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## Newsletter

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# Maniototo Area School

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	<b>APRIL 2026</b>	
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Dear parents and caregivers,

As a busy and productive term draws to a close, I am a little bit in awe of what we have managed to squeeze into a term. Swimming, life education, senior athletics, the Jack Martin exchange - to name but a few events. I am delighted with the high level of engagement shown by the students this term. Holidays have been well earned!

Last week, schools were informed of changes to assessment rolling out in 2028 for Yr 11-13. The information below is for parents from the Ministry of Education.

A new national senior secondary qualification system is set to replace NCEA.

These changes are designed to make sure every young person leaves school with the solid knowledge and skills they need for life after school, whether that's further study, training, or work.

What the new system will look like:

### **YEAR 11**

- There will be no NCEA Level 1. Instead, Year 11 students will spend more time learning the core knowledge and skills that prepare them for the qualification in Years 12 and 13.
- A new Foundational Award will recognise literacy and numeracy achievement at Year 11 level.
- From 2028 all Year 11 students will study English or Te Reo Rangatira, and Mathematics or Pāngarau. There has also been feedback about whether Science and Pūtaiao should be compulsory in Year 11, this is still being explored.

### **YEARS 12 AND 13**

- NCEA Level 2 and 3 will be replaced by a simpler structure with two levels across the final two years of school. Students will be assessed in full curriculum subjects, rather than lots of separate standards.

### **TIMELINES**

Changes will be rolled out in stages.

- 2028: New curriculum and the Foundational Award introduced for Year 11.
- 2029-2030: New qualification and curriculum introduced for Years 12 and 13.

A refreshed curriculum for Years 11-13 is being developed. The new qualification will match that curriculum so that classroom learning and assessment line up clearly.

We will hold a parent evening in term 2 to provide more detail around these changes and discuss what this means for your children.

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# Maniototo Area School

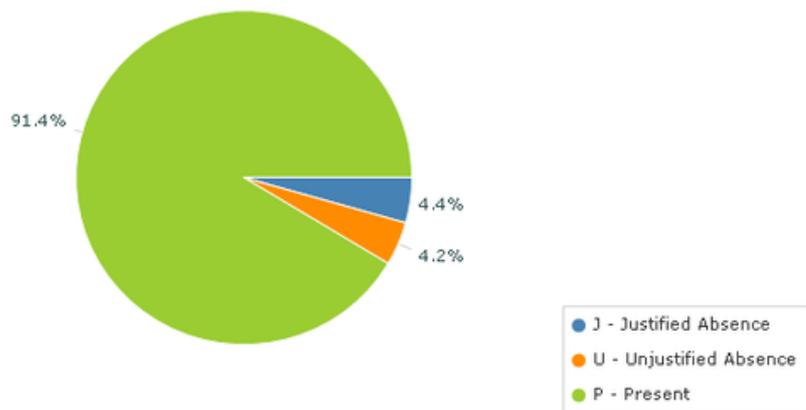
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In week three of term 2, we have the Education Review Office coming to review our school. This will be led by our school relationship partner, Michelle Irving. We are looking forward to showcasing the progress we have made as a school in the three years since our last ERO visit.

On a final note, I would like to thank parents and caregivers for their support around attendance. Our term one attendance is sitting at just under 92% which is absolutely fantastic. We know that strong attendance is essential for high achievement - and we are certainly seeing the lifts in students academic performance.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday break. I look forward to seeing you all back at the start of term 2.

Melissa Bell  
Principal



## KiVa

We are proud to announce that Gemma Hore and Hannah Thomas have joined our KiVa team for 2026. Our school is proud to be a KiVa school, committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for every student. KiVa is a research-based anti-bullying programme. It is used successfully in schools around the world and focuses on prevention, early intervention, and support. The KiVa system recognises that bullying is a group phenomenon and works by:

- Teaching students about respect, empathy, and responsibility
- Empowering bystanders to support others and speak up
- Providing clear systems for responding to bullying quickly and effectively
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If you have any concerns about bullying behaviour, please speak to your child's Classroom Teacher or Whānau Teacher. For your reference, the definition of bullying is the repeated and intentional behaviour that causes harm or distress.

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# Maniototo Area School

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**WOW!**

## Maniototo Prefects Complete Epic Relay for Life Walk

On March 13th and 14th, the Prefects walked 125 kilometers from Hyde to Clyde along the Rail Trail for the Cancer Society's Relay for Life. We did this because we wanted to fundraise as a prefect group for a good cause. We chose the rail trail because it is filled with amazing scenery that would make the challenge a bit more fun. It was great meeting people on the trail and telling them about the cause we were fundraising for and our school.

We successfully raised over \$4000 for the Otago Cancer Society.

The walk began at 9:00 AM on day one in Hyde with fresh legs and high spirits. We were snuck up on by Mrs Hore just out of Wedderburn who helped encourage us to get Oturehua at 6:00 PM.

