Mauriceville West: 1877-1972 This school struggled early on in dealing and educating children with English as a 2nd language. The area was settled by Scandinavian Settlers and the teachers had to cope with these people struggling in a foreign country. The school was also famous at different periods for its wood working, science lessons and huge gardens. 24 Kilometres from Masterton

School was situated where the hall is named on the map

1873
Notes from Mauriceville West School Jubilee Book.

a) March 1873 The first party of settlers moved onto their land
b) On a cleared section of land Christian Petersen a Norwegian who did his best to give them a smattering of English
c) They built a rough slab hut to serve as school and residence for the teacher.
d) Three rooms one to serve as a schoolroom
e) Unfurnished and the schoolmaster and his sons set to work to make bunks a table and chairs.
f) Christian Peterson received £100 for his services This was supplemented by payments by the settlers of a shilling a week for each pupil.
g) If parents couldn’t pay then children couldn’t attend
h) In Winter the teacher visited his pupils at home
i) One year later he left and the school closed
j) July 1886 Government overseer reported on deplorable and about 80 children were neglected.
k) 2nd January 1877 “Old School” opened. The school consisted of a single room constructed of sawn timber and had a shingle roof

17th June 1873 With respect to the Danish settlement in Mauriceville, Wairarapa, the Wairarapa Standard remarks:— "It is not generally known that this, the youngest of Wairarapa townships, was christened after the Hon. G. M. O'Rorke, who was present when the site of the infant township was selected. 3 Rorkeville, we presume, was not considered sufficiently euphonious, so the Christian name Maurice was judiciously
preferred. There are about 13 Danish families settled in it, and they are beginning to present some appearances of homeliness and comfort. Their dwellings are necessarily rude, being constructed out of slabs with mud chimneys, but still they afford shelter. A public building in the shape of a school is now being erected and will be a great convenience to them. An accommodation house there is much wanted, as traffic is rapidly increasing, and travellers do not care to carry blankets and provisions about as they now have to do. The Mauriceville sections are heavily timbered, and the Danes have no easy life before them. Some of them, by the way they work, evidently, seem determined to overcome by patience and hard labor every obstacle, and will no doubt, at some future day, by men of substance. Others as is always case, seem more inclined a to live from hand, to mouth, and to be j satisfied with the creature comforts they t can now command, without thought of the future PP

1875
28th April Mr. Peterson was appointed Master of the Scandinavian school at Mauriceville PP

1876
13th January Tenders were accepted for new schools at Mauriceville, Morrison’s Bush (Kaitara) and West Masterton (Fernridge) PP

16th June 1876 The principal business of the meeting was the striking of the education rate for the Mauriceville and Eketahuna portions of the Masterton District PP. This was before the education act of 1887 providing for free education. At this stage schools were funded by a special rates tax on all settlers in the prescribed school district

3rd August At Mauriceville out of 711 acres, 640 have been improved, a number having been put under grass and crop

13th December The Scandinavian Settlers of Mauriceville, Wellington have memorialised the Hon.,]. Minister of Public Works, imploring him to afford them a road to their dwellings and land

20th December The Wairarapa News notes with satisfaction the formation of a road to the Scandinavian Settlement at Mauriceville

1877
27th January arrived at school this evening to find Mr A Munro had taken the key of the school to Masterton

31st January. Received the school key from Masterton this morning

1st February commenced teaching today Number present Ten Boys and Eight Girls

The following is an inventory of the property of the Board in this school. (Clearly the school was established by this date)

Map of the world
Map of Europe
Map of the British Isles
Philips Tablet Lessons, mounted on rollers
Set of Nelson’s wallboards
Eighteen ink wells
A receipt Book and the usual registers
The school furniture consists of eight benches with forms attached and a table for the teacher
13th February Attendance fair Considering all circumstances the progress of the pupils very fair
16th February Neil Larsen one of the pupils took seriously ill yesterday and had to be helped home.
20th February Forest Fires render some of the tracks here impassable in the meantime, consequently several of the children are prevented from attending the school
27th February Attendance Good. Progress fair, school fees do not come in very fast- I have at this time only received only half the fees due for the quarter.
2nd March. Transmitted the school fees received for the quarter (Four Pounds Sterling) the Secretary of the Education Board
9th March Timetable posted up and worked by for the first time this week- It is necessarily of a very elementary character, a large portion of each day being spent in giving instruction in English Reading.
20th March Attendance Good. The pupils make all the progress that can be well expected, considering the circumstances: still owing to the isolated condition of this settlement from the English Speaking Community, it will be a considerable time before a good English School can be here

23rd March Roll 26
30th March School closed for Easter Holidays. Very great difficulty was found in getting the children to attend school yesterday, it being a holiday with the Scandinavians and known as Green Thursday
9th April The Girls Louisa and Caroline Pearson have now gone with their parents to reside on their own section of land, about two miles distant will only be able to attend school, I am informed, when the weather is fine
27th April Fair progress has been made in various subjects. The pupils have shown considerable interest in their lessons not withstanding their disadvantage in knowing little or no English.
1st May Some of the children have left school until the winter is over, on account of the distance they have to travel, the rainy weather rendering the tracks through the forest almost impassable for children in the meantime.
11th May Storms and hail accompanied by thunder and lightning prevail for the last two days. A fair attendance has been maintained notwithstanding.
24th May Queens Birthday. Children allowed a holiday
29th May Miserable weather
1st June Transmitted School fees to the amount of four pound sterling to Secretary of Wellington Education Board (By registered letter)
8th June satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of a teacher’s residence
11th June Had the pleasure of a visit from Mr Beetham
29th June School closed for winter holidays. I have good reason for expressing satisfaction with the conduct of the Scandinavian children who have attended the school during the last five months.

27th July One boy who has entered the school lately has an impediment in his speech and cannot pronounce the words correctly.

31st July. Drenching rain this week; still the attendance has been maintained. This quarters fees came in slowly have only received One Pound, £1 up to date.

3rd August Transmitted three pounds (fees received) to Mr Graham by registered letter.

5th August This morning about a dozen of bricks have fallen into the fireplace from the chimney flue, it seems dangerous to kindle a fire as it might set the house in flames, yet it is impossible to do without fire at this season. Shall write Mr Graham (Wellington Education Board) today on the subject.

14th August Some of the older boys are occasionally absent on account of the bush falling which is mostly done at this time of the year. But they are always in school when they can be spared.

25th August The school was gazetted on this date. A site of 108 Acres 3 roods 5 perches more or less being part of section 46 on the plan of Mauriceville have been put aside.

24th August Attendance irregular. One of the school boys (Albert Mortensen) who this week had been kept home to assist his father accidentally shot himself this week. This accident has thrown a gloom over the settlement in the meantime.

4th September The surgeon held out some hope of Mortensen’s recovery, but I have heard today that mortification has set in and that he is now sinking fast. (The only Albert Mortensen death recorded is 1939/32801 Mortensen Albert Tiedor 74Y)

Which would make Albert about 12 when the accident happened.

18th September Good service is done in school by the practice of school songs in the peculiar circumstances of the school it tends to fix the sound and meaning of English words in the pupils minds fully as well as the ordinary reading.

19th September A serious drawback in the progress of the children is that when one child of a family is sent to school another is very generally withdrawn in the meantime. The circumstances of the children are peculiar. Not one word of English do they hear or speak out of school. They have no chance of preparing home lessons and if withdrawn for a quarter the benefit of the preceding one must be entirely lost. It is a very serious matter for consideration how this can be counteracted and everything will be tried as circumstances may arise.

26th October. Progress fair. Fees come to hand slowly.

30th October Weather tempestuous with pelting rain. The work at the teacher’s residence here is at a standstill. Woolcott the builder is entirely neglecting his work.

5th November No abatement in the severity of the weather: in consequence younger children do not come forward to school at all. Of those on the roll the attendance is all that can be looked for. The withdrawal of the older children some to work at home and others to go to service is a serious drawback for the school though most cases it is probable their parents are under the necessity of doing so.
13th November Some of the younger children are coming out to school now as the weather has improved.
23rd November A few children absent but I have been informed by some of their parents that their absence for a few days is unavoidable.
27th November Some boys still absent engaged at home work, but the attendance of girls is proportionally larger than during the winter.
7th December Some children absent this week at Opaki races
20th December School out on 17th, 18th and 19th On these days the carpenter had the lining of the school down and put it up again.
21st December. School closed for Christmas holiday. Repairs on school still not complete
31st December. Returns to the Board for year
Roll Average for year 13 Boys, 8 girls total 21

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<th>Ages of Pupils</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 and under 10</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 and under 15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 and upwards</td>
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Numbers receiving instruction

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<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School opened 215 times in the morning and 215 times in the afternoon

1878

11th January School chimney re built today
17th January The newly built chimney gave way this morning. It does not seem to have been well built
21st January Reopened today. Attendance at first small
24th January. One of my pupils had three fingers smashed today by the school door.
29th January Notice has been received from various parties that the children will be required at home for a week more to assist in gathering the crops.
4th February Visited this school after school hours. Found the dwelling house pretty well advanced towards completion. Chimney of the schoolhouse down for the second time. Sincerely hope that any work done will be well looked after in the time to come
Advised Wellington Education Board
8th February But a few are absent whenever the weather is fine.
12th February The school chimney has been rebuilt this week.
19th February Roll 32. Attendance not as regular as desirable
26th February Roll 36. On several days the absence of 10 of these has to be recorded. This is far from being satisfactory
1st March Very little done in school today. Bush fires dangerously near, high winds and smoke suffocating
5th March weather wet. Attendance variable. Very few of the children who were on the rolls at the end of the season last year are now in attendance. Consequently I have again to begin at the beginning. Though the progress is necessarily slow the desire to improve is very general.
12th March 30 present in School. This is the largest number present in one day since the opening of the school last year
13th March. Looking over the register this morning I find I was mistaken in yesterday’s remark regarding attendance as 33 were present one day last month
15th March The residence was handed over by the engineer (Mr Bremner) today, the carpenter having finished his work two days ago
22nd March Attendance in many cases irregular, the roads have been bad this week, which may partly account for this.
29th March Weather fine. This is the last day of the quarter and very few have attended who were in school this season last year. In most cases the children have done as well as could be expected, but considering the circumstances it will require every effort to interest them in their lessons in English as this is by far the most difficult part of their work
2nd April A fair few have come out for a new quarter. Some have left in the meantime
9th April Weather rainy. Progress fair, Have on hand £1-3-6 sterling of fees which I have retained in the meantime in the hope of getting some more to send along with it
18th April This is “Green Thursday” the principal Scandinavian holiday- attendance therefore small. A house was also burnt down last night which attracts much attention and helps to thin the numbers at school.
21st May Inspector visited and examined this school today
29th May Inspector’s report In the Mauriceville School out of 47 pupils only 10 were of British parentage but nearly all showed a good knowledge of England; and 11 passed the first of the new standards PP
14th June. Circulated notices today of meeting to elect a School Committee
21st June. Very bad weather. Nothing else worthy of remark. (There are numerous entries in the log of this style of remark)
16th July. Only 33 have as yet come out for the new quarter. The weather and bad roads account for this.
19th July An attempt is now made to teach Geography in a more systematic manner
23rd July Bad weather Roads are impassable for young children
6th August. By order of the Board the work of putting a fence around the school grounds has been commenced.
20th August New rolls have been supplied in which all attendances are to be copied form the 1st of July last
23rd August School smoky almost to suffocation this circumstance acts very unfavourably on the progress of the school work though little complaint is made
6th September Very bad weather. Roads and tracks in the bush almost impossible
13th September Bad ventilation interferes very seriously with the work in school. The smoke makes everyone miserable.
17th September. Most of the older children at home assisting in Spring work. Attendance consequently small.
24th September A more systematic course of instruction in elementary geography and to a limited extent in grammar is now attempted, but irregular attendance is a serious drawback.
4th October Attendance considerably increased. Several absent nearly a year—this is not very encouraging as they have lost whatever they had been taught before and in their case I have again to begin at beginning.
18th October The fence is all finished now except the part to be put up by the lessee of the reserve.
22nd October Roll is 52.
5th November Was obliged to shut the school today on account of bad health and go to Masterton for medical advice.
11th November Was able to reopen the school today.
13th November. School used as a polling booth today—Election of County Council.
13th December. Subscription for Christmas Prizes closed £3-19-0 been subscribed which is ample (Equivalent to $627.023 in October 2011 terms)
23rd December Books distributed to all children this afternoon and school closed for Christmas Holidays. Every child on roll present today.

1879
21st January School reopened.
24th January The attendance this week has been small as most of the children are assisting in gathering home the cows. (Dairy Factories not open until after 1885) No doubt they are required at home but it certainly a most discouraging circumstance to have them kept away just now, when I should have been doing my best to prepare as many as possible for the inspector’s examination next month.
31st January. Special attention given to arithmetical.
11th February Attendance large. Weather very fine, expect Mr Lee (Inspector) this day week. Special exercises in prospect of the examination.
14th February Nearly 50 children have attended this week. Should this number be maintained over or two more desks would be required also require more inkwells.
17th February The Mauriceville School Committee are—Jorgen Neilson; Gunder Gundersen; Frederick Jagerhorn; Jens P. Pedersen; Nicolai Jenson; Ole Boson; and John Swensen. PP
18th February Mr Lee examined the school today. 49 children were present. 24 passed Standard 1 and 11 passed Standard 2. Only 30 children passed as 5 passed Standard 1 and 2. The result may be considered satisfactory, remembering that the settlement exclusively of Scandinavians, and that the school has been open only two years. PP
24th February A great deal of time spent this week in the rearrangement of classes consistently with the results of the late examination.
28th February Received Pass Cards this evening
3rd March Distributed Standard Pass Cards this day
21st March. A few of the children have given notice that they will require to stay home about a week to burn scrub
4th April Fair progress this week I am somewhat surprised at the children’s want (Desire) of interest in their Geography a very uncommon thing in a school
22nd April Very rainy and cold. School not well supplied with wood. Advise the School Committee accordingly
13th May A girl’s clothes caught fire today had one hand burned in saving her. Her hurt is trifling.
16th May Special attendance to Arithmetic this week
23rd May Holiday of Queens Birthday.
10th June. Some children have left school on account of the state of the road, and it is probable they will not come out again before October
14th 15th July School would have been open on both days had the work been completed, but this was found impossible (Work unspecified)
16th July The school was opened today as the work was finished last evening. The ceiling put up is a great improvement and will make the room much more comfortable for the children and it may be hoped that the attendance will now be more regular
22nd July Attendance small The children now at school are all from South Mauriceville. The North and West roads are impassable for children at present
25th July A cap room is being put up for the school

2nd August School badly supplied with firewood most of what is provided is not firewood at all.
8th August Weather not quite so severe but roads in the North and West still impassable for children
22nd August though the weather is much better yet the roads and tracks are as bad as ever.
26th August Some of the older boys are kept at home to do work such as clearing and planting
1st September. Attendance not satisfactory. Some of the stronger children could attend now from the North and West parts of the settlement
26th September. Pouring rain, last two days.
30th September Boisterous weather attendance thin
7th October Weather better, but attendance much the same. The excuse now is that the children have to assist in putting in the crops, this probably is the case in many instances
17th October A few new pupils have come to school, but the attendance has not been much greater as all the older pupils are kept home except when the weather is bad.
14th November Attendance more satisfactory. Much injury has been done to the school by the paucity of attendance
2nd December Several children absent. It seems they have gone to the Opaki Races
9th December Weather fine, attendance indifferent. School chimney again shows signs of instability. There must have been
mismanagement in its erection from first to last, it has cost the Board about £50 already
12th December Some slight repairs effected on chimney.
16th December. Efforts are being made to collect some money to purchase some books to distribute to the children on the day the school closes for the holidays

1880
20th January school reopened
22nd January Holiday (Anniversary)
11th February School examined today by Mr Lee
17th February Since the examination the attendance has been very bad. The children seem to imagine that a years work has been done and to be in no hurry in beginning the work of the next
22nd March The children assembled this morning but had to be dismissed as the chimney threatens to fall through the roof
24th March. Chimney came down this afternoon but has not damaged the school. Schoolroom flooded.
26th March Rain has been incessant for ten days, still raining. It has not been possible to open the school this week nor to do anything towards its repair
30th March Weather improved, hope to open school tomorrow.
31st March Reopened school today.
Comments all about weather and poor attendance
4th June Special attention this week in arithmetic, tests used so as to fully ascertain individual progress

11th June Every effort made to ensure punctuality and regular attendance, but only with partial success.
17th June Firewood not so regularly supplied as it should be
25th June School closed for the winter holidays this afternoon as spaces in the register are now filled There is no possibility of recording the attendance another week
20th July The children do not now attend so well when the weather is bad as they did in the course of the first two years I was in this school, probably narrowed circumstances has a good deal to do with irregular attendance.
17th August Robert Lee paid the school a visit and wrote in the log.
I paid an accidental visit to the Mauriceville School today and found about 30 children present.
The roads at this time of the year are very muddy and the children can attend with difficulty.
I am sorry to notice the chimney still smokes to an unbearable extent.
I have suggested modification of the timetable and have listed my suggestions at the end of the report.
The floor of the schoolroom is very dirty, but perhaps this can hardly be avoided.
I understand that funds are not forthcoming for necessary expenditure in cleaning and for firewood, although quarterly payments for the purpose are regularly made by the Wellington Education Board.
The School Committee should make necessary in this subject.
The Master Mr L I Johnston is painstaking and will adapt for the peculiar requirements of the settlement.
At present the whole school is hardly sufficiently occupied during the time the master is specially engaged with a particular class. The interior of the building would be much improved by painting the walls and the ceiling white.

Proposed Full Timetable by Mr Lee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00-9.30</td>
<td>Oral Lessons</td>
<td>Or Home</td>
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<td>Dictation</td>
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<td>Transcription</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00-12.00</td>
<td>Arithmetic</td>
<td>Takes turn</td>
<td>All by Classes the</td>
<td>Each Black Class Board</td>
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</table>

Writing in copy books  Juniors Ball frame exercises

1.20 to 1.30 Object lessons (drawing)

2.30- 3.00 Geography or Grammar of History . Juniors writing on slates

20th August Weather very wet. Firewood little and bad

27th August Endeavour to carry out suggestions made by Mr Lee

The irregular attendance renders most efforts to improve the school negatively

24th September. Effort made to get out some of the absentees but with little success

1st October. A few more children are coming out now, but they all seem to be unwell, hardly anything can be heard in school but coughing

5th November Although a good pump has been provided by the Wellington Education Board no drinkable water is obtainable on the school site, for want of energy or sagacity or both this pump was placed in a hole among the rotten debris of the creek where it is impossible to get water at all fit for use.

3rd December A very fair attendance of the younger children this week but most of the older ones seem to be working at home. On this account it appears to me there is very little chance of any pupils getting beyond the 4th standard and most of them leave school before passing even the 2nd. This is not very encouraging

23rd December. School closed

1881

20th January School reopened with a very thin attendance

8th February A good deal of sickness seems to prevail among the children of this settlement. Hardly a day passes but one or more of the ones attending the school are reported as being laid up. I have made enquiries about it and am informed that those who are sick get reddish blotches all over their bodies. It does not seem to be measles. But whatever it is it does seem to be infectious.

15th February One or two of the children who were sick came out again to school but others have been laid up

25th February Received notification from School Committee to close this school in the meantime on account of the prevalence of
scarlet fever in this settlement. Notices given to children accordingly

17th March. Inspector Lee
I found the school had been closed for nearly 3 weeks on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever

About one half of the 56 children on the books mustered in the playground but I did not deem it advisable to take them into the school-room, as I found eight or nine of the children had been ill of the epidemic

I advised the further closing of the school for a fortnight by which time the committee would be able to come to definite decision about the advisability of reopening the school

There are only 15 standard children now attending exclusive of candidates for Standard One

By my advice the chairman has procured a supply of Carbolic Acid Powder for disinfecting purposes

It is also advisable that disinfectant be used in the houses of the children

As this school will be closed at least five weeks altogether I am of the opinion that the school should not be closed for winter holidays this year. I will examine on my visit in the winter.

4th April School reopened today by advice of School Committee

Nothing worthy of remark

20th June. No children now kept away on account of fever

27th June A heavy shock of earthquake yesterday morning at half past 5 o’clock threw down most of the school chimney and damaged the chimney of the residence so as to make it dangerous to live in the house.

12th August Inspector Lees Visit

24 children present out of nearly 60 on the books

The attendance was increased during the morning by the late arrival of four others.

I am not satisfied with the working condition of this school

I think with energy the work and the attendance would considerably improve.

I am aware that there are difficulties to contend with

The master should become more methodical in his work and go more to the root of the matter in his teaching

The nature and order of this schoolroom should receive his attention and also the tidiness of the children.

The more interesting the work is made the more attractive it becomes

I have today passed 8 candidates in standard 1 and 2 in standard 2; they are mostly of good age and all of them should I think pass a higher standard at the next examination

At present the teaching of composition and singing appears to be neglected.

