

Alfredton School's Newsletter is proudly supported by ...



BISSET HONDA

HONDA

KEEPING YOU GOING

116 Main Street, Pahiatua (06) 376 8829

The advertisement shows the exterior of a Bisset Honda dealership. The storefront has large glass windows and a prominent red sign with the Honda logo and name. Several red Honda ATVs are parked in front of the store. To the left, there is a logo for Bisset Honda and a partially visible 'SHOP' sign. The text 'KEEPING YOU GOING' is written in large, bold, white letters across the middle of the image. Below it, the address and phone number are listed.



Artwork by Kitana



Alfredton School

Inspiring learning for a lifetime ~ Little acorns to mighty oaks

Newsletter ~ Wednesday, 15 October 2025

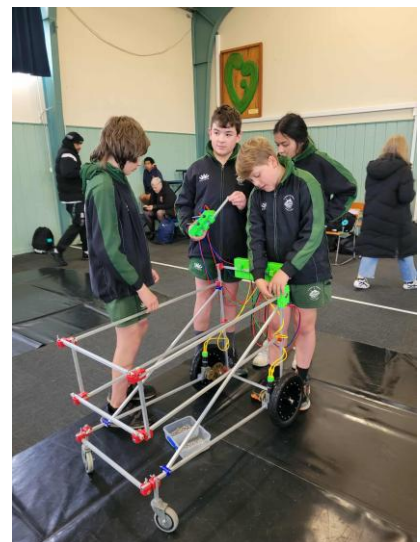
Alfredton School's Vision

To grow students into inquiring, confident, adaptable learners who are well prepared to reach their full potential.

Kia ora,

Welcome back to Term 4, an incredibly busy term. Please check the dates for your diary carefully in each newsletter.

Well done to the three teams who competed in the EPro8 Regionals yesterday. Congratulations to the Year 5/6 team who placed equal 3rd.



Over the next three weeks our Year 7 and 8's are organising three fundraising events. These will form part of the community service component of the William Pike Challenge. Please read the information for each of these events later in the newsletter.

As you will be aware one of our buses (Pa Valley / Castlehill) is currently off the road. We do not have a date for its return. In order to try to support the whanau on these runs we are changing the morning runs of our other buses. Afternoon runs will not change. School will be open from 8am for anyone who needs to drop off their child.

Alfredton School will be open on Thursday 23rd October during the Teachers Strike day, if it is confirmed as going ahead. The majority of staff will be at school on that day. If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you for your understanding whilst our phones were non-operational. This was due to damage to our wifi. They are now working as normal.

Please can all trophies be returned to school as soon as possible. This includes both Pet's Day trophies and those awarded at the end of year prizegiving.

Pet's Day will take place on November 6th. If you have not registered your pet yet, please send the form back to the office as soon as possible.

The Family Challenge this year is to create a decorative post and place it in the Native Garden. The post should represent your family and can include your family name. There will be a map available at the office from November 3rd showing where they can be placed as they will be judged in the garden on the morning of Pets Day. We hope that lots of families will enter as it will form a reminder of our Alfredton whanau for years to come.

After the pet judging is complete Tova Foreman and Kitana McGrath will be holding a cake auction. This is the girls' idea so we hope that parents will support them by donating home-made decorated cakes for them to auction. This will take place before the games begin. These should be brought to the library on the 6th.

We will begin collecting donations for the Tombola and Bottle-O stalls from the 28th October. If you have any questions about these games, please contact the office.

School photographs were taken last week. They will be available online to preview and purchase very soon.

Have a good week.

Nga mihi nui

Alison

CAKE AUCTION



before the games begin
Bake your most dazzling cake

Dates for your diary

Term 4

17th October Save the Teddy - fundraising for Hato Hone St John

21st October Handball Marathon - fundraising for KidsCan

31st October Halloween Dress Up - fundraising for Starship

6th November Pets Day

7th November Teacher Only Day

13th November Bush Ag Day

18th November Moving Forward Conference (Year 7-8)

19th November Rural Schools Athletics (postponement 21st)

26th November Year 8 Leavers Trip
28th November Bush Athletics (postponement 1st Dec)
2nd December Whole School Trip to Te Manawa and the Lido
4th December William Pike Outdoor Activity Off The Loop Foxton
12th December Production and Christmas Tree Night
16th December Christmas Party
17th December Last day of term

Year 7 and 8 Technology

Term 4: 16th and 30th October, 13th and 27th November.