Day two started early, at 6:00 AM. Despite blisters and aches everyone went back out onto the trail to complete what we had started, Claire Mulholland kindly made us some little sausages and chicken nuggets for morning tea in Omakau. Ms Dowling met us there and she walked the next leg of the journey with us to Chatto Creek where Michelle Grundy joined us to Galloway. Then it was just the home straight to Clyde, where we finished at 5:30 PM.

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# Maniototo Area School

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## School Bus Safety

Recently, Go Bus had an incident at a bus stop and they would like to take this opportunity to highlight the hazards.

They are required to complete 'safe stopping assessments' for all their bus stops however, as time passes, stops that were once safe, can change. E.g.

- There are a lot more parent cars parking at a stop
- Changes to the age of students at different locations
- Changes to the road either during roadworks, or new developments
- More traffic as areas grow

These factors change the safety of bus stops significantly.

Bus drivers are looking at a lot of things to ensure maximum safety, but they need parents/students to be doing their part too.

- Parents/students should not turn their backs from the bus until it has departed the stop
- In the morning, students need to wait for the bus to fully stop before approaching the bus. This is always an issue – especially with large groups, all vying to be the first on the bus.
- In the afternoon, students should get off the bus, stand well back, ensure the bus has departed before either crossing the road or going to their parents.
- Parents should also be aware that children will follow their actions/instructions so they need to be standing well away from the bus as well.
- Parents need to be waiting on the same side as the bus stops. They can park on the other side, but must walk over to meet the bus. Young students are quick to run across to their parents without looking.
- Students should never cross in front of a school bus – always behind.
- Never load the car from the roadside in confined spaces (in town or at the bus stop).
- Parents need to be aware of where they park – ensuring they are not encroaching on the space that is required for the school bus.

If you have any queries or questions please contact Lois Hopper (Operations Supervisor - Go Bus) by email: [lois.hopper@wearekinetic.com](mailto:lois.hopper@wearekinetic.com)

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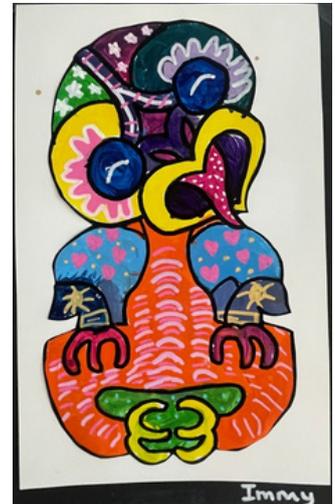
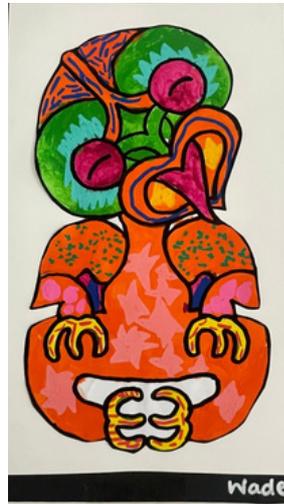
# Maniototo Area School

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## Art Department



Year 2 and 3 painted and patterned modern Hei Tiki inspired by 'Picasso Tiki' by Lester Hall and 'Hei Tiki Gathering' by Jimmy James Kouratoras.



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# Maniototo Area School

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## Sports Department Update

It's been a fabulous first term of sport, including both our schoolwide swimming sports and senior athletics. Our students represented us well at the Otago Senior Athletic Championships, highlighted by Jonty placing 3rd in the U15 shotput, and at the Otago Primary Schools Swimming Championships. We've also had teams competing in the Central Otago volleyball and basketball competitions, as well as riders at the SISS Moto X event and golfers at the Balclutha Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. Beyond the results, being involved in sport is great for our students - it builds school and community spirit, develops perseverance, and teaches teamwork and resilience. We are proud of our sporting opportunities and achievements at MAS.

### Otago Secondary School Athletics Results

**Isla Drake:** Shotput 16th (6.06m), Discus 15th (15.17m)

**Ethan Chisholm:** 100m 6th (13.11 sec), Shotput 11th (7.34m),  
Long Jump 7th (4.49m)

**Finn Dowling:** Discus 10th (17.51m)

**Jonty Russell:** 100m Prelims 9th (13.50sec), Shotput 3rd (9.06m),  
Long Jump 12th (4.24m)

**Axel McAuley:** 100m Prelims 10th (13.76sec), High Jump 4th (1.55m),  
Long Jump 10th (4.49m)



### Volleyball

Volleyball has been a fantastic success within our Senior School this term. For the first time, we entered both a Senior Girls' and Senior Boys' team into the Central Otago Term One competition. Both teams competed against a range of Central Otago secondary schools and showed great determination, steadily building their confidence and skills throughout the tournament.

The Girls' team played off for third and fourth place, and after a hard-fought match with very close sets, finished in an impressive fourth place. The Boys team played off for Fourth and Fifth and took Fifth place.

All students involved have expressed a strong desire to continue developing their volleyball skills. They are keen to take part in further competitions and are already looking forward to beginning practices for the upcoming Area Schools Tournament.

A big thank you to our dedicated coaches: Logan Dowling and Mark Inder for the Boys' team, and Michelle Knox and Kate Dowling for the Girls' team.

