
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	September 2026	
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Kia ora koutou

It really is hard to believe that we are at the end of Term 3! There are definite signs of spring along with typical changeable weather, but it's great to feel like the days are getting longer and warmer!

There are plenty of great achievements to celebrate in this month's newsletter.

Firstly, thank you to the committed and dedicated staff at MAS. It has been a real pleasure to see the wonderful care and support shown to all students. The energy and enthusiasm of all staff is very much acknowledged and appreciated.

It has been a very busy term with camps, ice week, tournament week, winter sports to name but a few of the highlights. A massive thank you to all teachers, parent helpers, coaches, managers for their time and energy.

It has been impressive to see the wonderful support our school receives from the Maniototo area. The school is indeed fortunate to have such a generous and caring community. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success and well-being of our school. It is very much appreciated.

Term 4 will be just as busy. Senior exams and assessments are coming up. I encourage all senior students to commit to their preparation. Be organised and ready to do your very best!

I hope everyone has a great holiday break. Enjoy some valuable rest before we gear up for Term 4.

As always if I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Andrew Hunter



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2026



Maniototo Area School

Appointment of Principal

On behalf of the Maniototo Area School Board we are delighted to announce the appointment of Ange Rathbone as Principal of Maniototo Area School commencing Term 1 2027.

Ange is currently a Deputy Principal of St Hilda's Collegiate. She brings a breadth of experience in education, and is looking forward to returning to a rural community having grown up in West Otago. The board was impressed with her energy, compassion and innovative ideas she will bring to our school. We are really looking forward to working with her.

This is an exciting time for Maniototo Area School. We are looking forward to welcoming Ange into our school community where we know she will be made welcome and supported.

Ngā Mihi Nui,

Sarah Paterson
Maniototo Area School Board



Class Act 2026



Jake Smith has been named Maniototo Area School's 2026 Class Act recipient, recognising his character, leadership, and contribution to our school.

Selected through the Otago Daily Times' Class Act programme, Jake joins a group of outstanding young people from across Otago who exemplify excellence and integrity.

His nomination reflects the qualities he shows daily — determination, reliability, humility, and a willingness to step up.

The official Class Act ceremony will be held in Dunedin tomorrow (Friday).

We congratulate Jake on this well-deserved honour.

Maniototo Area School

Staffing Update

We farewell Mr Ewan Kirk at the end of this term and thank him for his steady, reliable service to our school. We're pleased to welcome Juvy Whitcombe as our new cleaner and look forward to the energy and enthusiasm she brings to the team.

At the end of the year we will farewell Mr Pacey (moving to Dunedin) and Mrs Sillibourne (moving to Oamaru). Both have contributed significantly to our students' learning journeys, and we want to thank them and wish them both every success in their next chapters.

In 2027 Mrs Acacia Brosnahan will step into the secondary English role.

We're excited to welcome back Finlay Tomkins for History/Social Studies and Junior Maths, and to introduce Emily Lane from Amuri Area School, joining us as Maths and Junior Technology teacher.

Year 12 and 13 Wanaka Big Day Out

Last week, our Year 12 and 13 students headed to Wānaka for a fantastic day out together! The day began with plenty of fun and mind-bending challenges at Puzzling World, followed by a delicious lunch at the Speight's Ale House.

When we arrived in town we headed down to the wharf for a quick look and to check out the eels. Our final challenge was a trip to Waste busters to find some fabulous outfits for a fashion show back at school later that evening!

It was a great opportunity for our senior students to enjoy some time together and make memories.

A huge thank you to Mrs Kate Dowling for organising such a fun and memorable day for our Year 12 and 13 students!



Important Dates

- 25 September - Class Act Award Ceremony / End of Term 3
- 12 October - Term 4 commences
- 13 October - School Photos
- 21 October - Polyfest / BOT Meeting
- 23 October - International Food Day
- 26 October - Labour Day **(School is Closed)**
- 3 November - Ki o Rahi tournament
- 6 November - Maniototo Primary Schools Athletics
- 12 November - Primary Pet Day
- 13 November - Teacher Only Day **(School is Closed)**



Maniototo Area School

Student Election

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Charlie Owens, who has served as our Board of Trustees Student Representative for the past two years. Charlie has brought maturity, insight, and a strong student voice to the table, making a valuable contribution to both the Board and our wider school community.

We now warmly welcome Mac Dowling as our new Student Representative and look forward to his involvement on the Board.