I recommend that definite lessons be given say twice a week of 10 minutes each in moral subjects such as temperance, truthfulness, kindness
The chimney should be placed at the end nearest the masters house
Signed Robert Lee
19th August School closed for the last four days as the chimney has been removed and rebuilt
9th September. Instruct School Committee to warn absentees
7th October. Marked improvement in attendance
28th October It is somewhat remarkable that the proportion of girls attending school at present is far greater than at any times during the last five years
25th November School has a prosperous look at present but the greater number are children below the first standard
23rd December. School closed for holidays

1882
24th January School reopened today
27th January Several of the older children are employed in doing harvest work at home
3rd February Only 17 children are now in school who have passed any standards. All the others seem to have left school to work at home or out of the settlement
24th February At present there is hardly desk accommodation for the number of children attending school
10th March. Mr Lee Examined school today
14th April Several of the children are afflicted with some kind of eruption on their faces and hands:- by the advice of the chairman of committee I sent home for a time two boys who were very bad and it appears that some were staying home on their account, but I do not think any good purpose has been effected by so doing as a number are more or less in the same case. I have therefore sent word to the boys that they are at liberty to come to school again
28th April received new school desk
19th May The sickness prevalent among the children still diminishes the attendance
16th June The sickness among the children becomes less
30th August Inspector Lee writes in the log
At my surprise visit today there was a large attendance
As I passed through the settlement on Sunday my visit probably was no surprise
If anything like the present attendance (48) is maintained an application should be made for an assistant teacher or a pupil teacher.
I am afraid much of the present teaching is ineffective
In the oral lesson the Master addressed himself to about half a dozen children all the rest were inattentive and manages upon talking.
The master continued with a king of discussion on ?, whilst many children were talking.
I heard all the classes read and heard little or no attempt at expression.
Faults previously complained of by me in writing still exist
Children write without attention to lines and pupils in the same calls write in various style of letters.
I think also the master should set a better example in his own person of neatness and cleanliness.
I am sorry thus to speak of personal matters, but this matter appears to me to call for particular action.
I am afraid the master fails to realise the importance of his position and that very much is accepted for will indeed hardly rises to a standard of merit.
The want of good idea and management is very striking.
A new and improved form of timetable can be had on application to the Board’s office.
I should hope to see an effort made to remedy defects here pointed out.
If singing be attempted in the school some suitable easy and taking songs should be introduced. The present singing is a long way removed from this order. The master does all the work.
29th September On Tuesday and Wednesday the weather was very severe and only a few of the children attended. The glass was blown from one window and the school floor flooded with water.
Last two days have been somewhat better.
22nd School closed for December holidays. The sum of Four pounds sixteen shillings and sixpence was collected in Mauriceville laid out in books for the children. These books were distributed to day before breaking up.

1883
22nd February New window sashes put in today.
No further entries until Mr Lee writes.
22nd August Mr Lee visited.

At my accidental visit 45 children were present. The morning was showery.
I found the school in fair order but the classes are not so well occupied as I wish.
This arises from the number of classes being greater than the teacher can instruct well.
The chimney continues to smoke badly and all the maps and diagrams are brown from the discolouring effects of smoke.
Four infant desks are required.
I have notified this to the Secretary of the board who will supply them.
What is badly wanted and needed by the school is a female adult teacher competent to teach sewing and infant reading and writing.
Robert Lee

Mr. Gunder Gundersen, J.P., Postmaster, Mauriceville, was born in Denmark in 1835, and came to New Zealand in 1873. He possesses a farm of forty-six acres and a general store at Mauriceville. He is chairman of nearly all the local public bodies, and holds offices in the remainder. He is married and has eight children and twenty-three grandchildren. NZETC

Father of Agnes
27th September Ex letter to Chairman of School Committee.
The board at its meeting yesterday resolved to appoint Miss Agnes Gunderson to the Mauriceville School as recommended. Salary from 1st October @ £30 per annum.
17 Years old as Monitor.
Married George Franklin 1885.
12 children born to them.
George Franklin Mr. George Franklin storekeeper, of Dreyerton, died yesterday, at the age of 38 19th July 1901 PP
Alice Died 1953 aged 87

[Notes]

George Reuben FRANKLIN was born on 20 Nov 1862 in Motueka, Nelson, New Zealand. He died on 18 July 1901 in Dreyerton, Wellington, New Zealand from Diabetes. He was buried on 21 Jul 1901 in Lutheran Cemetery, Mauriceville West, Wellington, New Zealand. George married Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN on 26 Feb 1885 in Lutheran Church, Mauriceville, Wellington, New Zealand.

Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN was born on 12 Mar 1866 in København, København, Danmark. She died on 7 Jan 1953 in Otaki Railway, Otaki, Wellington, New Zealand. She was buried on 9 Jan 1953 in Mauriceville West, Wellington, New Zealand. Agnes married George Reuben FRANKLIN on 26 Feb 1885 in Lutheran Church, Mauriceville, Wellington, New Zealand.

[Notes]

They had the following children.

F i Alice Hermina FRANKLIN was born on 25 Sep 1885. She died on 30 Nov 1936 from Diabetes.

F ii Ellen Maud "Nell" FRANKLIN was born on 26 Jul 1886. She died on 28 Jan 1977.

F iii Hilda May FRANKLIN was born on 5 Aug 1887. She died before 1968.

F iv Agnes Hope FRANKLIN was born on 18 Sep 1888. She died on 28 Oct 1916.

M v Alexander Rupert FRANKLIN was born on 28 Oct 1889. He died on 6 Jun 1965.

F vi Emily Beatrice "Millie" FRANKLIN was born on 2 Mar 1891. She died before Aug 1978.

F vii Ina Lillian FRANKLIN was born on 16 May 1892. She died on 5 Oct 1984.

F viii Edith Mable FRANKLIN was born on 1 Oct 1893. She died before 23 Jul 1998.

F ix Ruby Marian FRANKLIN was born on 21 Jun 1895. She died on 18 Aug 1978.

M x George Douglas FRANKLIN was born on 11 Apr 1897. He died about Jan 1997.

M xi Felix Gordon FRANKLIN was born on 17 Jul 1898. He died in May 2001.

F xii Nora Florence FRANKLIN was born on 2 Mar 1900. She died before 23 Jul 1998.
Agnes Marie GUNDERSEN

Just been going through my notes and thought some of this maybe helpful to you. These are some stories passed down by Auntie Hilda (Franklin - Alice and Ina's sister) - I quote:-

We know Hermione married beneath her, she had something to do with the Danish royal court. Gunder Gundersen was to be made the Danish equivalent to an English baron. He refused the title and emigrated with his little family to get away from protocol etc. He didn't like the way the ordinary people were treated. There is a story that Agnes Marie was born in the bed that Queen Victoria slept in when she visited Denmark. Uncle George (Franklin) thought Gunder was an agricultural pharmacist in Denmark and also worked somewhere in the palace (may have been the case, for him to have met Hermione).

When they left Denmark, the Gundersens and Johanne Bahn went to England and lived in London for a year, this allowed Gunder to learn the English language and learn their customs. They arrived in Lyttleton, Christchurch, South Island, and while there Gunder was approached by either government or immigration officials and was asked to go to Mauriceville, in the Wairarapa where there were a number of Danish and Norwegian settlers. They needed an interpreter, as neither could speak the others language and Gunder understood all of them. He agreed to go and left his wife, children and sister in law in Christchurch until such time as he could send for them. The family started a laundry business there, whilst they waited for news that they could rejoin Gunder.

Gunder and Hermione did not wish anyone to know their origins as they felt it would have created a barrier between them and other settlers. They said the past was past, and they had left it all behind them, Granny Franklin (Agnes Marie Gundersen) said the same thing. The fact that they were educated could have created a barrier, however anyone with an education was useful to the community as it was essential to have someone to deal with the local administration.

Gunder would write letters home for those settlers who could not read or write and read replies to them.

Agnes Marie ran the store and post office from her home (that little cottage I sent you a photo of, and raised 12 kids there after her husband, George Reuben Franklin, died of diabetes in 1901. She was also a midwife, often having her patients stay with her in her own home. She smoked and cured her own ham and bacon, and also for some of the Danish farmers and they gave her joints of meat for herself and family. She had a small orchard, bottled and pickled her own fruit and vegetables as well as making jam etc. She starched the stiff collars of the best shirts for some of the men who worked at the timber mill. She also found time to crotchet and sew for her large family. The kids had to do most of the housework while Agnes was busy. Hilda says there was one time in her early teens when she was taking the outgoing mail to the train and collecting the incoming mail. There were Maoris standing on the platform and she was very scared of Maoris because she had listened to stories of the recent Maori wars. No way was she going to meet the train. That was one day the mail was missed.

Agnes Franklins home in Kopuaranga was burnt down while she was away - the fire was caused by a hole in the chimney which was never repaired. Auntie Nell (Ellen) and her husband Charles Wright were living there at the time. Upstairs in the "dark room" were all Agnes's papers, so goodness knows what stories went up in smoke.

Notes from Edwards Family History Web Page
1st October The female teacher Miss Agnes Gundersen
commenced her duties today. Preparations are being made for beginning sewing classes next week.

9th October Sewing classes commenced today. Time appointed 1 to 2 o’clock PM on Tuesdays and Fridays.

21st December School Closed today. Miss Gundersen has been in this school about 3 months now, and is quite incompetent for the duties she has undertaken so far as teaching of English is concerned. I have taken her classes (Except the lowest) two or three times every week. They have not withstanding barely held their ground or improved very little. It is only fair to say she has always been willing to try to do what she was told, but she cannot read their books properly herself and does not know the nouns or at least some of them. The existence of the sewing class has been short, and no great improvement can be looked for. Still if this is to be of any use at all neatness and order should be studied from the very first. I do not think this has been the case. Each side of a handkerchief should not have a hem of a different width nor should a pinafore have half a dozen sizes along its borders but I do not consider this so serious a matter as the English Reading and besides the sewing has improved considerably.

1884

15th February Monitor Absent (Agnes Gunderson)

22nd February School crowded this week- desk accommodation not sufficient at present

3rd March Monitor absent on Friday and today. Her sister tells me she is not coming back to school

21st March Have been working from 9 am to 4 pm for the last two months. But this is hardly sufficient. It is impossible to overtake all the work as I could wish.

4th April Have much need of additional desk accommodation. When the weather is favourable the children have hardly space to sit down.

3rd May. Advised by Secretary of Wellington Education Board that a teacher was appointed at last meeting.

15th May. Miss Kate Sullivan the newly appointed assistant teacher entered on her duties.

2nd June. From all I have seen I am well satisfied with Miss Sullivan’s work.

22nd July School used as a polling booth.

20th August Mr Lee (Inspector of Schools) Called and reported.

I called at the Mauriceville school yesterday and was present again today.

The master W (Laurence) Johnston was ill in bed, and the school was conducted by the assistant mistress Miss Kate Sullivan. The children were under good control and considerate (sic) the difficulty of the task, the classes were kept in fairly work of a useful order.

The attendance at the school has increased considerably of late.

I have made a necessary reorganisation of the furniture and three more desks are under order.

A local carpenter will send in a tender for making them in a few days.

The School Committee should supply a women to sweep out the school room every evening.
At present the floor is very dirty, and the room is swept by the children in the mornings. This is very objectionable as the school work is carried as for the same time in an atmosphere choked with dust.

The approaches to the room should be gravelled. At present there is nothing out for the children to pass through before they enter the room.

I think the appointment of Miss Sullivan is a great gain for the children and school as she is efficient and active. She also takes the girls in sewing. It would be better to take this sewing for a good part of one afternoon rather than to take two lessons of it each week.

The school rooms inside and a out are looking dingy. No dogs should be allowed in the room.

There are 85 children on the roll of whom 57 are present today. The weather being cloudy but fine, As Miss Sullivan is a certified teacher of drawing I should like to see this subject taken up and taught throughout the school. The lesson for ½ and hour per week.

Mr Johnston informs me in a note that he hopes to be well enough to resume duties in a short time. But he should not do so unless he will be able to bear the strain.

Robert Lee

24th September Mr Johnston given another month’s leave of absence PP

31st October After long sickness and Leave of Absence having been kindly granted by the Education Board for 10 weeks I have been teaching regularly since Monday morning in order to ascertain if I can bear the strain of my usual schoolwork. Feel no difficulty in teaching nor any bad effects of any kind. Only have to sit down and teach much more frequently than usual.

28th November Some of the children have to sit on the floor for want of furniture.

1885

Building erected 1885 2 rooms 986 square feet
Residence erected 1885 5 rooms
1100 square feet and 135 square foot washhouse
Land area 5 aces Less approximately 1 acre surrendered 1st march 1921
Section 18 Block 1 Kopuaranga S Septic Tank installed 1953
Old block sold 1927 Tender of £23 accepted

1st January. Some larrikins of larger growth, last night tumbled one of the school closets over the bank into the creek where it was smashed to pieces.

26th January School reopened today

3rd February 1885 ENTERTAINMENT AT MAURICEVILLE.

A matinee for the Mauriceville school children took place at half-past two on Saturday, and was a source of great enjoyment to them. Long before the time appointed large numbers assembled, and as they entered the room they all felt a shock from a galvanic battery which Mr Martin had there in operation. A brilliant little electric light met the sight of the children, with which they were highly delighted,' and several selections were given on the Violin.
A ventriloquial treat concluded the afternoon's performance, some of the children returning afterwards to enquire "if de man vas still up de chimney." At 7.30, the advertised time for the starting of the evening's amusement, not a soul was to be seen, but at 8 o'clock every available seat was occupied, and numbers, of persona were obliged to stand. Mr Johnston introduced Mr Martin- and his assistant performers, and briefly described the nature of the entertainment, expressing his belief that it would be a good one and that everyone would be well pleased, as Mr Martin was an excellent ventriloquist and amateur, comedian. Mr Martin then appeared in succession as the "Antiquated Sermonist," the "Local Whip," and Fitz Jones the MP. .." which representations were well received. Mr Sheldon being unable to be present, Mr Martin gave a recitation from Shakespeare, being vigorously applauded and encored. Mr Weston was in good form, his song Jamsie, back your mother up" causing great fun, Mr Martin sang "Dunna Ye Hear It" with great feeling, and apologising for the non-appearance of Mr Post, sang "Silver Bells" with effect. Mr Sullivan then appeared and sang a lively comic song, ending with a jig. He danced excellently, whilst the rare costume enhanced the effect. Mr Post, dressed as a poor old man, sang "Over the Hill to the Poor-house" with such a depth of feeling and beauty of voice, that its conclusion was greeted with deafening applause and encored. Then camo the side-splitting sketch of the evening, "When I was a Maid," by Mr Martin,.. which, being so comically put on and acted, caused immense merriment The audience were then kept in laughter by Mr Weston, who sang "Robinson Crusoe" splendidly, which was followed by You're growing more like your Dad" by Mr Martin in good style. Mr Weston again came forward and danced the sailor's hornpipe capitally, being followed by a song from Master Millet who was accompanied on the flute by Mr Sullivan. The wandering minstrel (Mr Martin) caused fits of laughter from beginning to end, Peter Potts, the. "Peeler," then came in and delighted, the audience immensely with his peculiar mannerism and taking song. This concluded the first part, Mr Martin thanked the audience for their kind attention, and, measuring the merits of the entertainment by their approbation, felt sure that he, and the gentlemen who so kindly assisted, had scored, a decided success. He also thanked Mr Johnston (the presiding schoolmaster), and the committee who had so generously granted permission, for the use of the school, upon which Mr Johnston moved a vote of thanks to Mr Martin for the able and mirth provoking entertainment given. A half-an-hour of ventriloquism astonished and delighted the audience, and concluded the first entertainment held in Mauriceville. A pleasant dance took place afterwards in Mr Hansen's, which was kept up till midnight. PP 30th March. Jens Larsen and I being members of the School Committee visited the school today found the school very crowded, the want of more desks felt very much. Signed William Jesson 10th May Received three 9 feet (3 meters) desks from the chairman of the committee and one teachers desk from Eketahuna 21st July According to advice from Secretary of Education Board I today delivered three 9 feet desks to a carrier for the Mangaone School. More to be sent if required. 24th July Veranda of residence blown down last night. Very strong wind 9th September. Mr Lee's report The day is stormy and snow has fallen several times. 68 children are present.
I am thoroughly dissatisfied with Mr Johnston’s management. He is no disciplinarian and the school year by year fails to come up with the requirements of the times.

In the earlier days when the attendance was smaller and settlement newer Mr Johnston appeared very suitable for this particular work. He is however altogether unprogressive and underperforming. The copy books are ill written and much blotted on the inside and on the cover. Under a good master, the assistants Miss Sullivan would do excellent service in junior work, but she is hampered by the bad disruption maintained in the upper standards. I have to inform the head-master that an effort must be made to improve the discipline and the quality of the work. New maps and diagrams will be required for the new school. 8 of the present desks will be required for one of the new rooms. The other room will be furnished with infant desks of which there are already four. Eight more will be required.

6th November. Some kind of throat disease has appeared among some of the children which seems infectious. It is probable the same disease that a little girl died of some time ago which was not thought at the time to be infectious.

20th November Many of the children laid up, some very seriously. Enquired of Dr Beard if it is diphtheria as reported: he does not think so and says there is no danger if the children are kept from school until fairly recovered. The children of several families have left school A kind of panic prevails.

27th November Some of the children who left have come back to school but there is no decrease in the number of sick. Use disinfectant in school every day.

4th December One or two deaths have resulted from this disease and the children are leaving school again. I have been advised to shut the school in the meantime. It is very difficult to decide what course to take. Every precaution is being used and no one seems to take the malady at school, though several have taken it who left with fright.

1886

25th January Opened School today

8th February Several children are still sick, but hardly any fresh cases

The epidemic seems to be passing away.

12th February Holiday treat in new room

13th February A very successful tea-meeting was held last evening at Mauriceville, to inaugurate the new school buildings recently erected to meet the growing requirements of the district. The tables wore plentifully supplied with all sorts of good things, which were done justice to by relays of guests who constituted the adult and juvenile population of the settlement. Mr Gunderson, Chairman of the Committee-, presided, and was supported on his right by Mr G. Beetham, M.H.R. The proceedings opened with an eloquent exhortation by Mr L. Johnson on the duties of parents to their children, and concluded with a grace preparatory to the tea. After the good things had been disposed of, Mr Gunderson addressed the meeting, describing the progress of educational matters at Mauriceville, and proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Beetham for his services in obtaining the new building, and tor the
interest he always manifested in their educational requirements. The motion was ably seconded by Mr W, Jessen, and Mr Beetham, in acknowledging it, alluded to the exceptionable advantages they derived from education in Nov; Zealand, and referred to his own action is assisting to pass the present Act. He also warmly congratulated them on the possession of the present comfortable building. And adjournment was then made outside the building, and an hour or so, which intervened before dusk, was devoted to girls and boys races, and a cricket match by the Mauriceville Cricket Club. When the shades of night had fallen, a dance in the old schoolroom wound up a very enjoyable re-union. 

PP

12th March Disease seems to spread anew. Three children have died in one family
15th March Eight infant desks have been received from Wellington. Some of them were in pieces when received
23rd March. Three more infant desks received.
2nd April received blackboards and two easels
5th April Removed to new room today.
28th April There were thirty householders present, Mr G. Gunderson in the chair. Twelve were nominated, with the following result;— Messrs Celius Petersen, P. Hansen W, Jessen, Peter Andersen, junior, George Franklin and Gunder Gunderson. The latter was elected chairman for the ensuing year
PP

26th May The Board declined an application for a vote of 5 pound for levelling Mauriceville School playground as they coul not afford it. PP

8th June Undersigned being a member of the School Committee visited the school this day, found everything in first class order, good attendance in Mr Johnston’s room but small attendance in Miss Sullivan’s.
William Jessen
23rd June Visited school this day and found everything in good order. Attendance fair. John Swenson (Member School Committee)
8th October. Attendance in infant room very unsatisfactory
10th December About half the children laid up with measles. The disease is of a mild type
17th December. Most of the pupils laid up are back to school and the others for most part have been infected. Has not much affected the school. In two weeks the disease has run its race in this locality
Closed school for holidays this afternoon

1887

29th January A petition from 32 householders in the Mauriceville district for the removal of the present teacher. Mr. L Johnston was forwarded by the local Committee, with a recommendation that effect be given to it. The Board decided to give Mr. Johnston three months’ notice. PP
16th March School buildings in great danger from fire last night. Danger continues in a modified form all day. Shed caught fire in the afternoon. Did not think it prudent to open school today
17th March Fire dangerously near last night. Out buildings caught fire several times.
3rd May I took charge of Mauriceville School today. J M McKenzie

6th May A few of Mr Johnson's friends entertained him at dinner at Mauriceville on Tuesday evening. The new schoolmaster, Mr M. McKenzie, who had arrived that day, was also invited. Sixteen sat down to the table, which was abundantly laden with appetising eatables, sparkling wines, &c, Mr G. Gunderson presided, and was supported on the right by Mr Johnston, the guest of the evening, and on the left by Mr McKenzie. The vice chair was occupied by Mr John Jessen, the chairman of the last committee. After justice had been done to all the good things provided, Mr Gunderson, in a few well-chosen words, proposed the health of Mr Johnston, which was drunk with musical honors. Mr Johnston responding said he had now been a teacher over 30 years, 10 of which had had been spent in Mauriceville. He had always taken a great interest in children, and he would always continue to do so. He welcomed Mr McKenzie to Mauriceville, and hoped he would succeed in his charge. Mr W. Jessen proposed the health of Mr McKenzie, and trusted the settlers would receive him not as a stranger but as a friend, for on him depended the future welfare of Mauriceville, for what would become of the growing generation unless they got well educated. With a good education they would be able to carve their way through life, a credit to themselves and to their teacher. He trusted Mr McKenzie would find it a pleasant task to do his duty. Mr McKenzie responding, said he was not good at making speeches; all he could do was to teach. He had never made a speech before in his life and he could only speak to children. Mr Jessen had put a great responsibility on his shoulders, but he would always try to do his duty. Mr Gunderson said he had a pleasant duty to perform, namely, to hand to Mr Johnston a purse of sovereigns, collected by the children to show their esteem. Mr Johnston expressed his thanks for the token of respect the children had shown him. He did not know what was in the purse, but lie should always keep it in pleasant memory; he would, through Mr Gundersen, thank the children very much for their kindness. Here Mr Johnston was overcome with emotion, and could say no more. The children's toast was next proposed, and suitably responded to by Mr Johnston, after which, camo the toast of the ladies, the company and the chairman; the last one being drunk with musical honors. Several songs were given in the intervals, those of Mr Charles Toon being especially appreciated. The company dispersed after 10 o'clock, after spending the most enjoyable evening ever held in Mauriceville.

