
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	FEBRUARY 2026	
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Dear parents and caregivers,

On Monday evening we held our Meet the Teacher event, thanks to all of the parents and caregivers who attended. During the main presentation we were able to share important initiatives and messages for the 2026 school year. One of these is our student focus this year which is on belief. At last years prize giving I spoke about the tendency for some of our students to think small. Belief and ambition are powerful - and by developing high aspirations and expectations - of self and others, I think students open themselves up to a whole world of possibilities.

As we move through the year we will focus on self belief, belief in others, believing in dreams and goals and developing discipline and persistence when pursuing our goals. Our assemblies so far have focused on self belief when it comes to our learning and academic goals. We have reflected on quotes from Henry Ford, "Whether you think you can or think you can't – you are right" and Theodore Roosevelt, "Believe you can and you're halfway there".

We would really value your help. Encourage your child to have big hopes and dreams, and support them in pursuing them. We want our students at Maniototo Area School to achieve the best results possible - and this starts with a vision of what might be possible.

It has been a busy start to the school year with swimming in the primary school, East Otago exchange prep in the secondary school and a strong focus on settling in to studies. It is great to see students embracing the myriad of opportunities coming their way. At Meet the Teacher night we launched a parent support form which we ask all families to complete. A copy of this is included in this newsletter and we would appreciate this being completed and returned to school. We thank you in advance for your contribution to school activities.

Melissa Bell
Principal

International trip 2028

We are planning a second international trip in April 2028. We are yet to confirm the destination, but this will most likely in Asia. If your child will be in Years 10-13 in 2028 and is interested in participating in the trip, please contact Melissa Bell for further information. Those who attended the trip meeting on Monday night do not need to make contact as their names have already been noted.

Maniototo Area School

2026

Introducing New Staff

Hayley Wilson

I have recently graduated from Otago University with a Bachelor in Education. I have grown up in Dunedin and have spent a lot of time with my family holidaying in the Maniototo area. In my spare time I love going on nature walks with my dog and taking photos. I look forward to starting my teaching career at MAS and becoming part of the community.



Acacia Brosnahan

I am overjoyed to be teaching History and Social Sciences at MAS! I completed a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Teaching and Learning in Primary Education at the University of Otago, in my hometown of Dunedin. Outside of school, I love to read, especially in cafés, and watch classic movies with my husband, Jack. I am also passionate about spending time in nature and travelling. I cannot wait to explore more of the great Maniototo!



Geraldine Duncan

I am excited to be the new Sports Coordinator here at MAS. I have been teaching in the Maniototo for about 18 years, mostly in primary education. Before that, I worked as a Secondary PE and Health teacher.

I love seeing our students get the chance to try new things. My goal is to help them build their confidence, resilience, and physical skills—whether they are working on their own or as part of a team.



I really enjoy being part of this community and look forward to a great year ahead supporting our students' participation and growth.

Maniototo Area School

Introducing our Student Leaders

Head Student - Jake Smith

Prefects

**Nate Spooner, Madi Hawkes, Charlie Owens,
Elle-Mae Lunam, Ella Owens & Jae MacDonald**

House Leaders

Hamiltons: Ella Owens & Jacob Mayo

Danseys: Indianna Hepi & Jake McMillan

Garibaldi: Trisha Buragay & Mahalia Tapatu

Serpentine: Jonty Russell & Jae MacDonald

PTA - Cavalcade

As you know Cavalcade is fast approaching and this is a major fundraiser for the PTA. This year the Cavalcade is passing through the Maniototo, which makes catering for the trail a much easier task for our volunteers. The Cavalcade starts on the evening of the 2nd of March and concludes in Middlemarch on the 7th of March.

The PTA are looking for....

Volunteers to help with catering on the trail from the 2-7th March

Donations of live muttons

Drivers on the morning of the 5th and the 6th of March to transport vehicles. (We will meet in Ranfurly and travel to Oturehua on Thursday and transport vehicles to Patearoa. On Friday, we will transport the vehicles from Patearoa to Middlemarch).

If you are able to help with catering, please contact Jenna Huddleston 0275 379 740. If you can donate a mutton or would be able to assist with transporting vehicles, please contact Gemma Hore 021 167 1701.

Thank you for your support with this major fundraiser for all our students.



Uniform: Our uniform supplier (NZ Uniforms) is now located at 24 Filleul Street Dunedin. There is a small selection of uniform items (both old and new) available from the school. Available to view during normal school hours, or by arrangement.

<https://maniototo.nzuniforms.com/>

Maniototo Area School

Sports Department Update

It has been a great start to the sporting year, and we are pleased to see so many students getting involved. Thank you to those who returned their sports intention forms; receiving these helps us with our planning and paperwork.

Our Senior Volleyball teams were in action last week. The Senior Girls started their season strong with a win, while the Senior Boys put up a great fight in a narrow loss. We appreciate the parent support that has been shown to this, as your help makes these opportunities possible for our students.

We have several important dates approaching, they are listed below. As always, your sideline support is valued by both the students and the staff.

