



# NEWSLETTER #15

3rd November 2011

## Principal's Perspective

Term 4 is well underway. After breathing a mammoth sigh of relief after the World Cup final our students have been throwing themselves enthusiastically into an assortment of activities.

Athletics continues to be popular with our young students despite some inclement weather washing out the odd Wednesday meeting. Over 90 students have consistently attended Wednesday athletics from Strath Taieri., St Johns and the Area School. This will culminate in competitive and exciting Championships on Friday. Good luck to all the athletes. Can I also please pass on my thanks to the volunteer coaches and supportive parents who have added to the success of the Athletics meetings. Let's hope this will lead to plenty of Maniototo athletes standing on the podium at the Otago Championships later in the year.

A Junior softball coaching programme has also been initiated in the school and on Mondays several keen Year 7 and 8 softballers are being put through their paces by Lyn Kerr and Dala Huddleston. Thanks to these ladies for passing on their expert knowledge.

We have also been fortunate to secure the cricket coaching services of ex New Zealand player and coach Warren Lees. Warren will coach a group of players on Monday afternoons for the next 5 weeks. Warren is highly regarded internationally as a coach and to have him at Maniototo is fantastic. I hope our aspiring cricketers make the most of

Warrens visit and use his vast knowledge to improve their game.

Well done to Matt Harris and Malcolm Glover who were nominated as recipients of the Mana Pounamu Awards and attended the award ceremony in Dunedin last Friday.

The Education Review Office (ERO) completed their review of the school last week and their preliminary findings have been very positive. I look forward to fully informing the parent community of ERO's findings once they become official, but in the mean time I can assure everyone that our school is progressing exceptionally well and ERO have no major issues that are of concern. ERO's visit has been an excellent endorsement of the positive direction in which the school is heading.

Further exciting news for the school this week was the final approval from the Ministry of Education to redevelop our Senior School. We will be tendering this development in the next few weeks once the final plans are drawn up. The new improvements will provide our senior students with a state of the art modern learning environment. More details to follow.

All the best to our NCEA students in the next few weeks as their external examinations begin. It is an important time for these students and I wish them all the success they deserve.

Regards

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## SPORTS DAY

- Due to the weather forecast, Sports Day will now be held on Monday 7th November, at Maniototo Park Stadium.
- The BBQ will still be held on Sports Day as planned.
- A further postponement date is Thursday 10th November.
- If any chaperones or other volunteers are unable to help on those days, please contact Natalie Blakely 444 9640.
- If Sports day is postponed on Monday, it will be announced on Burn 729am and there will be school as normal.
- Students aged 7+ should be at the stadium by 9am so they are ready to commence their activities at 9.30am.
- Bus children will walk from the school to the stadium with their teachers. Please let your class teacher know if your child is not on the bus.
- 5 & 6 year olds will begin their events at 9.30am on the old hockey grounds at the south end of the park. These students are to be collected at the conclusion (between 11.30am & 12pm).
- MAS students are to wear a white t-shirt and blue shorts.

Students should bring: Appropriate clothing for weather, Lunch, Drink bottle, Warm Jacket, Sunhat, Sunscreen.

- Adults passing through the gate will be asked for a gold coin donation to assist with running costs.

## ABACUS CALENDARS

Students in Years 1-8 are currently doing art work for Abacus calendars, diary or card orders. Art work will be completed this week and can be viewed from this Friday on.

Art Calendar	\$11
Cards	\$12
Diaries	\$16
Photo Calendars	\$13 (Parents to provide photo on a CD or email to <a href="http://www.submitphoto.co.nz">www.submitphoto.co.nz</a> )

**Orders for calendars, diaries and cards need to be back to the class teacher by Friday 11th November.**



## MANIOTOTO RUGBY WORLD CUP KICKING COMPETITION

**As part of our Rugby World Cup activities at school there was a goal kicking competition (just in case the awesome All Blacks needed a few more reserves for the number 10 jersey!!).**

**A variety of kicking styles and skills were on display as students from Years 1-8 competed to be Dan Carter's understudy. A big thank you to the year 8 students for organising this fun activity.**

<b>Year 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Billy Hunter</b> <b>Huntah Menzies-Cook</b>
<b>Year 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>Charlotte Hutton-Atkins</b> <b>Mitchell Duncan</b>
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6</b>	<b>Andrea Smith</b> <b>Ryan Becker</b>
<b>Year 7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Elle Steele</b> <b>Matthew Neilson</b>

## **Language Immersion Award**

### **Louis Graham (Year 13) was selected for this award given out by the Ministry of Education.**

This year from 24<sup>th</sup> February to 21st July I lived in a small town called lago puelo, at the bottom of the province of Chubut, one of the provinces of Argentina. It was a truly amazing experience, learning a language and meeting all sorts of people, I didn't regret a thing.