26th May Visited school today. Noticed great improvement in discipline, find one window blind out of order, everything else satisfactory. William Jessen (Member School Committee)

8th June Gave Charles Isackien two strokes of the cane on Nature’s Cushion for leaving school without permission and refusing to return when I called after him. The boy’s father was present and approved of the punishment.

Visited school today notice everything satisfactory. Jens Sigvestren

17th June Received a letter from N Jensen (Member of the Committee) stating that he will “absolutely withdraw” his children from the school if I do not punish a girl who complained of one of his boys.
24th June. Holiday given today (By direction of chairman of committee) School to open on 18th July
18th July School reopened after Mid winter holidays 67 Present
8th 9th 10th 11th 12th August Mrs Nielsen absent -ill
15th August. Very severe snowstorm- small attendance- Mrs Nielsen present today
18th August I have this day visited the school and found a great improvement in the discipline and everything was very satisfactory. Lars Svenson Member of School Committee
25th August A water tank and tap (400 gallons) arrived for residence at 9.30 am
26th August Received from Mr Gundersen for school use five quire’s (24 or 25 sheets of paper) of notepaper. One packet of envelopes, a box of slate pencils and 21 sheets (half a quire) of foolscap.
2nd September. Great storm last night; it continues today and the attendance is small= 29. The school fence near the gate blown down last night.
Received syllabus of elementary science yesterday
13th September Carl Nielsen’s thumb was accidently cut by a slap which I gave him with a rod in which there was a split- purely accidental
16th September. Mrs Nelson had to leave school this morning (ill) at 10 a m
26th September Polling Day for general election- no school today. School required as a polling Booth
30th October. Severe storm of wind and rain, with very small attendance

10th October. Gave William Halberg three strokes of the cane on nature’s cushion for playing truant Friday last.
26th The same to Charles Larsen for a like offense
27th October Wellington Education Board A petition was received from the residents of Mauriceville against dancing being allowed in the old school. Which was referred to the Mauriceville School Committee PP
10th November School inspected by N Jensen from the School Committee his report written in a Scandinavian Language
30th November An application from the Masterton Committee that Mr Smith should be appointed assistant teacher was granted. A similar application from the Mauriceville Committee with reference to Mrs Mcßenzie was also granted PP

1888
24th January School reopened.
9th – 17th February. Mrs Neilsen absent ill
20th February Mrs Neilsen resumed duties at 9 AM and left again at Noon (12 O’clock)
21st February Mrs Neilsen resumed duties
1st March The Mauriceville Committee wrote, stating that a difficulty had arisen with the lessor over the land on which the school was built, as he claimed a right of way to a lime-kiln at the rear of the school, which the Committee disputed. After looking into the matter, the Board decided to write to the Committee with the view of having the matter amicably settled PP
16th March. The verandah of the teachers residence blown away at 4 ¼ pm. Windows broken in the school- hurricane

4th April The committee have given the children a holiday on account of Picnick (sic) Signed Gunder Gundersen Chairman

7th April School Children's Picnic at Mauriceville, The picnic was originally intended, to have come off last Tuesday, but owing to the heavy downpour of rain the previous night, which made the paddock more suitable for a regatta than for a picnic, the treat was postponed until the next day," which turned out fine. At 11 o'clock, a great number of children, dressed in their best, turned up from all directions, and the programme started in the way of sports each standard running different races, suitable prizes having been provided, for each race.: At 2 o'clock, the programme having been gone through, all made their way to the school, where a tea had been provided. The children, whose appetites had been freshened by the running, soon showed that they were in a healthy condition, and taxed the efforts of the ladies, to whom the preparation of the tea had been entrusted, to the utmost. It may be mentioned that the number of children was exactly 100. They again went out to play, after which the teaching staff and the members of the Committee sat down to partake of some refreshments. Sweets; were distributed to the children, each child receiving a bag, and a number of bags still being left, the children were again classified, and ran short; distances for the remainder.
The bell here sounding, announced that the principal event of the day was to take place, and the children, having entered the school, were addressed by the Chairman of the School Committee (Mr G. Gunderson) who said that he was about to distribute prize-books to those children who had shown the best results. The books, which had been procured from Messrs Lyon and Blair, were beautifully bound, and. some were very valuable. It was so arranged that a first and second prize was allotted to each class in each standard. Having distributed the prizes, Mr Gunderson expressed a wish that all those who had not received a prize this time would do their utmost to get to the top, and thus secure a prize next year. Mr Aulin, on behalf of the scholars, thanked the committee for their efforts in providing such an enjoyable dP” and one which no doubt would give the children a great deal of encouragement. He also paid a high compliment to the master for the efficient way in which he had taught the children

The children were then requested to sing, and under the leadership of Mrs Nielsen, the assistant teacher, they sang some very nice songs, keeping remarkably good time. At the conclusion, Mr Gunderson thanked the children for the singing, and reminded them that they had to make a fresh start in the morning at 9 o'clock, and as the examination was to take place on the 20th inst., he trusted they would work hard in order to pass into a higher standard. The children were then dismissed, all going home highly pleased.

21st April I have examined the school today and yesterday and I am much pleased with the improved state of the school under Mr McKenzie. The character of the work in every part of the school is very good and very creditable to the teacher

Mrs Neilson after visit of Mr Lee becomes Kate Nelson, is this a coincidence or is this a change of teacher?

23rd April Inspector’s holiday

3rd May Mrs Nelson absent on leave at a funeral. The charter of the Ancient Order of Foresters hung up in the school by order of the chairman

12th May Mauriceville School.
The examination of the School took place on the 20th ultimo with very satisfactory results, only one pupil failing to pass. Mr Lee,
the Inspector, expressed himself highly pleased with the progress the school had made during the year. The following the passes Standard I John Amundsen, Charles Isaacksen, William Jensen, Niels Rjistrup, William Larsen, August Swenson, Thora Gunderson, Mary Nielsen, Emma Person, Petrea Petersen. Standard II—Christian Amundsen, Charles Aulin, William Andersen, Hans Peter Hansen, Henry Hansen, Niels Larsen, Charles Larsen, ? Peterson, Emma Johansen, Mary Johansen, Caroline Larsen, Sarah McKenzie, Mary Person, Agues Petersen. Standard III—Hans Peter Anderson, George Deadman, Henry Ericksen, George Jensen, Charles Larsen, John McKenzie, Malacly McKenzie, Niels Olsen, Christine Aulin, Mary Albrestsen, Emily Asserson, Annie Christensen, Margaret Elliott, Caroline Hansen, Mary Hansen, Dorothea Pedersen, Mary Larsen, Standard IV—Charles Gunderson, Charles Nielsen, Nelly Gunderson, Mathilda Jensen, Johanne Kjistrup; Mary Swenson. The infant class was also examined, and, to the credit of their teacher they all passed to another book. PP 16th July School reopened after midwinter vacation. Attendance small owing to the weather and the opening of a new school (Mauriceville Railway opened August 1887) in the neighbourhood 26th July. Struck A Olsen accidently on the back of the hand with a rod. His hand swelled up much afterwards. 7th December. Mrs Nelson absent (Chairman’s permission) owing to the illness of Mr Neilsen.

1889

4th April I examined the school today and I am very pleased with the satisfactory work done by Mr McKenzie and Mrs Nelson. The arithmetic of the upper standards is particularly commended. Note from Mr Mckenzie. Mr Lee noticed that the verandah of the teacher’s residence (Blown away on the 16th March 1888) has not yet been repaired. Mr Lee suggests that instead of mere theory and the rules of syntax etc, the children attending Mauriceville School should learn grammar in a practical way by speaking correctly in the presence of the teachers and by frequent short exercises in English Composition- A very sensible suggestion which will be attended to.

26th April School Committee G Gunderson (Chairman), L Nielsen, N Nielsen, P Larsen, M Jensen, W Jensen, P Anderson PP 14th May I visiting the school 14th May and found the attendance to be 55 pupils and all well. Signed Gunther Gundersen 29th May Mrs Nelson ill 30th Mrs Nelson in school today 31st Mrs Nelson absent 3rd – 14th June Mrs Nelson absent 17th June Mrs Nelson resumed duty this morning 12th August Verandah to Teacher’s residence repaired 26th August Mrs Nelson had to leave again after coming to school: She has a cold 15th September. A new roof- shingles- on the old school 27th September- 4th October Mrs Nelson absent through illness- a cold
7th October Mrs Nelson resumed duty.
28th December Mr. John McKenzie, late headmaster of Mauriceville School, who left to-day with his family for San Francisco, was yesterday morning presented with an address by the inhabitants of Mauriceville, expressing their regret at his departure, and making special reference to his ability as a teacher and the vast improvement he had worked in the school during his term of office. The address was accompanied by a present in the shape of a handsome and valuable walking stick. Mr. McKenzie suitably replied, and in the course of his remarks expressed a hope that his successor would take a kindly interest in the Danish children, whose parents were now, he said, beginning to understand the value of education.

1890
27th January Opened school today master not yet appointed Kate Nelson Assistant Mistress
30th January  Head teacher at Mauriceville, £200 and house 13 applicants
8th February The School Committee here is not well pleased with the Education Board attention to our local requirements. One school is without a head master, and the other without a pupil teacher
13th March Herbert Sanson Appointed Inspected the offices yesterday and found some very filthy language written in one of them. Had it erased. Attendance 43. Weather threatening

17th March Mrs Nelson absent today at Eketahuna. Committee gave consent for absence
Began working my own timetable today. Communication from Secretary of Wellington Education Board Re Mrs Nelson’s removal. Have written to Board asking if the matter can be held in abeyance for a school term so as to allow a chance of working up the average

24th March Attendance very poor weather cold and wet. New fence (wire) erected around part of the school ground.
Little or nothing known of Analysis of sentences in Standards 5 and 6. Writing very poor. Arithmetic good in most cases. Geography not known in 3rd and 4th classes Children attentive and well behaved
By sunrise we all assembled in one common apartment
Children wrote- sunrise subject Complete nonsense- parsing good. Drawing very bad

20th March Mrs Nelson Attending School today for the last time. She has been promoted to the Mangatainoka School
21st March Am conducting the school alone today. Returns made out this afternoon and taken to the chairman for his signature
Average for quarter Girls 21.04 Boys 20.36 = 41.40
Average for month over 43. Attendance very low at beginning of Quarter, hence low average
3rd April Received schedules for examination to be held 25th inst by last night’s mail
Today is what is known as “Holy Thursday” among the Lutherans and the attendance is only 18. Several children sick
14th April Mrs Nelson recommenced duties on the 9th Inst.
Number of children absent have had influenza and in consequence have been absent
Mrs Nelson also absent one day owing to the epidemic
18th April Mary Broderson is suffering from a most repulsive skin disease and her arms are just one mass of sores. I have forbidden her attendance fearing of infection for the other scholars.
21st April School used for a supper after a ball on Friday night by the local Foresters. Rooms very dirty today in consequence although they were supposed to be cleaned. Blackboard in Mrs Nelson’s room covered with vulgar drawings by someone present at the supper.
I have put brackets and frames around the room to make it look more cheerful
22nd April Mary Broderson is back again in school. She brought a letter from her father saying that he took the girl to a doctor and that he stated there was no fear of infection and the girl would not lose the sores until she was 13 years of age. Under these circumstances her attendance will be allowed.
She has been isolated for greater safety.
24th April I have taken Hannah Nelson and Emma Hansen’s name off the roll owing to non attendance since Xmas
28th April 50 present The highest since my arrival
29th April School Committee elected last night Messers Gundersen, Rasmussen, Jesson, Chisholm, Jens Sigvertson, Peter Larsen and R P Hansen
Mr Gunderson elected chairman at the after meeting
Paper (Lyon and Blaine prepared) supplied for examination on 1st May

1st May Examination Day Present 53
2nd May Percentage of passes on number examined in Standards omitting exceptions = 89.18%
List of all children passed in log
Pass cards have been issued to all those who have passed excepting Standard 5 scholars for whom no cards were sent by Secretary Wellington Education Board
8th May Teacher’s time of arrival book will be kept for this term for the purpose of enforcing punctuality on the part of the Head Master and assistant mistress. The time at which each teacher arrives will be strictly kept. The entry being made opposite his or her name by the respective teacher
8th May Dinner recess will be 1½ hours from today as Mrs Nelson finds time (1 hour) not sufficient
Wrote to the Secretary Wellington Education Board last night asking for Return Forms, Clock for assistant, returns, chart of Physiology (Johnston’s)
12th May exceedingly wet and cold. Snow on ground until 10 O’clock and at various times today slight showers of snow fall. Attendance only 17
14th May 26 scholars are now in my room all standard 2 successful candidates transferred to 3rd Standard 6, 5,4,3 in my room.
Blain’s Freehand Drawing Books in use for the next 3 months
Shaw Geometry will be taken by higher standards and the various drawing lessons required by syllabus will be taken in periods of say 3 months
Star readers in use all over the school now, a change that was much needed.

Copy books allowed in various classes are listed.

15th May, Walker Chisholm as visitor to for present month writes. I have been in the school for one hour and have found the work being done in a very satisfactory manner.

30th May, Mesdames Harper and Larsen visited the school this afternoon. Children sang during the time they were present.

10th June, Letter sent to School Committee re requirements for school, Sandpaper etc wanted.

13th June, Sandpaper received and desks cleaned by boys and girls voluntarily.

16th June, Examination Report by Robert Lee.

I am very much pleased with the condition of this school under the new master Mr Sanson the school has a good future before it. There is much improvement already in writing and grammar, and the management is much to be commended.

The teacher’s residence should have been papered before Mr Sanson arrived. He has expended 30/- in making one room decent and the other three should be done at once. The School Committee have put up recently a good dividing fence.

I recommend the retention of Mrs Nelson as Assistant.

20th June, Petersen’s absent owing to sickness, it is said.

25th July, Some 8 children are away today to attend a marriage in the church here.

9th September, Bertha and Thomas Branchly have left to go to the Station School.

19th September, Dinner access shortened from 1 ¼ hours to 1 hour owing to children leaving school. Mrs Nelson can now manage to get up in time.

10th October, A member of the School Committee waited on me this morning and said that at the Committee meeting last night it was resolved that children should be allowed to attend school without boots and stockings. This is in direct opposition to clause 15 Section 5 to Teacher’s, Boards Rules and Regulations to my instructions to the children. Have written to the Board on the matter.

13th October, Quite a number of children present without boots and Freehand drawing has been taught and geometry is to be begun today.

14th October, Obscene words written on old school a short time ago. Edith Gundersen a half witted girl has acknowledged doing it. She has before admitted writing filth on our premises.

15th October, School opened with 8 children who were very wet but closed again at 10.15 a.m by permission of chairman of School Committee.

Mrs Nelson was away owing to the rain.

Pane of glass blown (partly) in by strong wind today.

17th October, James Chisholm has been found guilty of very obscene language and has confessed thereto.

20th October, School closed today by permission of School Committee to allow children chance of going to the Masterton Agriculture Show.

10th November, School closed in commemoration of Prince of Wales Birthday.
12th November Bernard Neilsen, Edward Hanson and Charles Johanson caned for cruelly treating a sheep on the road to their house
14th November Mary Broderson left today owing to be punished for misbehaviour in school
19th November. Mary Franklin won my promised writing prize with a total of 99½ out of a possible 100. Maggie Elliott and Mary Pearson came 2nd with a possible of 98.
28th November Board holiday owing to Wellington agriculture show.
4th December. Mrs Nelson absent this afternoon by permission to attend to private business in Masterton
5th December. School closed today. School is being used as a polling booth for General Election
8th December Shearing has begun in the district and several children are absent in consequence
Specimens of children’s work tacked to the wall
9th December Water in school tank very bad. Steps were to have been taken two months ago in consideration with the cleaning of it, but as the matter has been left over the water is unfit for drinking.
Pins and ink required for schools- windows require cleaning.
16th December. 4 Boys (Petersons) truanting ½ day yesterday. Several children away haymaking, shearing etc

1891
26th January Attendance only 17. Mrs Nelson transferred to Eketahuna
School cleaned nicely during vacation
Alice Franklin left for Dreyerton School her parents having removed to there.
29th July School tank cleaned out during holidays
Highest roll 31. Lowest of 17. All scholars in my room.
30th January Large Bottle ink received today, for school use. One box nibs
5th February 15/- subscribed up to today for the purchase of a presentation to Mrs Nelson
18th February 26/- subscribed in all for present, Articles, a biscuit jar of glass with electro plated top and preserve dish on an electro plated stand Cost 26/6 without carriage. Arrived last night
Mr De May who was here on 10th inst to drill scholars expected again today
Form sent from Wellington Education Board Office to be filled in showing appliances in school and asking what more are required
20th February Instruction given in Swedish Drill in accordance with the drill instructors directions
28th February Foolscap, blotting paper and red ink supplied for examinations
Monthly average 40.46
16th March. Blackboards repainted
25th March Examination Day attendance 28 boys and 23 girls= 51
Percentage of passes on number examined 91½%
1st April School treat yesterday
29th April Metal put round school and out to offices and some supplied to the teacher’s residence
9th April Application for Pupil Teacher replied to. Letter asked for names of suitable candidates with qualification received. No local person suitable
Letter from Mr Lee if I could attend Miss Evan’s Kindergarten Lessons in Masterton I have to apply to the School Committee for one days leave of absence to allow of my attending
20th April John Sigvertson (Aged 9) absent today to give evidence at the inquest on Christian Hansen. (Aged 16 Shot himself when out shooting pigeons. Mr Gunder Gundersen chaired the inquest with a jury. The boy picked up the rifle by the barrel and the gun went off. Ruling Accidental Death)
23rd April A number of children absent to attend a funeral
24th April Mr T Fleming Inspector
I paid a visit to the school today and found Mr Sanson at work with his classes rearranged according to the results of the examination last month
The work was going on smoothly and the discipline was excellent
I took a class of girls for reading and found that they read very well, taking into account the fact that nearly all the children speak Danish or Scandinavian in their own homes
Mr Sanson informed me that he had been to Masterton to see Miss Evans (The Kindergarten teacher) A pupil teacher is needed in the school to relieve Mr Sanson of some of his work and to enable him to find time for some kindergarten work with the infants
The work being done here is very satisfactory

28th April G Gunderson, W Chisholm, Peter Anderson, Neils Rasmussen, N Jensen, C Forsberg and Peter Larsen elected a new committee, Balance Sheet £6-2-0 in hand to date
29th April I have applied to School Committee for 9 Longman’s History and Geography readers for school use in accordance with Mr Flemings suggestion together with 1 of the school reading book and class reading for teacher’s use in school. The total cost will be £2-3-. No reply received yet
List of Longman’s books required here is made out ready to send to the local storekeeper who will keep the books I think.
4th May Box of models received from the Wellington Education Board
An application from Maria Toohill of Eketahuna for appointment as a pupil teacher sent to me by the Secretary of the Wellington Education Board with a request for my opinions. Matter held over pending a reply re Masterton Candidates
7th May Mabel Walton and Miss Johnston are willing to take the position of PT if proper board and lodgings can be found. Inquiries being made
7th May. Mr Riley Art instructor to Board present yesterday afternoon. He took the children for a short time
8th May. Two cords of firewood supplied
11th May. Miss Mabel Walton’s name submitted to Wellington Education Board and committee for approval. Parents and girl willing. Enter on duties a week from today if arrangements with Board and committee settled. Miss Johnston withdrew application. Application made again to Board for kindergarten requisites
14th May. Clay for kindergarten work received
18\textsuperscript{th} May Miss Mabel Walton entered on her duties today as a Pupil teacher
19\textsuperscript{th} May Fairy Tales as class readers begun
20\textsuperscript{th} May. Received P T syllabus for instruction tonight
21\textsuperscript{st} May. Instruction to Miss Walton begun. Time table proposed for her instructions 1 ½ hours on 5 days = 7 ½ hours
27\textsuperscript{th} May Edith Gundersen left At Service
25\textsuperscript{th} May. Clay modelling begun Effect of hard substance on soft one applied.
29\textsuperscript{th} April Attendance 50.
Began singing again today Sang “Home Again” Taught Club exercises taken by girls under Miss Walton’s Supervision while I take boys for drill
5\textsuperscript{th} June Whittington and his cat read this week
19\textsuperscript{th} June I found it necessary to reprimand Miss Walton today for gross inattention to her duties
Singing Glide Along and Goodnight (Rounds) Home Again (Sang)
24\textsuperscript{th} June Bertha Branchly entered from the Railway Station School today roll number is 59
26\textsuperscript{th} June Song taught Kiss Me and I’ll go to Sleep
20\textsuperscript{th} July School reopened for midwinter vacation. Miss Walton has not returned will probably return per 1\textsuperscript{st} train. Permission given
Miss Walton present this afternoon
27\textsuperscript{th} July Miss Walton’s work unsatisfactory. Weak eyes given as an excuse
31\textsuperscript{st} February Average roll 50.23, Have reported Miss Walton’s unsatisfactory work to Board
Eskild Petersen left for service at Dreyerton
6\textsuperscript{th} August Have entered 3 6\textsuperscript{th} Class girls for freehand 1\textsuperscript{st} Grade Examination
10\textsuperscript{th} August James Chisholm convicted of swearing on school premises. Punishment inflicted accordingly (2 cuts with the cane). This is the second case during my tenure of office in Mauriceville (same boy offending)
12\textsuperscript{th} August James Chisholm used bad language today- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Offense within one week. Punishment inflicted
14\textsuperscript{th} August Holiday given by Board to celebrate the opening of the new Education office in Wellington
17\textsuperscript{th} August Formation of a school library decided on. Committee of two appointed to act with me.
18\textsuperscript{th} August. Miss Walton complained of illness yesterday so she was excused from lessons- time to be made up
21\textsuperscript{st} August. Various means have been started with the object of establishing a school library. Viz. Subscription lists, entertainment and weekly dances
24\textsuperscript{th} August Two books given by Bertha Brenchley a scholar towards the school library.
Subscription lists given to some children to take around the settlement.
25\textsuperscript{th} August. Inspectors Report T Fleming
I paid a surprise visit to this school today
Mr Sanson has now a pupil teacher who has Standard 2, 1 and infants
In the afternoon an object lesson on air was to be given by the pupil teacher Miss Walton. She was very nervous and seemed unable to give it, but apart from that she had not enough material to illustrate the lesson and she had not thoroughly prepared it.