Bush Primary Tech has its own Facebook page. Photographs, recipes and other information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069563117443>

2025 School Dates

Term Four: Monday 6th October to Wednesday 17th December (Closed 27th October)

There will be a Teacher Only Day on 7th November

Dates for 2026 will be available after our Board meeting on October 30th.

Schooldocs

Alfredton School Policies and Procedures can be found here:

<https://alfredton.schooldocs.co.nz>

Username: alfredton

Password: mighty

Alfredton School Board

At our first meeting since the Board elections Ferinica Hawe-Foreman agreed to be our Presiding Member until the end of 2025.

Voting in our by-election will close at 4pm on October 15th, postal votes close on October 20th. Votes will be counted on October 21st and the results announced on October 22nd.

Our next Board meeting is on October 30th at 5pm. This will be the first meeting for our full Board. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Message from the Ministry of Education

Measles cases in Aotearoa

Recent measles cases linked to overseas travel have been reported in Te Tai Tokerau and Queenstown. Cases were active in the community while infectious and there is a risk of measles circulating there, and more widely in Aotearoa.

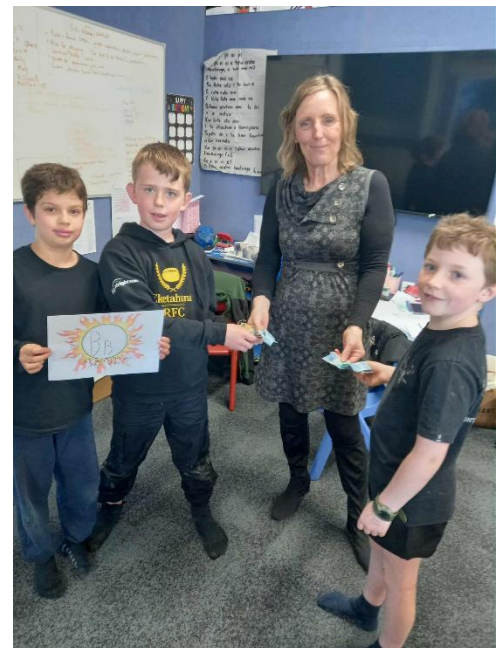
Measles is very contagious and can make people of any age very sick. Watch for measles symptoms - fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a blotchy rash. If anyone in your whānau has measles symptoms keep them home and contact a doctor or Healthline urgently on 0800 611 116. Anyone closely exposed to measles who has not received two MMR vaccinations cannot attend their school | kura for at least eight days.

Vaccination is the best protection from measles. Check all whānau are immunised.

[Measles immunity - Health New Zealand](#)

Thank You - The Beastie Boys

Ben Forbes, George Edmonds and Remi Maggio are Alfredton's latest entrepreneurs. They have decided to donate some of their earnings towards our production.



Term 4 Learning Focus

Our theme this term is Town and Country Mouse. The children will be investigating the different amenities and experiences which can be found in the town / city and the country. They will be looking closely at the Alfredton area including exploring which amenities would improve or provide a better experience for those living here without damaging the rural life.

Fundraising - Term Four

Friday 17th October - Hato Hone St John

All children will be learning CPR. The Year 7 and 8's will support Tui children. We are asking for a gold coin donation which will be sent to support the work of Hato Hone St John.

SAVE YOUR TEDDY DAY

Information for students and whānau



Hato Hone
St John

Our school has registered to take part in national Save Your Teddy Day, coinciding with World Restart a Heart Day, where students will learn how to save a life by practicing CPR on their teddy or soft toy.

Your child's class will be participating in this fun and exciting Hato Hone St John session. This is a practical activity where they will learn and practice how to respond when a person needs care in a cardiac arrest. This means they will learn how to give CPR to their teddy or cushion.

Children will join a practical demonstration via a video which will require them to use a teddy, soft toy or cushion to practice on. Any soft toy or cushion, ideally something at least 20cm in length, would work perfectly.