I attended school while I was there; it was part of the exchange. My school was the agrotecnica 717. Unlike the other schools in the district my school went for 8 hours, from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. I may have changed if I was going to spend a year there, but because I only had 5 months I decided it was better to stay. Besides, though the school hours were horrible my classmates were all really friendly and good people. I had two other exchange students in my class, A guy from Italy and a Girl from United States. Each class was two hours long and we didn't change classroom with every class, the teachers changed instead. The reason my school had so many hours was because it was a "farm" school. The extra hours went into learning about trees (which included chopping them down) picking apples, pruning walnut trees, planting new trees, and the sheep class.

In my town and the bigger town nearby there were 10 exchange students (counting me), from Thailand, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, United States, and Italy. We all became good friends and spoke Spanish together as the Italians and the girl from Belgium didn't speak very good English.

My host family was absolutely amazing, though they were not the most normal family. I had a host Mum, her boyfriend who lived in the house (for a little while), Sergio- a very nice man who cooked a lot and helped about (I never quite figured out what he was doing in the house but he was a part of the family nonetheless), two sisters of 21 and 19 who studied in Buenos Aires and came back to the house in the holidays, a Pekinese dog called Luna, the two carers of my host grandma (who didn't live in the house but were there quite a lot), my host grandma who lived in a small house right beside my house, and the carers daughter who also helped look after host grandma and was pretty much my sister. They were the greatest host family I could have hoped for.

When I arrived I spoke nearly no Spanish, when I left I could understand anything I heard and speak reasonably well too (not fluently, but very well).



The way I got this wonderful opportunity was through the Language Immersion Award, a Ministry of Education award through the AFS exchange organization.

Because I was learning a language through NCEA I was eligible to apply for it. I applied in my first year of learning Spanish and didn't even get short listed. I applied again in my second year of Spanish and I got the award! They give out 17 a year.

This paid for the whole exchange, all I had to pay for was my spending money (around \$3000 for 6 months is about right). Though \$3000 seems like a lot, compared with the \$11,250 that the exchange costs—it is nothing. And the trip was worth every cent!

A big thank you to the Ranfurly Lions club and the Pakeke Lions for their great support.

*Louis Graham*



## Important School Dates

**\*\* Please remember to update your calendar at home \*\*\***

7 November	Maniototo Sports Day (postponement date Thursday 10th November)
9 November	Last day of classes for Year 11-13 students
10-25 Nov	NCEA Exams
16 November	BOT Meeting
17 November	PTA Meeting 3.15pm in the Library
18 November	Music Tuition
22 November	Otago Sports (postponement date Thursday 24th)
24 November	School Production
25 November	Music Tuition
28 Nov-2 Dec	Swimming Week (Years 1-8)
28 Nov-2 Dec	Year 9-10 Exam Week
28 Nov-1 Dec	Year 8 Camp (Rail Trail)
30 Nov-2 Dec	Year 7 Camp (Rail Trail)
5 Dec-7 Dec	Kakariki Class Camp
5 Dec-8 Dec	Year 9-10 Outdoor Education
9 December	Music
12 December	Prizegiving
13 December	Term 4 ends (half day of school)

### School Magazine Sports Photos

If sports coaches/parents have any team photos that we could use for the school magazine, please e-mail photo and names to Nikki Paterson at school.

[patersonn@maniototo.school.nz](mailto:patersonn@maniototo.school.nz)

### 2012 TERM DATES

Term 1	Start Date	Monday 30 January
	End Date	Thursday 5 April
Term 2	Start Date	Monday 23 April
	End Date	Friday 29 June
Term 3	Start Date	Monday 16 July
	End Date	Friday 28 September
Term 4	Start Date	Monday 15 October
	End Date	Friday 14 December

School will commence on 30th January 2012, but there will be no school on Friday 3 February and Monday 6 February (Waitangi Day).

### PTA XMAS HAMPER

Grocery items can be left at the school office. Raffle cards will be sent home with students over the next few weeks.

Each student will get the card for one night, and the card and money should be returned to the class teacher the following day.

Thank you for your Support.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you to Giles Graham who has been the BOT Student Representative in 2011.

Congratulations to Luke Steele who has been nominated as Student Representative in 2012.



### ANNUAL LIBRARY BOOKSALE

It's that time again, and we are starting to collect up material for our Naseby Booksale which raises money for the Community Library.

We would really appreciate if you could drop off to the Library any surplus books, magazines, puzzles, DVD's etc.

We love the support that is shown to the Library each year which helps us to run a great sale.

Thank you.

*David Hunter*

Principal