In Mr Sanson’s room the work is satisfactory and the discipline excellent. Mr Sanson might let Mr Parkinson have the extra sets of models for Dreyerton School.

28th August Miss Walton late today. 3rd time this week.

1st September Six books presented by Rev Mr Christenson.

21 books have been donated up to date.

8th September Letter from Mr Lee inspector, intimating that the dozen books promised were being forwarded on Saturday.

14th September Committee has granted a half holiday for Friday 18th inst to allow children time to return to entertainment also to allow me to meet performers and have room prepared.

18th September Half holiday (afternoon) school library entertainment.

21st September £15-2-0 was the total amount collected for library, but the expenses were £2-0-10 leaving a balance of £13-1-2 ($2,832.32 in September 2011 terms) of which this stamp (M’VILLE.P.S Lib.y) was bought for half a crown. One dozen books received from Ed Board office towards the school library.

24th September Rasmin Paterson got 6 cuts on the hands- 3 on each today for using filthy language to girls on the way home from school.

29th September. Order for library books sent to Logan and Blair. Wellington.

7th October Geometry is being taken as the drawing subject for First Grade examination for 1892 in Standard 4, 5 and 6.

8th October. A new supply of the 165 library books received from Lyon and Blair. List of all 207 titles in library listed by title in log.

14th October. Kindergarten bead threading by Miss Walton. Pauses of considerable length between remarks and questions making the children lose interest in the work. No originality about her work.

26th October. Application made to committee for a fresh supply of ink and penholders and paper.

27th October. Permission given to close school for the Masterton Agricultural Show.

I am examining my own scholars this week. I find their arithmetic and writing weak in some cases. Grammar also requires attention in the various classes.

Unsatisfactory results attained by my examinations in Miss Walton’s class on Friday last. The arithmetic (Numeration and Notation chiefly) was disgraceful.

Have written to Board expressing the views of the committee about the management and extension of the library until it becomes arranged in a public one.

1st Vesting in trustees.

2nd Extending into a public library (always to be free to children).

3rd Free to all children attending school but open to public by subscriptions.
6th November 3 dozen penholders, some foolscap as a quantity of ink supplied to school today by committee
10th November Children wet through, Chairman of committee agreed with me that they should be sent home. Time of closing 10.15
11th November. Timetable forms (Class instead of school) supplied by Board
11th November Chairman of School Committee written to again 3rd or 4th time, about the serious defect in the roof of the teachers residence. Paper and walls in 3 rooms being spoilt
11th November. Intimation that my 1st Grade drawing candidates passed the late examination in freehand, the only subject for which they were presented. Mary Franklin, Emma Johansen and Mary Pearson passed
16th November No less than 18 children absent today. Beautiful weather so that can be no excuse
16th November Examination of Miss Walton’s scholars on Friday gave very bad results in arithmetic in 6 cases out of 7 in standard 2 and 2 cases in standard 1
Expressionless reading although it is fairly fluent considering the age of the children
Peter Larsen and Mary Sigvertson made 9 errors in dictation and spelling
Discipline poor- inattention, copying, turning round and talking being indulged in
18th November. Miss Walton was 15 minutes late for school this morning. She ought also to have been at lessons at 8.20. This shows she was 55 minutes behind time.
Miss Walton’s period of probation has expired- she began on the 18th of last May
19th November Report on Miss Walton’s abilities as a teacher forwarded to the board today
20th November Notice received from the Wellington Education Board announcing termination of Miss Walton’s engagement as from the end of the year, and asking me to find some other person qualified for the position
Reply –asking if she is expected to sit for exams. What payment will be made for her instruction if she passes, and if she doesn’t
26th November Some of the children are absent from school owing to sickness- influenza and whooping cough.
26th November An application from Mauriceville to convert the school library into a public library to be vested in Trustees, and to be always free to school children, was approved, but it was pointed out that there would be no power to make a charge to the outside public for the use of books, though donations could be received. PP
30th November Miss Walton is intending to sit her examination in December owing to the reply received by me from the Secretary of the Ed Board. Patrea Peterson left- wanted at home
7th December. Miss Walton late today. Returning by train from Masterton. Permission granted by me before hand. She was attending drawing examination in Masterton and could not return sooner.
10th December. Chairman of Committee agreed better to close the school a week earlier and reopen a week sooner owing to the
prevalence of sickness amongst the children. Recommendation to that effect sent to the Board

11th December Drawing certificates (First Grade) received and distributed to the three girls

11th December. Heat intense during first part of afternoon. Drill not taken today owing to thunder shower following the heat. Latter part of the day very dull and heavy

12th December. School closed from today with Board’s sanction owing to prevalence of whooping cough

1892

18th January School reopened this morning as per instructions. Only 11 children in attendance. Whooping Cough, Influenza and grass seeding the chief causes

Miss Helen Kean commenced her duties here as pupil teacher today

19th January Only 30 in attendance today out of 59 on the roll owing to sickness

21st January 21/61 on attendance

22nd January Anniversary Day School Closed

26th January So far I am much pleased with the manner in which Miss Helen Kean conducts her classes. She is painstaking and energetic and endeavours to maintain the children’s interest

27th January An appointment notice sent to Miss Kean by the Secretary of the Board. A special allowance of £15.00 on account of residence, has been made to her.

29th January Time and Solar system begun today by Miss Kean Application made to board for a modulator for school use. The one here at present belongs to Mrs Neilsen and will be returned to her as she has the Newman School

5th February Modulator to be kept here and used in the school

8th February Mat plaiting begun

11th February Blackboard composition paint received yesterday. Blackboards have been prepared and will be painted with the new paint

12th February My room is overcrowded and I have to send Primers and Standard 1 and 2 into the other room to stay. Miss Kean seems quite capable of keeping them at timetable work and I think will maintain fair discipline.

15th February The seat in boy’s closet broken up by larricks on Friday night last. The larricks threw the clothes of two dancers down the closet and it is likely the seat was broken by those getting their watches up. Complaint made to chairman of committee and an attempt will be made to make the culprits pay to cost of repair The same larricks turned the taps of the school and residences tanks, so as to let the water waste Their designs were however frustrated. These high jinks were carried out while the old school was being used for a ball. And the new school as a refreshment room.

22nd February Attendance 60 today. School used on Saturday for cricketer’s dinner. Not swept out this morning

NB school swept in evening
23rd February Composition being taught according to new syllabus. Errors in speech given for correction. Some of these errors occurring in compositions sent in by scholars.

24th February Mr A De May was present in school from 9 am to 11 am. The following new exercises in Swedish drill were given.
Lowering and raising the body on the toes in 4 motions
   The toes and hands in 6
The legs stretch backwards on 8
Lowering and raising the body in that position
Military drill forming 2 rights and left about
   Turns right left and about
Standing at ease. From the right and opening to intervals. Closing
   From the right and left beginning in single line
From the centre beginning in single line
Dismissal
4 fresh club exercises taken in
   Club Chart Numbers
9. Left outward circles and small front circles
10. Right as above
11. Left as above and back
12. Right as above
25th February 2 Science lessons every week now
26th February Attendance on opening of school 3. Very wet. All children sent home at 11.
29th February Danish sports held in leap year. Children attending so no school. Committees Concert in new room on Saturday night. Floor getting very dirty

3rd March Petrea Peterson re-entered school today

Heard James Chisholm using foul language yesterday. Kept in
7th March Examination of school in preparation for April 7th. Have asked Committee for paper and also to repair the boys office
Inventory of School Property March 8th 1892 Included

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<td>3 Easels</td>
<td>6 lbs Blackboard Paint</td>
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<td>1 Teachers Stool</td>
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<td>1 Small Platform</td>
<td>2 Presses</td>
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<td>20 Pairs of clubs</td>
<td>Modelling Clay</td>
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<td>139 Weaving Mats</td>
<td>24 Knitting Needles</td>
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<td>3 Bundles of sticks</td>
<td>3 Boxes metal joints</td>
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<td>1 Weaving Frame</td>
<td>1 Box knitting beads</td>
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<td>2 Globes</td>
<td>1 Modulator</td>
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<td>1 Box song books</td>
<td>2 Learn to Read</td>
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<td>9 Reading Sheets</td>
<td>1 Window Stick</td>
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<td>1 Pair Bellows</td>
<td>1 Dust Shovel</td>
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<td>5 Very Old maps and charts</td>
<td>2 Brooms</td>
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<td>2 Old Towels</td>
<td>8 Plaster Casts</td>
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<td>1 Quantity School Crayons</td>
<td>9 History Readers</td>
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<td>9 Geography Readers</td>
<td>Ink</td>
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<td>210 School Library Books</td>
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9th March Object lesson on colours. White, black, blue, red and yellow. Lips, tongue and inside of mouths red because skin is thin and blood shows through. Black men have black skins because pulpy substance on basement membrane is black. Other white because substance is black. Pointed out to class.

10th March Blotting paper and foolscap received from committee for examinations. Average roll 57

11th March Seat in Boys WC repaired by committee

14th March. Water all run out of school tank. Some careless child must have left taps running. Frequently shut off by me.

21st March Haggy’s Chart returned from Hastwell school. It has been made very dirty by hands and fingers having been rested on it.

25th March. Boys throwing paper in Miss Kean’s room. 2 strokes each. I pointed out to Miss Kean that she ought to be more careful and prevent anything of the kind.

1st April Miss Kean away during the afternoon—sent for

4th April Miss Kean absent in Morning by request of friend’s death at her parents’ house

Paper and pens received for examinations

Foresters dinner in school on Saturday night. Judging by the state of the floors today some at least were intoxicated

Order given by chairman for scrubbing in consequence

7th April Passes 95%. Mr Fleming (Inspector) recommends the making of Book Shelves. The School Committee to provide the timber and the Board’s carpenter will build them

He instructed me to apply for the following

Apparatus for teaching physics

Course Kindergarten mats

Kindergarten beads for colour teaching

Stand for kindergarten work

Cupboards and shelves (work only)

Mr Fleming expressed himself as very pleased with Miss Kean, pupil teacher. She promises well.

Inspectors Report included

Presented 62, Excepted 2, failed 2 Primers 21. Passed 38

Percentage on passes Grammar 90% Grammar 85%, Geography 90% Elementary Science 85%

Additional Subject Repetition and recitation 18/20, Drill and exercise 18 Singing 12, Needlework 15

All the class work subjects were good.

The new Pupil Teacher promises well.

11th April Mary Franklin, Emma Johansen, Thora Gunderson and Bertha Brenchley tied for the science prize and they decided to divide it between them

13th April A list of first three in each class were listed

14th April Inspectors holiday. School closed till next Wednesday

School treat to be on Friday

20th April School started today.

22nd April Was late (15 minutes) this morning owing to my wife’s serious illness. Have a friend attend attending her now. 9 Prizes awarded to best standard passes.

School treat given. School concert.

25th April Boisterous Weather. Spelling bee for prizes left over from the treat
26th April Over seventy children took part in the annual picnic held at Mauriceville on Friday, the 22nd, and the weather was all that could be desired. The picnic was held in the grounds adjoining the school, and the races were carried on in the paddock opposite the school, kindly lent by Mr Gundersen. At eleven o'clock the children marched from the school down to Mr Gundersen’s paddock, where they spent a couple of hours in running, leaping, and skipping, under the supervision of Mr Chisholm, who kept them going till they all won a prize of some sort. A capital spread provided by Mr Jensen was afterwards partaken of in the schoolroom, the little ones being waited on by Miss Jensen. Mr Sanson (head teacher), Miss Keen (assistant) and Mr Chisholm took charge of the children again in the afternoon, and all kinds of games were indulged in until five o'clock when the happy little company sat down to tea. After tea the prizes in commotion with the annual examination were presented by Mr Sanson, assisted by Mr Gundersen. The latter gentleman addressed the children briefly before the prizes were distributed. He said they were not in a position financially to give prizes all round as they had done in previous years, but those who were unsuccessful should strive to be amongst the prize takers next year. The prizes were then distributed as follows:

Standard VI—Mary Franklin and Emma Johansen.
Standard V—William Jensen and Lora Gundersen
Standard IV—Bertha Brenchley, Annie Jensen, James Chisholm, and James Andersen.
Standard III—Alice Petersen, George Jaggerhorn, Louisa Pearson, and Martin Andersen.

Standard II—Fred Hansen, Bariline Larson, Jens Nelson and Mary Sigversen.
Standard I Alfred Forsberg, Edie Pearson, and Charles Johansen.

Three cheers were then given for Mr Sanson and Miss Keen, who during the day had been untiring in their efforts to make the children as happy as possible. Cheers were also given for the Committee, after which the children, led by Miss Keen, sang a few of their favourite songs very nicely.

A couple of hours dancing was then indulged in, and it was very pretty and interesting to see the children dancing some of the old Scandinavian dances. A little before nine o'clock the juniors made way for the grown up people who kept the dancing up till the small hours. Music was provided by Messrs Forsberg, B. Franklin and others, Special attention was given to visitors who had a table set apart for them, and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

PP

16th April Stand for teacher’s weaving frame., 1 box small beads, 2 dozen coarse mats and a teachers weaving frame received.

Some wood for fires received yesterday

27th April Very wet and cold. 9 in morning, afternoon 8

28th April Mr Gunderson (Chairman) W Chisholm, N Jensen, P Larsen, F Forsberg, J Hansen and H Nelsen new committee

4th May Mary Franklin removed to go to Hartwell’s School

Parents removed to that district

9th May Knitting began on Friday

New song. “See the sun is peeping”

11th May. New regulations and rules of the Board to hand
Firm downstroke in writing and clean light drawing and being made wide. Mr Flemings suggestions at late examination.

13th May Addition, Subtraction and multiplication of Vulgar Fractions taught in Standard 5. Standard 6 Add, subtract, multiplication of decimals learnt converting from standard into vulgar and decimals

16th May I had reason to punish several boys for playing while I was attending Miss Kean in class work in other room. 2 Strokes Box addressed to chairman at station. It probably contains the tin models ordered by Mr Riley to be sent to the school

18th May Mr Riley attended the school this morning. He took the junior classes in drawing, showing the pupil teacher how to treat the subject.

He examined the work in the Upper division and said it was good. I mentioned the models and he recommended practising a good many in first grade drawing

19th May 8 Tin models to hand

25th May. Trees almost blown out of ground by late boisterous weather

2nd June I had to cane William Larsen for using most obscene language to Bertha Brenchley on way home. 6 cuts with the cane.

2nd June Blackboard compasses supplied by Wellington Education Board.

Of 10th June Weather very boisterous. Many children wet with the consent of the chairman of the committee sent home. Am afraid the of the consequences of their sitting in wet clothes

15th June Snowing freely today. Attendance 31

20th June Emma Johansen re entered today for the purpose of competing for one of the scholarships offered by the Board.

Circular received from Board re holidays to allow teachers to attend conversations in Wellington on 1st July

No 49 “Job and Viper” a library book was destroyed while in Annie Jensen’s possession. She voluntarily replaced it by giving one of her own prize books of greater value than the one destroyed. New No 49 Entitled Aunt Lucia’s Locket

28th June Several of the older scholars away to attend confirmation classes held by the Lutheran Ministry.

18th July. I have been appointed to the position of Headmaster at Tawa Flat. I leave on Wednesday week

Rev Henry Tuckey will take temporary charge (Anglican Minister in Wellington 1897)

By direction of the School Committee Miss Kean will conduct the school with assistance of Emma Johansen Standard 7 until Mr Tuckey’s arrival

List of selected songs for scholars on wall of room

Pickwick Papers and Oliver Twist presented to school library by Mrs Nelson, late teacher here this makes 212 books in library

Notification of one chair for pupil teacher having been sent (not to hand yet)

Mr Herbert Sanson taught at Tawa Flat for nine years then went to Muritai School as head Teacher for 13 more years. There were Sanson’s still at Eastbourne when I was going to school there.

1941/17131 Sanson Herbert 79Y
19th July Report on Miss Kean as teacher submitted to the board in accordance with the regulations. It was entirely of a favourable character.

She can teach singing

21st July. All boys from 2 to 6 standards went out to play in rain after being told to remain in shelter. One stroke each

22nd July Resignation sent to School Committee today.

26th July I leave tomorrow and in consequence today is my last school day in the district. Library books all called in with the exception of one in George Jagharorn’s Charge and 2 in Miss Kean’s Out office’s free from offence from any kind.

22nd August. Visit of Mr Fleming Inspector. Notes included Miss Kean in charge with 30 children out of 52

Miss Keen has charge since Mr Sanson Left

It is too much to expect a pupil teacher of the first year to take charge of a school as large as this

Her lessons have been interrupted but allowance will be made for time lost

She can resume her lessons under Mr Mckenzie who takes charge shortly.

Mr Sanson has taken great care of the school property while in charge of the school.

In bad weather water settles in a hole at the corner of the school.

That part of the porch where the lavatories are is rather damp.

Miss Kean has done very well under the circumstances

29th August Took charge of the Mauriceville School at 9 o’clock this morning. J M McKenzie

15th September The attendance is now improving with the weather- 56 present today

26th September. Mr De May visited and instructed the children’s in drill from 2 to 3 O’clock

18th October I inspected the school today and the school was in very good order. Gunder Gundersen.

10th November A new press made for the library and placed in the school

28th November Dissolving views exhibited in the school last night by a Mr De Loree. Most of the children with their parents and friends attended.

