

Maniototo Area School



NEWSLETTER

2nd February 2017

Tuatahi, me mihi ki te runga rawa, nana nei nga mea katoa; Tuarua, me mihi ki te iwi, tena koutou tena koutou, tena ra tatau katoa.

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of MAS.

Introduction

I feel privileged to once again be welcoming you back – old-hands and newcomers, to this unique school community at the beginning of another year.

After a few short weeks here in the role of acting principal late in 2016, I agreed to return for term 1. I've found MAS welcoming and energising and if you're new to this community, I'm sure you'll quickly come to appreciate that as well. At the teacher-only-day yesterday, for example, staff were buzzing with ideas and plans for the year ahead. It looks positive and promising and I hope that every student here takes advantage of that to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

PRIDE

For much of the teacher-only-day yesterday, we focused on PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) - a programme that many schools have found to be effective in managing kids' behaviour to encourage their learning. We want to apply ideas that spring from that consistently, if not always in the same way, across the entire school. A staff team has been working on strategies and plans for some time and they've identified 5 key values that we want to foster and emphasise: (1) **Participation** (2) **Respect** (3) **Integrity** (4) **Determination** and (5) **Empathy**. Together, the first letters form the word **PRIDE**. That's exactly what we want our students of all ages, and their teachers for that matter, to take in their work, in this school and in themselves – and for the right reasons. **PRIDE**, then, is our shorthand for those values and for this programme. Its aim is to enable our kids to flourish at our school. The "roll-out" for all this is planned for 28th February and we're encouraging parents to find about and get on board with it.

Staffing

There have been some changes to our staff team too and I'm very pleased to introduce and welcome Ms Nikki Meyer to the school. Assistant Principal at East Otago High School last year, Nikki is our new head of science and senior dean. She's well known in the community already and it's clear that she is quickly coming to grips with the challenges and opportunities that working at MAS presents.

In December, Joe Donald retired after years of teaching and coaching sport and PE to young people in the Maniototo. He'll be missed, but a new era begins in 2017 because, from today, PE and sport will be led by Deirdre Lithgow and Fiona Dowling. They are sharing the position and will be "co-heads" of that department. It has to be a good thing to have two outstanding teachers and sportswomen taking care of this key aspect of life at MAS. Also, Kate Dowling worked here until quite recently and is back again, working part-time this year with Kylie McSkimming, teaching sciences (biology and chemistry) in the secondary dept. Please welcome and support them all.

A complete list of current staff and their main responsibilities is set out on page 3

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More NCEA results came in over the holidays and they were very good. The pass rate for Level 1 was 84.5%.

The following achieved endorsements:

Rina Watt – Overall Excellence endorsement at Level 1; Excellence endorsement in Maths, Science, History; Merit endorsement in English

Kyle Nabor – Overall Excellence endorsement at Level 1; Excellence endorsement in Maths and Science; Merit endorsement in English

Declan De Haas – Overall Merit endorsement at Level 1; Merit endorsement in English, Maths and Science

Kenzie Stuart – Merit endorsement in Japanese

The pass rate for Level 2 was 100%. The following achieved endorsements:

Courtney Smith – Overall Merit endorsement at Level 2; Merit endorsement in Chemistry, Biology and History

Candy Ferdinands – Overall Merit endorsement at Level 2; Merit endorsement in English and History

Ben Smith – Merit endorsement in Chemistry

Lakita Taylor – Merit endorsement in Biology

Mikaela Woodhead – Merit endorsement in Biology

The pass rate for Level 3 was 66.6%. The following achieved endorsements:

Reuben Pyle – Excellence endorsement in Biology

Congratulations to all our NCEA students and to the staff, for such a good result.

Sports Achievers

NZ Junior Curlers

Matthew Neilson, Ben Smith, Anton Hood & Courtney Smith (and 4 ex-pupils Simon Neilson, Hamish Walker, Holly Thompson & Jessica Smith) travelled to Sweden over the holidays representing NZ at the World Junior B Champs. The boys' team won 3 out of 4 pool games, narrowly missing out on making it into the playoffs. The girls lost 2 games by 1 point and secured their first win over the Australian team.