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# Maniototo Area School

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## Jack Martin Sports Exchange

On Friday, March 20th, 48 students traveled down the Pigroot to East Otago High School for our annual sports exchange, with competitive rounds of basketball, netball, kī-o-rahi, and volleyball.

While the day saw a mixture of results on the scoreboard, our school spirit remained strong, culminating in fantastic speeches from Sports Prefects Jae and Charlie and a powerful haka.

Following the exchange, our coaches and teachers wanted to give a special mention to Osharne (Yr 7), Zara (Yr 8), Bonnie and Jamie (Yr 9/10), Jacob (Yr 10/11), and Charlie (Yr 12/13), who were all nominated for their outstanding Team Spirit within their respective groups. Although the Jack Martin Trophy didn't return home with us this year, we are proud of the grit shown by our athletes. This successful day was made possible by our hardworking staff, whose coaching empowered the students, as well as the generous support of the Stringer family for the use of their van and Kerrin Mulholland for his expert bus driving to and from Palmerston.



## Senior Softball Team

Coached and Managed by Nikki Meyer and Michelle Dowling.



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# Maniototo Area School

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## School Swimming Sports Results

### Under 8 :

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Blake Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hugo Fairweather, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wade Watson  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Imogen Weir, 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoe Weir

### Under 9:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Ghiahn Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blake Sutherland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Conrad Shaw  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Briella Graham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Briar Gillespie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ellie Norman

### Under 10:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Hudson Crutchley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kahu Houpapa, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mack Woodhead  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Maddie Norman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Autumn Forbes

### Under 11:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Reuben Hagen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chrysler Houpapa, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jaxson Downes  
Girls: Quinn Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Abbie Graham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mackenzie Davis

### Under 12:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Bede Paterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Wade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oscar McAtamney  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Rose-May Poihakena-Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> OSharne Huriwai Kirk, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sophie McAtamney

### Under 13:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Sam Hore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Norman, 3<sup>rd</sup>= JR Buragay & Ben Davis  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Thalia Hepi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Evelyn Hagen, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nikita Wilson

### Under 14:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Ethan Chisholm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Finn Dowling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marshall Newth-MacDonald  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Bonnie Spooner

### Under 15:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Axel McAuley Girls: 1<sup>st</sup>= Jayda Deverill & MacKenzie Knox

### Under 16:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Mac Dowling Girls: 1<sup>st</sup> Indi Hepi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Katelyn Hughes

### Senior:

Boys: 1<sup>st</sup> Nate Spooner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jae MacDonald  
Girls: 1<sup>st</sup>= Ella Owens & Charlie Owens

### Overall House Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Danseys, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamiltons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Garibaldi, 4<sup>th</sup> Serpentine



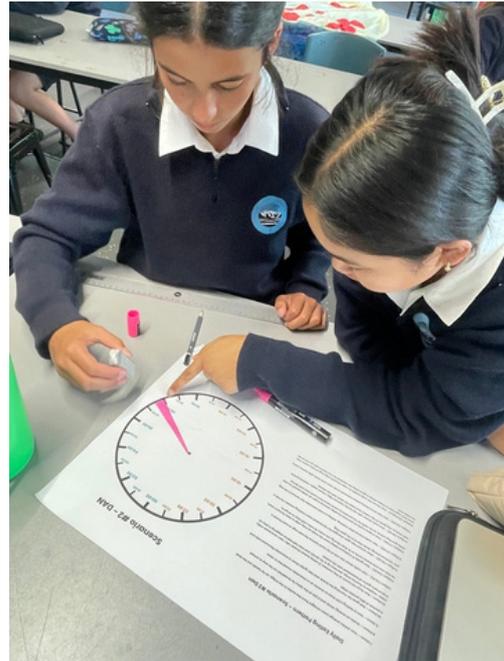
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## Oral Health

A big thanks to Kate and Sarah from Oral Health who came to school to teach a lesson on keeping our teeth healthy with the Year 7, 8 and 9 students.



**THANK  
YOU!**

Room 4 have been learning about writing letters so we wrote to Harold to thank him for visiting our school and teaching us about how to keep our brains healthy.

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# Maniototo Area School

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## Important Dates

2 April - Last Day of Term 1

3 April - Good Friday (School is closed)

20 April - Term 2 commences

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April - ANZAC Day Observed (School is Closed)

29 April - BOT Meeting

6-8 May - Southern Area Schools Tournament at Roxburgh

1 June - Kings Birthday (School is Closed)

3 June - BOT Meeting

## What is St Patrick's Day? Year 1 Ideas...

"It must be a fundraiser" - Kora

"It's picture day" - Payton

"Every single country has green on today" - Elsie

"You can't wear green in the shearing shed" - Kora

"It's from a movie" - Payton



## Harvesting Lavender

The primary students were buzzing with excitement as they headed out to the school garden with Mrs Paterson ready to harvest the lavender. The air was filled with the plant's calming scent as the children carefully snipped each stem, proudly comparing the bunches they gathered.



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