2nd December Miss Kean left at noon to catch the 2 ½ pm train for Masterton so as to be in time for the drawing examination tomorrow morning

9th December Some of the children are now making hay. A few ill with influenza

12th December. The school gate was broken yesterday by a horse which was tied to it.– The matter reported to the chairman of the School Committee – who had the gate mended immediately

14th December. The attendance this week is low; and others ill with influenza

1893

24th January Only 29 present. School reopened

27th January The average roll 35. Some of the children are cutting grass seed
13th January The school closed today by order of the chairman of the School Committee on account of local sports
15th February A very stormy wet day. Only 13 present in the morning. 16 in the afternoon
24th February Roll 59
2nd March Miss Kean was half an hour late this morning. She entered the school at half past nine
16th March Received a supply of foolscap, envelopes and blotting paper from Mr Gunderson
27th March Miss Kean a little (Five minutes) late this morning
1st April Posted salary advice and salary to Miss Helen Kean in care of her father Masterton
28th March. Inspectors report. The work deteriorated somewhat when Mr Sanson left, But Mr McKenzie who now is in charge has done satisfactory work and has brought the school up to its former state of efficiency.
Spelling was good
The pupil teacher Miss Kean has been removed to Masterton and Miss Franklin has been appointed in her place.
5th April Another school year begins today. Miss Mary Franklin entered on her duties as Pupil Teacher
1876/13105 Franklin Mary Ann Julia Robert -
1908/835 Franklin Julia 65Y
17th April Received from the Board of Education, a blowpipe. Mercury, U Tube, test tubes, spirit lamp, glass tubing, Methyl spirits, bicarbonate of potash, sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid.
19th April Miss Franklin absent today. At the examination in Hastwell School- She has permission of the chairman of the committee
20th April Average roll 50
4th April Examined standards 1 and 2 in what Miss Franklin has taught them- They answered fairly and may be expected to do better next month
5th May. The weather though changeable is mild and most of the little ones can attend school
10th May A groundless rumour of typhus Fever being in the settlement has kept some of the children from school this week.
16th May Jennie Pearson ill in school (Convulsions) and had to be taken home in a trap- it was reported that one of the boys struck her with a stone on the head., but the symptoms suggested a fit from sore teeth
18th May. A horse kicked Arthur Hansen on the face yesterday evening after school hours- The boy is very ill- much hurt- and unable to attend school
22nd May The weather is boisterous and the attendance is rather small. Some of the children are at a service in the Lutheran Church
25th May A great rain storm all day and only 15 children present
26th May. Average attendance only 28. The weather and a groundless rumour that some of the children had typhoid fever were the cause
26th May. One of the pupils Arthur Hansen died this morning - A horse kicked him and broke his skull on the 17th Inst. The boy was unconscious since and died in convulsions this morning 1st June. The children all in procession attended Arthur Hansen’s funeral at 4 pm. Some of the girls placed floral wreaths on the coffin.

1893/2390 Hansen Hans Arthur 7Y

Mr McDougall the board’s carpenter called to see about some repairs to the teacher’s residence.

2nd June. Examined Standard’s one and two. in what Miss Franklin taught them during the Month of May. In some subjects the children have not made progress, Some of the Standard 2’s are rather weak

For this Miss Franklin is not altogether responsible as the children have been very irregular in attendance during the past month. Miss Franklin treats the children kindly and I have instructed her to combine firmness with kindness

7th June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from lessons this evening as she has the toothache

12th June Roll 64

21st June. The weather this week is cold and boisterous but the attendance is fair - we have a good fire

23rd June. Miss Franklin now teaches knitting as well as sewing.

3rd August. Miss Franklin not in school today. I think the road was closed with flooding

7th August. Miss Franklin not able to study this evening! She is ill with a cold

14th Miss Franklin in school today. The weather is slightly improved but the attendance is still low- only 38 present in the morning

18th August Miss Franklin requested to be excused from lessons this evening as her mother is very ill

20th September Had to punish Edward Hansen and Chas Johansen for causing Jas Anderson to fall off a horse. Four strokes of the cane to Edward Hansen and three to Chas Johansen.

30th August. Reported favourably on Miss Franklin who has now been six months on probation

6th November 70 on the roll.

16th November I visited the school today and felt highly pleased with good order and behaviour of the children The teacher Mr McKenzie seems to be the right man in charge of the school. W McCardle (School Committee)

29th November. No school yesterday. The schoolroom was required for purposes connected with the general election. - The children in procession today attended E Pearson’s funeral

14th December The school closed today for summer holidays. Average low. Many of the children are kept at home to cut grass and pick gooseberries

1894

29th January I informed the Wellington Education Board Secretary that 93 books had been added to the school library

8th February Miss Franklin had to leave at 9 ¼ a.m. through illness, shortly after entering school
12th February No school today on account of the Danish Sports. Fine weather but rather breezy.

13th February The attendance today is small - only 47- after the Danish Sports. Although the weather is fine. Some children take two holidays.

5th February Fine weather no sign of rain and the school tank is empty.

13th March Mr De May instructed the pupils in drill form 9 ½ till Noon.

20th March There will be no school tomorrow. As the school will be required in connection with the licensing elections.

28th March School reopened after Easter Holidays 55 present.

Great bush fires all over the country and some houses destroyed in Mauriceville - The Teacher’s house was in great danger.

3rd May. This being Ascension Thursday and service in the Lutheran Church the attendance is low.

4th May 2 ½ P M Raining so heavy that the children cannot drill outside. They will do arithmetic till 3 O’clock.

11th May Miss Franklin not in school today - She sent a note to say that she had a holiday from the chairman of the School Committee.


The work of the pupil teacher was fair for a beginner, but she will have to be stricter in her discipline.

In the upper room the class subjects were good, science especially and spelling and arithmetic were of a satisfactory character.

Byron’s Prisoner of Chillon was well learnt by Standard’s 6 and 7.

Three children passed Standard 7.

14th May This being Whit-Monday and service in the Lutheran Church the attendance is only 31-32.

Sent by request of Mr Fleming a set of wire models to Mauriceville East School.

16th May Visited the school today. Found everything in really good order and good discipline being exercised. Noticed that there were about twenty children absent from school.

Visiting Member School Committee.

18th May. Six children have gone to live in Carterton.

21st May. A very sharp shock of earthquake was felt this morning at 9.40. It lasted for several seconds during which the school was violently shaken.

5th June Miss Franklin excused from study this evening as she has a headache and wishes to get home out of the rain before nightfall.

6th June Miss Franklin requests to be excused from study this evening as (she says) she is “not well”.

18th June. Miss Franklin not in school today. She came to the door at 9 ½ a.m. to say that as she was wet the chairman of the School Committee had given her permission to go home again.

18th June. Blotting Paper (Ten Sheets) received from the chairman of the School Committee on the 15th Inst.

A great storm with south winds raging since Saturday nights.

19th June. The storm still continues- cold south wind and heavy rain- only 29 present in the morning.

21st June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused study this evening as, she says her “father is very ill” and she is “wanted at home”.

22nd June received two packets of Hawkin’s ink powder from the chairman of the School Committee.
25th June. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from study this evening as her father is still “very ill”
26th June The sweeping brushes, which are kept in a rack for the purpose in the porch were found on fire today at 10.45 a.m. There was nothing wrong nor any sign of fire when the children were coming in from “little play” at 10.40 a.m. About a square foot of the wall behind the school door was scorched. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained.
19th July. Miss Franklin not in school today- she says it was too wet.
9th August. Another great rain storm Only 27 present. Miss Franklin requests to be excused from lessons this evening on account of a headache from a wetting.
20th August. Miss Franklin returned 15 minutes late (delayed at the post office) after small play
22nd August Miss Franklin not in school today- it is reported that she had influenza
27th August Miss Franklin in school today, but she requests to be excused from lessons this coming evening as she is “not well enough to study yet”
3rd September. Miss Franklin not in school till 1 p.m She says she could not sooner come with the snow.
5th September Drawing Examination conducted by the chairman
5 of the scholars were examined in Freehand and Practical Geometry
13th September. Mr De May visited today and instructed the children in drill from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m
14th September Inspectors report of visit on 10th August 1894

Included. T R Fleming
Standard 7 – 2 Mr Mckenzie
Standard 1 to Primers Miss Franklin
Present 38 Roll number 55
The methods of instruction in the senior room are good. The work of the Pupil Teacher is fair only. It should show more improvement
No short pencils should ever be used by any of the children, more especially the younger ones
The exercise books of Standard 2 were of an inferior character
There is a leak in the upper classroom at the ventilator and at the belfry. The open drain at the back of the schoolhouse requires to be made deeper to carry off the water from the lavatories more effectively The pits under the offices will probably require some attention before the summer.
A few trees were planted on arbor day
The library now contains 307 volume
18th September Miss Franklin absent today. She has leave of absence from the Committee- to go and see her father on business.
20th September. Great rain and a very small attendance. Only 24 present. The floor of the principal room is flooded through a leak in the ventilator, so is the hall under the belfry
21th September. The Head Teacher got leave of absence to catch the 2 ½ pm train going to Wellington and left the school at 1.45 PM- Left the school in charge of Miss Franklin
25th September. Received a packet of large and a packet of small envelopes and a packet of notepaper from the Chairman of School Committee
1st October. Miss Franklin’s Leave of absence for three months commences today.
Miss Franklin has arranged to get her lessons as usual in the evenings
Received salary for the month of September and posted salary voucher.
4th October Miss Franklin requests to be excused from her lessons this morning as her Mother is ill. The weather is still very wet and cold with south wind
5th October Received four and a half dozen nibs from the chairman.

11th October. A note received from the Secretary of School Committee saying that “The Secretary of the board has advised (me) that Jane Wiley of Hastwell will be appointed to fill Miss Franklin’s place during her Leave of absence”
15th October. Agnes Jane Wiley (14 years of age) from Hastwell commenced to teach as substitute for Miss Franklin during the next three months
16th October. All the standards now in the Principal Room. Agnes Jane Wiley is rather young and inexperienced to have charge of any but the infants
17th October. Received a memo stating that “the board has decided that a record book shall be prepared to show the service and position of every teacher and Pupil Teacher in its employ”
18th October Forgot to say that a wooden grating for the children’s feet was left at the school door on the evening of the 17th September. And the windows were repaired (two panes of glass)
19th October Miss Franklin comes regularly in the evening for her lessons. And also attends from 2 pm to 3 pm every Friday to teach sewing
Drill in school today as it was raining at 1pm
19th October. Two fire backs were left in the school porch shortly before 3 O’clock- Put them in their respective fireplaces.
23rd October Results of Drawing Exams just received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Geometry</th>
<th>Freehand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annie Anderson</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Forsberg</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Maller</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nelson</td>
<td>Ordinary</td>
<td>Ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Peterson</td>
<td>Ordinary</td>
<td>Ordinary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Punished some boys, among them Jas Chisholm Standard 6, Peter Nelson Standard 3, and Peter Nelson Standard 2 for being seen in the girls’ playground during the dinner hour.

25th October Small attendance owing to the cattle show in Masterton Show
30th October. The attendance today (33) is even smaller than yesterday 13 are infants in charge of Agnes Jane Wiley who is rather young and childish to control children. Nice girl is attentive to her business however and if two or three years older might be useful. But the absence of a suitable pupil teacher is a disadvantage to the school. Neither the absence of a pupil teacher or Agnes Jane Wiley inexperience is the cause of the small attendance.
1st November Fred Hansen came to say that he is not likely to return to school again. He is required at home.
2nd November The attendance today is only 34/52 although the weather is fine and warm.
2nd November. It was rather hot for the children to drill outside today.
6th November Bernard Nelson was thrown from a horse last night and hurt about the head. He is not able to come to school.
15th November Examined the Primer Classes which have been taught by Miss A Wiley. Some of the children answered fairly but not so well as inspected. Miss Wiley has been attentive to her business and it is owing to inexperience’s on her part that the children did not answer better.
19th November Agnes Jane Wiley will assist in teaching Standard 2 arithmetic for a month from this date.
27th November Only 21 present in the morning and 28 in the afternoon. It was stormy last night but the weather is not such as to prevent children from attending school.

1895
28th January. Only 20 present
Miss Franklin resumed duty this morning after three months leave of absence.
18th February A very hot day temperature 76 degrees F at 10 ½ a.m and 81 (27 C) F at 1 ¼ pm
Miss Franklin got her first lesson in this year’s course for instruction for Pupil Teachers of the 2nd year.
Chas Johansen troubled with a headache all day in school. He is often ill in school.

At the railway station it was 86 degrees in the shade. At 1 pm it was 125 (50 degrees Celsius!!!) degrees outside.
1st March A magic lantern entertainment in the school last night (by a Mr Knott). Few of the children attended.
15th March. Holiday School excursion to Wellington.
18th April The weather is improving but some of the roads in the neighbourhood are blocked with slips.
Miss Franklin in school today. She came over the hills.
25th April it was decided that Messrs. C. R. Joplin (Tenui) and McKenzie (Mauriceville) should exchange positions; PP.
13th May. Edward Hansen did not return to school today after small play.

17th May Inspectors Report from 1st and 2nd April included

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Presented</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
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<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drill and Exercises owing to an accident Mr McKenzie has not taken drill. Clubs (Girls) fair.
Needlework. Plain sewing very moderate.
Mr McKenzie’s work in school is of a satisfactory character but the attendance has deceased very much. It is advisable in the
interests of the school that the recommendation made by the recent committee of inquiry should be given effect as soon as possible. Out offices sprinkled with lime and free from offense of any kind.

20th May Commenced duties today Mr C R Joplin
22nd May Mr Forsberg (Chairman School Committee) inspected residence and informed me that a man would make two drains near the house

5th June. Science lesson Chemical Affinity
18th June Physical Geography Day and Night
20th June Physical Geography Cause of longest and shortest days
28th June. Number on roll 60 an increase of 20

29th July Historical Lesson “Battle of Bannockburn”
7th August Labour Day. Mr Forsberg, James Chisholm, Barney Larsen, Alfred Forsberg and self planted several tress

16th August Examined Standard’s 3-6 I have experienced great difficulty in teaching the children English and composition

2nd September it was blowing a hurricane raining in torrents throughout the day. The Education Boards carpenter inspected the residence, informed me that he was instructed to carry out the necessary repairs

5th September Miss Franklin was absent yesterday owing to sickness

6th November. Miss Franklin came to school at 10.30 this morning. Raining heavily before 8 a.m.
8th November. Many children absent owing to Bazaar in aid of the church

11th November The school was closed today in honour of the Prince of Wales birthday
12th November Emma Joplin went home at 10 a.m as she became suddenly ill

4th December Edward Hansen has played The Truant since Monday Afternoon, Today Thursday
5th December Miss Hansen brought her brother Edward to school this morning. I gave him two cuts on each hand

12th December. Edward Hansen went to bathe during the luncheon hours, when I saw him during drill, he complained of sickness and cold. His eyes and face were much swollen. I sent him to the house, had him put to bed and kept warm and then sent him home.

16th December Gave Fred Nelson a stroke on each hand for pushing Charles Johansen into the river on their way to school this morning

1896

18th January Mr Petersen fitted a small light (Window often without glass) in the porch to enable me to see into Miss Franklin’s room from mine. He also finished the new protective work round the verandah of the residence

27th January Resumed duty. Miss Franklin did not come for her morning lesson as her mother is ill
3rd February I allowed Miss Franklin to leave earlier this afternoon to enable her to attend a school picnic about five miles from Hastwell
18th February The school was closed yesterday on account of Tilting and Jumping tournaments
19th February Barney Larsen hurt his foot whilst jumping in the playground. I bandaged it for him. He did not attend school this afternoon
6th February Emma Joplin (*Alice Emmal*) has left the school for some months owing to sickness
13th February A shake of earthquake took place at 9.15
26th March Science a mixture of gases, Nitrogen and Oxygen. Experiments
27th March Chlorine Experiment
10th April Science Lesson Carbonic Acid Gas with experiments
13th Mr Forsberg chairman of School Committee visited the school this morning and stayed some time,
28th April School Committee re-elected C Forsberg, W Chisholm, E Petersen, Lars Neilsen, H Neilsen, M Jensen and R P Hansen
4th May. School closed Annual Picnic
8th May Received 4 dozen rulers, 4 dozen pencils, 6 pairs of scissors, bottles of gum for Kindergarten work in Miss Franklin’s room
13th May Received some clay from Wellington Education Board
15th May Taught New Song “The Violet”
18th May received 2 stumps (*Presumably for cricket*)

26th May. Closed for Queens’s birthday yesterday. Very few children present owing to service being held in the Lutheran Church.
28th May Geography Opening lesson, Mountains. Standard 4 Opening of Africa and Australia Standard 3 Opening of South Island of NZ
8th June The tank attached to the residence is insufficient for a family of 9. It has been empty during the last week.
Only 4 children registered though a Charles later got married

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Patient Name</th>
<th>Married Name</th>
<th>Married Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1885/6284</td>
<td>Joplin Alice Emma</td>
<td>Maria Reesby</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886/10776</td>
<td>Joplin Mildred Alice</td>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894/5047</td>
<td>Joplin Frank Violet</td>
<td>Maria Reesby</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895/11246</td>
<td>Joplin Fanny Maria</td>
<td>Charles Goood</td>
<td>Reesby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921/5631</td>
<td>Mary Victoria</td>
<td>Feist</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921/3899</td>
<td>Catherine Jane</td>
<td>Hanning</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883/1909</td>
<td>Alice Maria Haselden</td>
<td>Joplin</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Charles Stamford Born</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Arthur Briggs born</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Alice Died in UK</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Married Maria Goode in England</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Husband on passenger List Possibly worked his way back</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10th September 1923
OLD STAMFORDIANS.
FISHER.—In loving memory of my late sister, Mary Ann, aged 83 years, who, with her husband, the late Edward J. Fisher, also 83 years, was suffocated in their bed through the bursting of a gas main on the 11th July, 1927, during the heavy floods at Oldbury, Birmingham, England. Inserted by her brother, Charles R Joplin Wadestown PP

20th May 1935 OBITUARY
MR C R Joplin

The recent death of Mr. Charles Reesby Joplin, for over 20 years the headmaster of the Wadestown School, has removed another link with the early history of Wellington. The late Mr. Joplin who was in his 79th year, was born in Stamford, Lincolnshire. He left his home at the age of eighteen, determined to make his way to the colonies. Chance led him to the sailing ship Conflict. An account of the voyage of famous immigrant ship was given in "The Post" in 1932, and a complete list of the passengers was in Mr. Joplin’s possession. As a sailor, before the mast he came to Wellington. Leaving the ship, he made his way inland, and strangely enough to the then densely wooded Ohariu Valley, where with one of the Bryant family he was engaged in felling bush. From there he made his way to the Rimutaka Hills where he spent some months in clearing and burning earning as much as £20 per week for the railway then being constructed. At the end of this work he returned to Wellington, where he settled down, studying for a teacher. He returned to his home town twice during the next few years, eventually becoming a teacher in Wellington. He taught at Karori, Petone (where as headmaster he opened the first school), and Horokiwi. He was appointed headmaster of the Tinui School, then of the Mauriceville West School, at that time a school of over 50 pupils, nearly all Scandinavians; and in 1901 he returned to Wellington to become, headmaster of the Wadestown School. The late Mr Joplin was always closely associated with all the work of the districts in which he lived, and was interested in every possible, outside activity of his pupils and ex-pupils; cricket, football, and hockey, were the chief games of scholars in those days. During the Great War he corresponded with and sent papers and parcels to every one of his pupils from the Mauriceville West, and Wadestown, Schools who had gone to the front a tremendous undertaking. He is survived by three sons, and two daughters, his wife having predeceased him in 1931.

10th June Inspectors report included
a) 57 on books
b) Sewing afternoon. All pupils in one room, but I think the girls would have worked better in a room by themselves, when they could have more space.
c) Outside painting needed.
d) Great improvement doing away with pit in the WC
e) I was much pleased with the kindergarten work going on and with Mr Joplin’s model relief maps which he intends to enlarge on.
f) Singing is a good feature of the work

12th June received a magic lantern from Mr Forsberg for the use of the school. (Early slide projector)

15th June Edward Hansen asked permission to stay at home this afternoon to assist his mother
16th June. Amelia Hansen sister of Edward Hansen informed me that her brother was not wanted at home yesterday afternoon and that he was playing truant

17th June Annie Hansen, the sister of Edward Hansen brought the truant to school this morning. I punished him upon the “sit upon” for telling me a lie on Monday and also for playing truant

19th June. New song “Robin Redbreast”

23rd July Miss Franklin absent. Very wet

27th July Edward Hansen is absent playing truant again

28th July. Punished Edward Hansen for playing truant. Two cuts on each hand

31st July Very wet. Only 7 present. Miss Franklin is absent

4th August Received Box containing 48 slides for magic lantern. Four of the slides completely broken (The season, Views of Mars, Views of Mars 2 and Victoria Embankment) Have notified the Board

6th August School closed for Arbor Day. Several Boys and I planted some trees along Mr Halberg’s fence at the bottom of the playground

10th August The school was closed in the afternoon as the School Committee required the desks for seats to be used in the old school to seat the people who attend the entertainment to be held this evening for the benefit of the school funds.

11th August The children had cake and tea this afternoon kindly provided by some of the settlers

19th August The entertainment realised £3-5-0 which is to be devoted to the magic lantern fund

18th August Received from Whitcombe and Tombs the coloured paper for paper modelling for kindergarten work in Miss Franklin’s Room

19th August Examined Miss Franklin’s children today. The children did their work very well considering the short time since the school examination. I pointed out several weaknesses which I think will be overcome by patience on Miss Franklin’s part

21st August I wrote to Mr Forsberg chairman of the School Committee directing his attention to the irregular attendance of the following children from 3rd July to present dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Time Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Nelson</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Nelson</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Nelson</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Nelson</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31st August Made an error in forwarding the monthly return, in fact, I anticipated the date. I wired to the Secretary of the Education Board requesting him to cancel the return

Received 6 test tubes and 2 flasks from the education board.

1st September Raining heavily, Mr Franklin called and informed me that Miss Franklin is unable to come to school today as she is suffering from a cold

7th September On Saturday evening ably assisted by my wife I gave another magic lantern entertainment using the Astronomical and London Slides, kindly lent by the Wellington Education Board. The schoolroom was crowded in fact, overcrowded, and the audience took great interest in the proceedings, which included a
concert and recitations by the children. It is palpable that the magic lantern is thoroughly appreciated by old and young. It is hoped that steps will be taken to put the old schoolroom in repair, so that it can be used for holding entertainment on behalf of the school funds instead of using the new school.