Equestrian

Over the holidays **Amanda Voice** (Year 10) attended an AQHA youth camp in Taupo. Amanda was lucky to be training with World Champion Reiner, Craig Johnson (USA) and this was her second clinic with him. She also took part in the Taranaki Show.

Hockey

Maniototo has a history in women's hockey and the latest star from *Big Sky Country* is **Tessa Jopp**. Jopp (21), who has been in national development sides and shifted to Auckland a couple of years ago to further her hockey, will leave the family farm on Monday to head to Auckland for a Black Sticks' camp. She's been quoted as saying that she loves "... the fact I can come from Maniototo and play for New Zealand. I have had great support from here right since I started. A lot of our parents used to play and they kept us going... the Maniototo Area School has this quarter turf and you could do your training there and then go and play in Cromwell."

Ice Hockey

Good luck too to **Rina Watt** who this weekend heads off to take part in the National Ice Hockey League finals. Give it your best, Rina.

Show Day

This is to let you know that on Show Day this year (15 February), school will close at 12.40 when children will be released from class. Arrangements have been made for buses to leave here at 1.00 p.m.

Mike Corkery

Acting Principal

STAFF LIST 2017

Management

Mike Corkery	Acting Principal (for term 1)
Alec Campbell	Deputy Principal , Gateway, STAR, Careers
Susan Feron	Assistant Principal Junior school

Middle/Senior School Teachers

Joe Ferdinands	HoD English, Principal's Nominee (NZQA)
Dale Byrne	HoD Technology
Kelvin Robertson	HoD Maths, Middle school Dean, Bus Co-ordinator
Sandy Murphy	HoD Social Sciences
Nikki Meyer	HoD Science, Senior School Dean
Kylie McSkimming	Biology (part-time)
Kate Dowling	Biology (part-time)
Deirdre Lithgow	Co-HoD PE, Health (part-time)
Fiona Dowling	Co-HoD PE, Health (part-time)
Lauren Reid	Year 7&8 general subjects (part-time)
Stephen Bryant	Year 7&8 general subjects, Food Tech, Art, English
Jayne Hazlett	ORS teacher - Year 10 (part-time)
Sam Stevens	Agriculture (part-time)

Junior School Teachers

Celine Ferdinands	Kowhai class (New Entrant), Reading Recovery
Anne-Marie Paterson	Tawa class (Year 2)
Lisa Bryant	Whero class (Year2/3)
Chelsea Edmondston	Kahurangi class (Year4/5)
Gemma Hore	Kakariki class (Year 5/6) Monday—Wednesday
Amanda Graham	Kakariki (Year 5/6)Thursday & Friday

Support Staff

Sharon Thompson	Executive Officer/Finance
Anne Kirk	Office Administrator
Trevor Mulholland	Caretaker/Groundsman
Sue Scott	Teacher aide
Karenne Davis	Teacher aide
Dianna Whyte	Teacher aide
Rowan Feron	Sports co-ordinator

M.A.S. PRIDE

You may remember that last year we redeveloped our school values . Just in case you've forgotten over the summer break our values are : **Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy**. We use the acronym PRIDE to represent our values and at the same time the acronym also helps to foster pride in our school and community.

24th February is the official launch of MAS PRIDE and we invite you all to join us for some fun activities and to find out more about the programme. We haven't settled on a start time yet but will let you know closer to the time.

We are in the process of developing signage to promote PRIDE. We are going to be consulting staff and students this week and at the end of next week your child will bring home a copy of all the options, we ask that you choose your favourite design and then return it back to school.

The framework behind PRIDE is 'Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)'. It is a school wide approach which aims to promote appropriate behaviour in a positive manner. It is about:

- ⇒ establishing a school environment that supports long term success
- ⇒ Integrating positive academic and social behaviour expectations
- ⇒ Improving behaviour support systems
- ⇒ Using data for decision making

Acknowledging positive behaviour is a major component of this programme. There are a few new systems that we are going to be introducing by the end of month, the main ones being a PRIDE card (similar layout to a coffee card), which will be used by the staff to acknowledge individual students demonstrating the values. The other acknowledgement is the PRIDE postcard. The postcard is a higher level of acknowledgement and they will be posted home to parents. We will share more information about both systems later in the month.

