



# NEWSLETTER

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## Kei ōu ringaringa te ao: *The world is yours.*

**What do you want to do? What makes you happy? What are your dreams and aspirations in life? The sky is the limit and the world is yours. All you have to do is dream and persevere. Make the most out of all the opportunities the world has to offer!**

As I sit on the banks of the Waimakariri River in Christchurch, I am filled with pride for how our school year has started. Last week, all our staff got together and set the tone for 2025. As I am currently preparing to take on the Kathmandu Coast to Coast, it is brilliant to know we have all our team ready for what the year ahead looks like. There will be challenges, and things that don't go right, but it will be how we all approach these challenges and problems to minimise their impact. It is an exciting time ahead and I look forward to supporting all of our students, staff and whānau to embrace all the new challenges and problems with a positive attitude.

As we embark on the year ahead, we want to reinforce our core values at South Makirikiri School, they are, **Contributors**, **Self-managers**, and being **Mindful** in everything we do. These values guide us in fostering a positive, engaged, and responsible school community.

As a staff, we have explored our mantra of "**Creating Good Humans**" in 2025—students who are actively involved in the wider school community and who demonstrate kindness, responsibility, and resilience in their everyday actions.

We are committed to providing a diverse and engaging curriculum that offers a wide range of learning opportunities while continuing to prioritize the core skills of literacy and numeracy. By doing so, we aim to equip our students with the tools they need to succeed both academically and personally.

We look forward to a fantastic year of growth, learning, and community spirit!

### **Staffing:**

We have hit the ground running fully staffed for 2025 with some new additions to our team. We welcome to our school community for the year Mrs Lucinda Dodunski who will be covering CRT in Room 3, 5 and 7. Mrs Dodunski will be in classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we look forward to the students getting to work with her.

Miss Kristen Ashworth will be taking a role of CRT and Support Teacher for our Mindplus Club students who will be challenged once a week in extensive inquiry programmes. This will occur once a week for 2.5 hours. Miss Ashworth is also doing CRT one day a week for Rooms 4 and 6. She also will be working inside school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Miss Ashworth has been amongst our classes last year and we know she will bring her range of skills, along with passion for sport to South Makirikiri School.

Mrs Tessa Nisckhe will be providing CRT cover for Room 2 every fortnight and we know she will be with us to cover sickness, when she can. It is so positive having a great group of teachers supporting our full time teachers.

## Staff List and contact details:

Room 2 - Rowena Coleman (rcoleman@southmak.school.nz)

Room 3 - Anna-Louise Maas (amaas@southmak.school.nz)

Room 4 - Brenna O'Neill (boneill@southmak.school.nz)

Room 5 - Lucy Richards (lrichards@southmak.school.nz)

Room 6 - Glenda Menges (gmenges@southmak.school.nz)

Room 7 - Nat Lagah (nlagah@southmak.school.nz)

## Water Safety programme:

As you are all aware the Marton Pool is closed, so easy access to the pool to support our water safety programme has been impacted. We are working really hard to have a range of water based experiences for all our students. We are looking at getting to the beach (Foxton/Himatangi), river (Awastone), and lakes with multiple options depending on water quality. These experiences are going to cost us significantly more than using the local pool as the travel component is increasing. We have scheduled days for these events and are just confirming bookings which we will then be seeking parent support to provide supervision for the activities (we will get more information and dates out to you as soon as we have the bookings confirmed). We are excited to include the paddle boards and sailing boats as part of this learning.

We have installed a container to house all the paddle boards and lifejackets which were provided from funds from Marton Christian Welfare. We had hoped to have the school van ready for the start of the year but unfortunately, this has been delayed with Ford NZ.



## Teacher Only Day:

As we are embarking on a new Maths and Literacy Curriculum the MOE (Ministry of Education) has provided schools with two TOD to occur during term time. Last week, we combined with four local schools to have our first day before school started. Our second MOE supported Maths day has had to be moved to Friday the 11th April as our preferred date was not able to be supported through the facilitator. This will mean Term 1 will finish for students on Thursday the 10th of April. It is great that we can collaborate with other schools to have a collective understanding of what the MOE envisages Maths to look like in all schools

**Greg Allan, Principal**

# School Reminders

Our school uniform is the school polo tee-shirt, the school fleece jersey and the school sunhat. Students need to wear BLACK or NAVY BLUE shorts, skirts, pants etc. Students are allowed to wear whatever shoes they would like. Please do not come to school in denim shorts or anything else that is not black or navy. This also includes shorts, skirts or pants with large logos or pictures in different colours. It looks much tidier if all our students are wearing the appropriate uniform and representing South Makirikiri School proudly.