Children will need to bring their teddy / soft toy or cushion to school on Save Your Teddy Day.



Save your
Teddy

Tuesday 21st October - KidsCan

The Year 7 and 8's will be organising this event through morning tea and lunchtime. We are asking for a koha which will be donated to KidsCan.



Friday 31st October - Starship

The Year 7 and 8's decided that they would like to hold a dress up day for Halloween and ask for a koha which will be sent to Starship for their Christmas appeal. The Year 5 and 6's will be baking cupcakes on the 30th. These will be sold on the 31st. Further details will follow.



From the Classroom

Huia Class have been investigating ratio and percentages as well as letter writing.

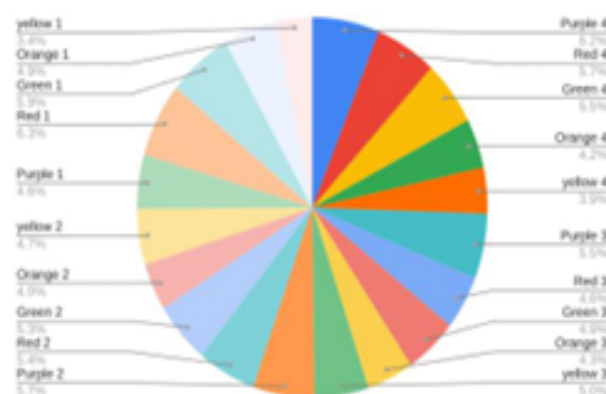


Kia Ora,

I am writing as a student at Alfredton school. We have recently done an analysis on your skittles and we all enjoyed it so much, as skittles are some of our favourite lollies. Our analysis has shown that your proportions are not the best. Some of the proportions are alright like the Grape, Green Apple and Strawberry but Orange and Lemon were pretty bad proportions.



We also looked at how many skittles were in our bag before comparing the other three bags to ours. We discovered that each bag seemed to have a random colour distribution of the skittles, some had more, some had less. One bag had 180 and another had 189 but I think we need more bags to finish the trial properly.



Because your skittles are sold at a higher price than our budget, we cannot complete this trial by ourselves. That's why I am writing to you today to ask for some skittles bags to complete our trial.

Sometimes it's good to ask for something that seems impossible, just in case you might think it's a great idea to help us complete our research. If I had not asked you, I would never know.

Thank you for taking your time to read this letter and I hope that you may be able to help us complete this trial

From Tova

Mr. Keanu Reeves,

I am writing from Alfredton School in New Zealand

We have written a Musical Production at our school about World War 2 and the Polish children who came as refugees to Pahiatua, a small town not far from our school.

I was just wondering if you could attend our performance on 12th December at our school. Ever since I watched your John Wick movies, I have been such a big fan, and I deeply admire your kind and loving attitude. I know you are a busy man but it would mean the world to me if you showed up.

The entire reason we made this musical was to raise awareness of war, of kids who have lost everything, much like the Polish children, and how we should never remake the mistakes of the past

I appreciate you with the bottom of my heart.

Thank you kindly,
KMCG

cliff.curtis@gmail.com

Dear Cliff

Hi I am Olive McKay.

I go to a school called Alfredton School in the Tararua district. We have written and are staging a production called "*We had to be Brave*". It is called that because all the Polish kids had to be brave in World War 2, so we are going to retell the war and their story.

In 2025 wars are far worse and a lot of kids do not have homes. We are going to send the message to all the world that when things get tough we need to be brave, just like the Polish children.

I am emailing to see if you would like to come and see us perform our musical telling their story.

It is at Alfredton hall near Eketahuna. It is on the 12th December 2025.

I love your acting in True Spirit in the movie. You were tough but had a good heart.

For more information, please email me.

Kind regards,

Olive McKay

National Shake Out Day - Thursday 16th October

At 9.30am we will be holding an earthquake drill. We will recap the recommended actions to take in the event of an earthquake.

Drop down on your hands and knees.

Cover your head and neck.

Hold on to your shelter.

Do not run outside during earthquake shaking or you risk getting hit by falling bricks and glass.

Practising Drop, Cover and Hold means you can quickly take the right action in an earthquake.

