

Solway School Newsletter - Term 4, Week 3

Tuesday 21st October, 2025



Upcoming Events Dates & Reminders

- ★ Primary Schools Strike Thursday 23rd October
- ★ Teacher Only Day Friday 24th October
- ★ Basic-fact-a-thon 5th Nov
- ★ End of year Prize Giving Fri 12th Dec 1 pm
- ★ Last day of school for children Tue 16th Dec

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Tēnā koutou, Talofa lava, Mālō e Lelei, Namaste, Kia Orana, Bula.

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o te kura o Solway,

Positive announcements in New Zealand Education: Attendance & Achievement Its very easy to only focus on the negative but over the past 2 weeks we have as a nation had some extremely positive results

Improved Attendance:

National school attendance has risen and is now back to pre-COVID levels. Nearly 60% of students are attending regularly (71% at Solway over the last 12 months), up from around 40% in 2022. This means 60% are missing less than 5 days a term. More students and parents now recognise the importance of being at school every day, which is a key factor in learning success.

Literacy & Numeracy Progress:

ERO's reports also highlight early signs of improvement in English and Maths. Almost all schools have adopted the refreshed curriculum, and most teachers have changed how they teach literacy and numeracy. Many are already seeing better student progress, especially in primary years.

While challenges remain, these national trends are positive and reflect growing efforts across schools to lift engagement, attendance, and achievement for all learners.

Basic Fact-athon Fundraiser: Our Solway Basic-fact-a-thon is not far away - funds are to be invested in keeping our **swimming pool** going.

Congratulations - Last night we had the first Board meeting for our newly elected Solway Board of Trustees. Thank you Katie Grant who will serve as our new board Chairperson and Shannon Bayliss who was elected Treasurer. Thank you also to Kelly Lissington who had been acting Chairperson and to fellow board members Jaco Le Roux and Sean Jarvis.

Strike / Teacher Only Day / Labour Weekend: Just a reminder, Labour weekend is a 5 day weekend for students. Thursday 23rd October is a Primary Schools STRIKE. Friday 24th October is a Teacher Only Day. Monday 27th October is a holiday as always.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Hats from after Labour Weekend- we consider it to be summer (ish) after Labour weekend meaning all students will need to bring their hats everyday. Hats should be navy blue without logos. Children can also wear sandals. Black or Navy Blue Crocs are also acceptable but they need to be free from any jibbitz.

RETURN OF CUPS. Any students who were awarded cups or shields at last year's prize giving, could these please be returned to the school office asap so we can get them engraved for the 2025 recipients. Thank you to those who have returned them already.

Ngā mihi
Mark Bridges

School Notices

YOUTH MARKET - November 8th at 'The Spot' - come along and support Rata's Sweet Stand 10 - 1 pm

 **Where:** The Spot, Masterton
When: Saturday Nov 8
10am - 1pm

\$1.50
Giant Snakes

**Rata's
Sweet Stand**

Come and support us at the
Youth Market

 \$2.00
Lolly Bags

\$1.50  \$1.50
Fizzy Drinks

Rata has been busy preparing for the Youth Market. We've been learning about market research, labour time, cost, revenue, and profit.

Come along and support Solway by checking out our stall at the Youth Market on November 8th.

Every purchase helps put our learning into action.

Thanks for your support!



School Road Patrol 2026 - If your child is currently a year 5 and wishes to be part of the school Road Patrol team next year please follow the link to register their interest.

<https://forms.gle/jF7qmtgDmdyajxfz9>

Solway Athletics day is scheduled for Friday, Week 5, November the 7th.

Postponement day Monday the 10th of November. Students who qualify for an event will be entered into Masterton Athletics cluster on Tuesday 18th November, Week 7.

T Ball Begins

Saturday saw the start of summer sports. The Solway Strikers had such a great first game with many players never playing before. Thanks also for all the parent help.

Player of the day went to Aiya. You did so well for your first game mate. Great hits, running between the bases and great supporting your team mates.