28th September I wrote to Mr Forsberg directing his attention to the careless manner in which the man who emptied the W C’s threw the excrement on the surface of ground instead of burying it.

1st October. The School Committee have ordered 14 class books on English Grammar and Composition.

5th October. Mr Nelson began to grub the Furze (Gorse) in the school grounds.

13th October A most regrettable incident occurred in school this afternoon. One of the boys broke wind and caused a most disagreeable stench. I saw Peter Larsen turn to Fred Anderson and laugh. He in turn laughed at his brother Walter. I at once thought one of those boys had made the stench and taxed them with it. The two Andersons charged Peter Larsen as being the cause. As all three laughed I punished them with a stroke on each hand and administered one or two strokes across Larsen’s shoulders. In the meantime the girls had been sent into Miss Franklin’s room whilst I investigated the matter and they were away when I inflicted the punishment. The stench was abominable and nearly made me sick, in fact I was not fit for much work afterwards. The time was about 2 p m.

I tested the children’s geography by the use of my geographical models and found they answered splendidly.

Several ladies inspected the models during the afternoon and were greatly interested in them.

14th October Mr Larsen father of the boy-whom I punished yesterday called last night and swore at me pretty roundly, in the presence of my wife for beating his son, who had denied the charge of “breaking wind” He informed me that his son had told his mother that I punished him for what he had not done. I informed Mr Larsen that if I had punished Peter and he had not done the dirty action I was very sorry, but at the same time so many boys had told me Peter did it. The boy next to him was very positive about the matter. My wife was ill throughout the night, having been much upset by Mr Larsen’s attack on me.

The following exhibits were forwarded to the Wellington Education Board for the Wellington Exhibition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Blue Dress</td>
<td>Amy Forsberg</td>
<td>Standard 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pink Dress</td>
<td>Emily Piersen</td>
<td>Standard 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pair sock, homespun, knitted in school</td>
<td>Johanna Petersen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darning</td>
<td>Emma Hansen</td>
<td>Standard 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Modelling (Specimens)</td>
<td>Standard 2,1 Primers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Plans of Paper Modelling</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Mats (specimens)</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Coloured Figures</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16th October I taught Miss Franklin’s classes today and she taught mine.
19th October I forwarded my geographical models to the Wellington Education Board Office today. I picked out some timber at Mr Gundersen’s for benches etc for the Manual Instruction Classes which begin tomorrow 20th October. Opened the old school as workshop for the boys receiving Manual Instruction 21st October. Mr Forsberg brought the following tools for the use of the boy’s receiving “manual Instruction”

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chisels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tenon saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Draw Knife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mallets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Screwdrivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spoke Shave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Set Squares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pair of compasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Two foot rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Claw Hammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Level Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 dozen</td>
<td>Lead Pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oil Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Punch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>German Bits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Half Rip Saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jack Plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Smoothing Plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gauges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Screwdriver Bits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd November. The boys played a cricket match with Hastwell School on Saturday last and defeated them by 6 wickets and 73 runs. Our lads made 98 for 4 and the visitors got 25. 14th December Drought at this time of the year in Mauriceville is concerned is unprecedented. Probably the chief cause is settlers felling their bush The tank at the residence has been empty a fortnight. If this district becomes subject to such droughts another tank will be needed for the school as well as the house, 15th December. I feel very tired today as I was up nearly all night at Aulin’s fire. Mr Aulin’s store was completely burnt down. The fire began about 0.30. Several children absent owing to hay making. Rain is badly needed 17th December. Mrs Joplin assisted to teach from the 4th Inst

1897

Mauriceville West Public School is situated about two-and-a-half miles from Mauriceville Railway Station. It was established in 1873. The building will accommodate 150 children. There are sixty children on the roll, and the average attendance is forty-five. The grounds around the school are four acres in extent. The school has a good library of 350 volumes, and has the advantage of a magic lantern and slides for teaching geography and history. The old school at the rear of the present building is to be used for technical instruction. The strong feature of the school is the excellence of its singing. The headmaster Mr. Charles R. Joplin, is assisted by Miss Franklin.
25th January Resumed school today. Messers Forsberg and Nelson erected the tank for the school residence

1st February Welcome rain

5th February Mrs Joplin has assisted me to teach since 25th inst

8th February Miss Woodward commenced her duties as Pupil Teacher this morning. This is her first appointment

19th February Peter Nelson cut his hand today in the shop

26th February Taught the children a new song today “The Gay Young Rider”

2nd March Roll 64 Average attendance, 46

The school was closed yesterday for the annual tilting tournament

10th March Owing to the boys in the Manual Instruction Class making such progress in their work and to necessitate more tools, I have divided them into 2 classes, One working on Monday Wednesday and the other Tuesday and Thursday.

17th March A load of timber was delivered by Mr Petersen for the new shelter sheds

18th March. Mr E Petersen visited the school today (School Committee Member). The boys stacked the timber

19th March 35 present out of 35 children on the roll.

Stanley Mackenzie hit the cricket ball into Mr Halberg’s paddock and the latter would not let Peter Nelson go for it. Mr Halberg ran towards the boy in a very excitable way and forbade him entrance to his paddocks I civilly asked him to let the boy get the ball, but met with a round abuse for my pains. A lack of knowledge of the English Language was very apparent as his words were more forcible than polite. I am getting used to it now however. He ultimately let Alfred Forsberg get the ball.

26th March The school was closed as it was used as a polling booth for licensing Election

30th March Earnest Larsen was thrown off his horse as he was riding to school and was severely cut about the head and cheek. I washed the wounds, put sticking plaster on and sent him home at 9.45

6th April Mr Petersen made 20 new forms for use in the old school

15th April Miss Woodward left today. She is transferred to Te Aro Infant School. Mrs Joplin took charge of the infant room this afternoon

27th April School Committee Mr Forsberg, W Chisholm, C Larsen, R P Hansen, H Nelson, L Neilson and E Petersen

30th April Miss Bray the new Pupil Teacher came this morning at 9.45. Mrs Joplin has assisted me to teach this week.

3rd May Quarter return for manual training room

Instructor Chas R Joplin

Times open 19. Average attendance 14.2. No on Roll 16 same as at end of quarter.

Instruction 2 hours per week Amount of capitation on 14 ½ boys at 2/9 each per quarter £2-13-3

7th May Saw Mr Forsberg chairman of School Committee and Mr Chisholm about a telegram I received from Dr Hosking re supposed case of diphtheria in my family and asked what steps I had better take as I did not care to be held responsible for keeping the school open under the circumstances. They decided that it would be better to wait until Dr Hosking had informed me
personally what was the matter with Arthur before undertaking anything
10th Advised Mr Dorset Secretary Wellington Education Board that the School Committee had closed the school for a fortnight as we had diphtheria in the house
12th May. Received a new map of the world in hemispheres and a new one of NZ
19th May received a complete set of Southern Cross Arithmetics and answers, new and enlarged edition and Catechism of agricultural chemistry by Professor Johnston
Summary of Report by inspector on April 26th and 27th
Roll 65 Present 42 Passed 38
a) Standard 7 candidate passed.
  b) Mr Joplin is an enthusiastic master and has done much to infuse interest and special character into his work by the making of models, the introduction of paper cutting and folding the construction of a child’s panorama and especially by the introduction of manual instruction.
  c) He has a class of 16 boys doing very good wood work in the old schoolroom out of school hours. The boys take great interest in their wood work and all are willing to attend at all times.
  d) The school is altogether in a satisfactory condition. Robert Lee and T R Fleming
18th August. Miss Bray came to school this morning but as she was “wet to the skin” I allowed her to return home.
20th August Peter Nelson, son of Mr Hemming Nelson cut his hand severely this morning with a pocket knife. I washed the wound with a disinfectant as the knife was rusty and bandaged it up
6th September Mr Hogg M H R (Member House of Representatives) visited the school today
7th September A lantern exhibition and concert were held last night in the old school in aid of the funds of the Manual Instruction Class. Mr Hogg presided. There was a large attendance
9th September Very fine weather. Played cricket with boys during the dinner hour
10th September When Miss Bray and I went into the infant room there was such an abominable stench from stale tobacco smoke and doddles (Dottles) from pipes that we were nearly sick. The Foresters had used the room on Saturday evening and had not replaced the furniture nor seen to the cleaning of the room. I wrote to Mr Forsberg drawing his attention to the matter.
14th September. Edward Hansen the boy who played truant for a fortnight admitted to me after he had prevaricated very much, that he broke into the church and stole the collection box and its contents 3/10d and took me to the spot where he had thrown the box after abstracting the money. I took him to see Rev Le Garth and Mr Hansen and then we saw his mother
15th September. At the request of Mrs Hansen I punished Edward Hansen for breaking into the church and stealing the money box and its contents.
16th September Punished Edward Larsen for writing indecent words on his slate and showing them to the girls who were sewing under the supervision of the Pupil Teacher
17th September Miss Bray asked me for the box of solids. Then asked children and none knew about it
22nd September Saw Mr Makon Secretary of the Foresters and ascertained from him that he thought the solids were in the Society’s Box and that he would send the key with his boy
23rd September Mr Makon’s boy brought the key of the box and upon unlocking it I found the solids
19th October Received results of First Grade Drawing
The number of passes showed 20/26 results
21st October Invited the girls in my room to tea this afternoon, These little gatherings seem to do the girls good
27th October A heavy hailstorm accompanied with thunder and lightning visited this district.
1st November Mr Nelson boarded up the entrance to the boys Water Closet and thus made it more private
9th November. The school is closed today. Prince of Wales birthday
15th November Fred Nelson was suddenly seized with sickness this afternoon. I sent him home after I administered a teaspoon of Brandy. He has had several attacks of sickness in the last few months
19th November. Arthur Nelson was thrown from his horse which shied as it was coming up the school path. His knees were severely cut so I bandaged them Altogether the boy received a severe shaking
22nd November. Mr Peterson came to school this afternoon and requested me not to force his son Frank to learn as the boy is delicate. He also charged me with calling the boy a “lunatic” I have never used the term to his son or any of the children. However it is sometimes difficult to draw the line between sanity and insanity. If doctors differ I do not think I am capable of defining it
23rd November I examined Standard’s 2-4 today and sent Frank Peterson to Miss Bray’s room where he will receive instruction in Standard 2 subjects as well no doubt give satisfaction to his father. I have also forbidden his playing cricket because if he is too busy to study I am sure he is too delicate to play at a game which frequently requires exertion, especially when boys are batting and running sharply between the wickets. I do not want a coroner’s request on any boy whilst I am in charge of the school
On Saturday at Mauriceville the boys played a cricket match against Dreyerton School and after a good game the visitors were defeated by 74 runs. The scores were Mauriceville 69 and 57; Dreyerton 29 and 23. I was pleased to see many parents and friends of the boys present. One settler informed me that it was the first occasion on which he had seen parents take such an interest in their boy’s sports. Mrs Joplin and Mrs Forsberg kindly provided refreshments and Mrs Mckenzie kindly sent some tea etc.
24th November Examined P1 to Standard 1 today. Miss Bray took charge of my room. Her work has been very good considering she has not been long in the Board’s service.
29th November Only 44/60 present. The attendance is very irregular. Little boys like the McPeaks being kept at home to help muster sheep etc. Considering the energy etc I have shown whilst being in charge of this school I think I am not treated fairly by the parents. If their children fail at the examination parents have no
one to blame but themselves. I have brought the matter before the committee, but no action is taken. There is not much encouragement for a teacher to go out of the “beaten track”

6th December Fred Nelson is ill again today. This boy must be delicate although he looks strong

1898

24th January Resumed work Admitted 13 pupils.
26th January Sent for 2 boxes of slate pencils
31st January Roll 76
10th February 68 present today. Mr Forsberg chairman of the School Committee visited the school today to make arrangements for proposed excursion to Woodville
14th February About 50 children and 20 adults intend going to Woodville
21st February The school was closed on Wednesday owing to the children’s trip to Woodville. 72 scholars and adults from the school district availed themselves of the excursion.
28th February Annual tilting tournament at Mauriceville.
8th March Miss Bray was ill so that he was obliged to return home at 10.30 a.m.
11th March Raining heavily. Science Lesson, Carbonic Acid
18th March Many children absent today owing to Fitzgerald’s circus in Masterton
22nd March Roll 77
15th March The highest attendance was 76, this is a record attendance for several years

18th April Received retort from Mr Chisholm.
25th April School Committee: Mr Forsberg, W Chisholm, E Petersen, H Neilsen, R P Hansen, C Roigard and P Petersen
27th April Received from Mr Chisholm Material for dusters, candles, pannikins (Metal drinking cup) and blotting paper
4th May Received pass cards for examination on 28th May
3rd June. Taught pupils in my room a new song “Under the British Flag”
16th June When the School Children were on their way home, yesterday afternoon, Edward Petersen and Peter Nielsen frightened the horse ridden by Bernard Nielsen and his brother Hans and they were both thrown Hans being much cut about the face. Mrs Joplin happened to be near the spot and brought the little fellow to the school where I attended his wound. Whilst rendering first aid to him Charles Neilsen who was looking on suddenly fainted. I attended to him and Hans Neilsen, administered a little brandy and sent him home.
17th June Made enquiries about the accident on Wednesday Afternoon last as Hans Neilsen is still absent I said I would see into it again when he is at school

The wind was blowing a stiff gale today and blew one of the window sashes out of the old school. So violently did it blow that I thought it would blow the sashes out of the new school
20th June. Punished Edward Petersen and Peter Neilsen for frightening Bernard Neilsen on 16th Inst. As they expressed sorrow and their parents had interviewed Mrs Neilsen I gave them the boys only one stroke on each hand
22\textsuperscript{nd} June Stanley McKenzie dislocated his left knee and after some rouble I succeeded in replacing it.

22\textsuperscript{nd} June Examination of April 28\textsuperscript{th} Inspectors notes

41 presented 41 tested Passed 36

The general work of this school is very satisfactory

Mr Joplin is an earnest and painstaking teacher who gives character to most of his work

Manual Instruction is still carried out

Miss Bray (Pupil Teacher) is working very fairly for a beginner.

Three candidates passed Standard 7

T R Fleming

30\textsuperscript{th} June 83 On roll, 69 Total Average, 44 half days school open

19\textsuperscript{th} July received the following chemicals from the Wellington Education Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Test Tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tubes bent right angles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Long bent test tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Small Florence Flasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small bottle alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manganese Dioxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asbestos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Litmus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caustic Soda</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chlorate of Potash</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sulphur</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

18\textsuperscript{th} August Miss Bray sprained her foot playing with the girls

20\textsuperscript{th} August Miss Bray’s Brother called this morning and informed me that whilst she was riding home yesterday and nearing Hastwell some boys threw stones at her horse, which shied and threw her violently to the ground. She sustained injuries to her wrist, head, body and hip. It will be some days before she will be able to resume her duties.

24\textsuperscript{th} August Miss Bray is still absent. Mrs Joplin has assisted me since Monday

29\textsuperscript{th} August Miss Bray resumed her duties this morning.

1\textsuperscript{st} September The painters commenced work today. Mr Forsberg visited the school today.

5\textsuperscript{th} September. Mr Varnham, Truant Inspector, visited the school today and pointed out to the pupils the necessity of their attending regularly to school otherwise proceedings would be taken against their parents.

14\textsuperscript{th} November A team representing this school and Opaki visited Masterton and played a cricket match against Masterton School First Eleven on Saturday the Masterton school was defeated by 2 wickets

14\textsuperscript{th} December. Roll 84

1899

1\textsuperscript{st} February Taught Standard 6 compound interest

15\textsuperscript{th} February Commenced Manual Instruction during School Hours

20\textsuperscript{th} February On Saturday last our school eleven visited Opake and played that school at cricket. This school teams beat the Opaki by an innings and 37 runs. Mauriceville West 73; Opaki 11 and 25

Twelve dual desks came today from Mr Daniell, Masterton
23rd February The school was closed yesterday on the occasion of the Masterton Agricultural Show.

10th March. Closed school today as I had to take three boys to Greytown. They were selected to play in the Wairarapa representative cricket team against Wellington.

Received addressed envelopes for use by the Secretary to Wellington Education Board

25th March. Played the first eleven of Masterton School at cricket on Saturday at Mauriceville and defeated them by 50 runs. Masterton 9 and 17 Mauriceville 16 and 60. The boys were entertained by the settlers at a capital spread held in the school. Mesdames Joplin, Forsberg, Chisholm, Dempsey, and McKenzie kindly assisted in waiting on the boys. Mr Burns First Assistant of Masterton School was in charge of his boys

21st March Miss Bray was taken ill this morning and nearly fainted. She went home at midday

29th March Mrs Neilson brought her daughter, Hilda to school today and showed me her shoulder. The child had been complaining of pain and on my examining it I thought her collar bone was broken, and advised the mother to take her child to a doctor.

5th April. Mrs Dorset called on me on “Good Friday” and informed me that her daughter had been appointed to succeed Miss Bray. Miss Bray called on Tuesday and informed me that she had been transferred to Hastwell School. Miss Dorset reported herself today.

Miss Dorset reported herself this morning when I showed her a telegram which I had received from Mr Dorset, Secretary of the Wellington Education Board stating that Mr Blair Chairman of the Education Board, had suspended her appointment as Pupil Teacher to this school and that Mrs Joplin was to assist

27th April Miss Catherine Campbell appointed to the School at Mauriceville West PP

28th April School closed today Annual School picnic.

2nd May Miss Campbell began her duties as Pupil Teacher

8th June Purchased from Mr W Chisholm 1 bottle of Olive Oil for use in object lessons

12th June Mr Petersen carpenter commenced repairs to residence of teacher

13th June. I was absent this morning. I went to Masterton to see Dr Hoskin about my eyes as they are failing and have indifferent health

19th June. I was absent on Thursday and Friday. I went to Wellington to see a specialist about my eyes. The window in the Teacher’s WC will not open or shut freely. Advised Board of my absences. Miss Campbell managed the school during my absence

20th May. I saw Mr Forsberg, chairman, and he requested me to send children home when they had measles in their houses. I sent F Legarth home yesterday.

26th June. Paid 1/- railway carriage for parcel from Whitcombe and Tombs.

17th July Inspectors report 13th April 1899

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Presented</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Passed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Drill and Exercises Swedish clubs and military good
Both class and pass subjects were strong in nearly all standards
The manual work of the upper school and the clay modelling, paper cutting, and folding and Kindergarten of lower are deserving of special mention
The hearty interest taken by the headmaster in the sports and games of the children has an excellent effect on the general tone of the school
The work on examination day was much simplified through my finding everything in such good order
20th July The school was closed yesterday Arbor Day. Several of the big boys and I planted about 100 different trees and shrubs, which some of the settlers kindly gave me. The weather was bitterly cold and it rained incessantly during the afternoon
Mr Fanning who had been appointed to charge of Ihurara, a small school reported to me on Monday with a letter from Mr Dorsett, Secretary of Wellington Education Board requesting me to give him some idea how to arrange his school to meet the requirements of the NZ system. He intends staying here until Friday next. I have given him every assistance possible.
21st July Mr Fanning left for Ihurara today. Not one girl present in my room today. Many of the children have measles
25th July The ground was covered with snow this morning. Had thawed by 12.00
26th July. Received 3 sheets of magic lantern slides from Wellington Education Board
1st August. The School Committee closed the school today as some of my family having the measles. The attendance has fallen off materially owing to so many of the children being attacked with measles, which are of a very infectious and bad sort.
8th August Mr Bakewell MA School Inspector visited the school today and expressed surprise that he did not know it was closed owing to measles. I informed him that Mr Forsberg and I had notified the Secretary of Wellington Education Board the School Committee had closed the school Mr Bakewell remained about 2½ hours and inspected the outhouses, timetables etc.
17th August Received from Wellington Education Board 3 books on hand and eye training.
21st August Reopened school today after having closed three weeks owing to measles
25th August. Mr Bakewell’s report on 8th August
Roll 83
School closed because of measles
Everything both inside and out were very clean
The grounds were in excellent order
Mr Joplin was pleased with the work of Miss Campbell
Some of the long desks might be replaced with the spare dual desks at Mauriceville East School
31st August, Mr Forsberg brought a new cupboard which was sent by C E Daniell Masterton
19th September At midnight on Sunday 17th a fire broke out in Mr Hans Hansen’s house, it was burnt to the ground and he was burnt to death
21st September. Nearly all the children left at 1.45 to attend Mr Hansen’s funeral. He had been the Sunday School teacher for upwards of 14 years in this district
6th October Showed some lantern slides this afternoon in the old school about Bee Keeping.
6th November Received two paper maps of “seat of war” from Wellington Education Board
16th November Only one girl present in my room out of 5
7th December. School closed used for the elections

1900

23rd January School reopened
26th January Many boys were absent this week, grass seed cutting
29th January Very hot. Received one dozen coat and hat hooks
8th February The school closed today Patriotic Fair at Masterton
15th February Mr Le Garth called this afternoon and informed me that is son Frederick had Whooping Cough, which accounted for his absence.
28th February School closed this afternoon to celebrate Lord Roberts victory over General Cronje
2nd March Roll 72. The school was closed to celebrate the “relief of Ladysmith”
8th March Mr Bakewell paid a surprise visit to this school, this morning. It is a very stormy day.