Week 1 Assembly

Principal Award



Classroom Awards



Readers of the Week



ASCA

Next meeting **Wednesday 22nd October 7pm** all welcome

Firewood Raffle - Tickets are \$5 each with two chances to win a trailer load of firewood. We will be organising a crew of people to split the wood which is kindly being donated by Hamish & Angela Blundell. So look out for a message on our group chat soon.

Swimming Teacher - We are looking for someone to continue the swimming lessons over the swimming season. If you know of anyone interested in teaching swimming, please get them to get in touch with Alison and more details can be given.

Hill Country Walk - **SAVE THE DATE** - **SATURDAY 28th MARCH 2026** - If you would like to join the organising group - please touch base with Angela or Ginny

Junior Golf - Eketahuna Golf Club

Started Tuesday 7th October for Term 4 2025.

Every Tuesday until end of term 4 3.30pm-4.30pm.

Please arrive 10 minutes before start time

Wear suitable shoes, sunhat & sunblock.

Bring a drink & snack.

Bring a jacket in your bag for those windy & showery days.

New players welcome.

Enquiries, please contact Francie Duffy 3758384 or Jenny Anderson 3758310

ALFREDTON HORSE SPORTS

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday the 29th of October

7pm at the Hall



PONGAROA COMMUNITY HALL, ROUTE 52

FREE ENTRY! ACCESSIBLE SITES

NOVEMBER 2ND 10-2

Pongaroa Country Market

Bring cash & bags!

email: Pongaroa@outlook.com

OVER 30 STALLS !!!

Drinks Hand-Crafted goods

Food Clothing Plants Toys

SEE FACEBOOK FOR DETAILS

PONGAROA
the way to go!

Pūkaha Wild Weekend – Family Fun This Labour Weekend!

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 October 2025

Join us at Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre for our very first Pūkaha Wild Weekend — two fun-filled days celebrating nature, conservation, and community!

🌿 Heavily discounted entry and guided tours

🍪 Kiwi cookie decorating

🔍 Scavenger hunt

🐣 Meet our brand-new kiwi chick at the feed time of 12pm daily – the first to hatch this season!

🎁 Great prizes including family and annual passes

☕ Café treats & BBQ bacon butties

Bring the whānau, explore the forest, and discover the magic of our native wildlife.

📍 Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, SH2, Mount Bruce

📅 Labour Weekend – Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 October 2025

🌐 More info: www.pukaha.org.nz

Prices: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, \$30 for whānau (up to 2 adults & 4 children)

Come and be part of the very first Pūkaha Wild Weekend — a new annual tradition celebrating our wild world!



The poster features a dark blue background with a stylized kiwi bird logo at the top left. The text is in white and yellow. A large yellow speech bubble contains a list of activities. At the bottom, there are three circular images: a kiwi chick, a kiwi bird, and a group of people in a forest.