Naseby Adventure

In week 8 Room 3 & 4 went on a day trip to Naseby after learning about the Otago Gold Rush. As a group we walked through the Naseby forest to the old mining claim and it was amazing to see all the different types of tools used. We were lucky enough that it snowed and were able to have lots of fun in the snow after our lunch! We also explored both Naseby museums and some students even put on an old firemans hat!

It was an amazing day that helped bring our classroom learning to life.



Term 4 Breakfast Club – Volunteers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to help with Breakfast Club in Term 4. If you're able to lend a hand between 8:15am–9:00am, even just once a week, we'd love to hear from you. It's a lovely way to start the morning and support our tamariki.

For those already on the roster, please let Amanda Davis know if your current day still works for Term 4 or if you'd like to make a change.

Thank you for your ongoing support – it truly makes a difference. Please respond by 25th September to enable the roster to be organised before the start of term.

Maniototo Area School

Year 11 Wellington Camp 2026

Our Year 11s have just wrapped up an incredible five days in the capital, packed with learning, challenge, culture and plenty of laughs.

Day 1: We arrived to a beautiful Wellington day before heading to Parliament, riding the Cable Car, and putting our teamwork to the test in an escape room.

Day 2: A full day of discovery at Te Papa and Wellington Zoo, finishing with some friendly competition at ten pin bowling.

Day 3: Up the coast to Porirua for the NZ Police Museum and Adrenaline Forest, then back into town to get dressed up for the WOW Show.

Day 4: A morning of shopping (boosting the Wellington economy!), golf via simulator for some, and a fascinating visit to the National Library to see New Zealand's founding documents. Dinner at Monsoon Poon topped off the day.

Day 5: A creative morning at Capital E making a TV segment, then off to the airport to head home.

Our students were an absolute pleasure to take away — positive, engaged, supportive of one another, and fantastic representatives of Maniototo Area School.

A huge thanks to our incredible sponsors: Maniototo Lions Club, Aotea Gaming Trust & Parliament Education Grant.



Maniototo Area School

2026 Ski Camp

On the 1st of September Year 6 headed away on camp. Our first stop was the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown. At the museum, we dressed in old-fashioned clothing and took part in an 1890's classroom with Miss Grey. We learnt that modern-day school was much better! Then we explored the museum, Chinese village, and tried to find our fortune gold panning. After all of that, we headed up to Coronet Peak to the Vincent ski lodge where we were staying.

The next morning we trudged up the steps to Coronet Peak, where we got our rental gear. We met our instructors and, for the next 2 hours, focused on learning to ski. After our lessons, we spent the rest of the day skiing with our parents, Brad, Kyle, Emma and Michelle and teachers Mrs Sutherland and Mrs Hore. The wind shortened our day as the lifts shut at 2:30pm.

The next morning started again with lessons. By the end of this, everyone had moved onto harder slopes and riding the chairlifts. Very few from Year 6 had skied before and it was amazing how quickly they picked it up!

Ski camp was a huge success. A big thank you to our parent helpers; without them, the camp wouldn't have been possible.

Brad and Sal, Kyle and Emma, Bailey, Michelle, Amanda, Mrs Sutherland and Mrs Hore



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Maniototo Zone Cross Country Results

Combined Cross country with Strath Taieri & St John's. A warm thank you goes to Sal Byrne for providing first aid, to our teaching staff for managing the event, and to all the students for running with such determination and the parent support on the day. Congratulations to the children who qualified for the Otago Cross Country Championship.

Year 1

Boys: 1st Cole Gloag (St J), 2nd Jack Gardyne (ST), 3rd **John Shaw (MAS)**
Girls: 1st **Bridie Parker (MAS)**, 2nd **Pippa Scott (MAS)**, 3rd **Payton Drummond (MAS)**

Year 2

Boys: 1st Ollie Kensington (St J), 2nd Fergus Smith (St J), 3rd Fergus Lynch (ST)
Girls: 1st Willow Eketone (St J), 2nd Ruby Dodds (St J), 3rd Thea Huddleston (St J)

Year 3

Boys: 1st **Blake Andrews (MAS)**, 2nd George Love (St J), 3rd **Hugo Fairweather (MAS)**
Girls: 1st Greta Wilson (ST), 2nd Nika Miller (St J), 3rd **Zoe Weir (MAS)**

Year 4

Boys: 1st Arthur Dowling (St J), 2nd **Blake Sutherland (MAS)**, 3rd Hudson Jones (ST)
Girls: 1st Georgia Dodds (St J), 2nd Stella Dykes (ST), 3rd Myah Hokianga (ST)