There will be a PRIDE section in our newsletters where we will share some of the awesome things that are happening throughout our school.

Please approach any of the PRIDE team members if you have any queries : Gemma Hore, Lucia Dowling, Joe Ferdinands, Sandy Murphy, Nikki Meyer, Belinda Colling, and Karenne Davis

Buses

Oturehua-Wedderburn bus parents met last year to discuss safety and behaviour on School Buses.

They made recommendations that have been implemented for all buses on St John/Maniototo school runs. Parents want their children to help set the tone for responsible behaviour by, for example, supporting older children to do the right thing if something goes wrong:

Please ensure that your kids take these few basics on board:

"We don't get out of our seats - It's unsafe to be out of our seatbelts"

"We don't shout down the aisle - It's unpleasant and could distract the driver"

"We don't swear or show-off on this bus"

Older children might need advice on how to deal with these sorts of issues.

Sometimes, they get it wrong when trying to get another child to do the right thing. Parents can help their to manage these situation in a calm way, but sometimes they may need to talk to other parents.

Parents at the meeting wanted to emphasise that the bus driver has their support to stop the bus and ask anyone who is playing-up to sit at front.

S/he will phone Kelvin Robertson (Buses Supervisor 027-393-7858 / kelvin@maniototo.school.nz) if things aren't resolved.

For problems not seen by the driver, parents could contact others, whose child(ren) are "said to be" causing the problems. Please remember that kids don't always get the story right and that "we are the adults". Please let Kelvin know too, so that incidents are noted.

Structures

The Seating plan will apply - younger children at the front, seniors at back - some older children may choose to sit further forward (good modelling to help wee ones)

Strike system

Kelvin Robertson will contact parents of children who have been moved "up-the-front" or, for repeated behaviour, put "Off-the-bus" for a time. Bad language and put-downs are NOT on.

At this stage, we don't want to have bus monitor. It's hard for a kid of any age to manage; they need to be senior, confident, authoritative, AND on the bus for most of the trip. Few, if any, meet that criteria.

Other Issues

Speed of vehicles passing bus especially at Wedderburn needs to be addressed, but of course it is difficult to do much about it. (KR, Bus Companies and the Police are dealing with it as best they can)

Kelvin Robertson
(Bus Supervisor)

SOCIAL SCIENCES TRIP 2017

There will be a meeting at school for the Social Sciences trip to

Rotorua on Thursday 9th February at 6 pm in the Staffroom

Physical Education

Dear Parent/s and Caregivers,

We would like to take the opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new teachers of Physical Education. Many of you know us already as we have taught previously at Maniototo Area School. We are both excited about the opportunity to teach together in a job share position. Deirdre will teach Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, while Fiona will teach Wednesdays and Fridays.

Already our calendar is filling up with fun and varied learning experiences. Swimming is our main focus this term. We will also be teaching a small ball unit and Level 1 P.E. and Health.

We have penciled in the Rail Trail Duathlon for senior students and the Road Race which will involve all students. The swimming sports will be held on Tuesday 7 March for both junior and senior students.

We will be enforcing correct P.E. uniform. For seniors this includes school P.E. top, navy or black shorts, sports socks, and sneakers. Students need to be aware if they are not in appropriate gear, they will be given a warning, after which time we will provide P.E. kit from the gym. Junior students are required to wear appropriate footwear and girls are to wear shorts for P.E. If for any reason, your child is unable to bring correct P.E. gear they are to bring a note.

Our expectation is that if your child is swimming they will bring togs, towel and goggles on their P.E. day. We will also be asking for parent help and transport in the Junior School. A notice will follow confirming swimming times.

We look forward to taking on our new role and welcome any queries you have.

Kind regards

Deirdre Lithgow and Fiona Dowling

IMPORTANT DATES

6 February	Waitangi Day Public Holiday - school is closed
15 February	A& P Show Day—school closes at 1pm
24 February	Launch of PRIDE
28 February	Swimming lessons commence (Year 1-8)
7 March	Swimming Sports
16 March	Drive to Survive (Year 11)
20 March	Otago Anniversary Day—school is closed
25 March	MAS School Formal