21st March Licensing Election School closed, Used as a polling Booth
23rd March The weather has been so dry that the school tank is empty and I was obliged to send boys to the river for water yesterday and today
16th May. Examination Report April 4th
42/48 passed
The pass subject of the other standards were good with the exception of Reading, which however, will always be a most difficult subject to teach in a district such as this where so many of the children speak English only at school.
The handworks of the upper standards is also deserving of praise.
It is regretted that so many of the parents in the district do not realise the advantages to be gained by sending their children more regularly to school
T H Bakewell
21st May The school was closed today to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking
28th May I was obliged to leave school this morning at 11 O’clock to consult Dr Murray Aynesley, Eketahuna as I have been ill the last week or so.
1st June. Received telegram from Mr Forsberg re abandonment of Pretoria by the Boers, suggesting a holiday to mark that event and the capture of Johannesburg. As the weather is bad and only a few children at school I thought it better to close the school on Monday
Advised Mr Forsberg of my intention to close on Monday. Received a second telegram notifying public holiday this afternoon, so closed the school.

4th June School was closed this afternoon at the request of Mr Forsberg Chairman of the School Committee as the children had only a half day on Friday instead of a whole one.

6th June While Ben Hillas was attempting to kick the football he fell and badly sprained his right wrist, I took him to the house, bandaged his wrist and sent him home at 2 pm.

11th June. Mr Hemming Nielsen finished the fencing of the enclosure for the pupil’s horses.

12th June Mrs Petersen informed me that her daughter Mabel could not come to school as she, Mabel had burnt her foot and could not get her boot on.

18th June. Wrote to Mr Forsberg drawing his attention to the manner of emptying the WC’s.

19th June Mr Forsberg called this morning and informed me that he had seen the man who empties the WC’s and the later would bury the excrement.

21st June. The shortest day. Fine Weather.

17th July. Very stormy weather, Rain, hail, snow, thunder and lightning and strong wind.

20th July. Three little boys were throwing stones at a bee, when a stone broke a window.

13th August. Mr E Jackson visited the school today to see the work on his way to Horoeka.

3rd October. Beautiful weather still many children are absent. I understand many of the boys are digging their gardens.

12th October. Miss Campbell left today to take up her duties at Wangaehu to which school she has been promoted.

16th November Mrs Joplin is to assist me at the pay of a senior pupil teacher until Miss Campbell’s successor is appointed. Mrs Joplin came to school this morning.

19th October. Received the results of the examination in First Grade Drawing. All passed that were presented. 13 children presented.

26th October. Mr Legarth met me last night when I was returning from a walk with my wife and in a violent passion, remonstrated with me for punishing his son Frederick, I informed him why it was necessary for me to do it, and stated that I had not punished him either undeservedly or excessively. But he would not listen to me, but only threatened. I had occasion to punish his boy for breaking wind and an abdominal stench, but he was so incoherent that I could not understand him clearly. Had he spoken more calmly his English might have been clearer. I received an apology from him today. It would be much better if he had not placed himself in the position that necessitated an apology especially as he is the pastor.

2nd November Miss Gray commenced duties yesterday.

13th November. Purchased from Mr Chisholm small bottle of ammonia 1/- and 6d worth of sulphur for use of experiments.

20th November. Showed all the classes various experiments with the burning of flannel, cotton, flannelette, cotton wool, to illustrate danger of wearing cotton and flannelette garments without due precaution against fire.
22nd November Showed all the classes various experiments with chlorine. To minimise the effects of the gas I had the children under the trees
30th November I left school at 2.30 to catch the 3.15 train to Masterton as I had business to transact
3rd December. Forwarded monthly return, a quittance of salary, Maori Return and Inventory to Wellington Education Board
10th December. Whilst Ernest Larsen and John McPeak were playing the former accidently broke a bottle which the latter had in his hand and cut McPeak’s leg. I bandaged the wound and Mr M Jensen took the boy home in his trap.
19th December. Miss Gray left this afternoon as she is to be examined tomorrow and Friday

1901

28th January Reopened
30th January A strong gale, accompanied with heavy rain is blowing today
12th February The school was closed yesterday to enable the children to see the Imperial Troops in Masterton
18th February Commenced lessons for E certificate, with Miss Gray
6th March. Very wet this morning. Gave all the children in my room a lesson on the census

21st March Received official notice of my appointment to Wadestown and requested to be at that school by 1st April (days. Family split????
21st March Mauriceville West Pupil Teacher Average 60 attendance Salary Proposed 50 pounds rise of 8 pounds PP
27th March Miss Holmes relieved me of my duties in connection with Mauriceville West School and much to my regret, I might say grief, I sever my connection with Mauriceville West Settlers, after having been with them five years ten months
Took charge of school this morning Miss M E Holms
29th March Roll 76
29th March Prior to leaving Mauriceville West to take charge of the Wadestown School Mr. R. C. Jopling was presented by the settlers with a purse of sovereigns. PP
2nd April Mr. R. C. Joplin, who yesterday assumed charge of the Wadestown School was last week, on severing his connection with the Mauriceville West School, entertained at a social gathering by residents and presented with a substantial souvenir of their regard. The speakers bore testimony to the literary qualifications and teaching, ability of Mr. Joplin and expressed the opinion that the people of Wadestown should feel every confidence in leaving the education of their children in his hands. PP
22nd April Six boys have left since examination (16th April)
10th May A supply of firewood has been stacked near the boy’s shelter shed during the week
25th May The school was closed on Friday as it was Victoria Day.
3rd June Took charge of the school today William C Davies
1900/80 Mary Susanna Braithwaite William Davies
7\textsuperscript{th} June The pupils of the Upper Classes have taken great interest in the formation of a school garden during the week, and have cheerfully devoted part of the lunch hour each day to improving the school grounds.

11\textsuperscript{th} June. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall landed in Auckland. As this school does not possess an ensign, the event was celebrated, by ringing the school bell and assembling the children in the playground.

13\textsuperscript{th} June. Mr Forsberg brought commemoration medals for distribution amongst pupils and inspected the school premises.

11\textsuperscript{th} July Stanley Hall who has been playing truant, was brought to school by his mother and was punished.

18\textsuperscript{th} July. Arbor day yesterday. The school was closed and the day spent by the elder pupils in improving the school grounds.

25\textsuperscript{th} July J A Bakewell. Paid an inspection visit to the school today. Found the work progressing satisfactorily. The attendance was very poor - many children were away sick and the weather has been very wet.

In addition to the repairs authorised by the clerk of works, repairs to the ventilator are necessary as it leaks badly. The new teaching museum is a pleasing and instructive ornament to the school.

29\textsuperscript{th} July The work of painting of the interior of the old school was continued during Saturday and today by Mr Peterson and a number of willing assistants who gave their services gratis.

2\textsuperscript{nd} August Spent Saturday assisting Mr Petersen to fit new sashes in the old school.

15\textsuperscript{th} August Children of pupils of Standard 3-7 were entertained at a party in the old school building. After tea, which was provided by Mrs Davies a pleasant evening was spent in games etc concluding with an exhibition of lantern pictures.

25\textsuperscript{th} July Inspectors report included:

a) The new headmaster comes in with an excellent record.
b) Both inside the school and out he is energetically working in the interests of the education of the children.
c) It is sincerely to be hoped the parents will recognise his efforts by sending their children more regularly to school.
d) At present the attendance is very bad and I recommend a visit by the Board’s Truant Officer as I could find nothing to account for so many absentees.
e) Miss Gray is an earnest and hard working teacher but she is recommended to install a little more brightness and cheerfulness into her management for infants.
f) A leak into the ventilator should be seen to without delay.
g) I was pleased to note the gardening efforts of the scholars.
h) The front of the school will soon present a most attractive appearance. I was informed the work has all been done cheerfully and voluntarily during playtime.

23\textsuperscript{rd} August Miss Gray still ill with influenza and will unlikely to be back for some time. Her place is being taken by Mrs Davies.

2\textsuperscript{nd} September. Miss Gray resumed her duties.

24\textsuperscript{th} September. The Clerk of Works and the Truant Officer visited the school 60/67 present.
27th September. School closed in the afternoon by order of the committee, on account of preparations for an entertainment in the evening.
30th September A most successful limelight and musical entertainment was held in the old school on Friday Evening in aid of the fund for repairing the old school. Net proceeds £6-15
8th October Gave a lesson on “the Fly” to the whole school, in Miss Gray’s Room. Children much interest in microscope illustrations
14th October 19 children absent. Many of these are kept home to assist their parents
25th October John and George McPeak who returned to school today were punished for using filthy language, and John was also punished for indecent behaviour on the way to school
4th November Many children absent owing to measles. Miss Gray is absent on account of illness
12th November A violent gale- a not uncommon phenomenon in this district is raging
15th November Heavy Shock of earthquake at 6.37 pm yesterday. Several Chimneys in the district were cracked and some damage done to crockery etc. Paths were weeded today during the dinner hour and after school by the elder boys and the teacher.
18th November Slight shocks of earthquake on Friday at 7.35 pm and Saturday at 7.30 am
26th November A calm fine day- The first for months.
27th November Subscription lists were sent out to provide funds for erecting a flagstaff in the grounds
4th December Several pupils in the upper standards absent for shearing etc
7th December Head teacher Mr Davies who is showing great energy and perseverance in all things for the good of the school Resolved to apply for a flag 7 foot 6 x 3foot 9 when pole is erected.
9th December. On Saturday I took a party of the elder pupils to the summit of Mount Bruce. Mr Pearson kindly acted as guide. And the excursion proved most enjoyable and instructive.
16th December Very wet day. Attendance Morning 14 Afternoon 16
On Friday all the pupils were entertained at a party, prior to breaking up. Tea was provided in the old school by Mrs Davies, after which a pleasant evening was spent in games etc into which the children entered with great zest
31 December 1901 Salary £85 Mistress, Mauriceville West

1902
28th January A very wet day. 12 pupils present. Miss Gray arrived wet through and was obliged to return home
30th January 1902 Mauriceville W., Lilian Braithwaite, present salary £42, colonial salary £85

29th January 59 children present
3rd February That the appointment of Miss Braithwaite as Mistress to the school be approved.
The Head Teacher Mr Davies submitted a report on various repairs wanted which will be attended to as funds permitted.

2nd February From Greytown School Miss L. Braithwaite to Mauriceville West School PP

7th February During the week the new entrance gates have been erected by Mr Petersen

19th February Mr Petersen replaced the broken panes in the front porch

25th February Received instructions from the Chairman of Committees to close school on Wednesday on account of Masterton show

3rd March Posted voucher to Miss Gray together with her salary

Miss Braithwaite, the newly appointed assistant mistress commenced duties today.

4th March In the Upper Classes many of the pupils have to work far too hard at home consequently they arrive at school tired out and unfit for the day’s lessons. The result is easily seen in the examination work in the upper room

5th March A supply of firewood for the coming winter has been delivered

10th March 67/69 children present A record

17th March A sharp shock of earthquake was felt last evening

24th March The Flag Staff; funds for which have been provided by public subscription was erected by several of the settlers on Saturday

11th April School closed by order of committee on account of school picnic.
Geyserland. The lecture will be illustrated by about a hundred lantern views of our New Zealand Wonderland, and a number of part songs will be rendered by the elder pupils of the Mauriceville West School PP

23rd May Gave a lecture on Geyersland in aid of the old school repair fund. Although the weather was unfavourable there was a good attendance £3-5-6

28th May Received a letter from Mr Petersen Chairman of School Committee stating that the committee in answer to my request had decided not to allow the Old School to be used for other than school purposes

29th May Mr Laurence Johnson, who has been a resident here for many years, and was at one time headmaster of the Mauriceville West has sold his section to Mr J. Elliot, of Mauriceville North, and has left for Otaki where he intends taking up his residence. PP

2nd June Peace proclaimed in South Africa. School closed in the afternoon.

3rd June. Prince of Wales Birthday. School closed

9th June That the chairman be authorised to get a man to clear to gorse on the School Ground and the Road. That the Chairman invite Mr Davies to next meeting in regard to appointing a visiting member.

13th June. Very wet day Only 12 children present. My room is partially flooded owing to the leaky state of the ventilator

20th June Received and Distributed Coronation Souvenir Cards

14th July. During the last week of the holidays the North Side of the Old School was reroofed with iron, Mr Petersen and several other settlers kindly giving their services gratis. The cost of materials has been defrayed by the proceeds of an entertainment and the sale of photographs taken by myself. The ventilators on the school were removed during the holidays.

23rd July The paths round the school are badly in need of gravel during the frosty weather of the past fortnight it has been impossible to keep the school free from mud

28th/29th July I was unable to attend school owing to an attack of influenza. Miss Braithwaite was in charge of my room and Sarah Pearson supervised the work of the infants.

12th August School closed in honour of coronation

19th August The old school was used as a science room for the first time today

26th August A sharp shock earthquake was felt at 4.15 this morning

2nd September. Gave first lesson on cottage gardening from 2 to 3

8th September J P Petersen tendered his resignation as chairman, Secretary and member owing to his moving to another district. After all the other members present refused to stand for Chairman and Secretary W Chisholm was nominated and carried. Mr J P Peterson handed the books and papers to the new chairman also cash £6-16-0 including £1-6-0 for picnic account.

16th September Received Victoria Scholarship Examination Papers

6th October Wrote to Mr T H Kirk Govt Biologist re seeds and artificial manners for cottage gardens

13th October Mr Chisholm has been appointed Chairman. Mr Petersen resigned. Mr Hemming Neilsen has taken Mr Petersen’s place
13th October. That the chairman interview or write to three or four families and request them to send their children more regularly to school as it was impossible for the teachers to present them at the exam with credit.
Moved that 4 mugs and 10 yards of towelling be purchased for the school.
That the Chairman write to the Board requesting them to sand and tar the floors of shelter sheds.
17th October. New Mugs and towels have been provided for the lavatories by the committee
10th November. It was reported that the teacher Mr Davies had got a grant of about £50 for the agriculture Department.....to put the building in order and part for the instruments etc etc.
12th November Mr Daniell of all Masterton notified that he had completed and forwarded all the furniture including the glass case for the science room.
18th November Received from Mr Daniell, cupboard, shelves, 5 tables, door mat, tank and sink for science laboratory.
26th November Received apparatus and chemicals for agricultural science
9th December. The cottage gardens are now in full swing, and children in Standard 4, 5 and 6 are showing great interest in them.
15th December. Sharland’s forwarded 20 tin dishes to replace the small enamelled basins, which were unsuitable for use as pneumatic troughs
17th December. A pleasant evening was spent by the pupils in the old school when games were indulged in with much heartiness and refreshments were provided by Mrs Davies. The presence of a number of former pupils added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening
Ten spades, Three rakes were received today from Mr Daniell

1903
28th January The school was closed on Monday and Tuesday by direction of the chairman to enable fresh paint to dry.
6th February School was closed by order of the chairman on account of the band concert in Masterton
12th February Gave practical lesson in the laboratory on dissection and microscopically examination of flowers
19th February Laboratory practice. Each child prepared three jars of oxygen and performed experiments with same care and aptitude were shown in handling apparatus and experiments were successful in every case
24th February Samples of vegetables and cut flowers from the school gardens were forwarded to Mr Riley for inspection by the Board at its monthly meeting
4th March A number of boys bathed in the creek during the dinner hour, contrary to the rules of the school. George McPeak was unable to land after swimming and Henry Hillas jumped in to rescue him, Being wet through Hillas was sent home and the offending pupils were deprived of half hours play for a week
9th March J Roigard was instructed to do the work of concreting shelter sheds and closets at a cost of 3 pounds including labour and material required.
10th March, Children made Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen
27th March The teacher of the Kaiparoro School called to inspect cottage gardens etc.
7th April Mr Bringans master of Kaiparoro School brought 15 of his pupils to see the school garden, and watch the agriculture class at work in the Laboratory
28th April Present W Chisholm, Hemming Neilsen R P Hansen. The chairman to select four other names Forsberg, Roigard, Larsen and Jorgan Neilsen
No quorum being present no other business was done
16th April Commenced new year’s work with agricultural classes which now number 22
27th April Meeting of Householders was attended by 4 people
18th May Received from Wellington Meat Export a 14lb sample of each of their artificial manures for use in the school garden
21st May Received maps of the world (Mercator’s Projections)
26th May Yesterday being Empire Day the school was closed. At 2 pm about 40 pupils and several adults assembled for the ceremony of hoisting and saluting the flag. After addresses by the Chairman and Myself, games were indulged in for an hour and the pupils partook of refreshments.
28th May Miss Gray had to return home being wet through (First Mentioned about Miss Gray being back)
8th June A very successful limelight and musical entertainment was held in the Science Room on Friday night in aid of the school library. In addition to musical items, clubs and dumbbell drill contributed by the Upper Children, valuable assistance was given by several visitors, and a very enjoyable evening was speak. The net proceeds amounted to about £5
12th June Standard 7 Two children promoted
F Bakewell’s comments included
I am very pleased with all I saw in the school Writing which was formerly a weak subject is now good in all standards
Excellent results have been obtained in cottage gardening and the neat vegetable and flower plots reflect the greatest credit to both teachers and scholars
During the afternoon saw 17 of the upper standard children doing independent practical work in the school laboratory.
Mainly owing to the energy of Mr Davies who is quite devoted to his work. Mauriceville West is better equipped and with scientific apparatus than any other school in the Wairarapa and it is to be hoped that parents by sending their children regularly, will show their appreciation of the exceptional advantage in the way of science teaching to be obtained in this school
Miss Braithwaite is commended for excellent work done with Juniors
15th June Received from Kempthorne Prosser also a present of 19 sample bags of Westfield Manures for use in the School Gardens A stage for the purpose of school entertainments has been erected in the Science Room. Mr Daniell of Masterton kindly supplying the timber gratis
23rd June A very wet day. A violent storm is raging
24th June. No children present on account of storm which still continues
21st July Planted 27 ornamental and flowering shrubs provided gratis by H Gibbons Co Ltd in the school
6th August. Today a working bee of settlers commenced the construction of an addition to the school laboratory, the object being to strengthen the building and make it more commodious for the purposes of school entertainments etc.

14th August. The school roll is now 46. Exactly 2/3 of the number on the roll in April 1902. The reduction is due to the continued exodus from the district of settlers with families, whose houses are now either empty or occupied by newly married couples.

24th August Mr Gundersen topped several trees in the playground today.

31st August. Miss Gray absent owing to illness

14th September Miss Gray returned today

Mr W Burton paid a visit to the school and asked permission to address the children. As I had not been favourably impressed by his efforts and behaviour on former occasions I considered it advisable not to accede to his request.

The completion of the alterations to the school laboratory was celebrated by a children’s party on Saturday

22nd September Laboratory Lesson on Ammonia

23rd September Received 200 sets of “Earl Rose” potatoes from T W Kirk Government Biologist

30th September Several children still absent owing to mumps

8th October. Neil Pedersen was punished severely for continued laziness and inattention

19th October. A few showers have fallen during the last two days—this is the first rainfall of any importance since 8th September

28th October. A fearful gale is raging. Log fires are spreading in every direction and the valley is filled with smoke. Several pupils are absent helping to protect houses which are in danger

10th November. Very wet day. 4 pupils present

17th November Gave a lesson practical on spraying potatoes with Bordeaux. History drawing lesson will be taken tomorrow

1904

25th January School closed for a fortnight by order of the Chairman on account of prevalence of scarlet fever in the settlement

30th January 1904 Wairarapa Daily Times [Established Quarter of a century.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1904 AN IDEAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are in receipt of one of the most valuable of the official publications which comes from the Government Printing Office, the eleventh volume of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture. When we think of the sins of the present Administration, we deem it only common honesty to credit it with some good deeds, and one surely is the making of Agriculture a live department. The present volume runs into over six hundred pages, and almost every one of them are of interest to the country settler. For the first time in these Annual Reports, the primary school appears in a position of honour. It is only one primary school which is so distinguished, and it is a feather in the cap of this district that this particular primary school is the Mauriceville
West School, and that this establishment now owes a colonial reputation to Mr W. C. Davies, its enthusiastic headmaster.

In his report, Mr T. W. Kirk, the well-known Biologist, states that five years ago he described the steps taken in South Africa to provide agricultural education in the primary schools, and mentioned one such institution which he had personally visited. A similar school has come into existence at Mauriceville West and bids fair, so says Mr Kirk, to become of immense service to the juvenile members of the district. Mr W. C. Davies is described as a thoroughly able enthusiast. In the report, the pictures and syllabus of his school speak for themselves. Mr Kirk holds that some comprehensive scheme is necessary to assist such enterprises.