Our school hours are 8.30am to 2.30pm. Please make sure students are here at school ready to go by 8.30am. It can be very disruptive to the class when students are arriving late and it also can be upsetting for the student who has arrived late. After 2.30pm when parents are here at school with their children, please remember it is not the teachers responsibility to manage student behaviours. Our rules at school is 1 PERSON ON THE TRAMP at a time. We appreciate parents managing this after school while your children play on the playground.



We appreciate parents like to have catch ups with teachers and they are normally available between 8am and 8.15am. If there is something important you wish to discuss please book in with the teacher. From 8.15am to 8.30am teachers are working alongside students and are preparing for learning to start at 8.30am. It is really helpful having classes clear of parents before 8.30am so teachers can focus on their learning programmes and getting the day started when the bell goes.



## Friends of School

Welcome back to South Mākirikiri School for 2025 and also a big welcome to all of our new families! We are a group of parents who organise and facilitate a range of fundraising and social events to support our students, school, and community.

We meet once a term and new members are always welcome. Our main annual fundraiser is hay, which is completed over the summer months. This is a great social activity and we encourage new families to join us. There are also many other opportunities to support Friends of School throughout the year, from BBQs through to picking sweetcorn.

Here are some examples of how our funding has supported South Mākirikiri School previously:

- School camps
- Water safety programmes
- Ukulele lessons
- Educational resources
- Sports uniforms and bags
- Sports gear
- Year 8 leavers' hoodies
- Annual student Christmas Party
- Fitness track
- Community welfare

### Term 1 Meeting

Our Term 1 meeting is on Tuesday 25th February at 7pm in the school staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend, so please come along and help us support our school.

### Hay

We have had a massive start to the hay season and lots of parents have been very busy over the holidays picking up bales of hay for local farmers. Picking up hay bales may sound daunting to some but it is always a fun, friendly environment with lots of laughs. So come give it a go... connect with our local community, and support our school!

We are proud to provide all students at South Mākirikiri School with additional opportunities throughout their educational journey. If you would like to join our email list or hay text group please send us an email at [fos@southmak.school.nz](mailto:fos@southmak.school.nz). Please also join us on Facebook.

**Tessa Nitschke, President**

# CALENDAR

- **Thursday 6th February**  
Waitangi Day - School Closed
- **Friday 7th February**  
School Closed
- **Thursday 20th February**  
Whole School River Day
- **Friday 21st February**  
School assembly
- **Wednesday 26 February**  
Lake William, whole school
- **Thursday 6th March**  
Whole school beach day
- **Friday 7th March**  
School Assembly
- **Friday 14th March**  
Mt Biggs tough kids
- **Wednesday 19th March**  
Whole school athletics day
- **Friday 21st March**  
School Assembly
- **Friday 4th April**  
Inter-school Athletics
- **Friday 4th April**  
School Assembly
- **Thursday 10th April**  
Last day of term 1
- **Friday 11th April**  
Teacher only day

# From the Board

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy summer period and the kids are refreshed and ready for another action-packed school year. I for one, am grateful to the return of routine to our household and less food being consumed, just because it's there!

I had the privilege to attend one of the Teacher Only Days last week in my work capacity to support the professional learning and development of our teachers. It was a real pleasure to see our whole staffing team so eager and enthusiastic to prepare their learning spaces, upskill themselves on educational developments and welcome our students back to school.

Thank you to those champions that have been out supporting our hay fundraiser - we are going to be able to do some exciting things with the money earned from your hard mahi. On that, please take a moment to re-familiarise yourselves with our volunteer responsibility understanding below.

Good luck to Mr Allan competing in the Coast to Coast in Te Wai Pounamu and to our AgriKids teams heading to Stratford this weekend!

Kia pai tō rā,  
Libby Rayner,  
Presiding Member

## **South Mākirikiri School Board and Friends of School Hay Fundraising Volunteer Responsibility**

I, the participant and my family, hereby acknowledge and agree to the following terms and conditions in consideration for my participation in the Friends of School Hay Fundraiser.