Scale A Teacher Vacancy 2026:

Solway School seeks a creative, caring and experienced junior teacher to join our team for 2026. This might be either full time or a job sharing arrangement may be considered for the right candidate. Ph 063774850 or send your CV to Mark Bridges at principal@solway.school.nz by 3pm Friday October 24th

SPECIAL EVENTS in Term 4

- TEACHERS STRIKE Thursday 23rd October (planned)
- Teacher only day Friday 24th October
- Lots of trips
- Basic Factathon November 5th
- Athletics Friday November 7th
- Year 5 Camp Thursday & Friday 13th & 14th November
- School Disco December 4th
- Year 6 Graduation Wednesday 10th December
- Prize Giving Friday December 12th 1 pm
- Last day of school Tuesday December 16th. *(Please note that Prize giving isn't on the last day this year simply due to the availability of the Wairarapa College Hall).*

Week 3 Ako Card Winners!!!

Congratulations to Emma, Isaac, Oscar, Emilie, Paisley, Jackson, Mikaela, Rio, Pharrell and Georgia!





STARS OF THE WEEK



Pōhutukawa: Frank is our star this week, Frank is such a bubbly personality in Pōhutukawa. Frank listens carefully, participates and manages himself. You are a super role model!

Kānuka: Adalyn Few is our star this week. Adalyn has made a wonderful transition into school and is a focused learner already! Well done Adalyn we are loving having you in Kanuka.

Rimu: William is our star for his enthusiasm and hard work he put into assembly. Well Done William, you spoke to the audience very clearly on Friday! William was focused and enthusiastic in all our practices leading up to Friday, what a great role model!

Harakeke: Amelia is our star! She puts 100% into participating and performing in Kapa Haka sessions. Tu meke Amelia.

Tītoki: Freya is our star this week. Freya created a great Seesaw post independently. She described her food and flower creations that she made for Pet & Flower day, using tricky words and adding detail to make her writing interesting. Ka pai, Freya!

Kōwhai: Pharrell always shows Manaakitanga in the classroom. He is a responsible and hard-working learner who always gives his best and completes his work to a high standard. Mīharo Pharrell!

Tōtara: Jaxon shows a good deal of respect for our classroom - so amazingly so, that he'll sort things for others, to keep the classroom neat, tidy and in order!

Mataī: Max has shown Pono recently by the way he takes on new challenges, striving to do his best work. He has worked away diligently on Canva and completed all his research independently. Tu meke, Max.

Mānuka: Zayde always shows Manaakitanga in the class. He is respectful and he has been working hard on his reading and is making progress. Tino Pai Zayde.

Rata: Haleigh is our star this week for working really hard in maths. She can now use short multiplication and has started helping others. Ka mau te wehi!

Community Notices



MUSICAL THEATRE

PERFORMANCE BY WAIRARAPA KIDS' CHOIR

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2025 6.45PM ST MATTHEW'S
SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025 2PM COLLEGIATE HALL

COME AND ENJOY OUR AMAZING LOCAL WAIRARAPA TALENT



TICKET PRICES:

Adult: \$10

Child: \$5

Family: (2 Adult, 3 Kids) \$30

PURCHASE NOW:

www.myetickets.co.nz

Search for: Oliver with a Twist

LIMITED DOOR SALES – CASH ONLY

GET HELP FROM A DIGI-COACH!



Aiden's availability this week. No appointment needed!

Monday: REAP Wairarapa from 10am – 2pm
Tuesday: REAP Wairarapa from 10am – 2pm
Wednesday: Heartland Services Martinborough from 10am – 2pm
Thursday: REAP Wairarapa from 10am – 2pm
Friday: Away

Come and see Aiden for:

One-on-one support

- Smartphone Basics
- Using Apps
- Online Safety
- Using Email
- Any digital queries!

IT'S FREE!



Ka nui te mihi, ā, kia pai te wiki