continue learning if unable to attend school every day, including using Ministry approved well-being or transitional plans, or health schools where appropriate.

Ministry of Education:

- Convene termly meetings for leaders from local schools and relevant agencies to discuss students with serious attendance concerns where a multi-agency response is required
- Prepares templated materials for schools to adapt and use to promote or respond to attendance
- Provide attendance data reports for individual schools and Kāhui Ako
- Provide schools with a regularly updated list of agencies that schools can work with to support students
- Contract supports and services that are effective at returning students to regular attendance (e.g. Attendance Service)

Less than 5 days absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Ensure student attends every day they are able
- Reinforce good attendance habits
- Support other parents to reinforce good attendance habits
- Open communication with school
- Follow school attendance management plan and associated policies and processes

SCHOOLS

- Clear communication to parents on attendance expectations on enrolment, at the start of school year, and each term
- Communicate to parents what steps the school will take in the event their child is absent from school
- Communicate good attendance habits to students and parents
- Monitor attendance
- Communicate to parents about every absence
- Maintain contact details of parents
- Provide students with regular updates on their own attendance
- Report regularly to parents on attendance of their child
- Support students getting to school
- Use school level approaches to promote good social and learning environment

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Monitor that schools have their attendance policy and attendance management plan on website and it is reviewed as required
- Monitor aggregate data and attendance patterns to identify challenges and opportunities at regional and national levels
- Maintain regular contact with schools and support policy development and interventions/supports
- Support schools to be inclusive and safe

53% of students. 438,000

Up to 10 days absence in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Contact school to discuss reasons for absence
- Support student to catch up on missed learning
- Engage in supports offered

Plus
previous
responses



SCHOOLS

- Send formal notification and contact parent/guardian to discuss reasons for absence
- Support students to catch up missed learning where required
- Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers e.g. counselor, 2nd hand uniform shop, PB4L

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Support school with formal notification where required

26% of students. 213,000

Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences

Up to 15 days absence
in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Attend meeting at the school to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan
- Implement strategies at home

SCHOOLS

- Send escalated formal notification to parents
- Hold meeting to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan
- Develop and implement a plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence
- Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support from Ministry or other agencies as needed

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Identify schools with a significant proportion of students at amber level and offer additional support
- Facilitate multi-agency response and support school to implement and monitor improvement plan
- Promote resources and services to support schools to return students to regular attendance
- Identify and respond to localised barriers
- Monitor regional interventions
- Facilitate involvement of other agencies.
- Reprioritise regional support resources to where most needed/effective
- Develop new initiatives/policies if needed
- Support parent/guardian and school to resolve conflict if needed

11% of students. 88,000

Plus
previous
responses



15 days or more absence
in a school term

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Return student to regular attendance
- Engage in improvement plan
- Participate in regular meetings

SCHOOLS

- Send warning notice and make contact to arrange meeting with parents
- Escalate to multi-agency response
- Participate in multi-agency response
- Implement and monitor improvement plan
- Undertake school-led prosecution, or request Ministry-led prosecution, when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up.
- Unenrol students who will not be returning to school

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- Identify schools with a significant proportion of students at red level and offer additional support
- Facilitate multi-agency response and support school to implement and monitor improvement plan
- Provide direct support to parents where required
- Coordinate regional response where required
- Consider system-wide initiatives for high-risk attendance
- Undertake Ministry-led prosecution when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up, when requested by schools
- Work with the Attendance Service to re-enrol students who are not enrolled

10% of students. 84,000

Plus
previous
responses



Stepped Attendance Response – STAR

Responding to all absences

The Government’s target is for **80%** of students to attend regularly, that is to attend school more than **90%** of the time.



CENTRAL OTAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL
PROUDLY PRESENTS

WASTE FREE WANDA

APRIL 2025 TOUR

Mon 28th April

Miller's Flat School
Roxburgh Primary

Tues 29th April

St. Gerard's Primary
Alexandra Primary

Wed 30th April

The Terrace School
Clyde School

Thur 1st May

Cromwell Kindy Show
Goldfields Primary

Friday 2nd May

Maniototo Primary Show
Omakau/Poolburn Show

Mon 5th May

Cromwell & Tarras Primary



WWW.WASTEFREEWANDA.COM



Maniototo Community Support Hub

A place where people can connect, find help and access free services

On the last Thursday of each month, we will be in your community, if you would like to see us you can drop in to the Hub space being provided at the Ranfurly medical center between 10am-1pm



Free and Confidential Services that will be there are:

**Family Works: Financial mentor
Cancer society
Age Concern
Catholic Social Services
Work and Income**

*For more information, please contact
Alexandra Community House on 03 440 0740*

Upcoming dates:

March 28th

April 24th

May 29th

June 26th



Hi Maniototo Area School

The Southern Steel are on the road! Visiting Southland, Central Lakes and Otago, they are coming to a centre near you. Follow the link below for more information.

Join the STEEL for a fun Netball skills session and learn from the best! Bring along your best smile for a photo and signature afterwards. A fantastic opportunity for boys and girls of different levels to give netball a go with our favourite Southern Steel Netballers.

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/netballsouth/events-1/steel-roadie>