**Acknowledgment of Risks:** Participating in a Hay Fundraiser on a working farm involves certain inherent risks, including but not limited to physical injury, death, illness, and property damage. These risks may arise from various factors, including environmental conditions, motor vehicles, machinery, terrain, animals, wildlife, people and my own physical condition.

**Voluntary Participation:** My participation and my family's in this fundraiser is entirely voluntary, and I have chosen to participate of my own free will.

**Responsibility for children:** My children are My responsibility; I will know where they are at all times and educate them of the hazards involved being on a working farm e.g. staying clear of moving vehicles, trailers, livestock, and machinery.

**Waiver of Liability:** South Makirikiri School and the Farmer, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and agents are not responsible for any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, or causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, injury, or illness that I may sustain while participating in the Hay fundraiser, even if such injuries or damages are caused by the negligence or fault of the farmer.

**Indemnification:** South Makirikiri School and/or the farmer are harmless from any claims or actions brought against them by third parties arising out of my participation in the Hay fundraiser.

I have read and understood this.

# OUR STUDENTS

Some of the awesome achievements our students have had over the holidays.



Hamish Knox (Room 7) was selected to play in the Hawkes Bay Cricket tournament in January. This sees teams from all over the country come together creating some very exciting opportunities for children. Hamish joined his team in playing 6 games over four days.



Dyllan and Kendall Nairne (room 7) represented the Whanganui U13 girls cricket team this Summer. They competed in the lower north island tournament mid Jan, where they came away undefeated. They both loved their experiences and has reignited their passion for the sport. Dynamic duo to watch out for!



Kyrie Cobb-Albret (Room 3) and Charlie Cobb-Albret (Room 7) competed in the Waka Ama Nation Sprint Champs. They competed for Ratana Paa Kaihoe Trust in the W6 and W12 races. It was their first time competing at nationals, they trained incredibly hard and had a great time!



Sophie Barlow (room 6) was accepted into the Amdram Whanganui advanced class over the summer. She primarily does acting and will start to do script work and readings with the advanced class.



At the 160th Turakina Highland Games Charlie Rayner (room 7) moved up to Premier grade and won a collection of awards including two golds for the Highland Fling and the Seann Truibhas which saw her presented with Runner Up Champion of Restricted Premier 11 years and under. Ginny Rayner (room 5) moved up to the Intermediate grade for this event and also earned awards in all 6 of her dances.



# Events and activities on in our community

## Do a Duathlon Series

The duathlon series is back! This year we have bikes available for use and free transport up to the event, as well as healthy snacks once you're finished and medals for those who complete 3 or 4 events. This is a FREE event due to the support of Rangitikei District Council, Sport Whanganui, The Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society and NZCT. Please share the flier attached and registration link: [Do A Duathlon Link](#)



HAVE FUN

## Rangitikei Athletics Club

Athletics kicks off again this term on Mondays from the 10th February!  
 3-6yo's at 5-5:30pm (Membership is \$10/child for the term)  
 7yo + at 5:45-7pm (Membership is \$20/child for the term)  
 Follow their Facebook Page for regular updates. There is a fund to support families who are not able to cover the membership costs, request goes to **Emily Rayner: rayners138@gmail.com**

enjoy!

## Beach Hikoi

Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Research Team have organised a 10km beach hikoi to walk along part of the iwi coastal boundary. It's a great opportunity to see a rarely touched part of the coast and hear the pūrākau of Haunui a Nanaia who named the awa/rivers along his journey south. The funds from the registration donations support the iwi rangatahi research team to an indigenous persons conference in New Mexico in April.  
 Haunui Hikoi registration link: [beach Hikoi link](#)



## Ball Skills and Twilight Netball

Our local netball club The Marton Bears in partnership with Te Kotuku Hauora will be holding FREE ball skills for tamariki on Sundays starting February 9th at Centennial Park in line with our twilight social competition. Can the attached panui please be shared within your kura for any tamariki or coaches that would like to be involved. The registration link for this kaupapa is: [Twilight netball link](#)



## After School Touch

The Te Puna team are putting together a Touch competition that will kick off on Monday 17th February. Primary school teams from 3:30pm then adults afterwards. More information on this soon!