Year 5

Boys: 1st Arthur Wilson (ST), 2nd Riley Stevenson, (ST), 3rd Max Stevenson (ST)
Girls: 1st Izzy Eketone (St J), 2nd Evie Steele (St J), 3rd **Maddie Norman (MAS)**

Year 6

Boys: 1st Tayne Larson-Macaulay (ST), 2nd Digby Jones (ST), 3rd **Reuben Hagen (MAS)**
Girls: 1st Juliette Dowling (St J), 2nd Milly Turner (ST), 3rd **Autumn Forbes (MAS)**

Year 7

Boys: 1st **Toby McFadyen-Beck (MAS)**, 2nd George Dykes (ST), 3rd Richie Lynch (ST)
Girls: 1st **Osharne Huriwai-Kirk (MAS)**, 2nd Ella Turner (ST), 3rd Tessa Stevenson (ST)

Year 8

Boys: 1st Xavier Love (St J), 2nd Edward Wilson (ST), 3rd **Sam Hore (MAS)**
Girls: 1st **Thalia Hepi (MAS)**, 2nd **Nikita Wilson (MAS)**, 3rd **Florence Dowling (MAS)**

Basketball

The junior basketball team wrapped up a strong season, showing great growth. Huge thanks to our senior coaches, Hannah Thomas, and the parents who drove the van. Congrats to all players for your hard work.

Coming Up:

Senior School Sport registrations for term 4: These have been circulated for Year 9/10 volleyball and Year 9-13 softball. Parents will have received paperwork about these this week.

Years 9 and 10 Sports Days: We are also looking forward to attending a series of one day events in November with Year 9 and 10 students: Smash Cricket, ki-o-rahi and the annual 'Have a Go' day in Cromwell.

Maniototo Area School

Gymnasium Membership

The MAS Gymnasium offers a weights and cardio space for community members aged 17+, with short-term options for tertiary students over summer. Term-time access is 5–9pm weekdays and 6am–9pm weekends, with extended hours in school holidays. For a tour or membership paperwork, contact Geraldine Duncan at jnrsports@maniototo.school.nz

Junior Athletics

This is being held on Friday 6th November with the postponement date being Monday 9th November. A letter with event details and asking for chaperone support will come home next term. Thank you to the families that have sent back the after school athletics practice notice and for your offers of coaching and supervising support. Geraldine will be in touch before the first practice.

Hockey

The hockey team had a good time at the Kate Trolove tournament in Nelson.

A huge thank-you to Nikki (Manager), Michelle (Coach), and parents Bridget, Roger, and Logan for supporting the team on their travels. To our amazing community — thank you to the farmers who offered fundraising jobs, and to our hockey team members who rolled up their sleeves to clean out woolsheds and pick up tree debris. Thanks also to everyone who supported us by buying pies or cheese or coming along to the Jingo night. Your backing makes a real difference.

We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors:

Maniototo Four Square • McMillan Farm • Contact Energy • Mountain Bike Naseby Ltd • Ken Gillespie • Fenlaw • Jake Smith • Andy's Engine & Mechanical • Inverlair Lodge • Chris & Janet Steele • Sumpter-Moore Lawyers • Sims Brothers Garage • Ranui Farm • Pine Terrace Farm • Peter Becker • Driving Miss Daisy • Community Trust of Maniototo • Cadence Property



Maniototo Area School

Curling

Maniototo Area School's senior curlers — Jonty, Jake, Indi and Axel — won the three-day Otago Invitational Secondary Schools Competition in Dunedin with a dominant 9–0 final against St Hilda's.

They now head to the New Zealand Secondary Schools Cup in Naseby, with games at 1pm and 4.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 10am and 1.30pm on Monday.

Our Year 5–8 teams also shone in their annual tournament against St John's. Sam, Richard, Thalia and Nikita claimed the Year 7–8 title, while the Year 5–6 team finished a strong second. Aubree and Quinn were honoured as the first recipients of the Spirit of Curling awards.

Our school extends a heartfelt thank you to Claire Mulholland and the J.E. Mulholland Memorial Curling Trust. Claire's generosity in funding playing kit, tournament entry fees, and all of our school curling sessions makes a massive difference to our students, and we are very grateful for her ongoing support.

THANK
YOU!



A huge thank you to PGG Wrightson for the awesome donation of new balls for our Primary School.

They are being well used!

Christmas Presents

We have a wonderful agency that have offered to help any families in the community who may need a bit of extra support this Christmas with providing gifts for their children.

If you would like assistance please email Mrs Kirk at the school office with the gender and age of your children: office@maniototo.school.nz before 1st October



All Requests will be Confidential