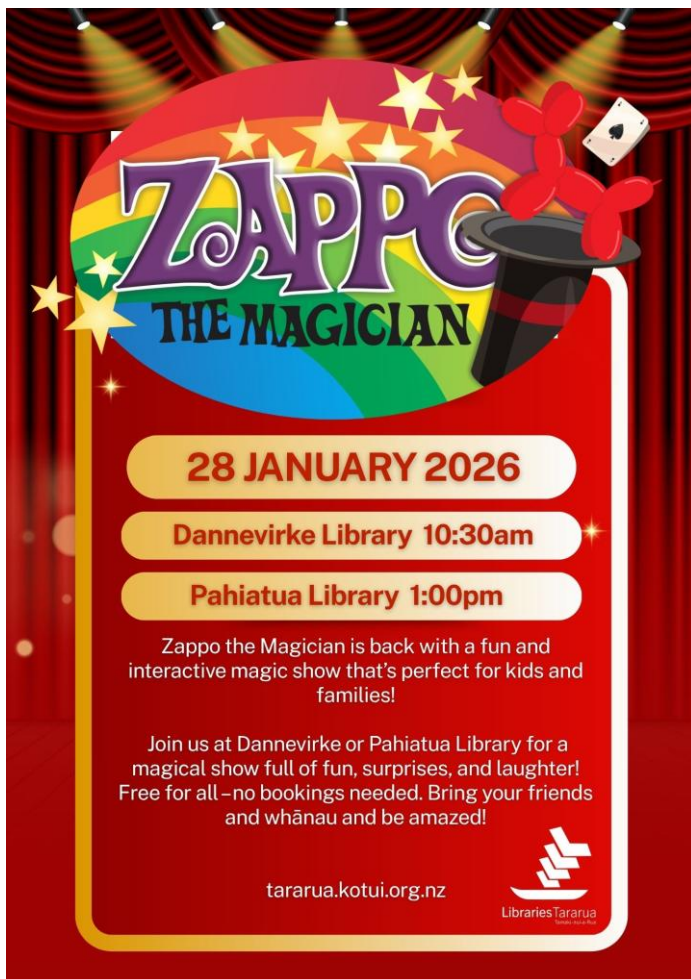
PŪKAHA
Rongo te mauri

WILD WEEKEND!

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October

- Discounted entry: \$10 adults | \$5 kids | \$30 whānau pass
- Budget-friendly guided tours
- Scavenger hunt, great prizes
- Decorate a Kiwi cookie
- Meet our newest kiwi!

For more details
www.pukaha.org.nz



We are moving to Waikare, Brooklands Station, Tiraumea in December.

We do both indoor and outdoor painting- all brush work, no spray painting.

Free quote and no obligations.

We have many references.

Discovery Trail

2025 Scavenger Hunt Trail will be held at the 146th Annual Spring A and P show taking place at Clareville on 1st and 2nd November.

Together We Play

Inclusive Monthly Play Sessions



Welcoming Space For Neurodiverse Kids – Primary Age & under.

A safe, fun, and inclusive space for kids to play, connect, and grow – at their own pace.

2025 Dates:

Wednesday 8th October

Wednesday 12th November

Wednesday 10th December

Who is it for?

Children who are neurodivergent, aged primary school and under.

We also welcome neurotypical siblings under the age of 5 to attend alongside their neurodivergent sibling and caregiver



What to expect:

Gentle play-based activities, Arts and crafts, Music and movement, Sensory-friendly toys, A supportive, understanding environment
Some Refreshments & Kai will be Available.



Bush Multisports Facility



FREE



Second Wednesday of each month 9:30am–11:30am



nutrinza

Proudly supporting Bush Ag Day

For every tonne of Nutrinza's calf feed purchased before 31 December 2025, Nutrinza will donate \$30* to the ag day.

0508 768 723 | www.nutrinza.com

*T&Cs apply

**Contact Jess
for sales
027 227 0812**





25 Year Celebration

& Diabetes Awareness Month

Join Manawatū Horowhenua and Tararua Diabetes Trust in celebrating 25 years of service. Alongside Diabetes Awareness Month, we have a series of pop-up expos across our region. Come join us – we have competitions, raffles, giveaways and of course our team of Registered Nurses and Registered Dietitians will be there to answer any diabetes-related questions!

Location	Date	Time	Event
Palmerston North	Sat 25th Oct	9am – 4pm	Lions Market Day in the Square, Palmerston North
Feilding	Sun 9th Nov	9am – 1pm	Eat Street Market, Feilding Square
Dannevirke	Sun 9th Nov	9am – tbc	Lions 'Lap the Map' Event, Dannevirke RSA
Palmerston North	Thurs 13th Nov	3pm – 6pm	X-Site, 390 Rangitikei Street, Palmerston North
Whanganui	Sat 15th Nov	8.30am – 1pm	Whanganui River Market, Whanganui

Help us celebrate!

Thanks to our event partners:



We have copies of Mrs M for sale in the school office. This book was written by Rachelle McIntyre and features her two sons, who attended Alfredton School for their primary school years.

Books are \$15-00 each and are available in the school office. Please pay by cash if you would like to purchase one of these.

Words take flight for Rachelle

Erin Kavanagh-Hall
erin.kavanagh.hall@page.co.nz

For many years, Rachelle McIntyre has dreamed of writing her own children's book — one in particular inspired by her young family's pet magpie.

Now, thanks to a network of "really lovely people" and a friend offering an extra pair of hands [literally], McIntyre's black and white protagonist has finally taken flight.

