

NEWSLETTER NO 1 JANUARY 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians

On behalf of the Board and Staff I extend a very warm welcome to all new parents and their daughters. I like to think you have joined a special school where Christian values, tradition and a love of learning are encouraged.

To our current families, thank you for your on-going support.

New Principal

We warmly welcome Mr Willy Kersten and family to the Rathkeale campus. As Co-Principal, I look forward to working with him on all Senior College matters.

New Staff

At the beginning of Term 1 we welcome the following new members of staff to St Matthew's:

- Mrs Jane Thackray (PE/Sports Assistant)
- Fiona Heberley, Kim McKinley, Virginia Thompson (Part-time Matrons)

Academic Results

We congratulate a large number of girls who have achieved very high results in the recent NCEA examinations. Initial scrutiny reveals our girls performing well above the National average. More information will be released later.

What has been happening over the holidays? It has been very busy on the St Matthew's site since school finished in December!

- Repainting of Main House and the School Chapel.

- The floor surfaces in the gymnasium and art room have been re-polyurethaned.
- An extensive pergola (courtesy of the 'Friends') has been constructed in the swimming pool complex.
- The 42 individual rooms in Hampton House were repainted.
- A small extension to the gymnasium office is underway.
- A new matrons' office and parents reception area is under construction in Main House.

Work will commence shortly on the construction of a new Music Suite behind the Chapel.

As always, I am grateful for the support of the St Matthew's Board of Trustees and Trinity Schools Trust Board in ensuring our facilities are kept up to scratch and modernised where possible.



School List 2008

Do we have your permission?

Each year we produce a small book with the addresses and telephone numbers of our girls, parents and staff. If you do not wish your name to appear, please phone Val Diedrichs on (06) 370 1731 or email vald@stmatts.school.nz before Monday 18th February.

Parents are reminded to advise the school office of any changes during the year to their contact addresses, telephone numbers etc.

Traffic Safety

We would appreciate your support to ensure the safety of our girls and the public. Would you please try and observe the following when dropping off and collecting your daughter/s:



Mornings

Before 8.00am

Main driveway or Hampton House entrance may be used

8.00am-8.30am

Pownall Street outside the Main gate/Hampton House entrance/Cole Street walkway (No 86)

Afternoons

3.00pm-3.30pm

Pownall Street/Hampton House/ Cole Street walkway (No 86)

Cell Phones

A gentle reminder to all parents that cell phones for Yr 7-9 boarders are not permitted.

It is also prudent to advise you that inappropriate use of cell phones at school by your daughter/s will result in confiscation. We would really prefer people to be sensible over these matters.



Girls returning in 2009

Before the close of Term 1 2008, parents with daughters currently in Yr 7-12 will be asked to confirm their intentions for 2009. We realise this is early but it does allow us a little more flexibility when positions are to be allocated for next year.

If you are not sure, I would be grateful if you would notify me.



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Please note the following dates:

Sunday 3rd February

3.00pm 'Social Hour' – a time to meet new parents and staff

Sunday 17th February

9.00am Parent/Daughter tennis tournament and cricket match

2.30pm Swimming Sports – parents are invited to bring a picnic tea

Friday 29th February

1.15-7.30pm St Matthew's/Rathkeale Combined Athletic Sports at Rathkeale



Please do not hesitate to contact me at school or home if there are matters you wish to discuss.

With best wishes

Erik Pedersen
Principal



Information Technology Electronic Newsletter (eNews):

An informal electronic newsletter is sent out at the end of each week. It contains photos and reports of happenings during the past week and any urgent messages

regarding the coming week etc. We really would like as many parents as possible to subscribe to this.

To subscribe please send an email to: subscribe@stmatts.wairarapa.school.nz with '**subscribe**' in the subject line and the email address you sent the message from will be added to the list ready for next year. (Please be certain to use the word **subscribe** to stop your message accidentally being spammed!)

If your daughter no longer attends St Matthew's and you no longer wish to receive the weekly eNews you can unsubscribe yourself by following the on screen instructions (at the very bottom of the page) at:

<http://stmatts.wairarapa.school.nz/ma ilman/listinfo/stmattsnews>



Friends of St Matthew's Raffle

The Friends of St Matthew's Raffle is a wonderful opportunity to win a term's tuition donation. At a cost of \$40 (\$10 per term), you have 4 opportunities to win a term's tuition donation, which is then credited against your account with the school.

This is an excellent fundraiser for the Friends and it requires a lot less time and effort to organise than many of the projects we undertake. By participating in this scheme you are supporting the Friends Committee, which works very hard raising funds to provide all those extras for our girls.

This will be invoiced to your school account in February. If you do not wish to participate please contact the school.

Reece Trubshoe
Treasurer
Friends of St Matthew's