Upcoming Dates

Senior School (Y9 - Y13) Athletic Sports - Monday 23rd February on the school grounds. The event starts at 10.30am. A notice has been emailed and given to the students today.

Swimming Sports: Senior School (Y7 - Y13) Swimming Sports are on Monday 9th March at the Ranfurly Pool. A notice regarding the details for this will come home next week. The Junior School (Y0-Y6) Swimming Sports are being held on Tuesday 10th March.

Eagles Intercollegiate Golf Tournament is being held on Monday 9th March in Balclutha. We have 4 students attending this - Jonty, Rhys, Nick and Jake. Best wishes for a great day out boys and enjoy representing the school.

Later this week our Sports Prefects (Jae and Charlie) are travelling to Cromwell to attend a training session where they will meet other students in similar leadership roles in Central Otago.

Later this term, on Friday 20th March, we will take a team of Y7 - Y13 students to East Otago High School to compete in the Jack Martin Sports Tournament. The teachers are starting lunchtime coaching sessions with the teams this week.

Maniototo Area School

Gateway/Careers

This year we have senior students doing a number of courses and classes outside the classroom. These include a Polytechnic course in Automotives and Work Experience in local businesses. We are lucky to have the support of these places that enable our students to develop skills beyond the classroom.

Maniototo Area School Year 12 and 13 students have completed a successful two day Work Ready Barista Course. During this time they learnt how to make a variety of different coffees and the history/production of coffee. All our senior students will gain NCEA credits for this course as well as a skill to be put on their CV for future employment. Many thanks to The Learning Place and instructor Sam for their support in providing this course for our students.



Term Dates

Term 1: Monday 2nd February - Thursday 2nd April

Friday 6th February (Waitangi Day)

Monday 23rd March (Otago Anniversary Day)

Friday 27th March - Teacher Only Day

Term 2: Monday 20th April - Friday 3rd July

Monday 27th April (Anzac Day)

Monday 1st June (Kings Birthday)

Term 3: Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

Term 4: Monday 12th October - Thursday 10th December

Monday 26th October (Labour Day)

Important Dates

23 February - Secondary Athletics (postponement date 26th)
25 February - PRIDE afternoon (tbc)
27 February - 5 March - Life Education on site
3 March - Year 12 Biology/Ecology Field Trip
9 March - Swimming Sports (Yrs 7-13)
10 March - Junior Swimming Sports
10 March - HPV vaccinations (Yr 8)
13 - 14 March - Otago Secondary School Athletics
18 March - BOT Meeting
20 March - EOHS Sports Exchange
23 March - Otago Anniversary Day (School is closed)
24 March - 21 May - Dental Bus on site
27 March - Teacher Only Day (School is closed)
2 April - Last Day of Term 1
3 April - Good Friday (School is closed)

PEOPLE CONNECTING PEOPLE
INTERNET / MOBILE / HOME PHONE - RURAL OR URBAN
Across the Otago Region, including the Maniototo.
Call our local team to find out more.

Unifone
unifone.nz 0800 894 114

THANK you

Remember Breakfast is available to all our students everyday thanks to the Kickstart Breakfast programme.



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Over \$2 million Donated

For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered
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Maniototo Area School

Parent Support Form 2026

Parent Names: _____

To ensure our school offers a broad range of opportunities for our students, we need your support. Please indicate how you are able to support school activities in 2026.

Mark all activities you are able to support, and add any thoughts in the box below.

We thank you in advance!

— Sports coaching (state sports and levels):

— Reader / Writer for senior exams and assessments

— Assisting with transport of teams and students (both within school hours and after school)

— Support with working bees (evenings and weekends)

— Join PTA

— Support with Cavalcade 2026 (1-7 March)

— School camp

— Ice Week (week of 27 July)

— Athletics (training and chaperone)

Other support:

Additional Comments:



Maniototo Junior Hockey 2026 Season

As term one is flying by, it is now time to think about winter sport!

Our Hockey AGM is on Tuesday the 10th of March @ 7pm at the Maniototo Area School Whanau Room

It would be great to see as many of you there as possible please!

- Prior to the AGM we would like to get an idea of player interest for the 2026 season.
- Either email secretary at maniototojunhockey@gmail.com with your **child's name & year level** or return the bottom of this page to school – (Heather Dowling St John's School or your class teacher at MAS) by Friday the 6th of March, so we can get an idea of numbers for the season prior to our AGM.

Details to register your child officially via PlayHQ will be sent out once it is all set up for the new season.

Coaches

We cannot run a successful season without the help of wonderful parents putting on their coaching hats. If you are interested in coaching or co-coaching a team this year, please also let the secretary know via the form below or by email. It's loads of fun and super rewarding.

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and we look forward to our season ahead.

Rebecca McAuley (*President*) & Trina Steele (*Secretary*)

Player/Coach Interest - 2026 Hockey Season

*Please return this form by **Friday 6th March** or email the secretary above.*

Childs Name: _____ Year: _____

Parent Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Interested in coaching (Circle) YES / NO Year Group: _____