The Masterton local and former primary school teacher has released her first illustrated children's book, *Mrs M* — officially launched at an afternoon tea celebration at St James Union Church last weekend.

The independently-published story features McIntyre and

her now grown-up sons, Jake and Jesse, as leading characters. They form a friendship with Mrs M, an outgoing magpie who made regular visits to their Alfredton home when the boys were little.

"My youngest gave the magpie the name 'Mrs M'. Though we had no idea if it was a male or a female," McIntyre laughed.

While writing their own book is a long-held dream for many, McIntyre's journey has been more challenging than most.

She has been living with multiple sclerosis (MS) for the past two decades and has, over time, lost mobility in her limbs. She is now a tetraplegic, and uses a head and shoulder gesture-controlled wheelchair to manoeuvre around her home.

However, her dream of being a published author began to materialise last year, thanks friend and fellow writer Shona Daubé.

Continued on page 5



One of the illustrations by Janet Atkinson.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Rachelle McIntyre, author of *Mrs M*, at book launch in Masterton. PHOTO: ERIN KAVANAGH-HALL

Up and away for writer's dream

Continued from page 1

Daubé, who has self-published five short books about her own journey with MS, wrote down all the words for *Mrs M* while McIntyre dictated what had "been in her head for a while". Daubé then published the book under own label, Pink Cottage Publishing.

When speaking to *Midweek*, McIntyre recalled the performance appraisals from her teaching career, where she was asked about her goals outside of work.

"My answer every year was the same — to write a children's book. But life got busy and I never got round to it. Until now," she said.

"To see *Mrs M* in print feels fantastic. Before the MS, I was always a very active, 'got up and at 'em' person. All the things I loved doing, I could see what I'd achieved in front of me — teaching children, working in the garden, cooking, fitness. You can see the visible results."

"After everything that's happened, I feel like the book is evidence of what



Rachelle McIntyre at the launch of *Mrs M* — with Cath Cameron (left), the guest speaker and a former teaching colleague, and her sons, Jesse and Jake.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

I can achieve. And I'm really proud of that."

McIntyre first began experiencing reduced movement and coordination not long after son Jesse (now 20) was born, and was eventually diagnosed with secondary-progressive MS — for which no medications are available.

Her condition progressed rapidly, and her mobility deteriorated. She began using a crutch, then a walking frame, and had to rely on her parents to bring in her into Masterton from

Alfredton for errands. A real low point, she said, was having to give up driving.

"It got to the point where I couldn't lift my foot off the accelerator," McIntyre, who has used a wheelchair since 2013, said. "It was awful. I got home and cut up my driver's license."

In 2014, while being treated at Wairarapa Hospital, McIntyre's marriage ended, and she was transferred to the rest home unit at Glenwood Masonic Hospital. She remained there for close to four

years, while she waited for funding for in-home caregiving services.

She now lives in her own purpose-built, accessible home — which she has decorated with bright artworks, inspirational quotes, and photos of her boys. She will celebrate her sixth anniversary of independent living on April 23.

McIntyre met Daubé while she was working as a community advisor [CA] for MS Wellington — and was determined to help McIntyre get the ball rolling on her book.

"Rachelle had everything up there in her head already. I had the contacts — and the angst I was like, 'well, we may as well get started.'"

The friends worked on *Mrs M* for most of the year, working through several drafts before they arrived at a final product. McIntyre was happy with Daubé then connected McIntyre with Greytown-based artist Janet Atkinson — also a former CA with MS Wellington — who came on board as the illustrator.

MS Wellington agreed

to fund the first print run of *Mrs M*, which was printed at the Corrections Print Shop at Rimutaka Prison — which has printed several of Daubé's works.

"It's a wonderful thing they do up at the prison — they've got their own printing press, and the guys can learn things like layout and graphic design, and get work experience," Daubé said.

"We sent the team a nice little video of Rachelle talking about her book, and the guys were right into it."

Now *Mrs M* has been launched, McIntyre has several more books in the planning — including one inspired by her childhood memories, and one starring her much-loved cat, Olson, another black and white protagonist.

"I'm so happy with *Mrs M* and what Shona and I were able to do together. It's something my boys can keep forever."

• Copies of *Mrs M* are available at Heart of Arts in Carterton.