What has the pioneer of the ideal school accomplished at West Mauriceville? He has trained his children to understand the parts of plants and their functions, the fertilisation of flowers and the formation of seed, the storage of food in seeds and roots and their germination. In his syllabus, too, are the composition of plants and their elemental chemistry. Instruction is given with respect to plant food and as regards soils. But all this and much more is theoretical knowledge only and without practical application it availeth but little. This practical application has been given, and among the illustrations of the school are to be found a Laboratory, flower beds, and the school garden itself with a score of children at work in it with spade, rake and hoe. There is also a plan of the garden showing a grass patch with ornamental shrubs, flower plots, eloping strawberry beds, and one-and twenty plots which have been devoted to the scientific culture of potatoes, turnips, mangolds, onions, cabbages, peas, beans, maize and rape. All this is most delightful, for it constitutes a special training of permanent value to both boys and girls. It has been accomplished, without any beating of drums or sounding of trumpets, by the intelligent enterprise of one teacher. Now and again, in the official publications which deluge the Colony, we come across some little oasis of real live interest, and nothing of late has pleased us more than this practical testimony given by the Department of Agriculture to the good work accomplished by Mr W. C. Davies.

It has been thought that the State schoolmaster is a machine, governed by a syllabus and regulations; but the experience of West Mauriceville proves that he may manifest original and remarkable powers in the exercise of his multifarious duties. A schoolmaster who is a naturalist is surely the flower of the profession. PP

26th February The Sanitary Inspector called today and recommended that all pupils from infected houses should be allowed to return except the Rev. J Legarth’s family, who are to remain in quarantine for another fortnight.

22nd March Removed all dead plants from Cottage Garden and gathered flower seeds.

23rd March Mr Paul gave a Kinematograph exhibition in the Science room donating 16/- (1/3 of proceeds) towards the building fund.

24th March Laboratory Lesson Hydrogen produced by means of sodium.

31st March. Many children absent owing to Lutheran Celebrations.
15th April We have an unbroken week’s work with a good attendance. This is the second only since the Xmas holidays.

17th May Cottage Gardening Lessons. Continued daisy borders and prepared ground for planting shrubs.

31st May. Inspectors Report of April 21st

In spite of the prevalence of scarlet fever, which materially interfered with the work during the first quarter of this year good results have been obtained in the school.

In addition to ordinary work of the syllabus such handwork occupations as Modelling, Paper Folding and Cardboard modelling have been undertaken with success.

Work in the infant room (Miss Gray) was good.

Both teachers are to be commended for the general neatness of the school work and for the neat and orderly appearance of all school property.

A teacher of the capacity of Mr Davies ought to be in charge of a school of higher grade.

7th June 1904 Mauriceville West

(From Our Own Correspondent).

The following are the meteorological notes for the month of May, supplied by the observer at Mauriceville West Rainfall (on 13 days), 6-28 inches Average temperature at 9.30 a.m., 41 degrees.; average minimum, 39.5 deg. The first three weeks of the month were unusually dry for this season of the year, the rainfall for that season amounting to only one inch. On May 23rd, heavy rain set in, and continued till the end of the month. The latter portion of the month was marked by more than the usual allowance of wind, heavy north-westerly gales being frequent and sustained. Fairly stiff frosts were experienced on five nights, the temperature falling on one occasion as low as 29 Fahrenheit.

The third of the series of entertainments in aid of the school science room at Mauriceville West was held on Friday, May 27th, and quite maintained the standard of its predecessors, the building being comfortably filled, notwithstanding the inclement weather. The first part of the programme consisted, as usual, of a lecturette, illustrated by limelight pictures, the subject being Norway. In the course of his descriptive talk Mr Davies dealt briefly with the history, people, industries, and scenery of that charming country, the really beautiful illustrations, nearly eighty in number, calling forth much admiration. The enjoyable concert programme which followed was composed of songs, recitations, and instrumental items, contributed by Misses Graham and Braithwaite, and Messrs Turner, Jensen and Davies, Mrs Davies acting as accompanist throughout the evening. A unique feature of the entertainment was a selection of Danish patriotic airs, given as duets for the piano and violin. A glance at the audience told at once that the fine old tunes carried the thoughts of many present back to the shores of Denmark and the days of their youth, and eyes were seen to glisten as the martial strains of “Den Gang Jog Drag Afsted” recalled the warlike times of over thirty years ago. As the last notes of the inevitable “Kong Christian,” sung by the juveniles, died away, the portraits of our King and Queen appeared on the screen, and the national anthem, rendered right loyally by the whole audience, brought the evening to a close.

6th June Messrs W Jesson, W Chisholm, C Forsberg, R P Hansen and Anders Larsen Elected to School Committee last night.
4th July Request the Board to vote a sufficient amount of money to concrete the Boy’s Shelter Shed and the Boy’s WC or else grant the £3-0-0 formerly promised allow same to be expended in forming the floors with Limestone.

17th June 18 diagrams of injurious insects etc have been purchased for the laboratory from Mr Mackay

4th August. A very heavy fall of snow commenced last night and continues today. The snow is more than 6 inches deep. Miss Gray arrived wet through and I sent her home. Only 8 children present

9th August A great earthquake shock took place at 10.22 am. School property escaped damage in a most miraculous manner. Mauriceville West suffered less severely than Mauriceville East

14th August. A slight tremor shortly before 3.00 pm

24th August Another slight shock at 4.35 a.m. accompanied by a large rumble

25th August Mr T W Hook, Government Biologist delivered a lecture in the School Science Room last evening on “Weeds versus Pure Pasture” to a very large audience. The lecture was illustrated by lantern pictures and was followed by a chat on the “South Sea Islands”

Today Mr Kirk watched the agricultural class at work in the laboratory and spent some time questioning the children

30th August Mr A Russell Chairman of the Hawkes Bay Farmers Union paid a visit to inquire into the methods of teaching agriculture in this school. Enquiries have also been received from Mr Edwin Hall, Secretary of the Auckland Pastoral Association and Mr A Hogg MHR

5th September That Chairman write to Wellington Education Board re leakage of tank and rotten piles at the Headmasters Residence

14th September. Ordered timber from Mr Daniell for school garden fence

15th September. The two banks in the school garden have been removed and the garden levelled by the pupils

3rd October. Received two hundredweight of manure from Gear Meat (Wellington Meat Works in Petone) for use in school gardens

13th October 1904 AGRICULTURE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS. We take the following from the Twelfth Report (1904) of the Department of Agriculture:— In last report I briefly referred to my persistent advocacy of the teaching of elementary "agriculture in primary schools, and in support showed what was done by my friend, Mr W. C. Davies, at the Mauriceville East (Sic) School This account, together with the illustrations accompanying it, has attracted much attention, and several other teachers have now made a start on similar lines. I visited the Mauriceville West School and attach, as an aid to other teachers, a short note of last season's work, also a few photographs showing the results attained AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE. Forty lessons of one hour each were given on, parts of plants and their functions, elementary chemistry of air and water, formation of soil, etc., as set forth in syllabus for first year published in last year's report. Half the time was devoted to theoretical instruction illustrated by experiments, diagrams, etc., and half to actual experimental work performed by the pupils individually. The laboratory practice included the
dissection and microscopical examination of parts of plants, the
preparation of the five commonest gases, experiments to illustrate
their properties and tests for acids, alkalis, carbon-dioxide, lime,
salt, and ammonia, careful notes being made on the results of all
experiments. GARDENING. Forty lessons of one hour each.
During the year the school garden has been enlarged to double its
former size. The whole of the space (45ft by 56ft) used last year
for the cultivation of flowers and vegetables was laid out as a
model cottage flower-garden. The results yielded by this garden
patch are interesting as showing what two years' cultivation, and a
moderate application of artificial manures, can do with apparently
worthless soil. The area adjoining the flower garden, which was
utilised for the vegetable trial patches, had never previously been
cultivated, having been covered with stunted grass (cocksfoot) and
weeds since it was denuded of manuka scrub some fifteen or
twenty years ago. The results produced in this soil without the aid
of manure were practically nil. A potato-trial in the school garden
was a failure, owing to the ravages of a fungus disease which was
in the district- very prevalent. The plants were spayed by the
pupils with Bordeaux mixture after the disease had made its
appearance, but the application was too late to do much good. To
prove the efficacy of Bordeaux mixture in warding off the attacks
of fungoid diseases when applied betimes, seven rows of Up-to-
Date  potatoes were planted in the teacher's garden, and manured
in exactly the same manner as the seven patches in the school
ground. The plants were thoroughly sprayed when a few inches
above the ground, as directed in Leaflet No. 25, and were treated
in the same manner a fortnight later. This experiment was
thoroughly successful, and a fine crop was produced.
In addition to the manure-trials carried out in the school garden,
advantage was taken of an opportunity to manure portions of a
neighbouring oat paddock. The soil in this field, though not so
poor as that in the school gardens, afforded ample scope for
testing the 9 values of artificial manures, as it had been used for
the same crop many years in succession, and had received only
small dressings of bonedust.

6th October Finished school garden fence (The elder boys dug the
post holes and cut the palings and I erected the fence out of
school hours.) Mr Lars P kindly supplied 5 Hinau posts
14th October Rainfall on 14th 3.55 inches
20th October Mr Bull headmaster of the Waipawa School, spent
some time at the school and saw the agricultural class at work in
the laboratory
1st November Rainfall for last month 21.4 inches
15th November Inspectors report of School
Standard 3 to 7 Mr Davies
Standard 2 to Primers Miss Gray. Roll 52
Report Included
Everything in a most satisfactory State
It is a matter of regret there should be such a limited scope for Mr
Davies energies and abilities
16th November an extra gardening session was given today to
make up for time lost owing to bad weather.
19th December That the chairman engage somebody to cut all the gorse and broom on the school property. That the asphalting to be done at the shelter sheds and closets be done with lime sand and tar.

1905

30th January A sharp shock of earthquake was felt at 4.40 last night.

6th February Tar cost 19/4 railage for same 6/10 Cartage on Lime sand and tar 19/-

That accounts be passed for payment when funds become available.

Subscription for picnic £6-10-0. That prizes worth £4-10-0 be purchased.

That the chairman be deputed to buy the prizes for the picnic.

7th February The shelter sheds and boys offices have been asphalted during the past few weeks by M Jessen.

6th March Mr Williamson headmaster of the Ballance School paid a visit to the school on Saturday March 14th.

13th March A number of the Elder Pupils accompanied by their friends and the teachers made an expedition to the Summit of Mt Bruce (height 2500 feet) Although the atmosphere was too smoky to allow distant views to be obtained, the day’s outing proved most instructive and several interesting insects and botanical specimens were secured.

27th March The weather is oppressively hot and close today.

25th April Resolved that in the opinion of the meeting a committee of five members be sufficient for this district and that the Wellington Education Board be informed thereof.

That a letter be sent to Mr William Forster Secretary of NZEI in reply to his circular re superannuation fund. That in the opinions of this meeting it would be preferable to give pupil teachers a bigger salary to begin with in order to induce them to adopt the teaching profession.

At a subsequent meeting Mr William Jesson was elected chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Moved that the chairman call a meeting when required but if possible on a moonlight Monday Evening.

5th May Mr H Petersen, son of the first teacher in Mauriceville paid a visit to the school.

19th May. A very successful Scandinavian Entertainment in aid of the Laboratory Fund was held last evening.

In spite of a heavy downpour of rain there was a good audience. In addition to drill and Danish Songs given by the pupils, valuable assistance was rendered by the Misses Daniell and Eddie from Masterton and Mr Holst of Eketahuna, who sang a number of Scandinavian national and folk songs. Mr Holst also gave interesting descriptions regarding public buildings and scenes in and about Copenhagen, to accompany a number of limelight illustrations. The trouble occurred in preparing for this entertainment was amply repaid by the enthusiasm displayed by the audience.

7th June. The school was closed at 2. p.m. by order of the chairman in order to enable the pupils to attend Mrs Gunderson’s funeral.
21st July Mr Jessen has finished the work of putting new spouting around the school
4th August Received notification from Wellington Education Board that a tender had been accepted for painting school. Repairs to residence and erecting a washhouse etc
16th August. Painters commenced work
19th August. By permission of the Board and Committee the school was closed for a fortnight owing to a family bereavement and urgent private business. One week of this time is in the ordinary spring holiday and the other week will be taken from the Christmas holidays
7th September. Received a table and chair for the Upper Class
2nd October Re forming a School Committee Association. That on account of the distance away from Masterton and our school being so small we cannot see our way to join the association.
4th October Attendance today 47/51. The highest for some months
6th October. Nearly all the influenza patients have recovered. A row of inoculated and one of uninoculated peas was sown in each of the garden patches on October 3rd
12th October Mr W Gray Chief inspector of the Wanganui District spent an hour at the school and watched the children at work in the laboratory
20th October. Trafalgar Celebration day. Addresses were given by Mr Jessen the chairman and myself
23rd October School closed in honour of Trafalgar Centenary
31st October Owing to injuries received as the result of the explosion of a spirit lamp in the school laboratory, I was compelled to close the school
13th November School reopened Today
17th November Received offer of appointment as agriculture instructor to Board
18th November The special committee of the Education Board which gave consideration of the question of the appointment of an instructor in elementary agriculture offered the position to Mr. W. C. Davis, head teacher of the Mauriceville West School, and the offer has been accepted. Mr. Davis practically inaugurated the now-popular cottage garden instruction in country schools, and various exhibits made by his scholars have amply demonstrated the interest he has taken in and the value of the instruction he has already given upon the subject to which he is now to devote the whole of his time. He will receive a salary of £300 and expenses, and towards the salary the Technical Education Board has ‘agreed to contribute £150. Mr. Davis is to give the Technical School one day and two evenings per week of his time, and during the remainder of his time he will give instruction to the students of groups of country schools
23rd November Very Wet Day, No pupils present
27th November 1905 JOTTINGS FROM MAURICEVILLE (By Our Travelling Contributor.) See and get us a good teacher for Mauriceville West was the request of Mr P. Larsen to a well-known member of the Education Board the other day, we have lost Mr Joplin, and now we are losing Mr Davies.” I'm afraid that will be a difficult job," was the reply. Why What is the matter asked the pioneer settler. Because your school is getting too small. You don't grow enough of children," was the amusing but honest answer. Mr Davies has just been appointed Agricultural Instructor
under the Wellington Education Board. He is an enthusiast, and
the methods he has adopted for teaching the young idea how to
cultivate has been the theme of visitors to the school for years
past. The old school-building was converted into a joiner and
carpenters' workshop by Mr Joplin. It has been changed into a
laboratory replete with scientific appliances by Mr Davies. Mr
Joplin taught his senior scholars how to build houses and make
furniture; Mr Davies has been teaching them how to grow fruit,
vegetables and grain. Bottles on shelves exhibit various kinds of
seeds and manures. Outside are the results in garden plots and
large flower plots. The boys do the sowing and planting and
cultivating, carefully noting day and date of every operation. The
girls look after the flower plots. When the vegetables and fruit and
potatoes, turnips and mangolds and grain are ripe, they are
measured and weighed and photographed, and the nature of their
treatment and soil employed is noted beneath. In the laboratory arc
hundreds of specimens, lizards, bush insects, sea anemones and
star fish a powerful microscope, camera, magic lantern and
oxyhydrogen apparatus. The school is losing its scientist, and the
loss will be felt. But had Mr Davies remained, owing to the
diminishing average attendance, his salary would have been
reduced £50, although his attainments warranted a substantial
increase. The Mauriceville East School has long been on the
decline. Under Mr Buchler it has a good master, and it is pleasing
to learn that the average is beginning to improve. It has now an
attendance of forty. In the Mauriceville County the schools,
unfortunately, are mostly going down. This is due partly to the
fact that when the older children pass out, there are no young ones
to keep up the numerical strength. But another cause is at work—
the settlers are buying one another out, and the aggregation of
holdings is diminishing the population. This is seriously injuring
the schools and destroying the little townships. The lime kilns
keep the men employed. The Company have erected a very good
plant. There are several kilns, built on different principles; also an
engine and crushing plant. Building-lime is in fairly good demand,
but agricultural lime has not yet come into general use. Mr Brooks
is rapidly making an impression on a fine hillock of clay, to the
southeast of the railway station. He has a crushing plant, moulds,
and a well-built kiln, that turns out 30,000 bricks at a time. The
new Catholic Church, erected by Mr Malachi McKenzie, son of
the well-known teacher, is a conspicuous addition to the public
structures. Mr McKenzie has a carpenter and joiners' workroom
fitted up with an eight horse-power boiler, a five horsepower
engine, a band-saw, circular-saw, dynamo, for lighting with
electricity, and other appliances. About half-a-mile down the
Masterton road, surrounded with ornamental trees and shrubs, is a
pretty nine-roomed dwelling that chiefly owes its appearance and
substantiality to one of Mr Joplin's pupils. The owner (Mr
Rossiter) has just entered into occupation. The walls are
rusticated, and, together with the flooring, are of matai from
McLeod's mill. The supervisor of the building, who did most of
the carpenter's, joiner's, bricklayer's and plumber's work himself,
is Mr Waldemar Larsen, an apt pupil of the school carpentry class.
The house outside and rooms inside have been finished in a most
artistic fashion, and Mr and Mrs Rossiter pride themselves on
having one of the prettiest and best finished homes in the district.
The Mauriceville Hotel has changed hands. It is now in charge of Mr Roigard, who, with his wife and family, are proving themselves very capable and estimable managers. PP

28th November Received note from Mr T Fleming instructing me to visit various centres and report on the facilities for agricultural instruction at each
1st December. Left school at 2.25 in order to catch mail train for Greytown
2nd December Mauriceville West Headmaster, £105 and house
6th December. Election Day School Closed. Messrs Parkinson and Cromie of the Greytown School paid the school a visit
I visited Masterton on the 2nd, Pahiatua on the 4th and Eketahuna on the 3rd
8th December Left school at 10 am in order to visit Levin
19th December Letter from Mr Davies re visiting various schools. Letter re appointment of new master. Three applications from Messers Ward, Bradstock and Barrett
That the School Committee approve the Board’s selection of Mr Ward
That the chairman obtain a Gold Watch Chain to be presented to Mr Davies. That the Presentation to take place at 2 p.m. on Friday 29th December.
20th December Punished Niels and Albert Pedersen for indecent behaviour towards some of the small girls on the way to school
22nd December “Breaking Up” Day. Cleaned paths and tidied gardens

1906
29th January E H Ward took charge Mr Davies was present and gave me an insight to the work he had been doing during the year, with the exception of Arithmetic and Geography the work of the school year is well advanced
9th February Rain all day. A very good attendance for such a day. Examined Standard 3 to 7 in arithmetic. The results were only fair
15th February Sharp shock of Earthquake felt this morning at 9.10 am
21st February School closed for Masterton Show. School obtained second prize for Sweet Peas
26th February One case of diphtheria reported in the school
20th March Severe shock of earthquake at 3 pm this evening
That the School Committee approve the action of the chairman in buying a glass case for the school.
That the chairman procure everything for the Picnic.
30th March Held annual picnic on the school grounds. The weather was all that could be desired and a very enjoyable day was spent
In the evening the children were entertained with a dance
9th April A Mr Burton applied for permission to address the children this morning but as I had heard he was not a desirable character I refused
20th April The chairman of the School Committee (Mr Jesson) and one member of the committee attended school this afternoon and distributed prizes won during the year
27th April Average for the week 42.5 Very strong gales of wind with rain showers
30th April The gale still continues.
9th May Mr W C Davies, the Board’s instructor for Nature Study and Agriculture paid the school a visit. He is to advise the Board to send certain materials required for Agricultural class
28th May That applications be invited for the removal of nightsoil at 18/- per quarter and to be done fortnightly
That the chairman call a meeting of the School Committee whenever required.
Moved that Mauriceville West join the Wairarapa School Committee Association.
That the chairman be appointed representative to the School Committee Association
12th June Received news of the death of the Premier (R J Seddon). Chairman of School Committee decided to close the school out of respect to the deceased statesman
15th June Received news from Secretary of Wellington Education Board that it had decided to close all schools in the Wellington district until after the funeral of the Premier
29th June. I conducted my quarterly examination this week. I was very pleased with the work done throughout the school. The weakest work done was in reading. The reading of the whole school is too mechanical and does not satisfy me. The writing is neat but the formation of letters poor.
9th July Resolved to request the boys in Standard 3 upwards to take their turn at cleaning the outhouses and pay them 4/- per month for same.
28th July Had the class out gardening the first time in 6 weeks
3rd August Two sharp shock of earthquake at 2.25 this afternoon
9th August The ground is at last sufficiently dry to work. I had the agriculture class out the whole afternoon and managed to tidy the gardens up and prepare for sowing
27th August I took the boys down to Kopuaranga on Saturday to play a football match. The boys though beaten had a very enjoyable time
3rd October Visited the school today and found all the work going on most satisfactorily. Examined Marie Jesson for Standard 7 certificate J D Tarrant
4th November We have had very heavy gales for the past week. But no damage has happened to the school garden so far.
26th November Inspectors report of 3rd October received. J D Tarrant
Standard 7-3 Mr E H Ward 26 pupils
Standard 2 – Primers Miss C Gray 21
Report included
The work was going on in every department most satisfactorily.
The school is easily maintaining its reputation for careful intelligent work
10th December Correspondence from Railway Department re excursion to exhibition also from exhibition committee re same.
Moved that if any children intend to go to the exhibition the Chairman endeavours to arrange with other schools to make up sufficient number.

1907

4th February That the picnic be held on Saturday 16th instant
That Gentlemen who have not previously subscribed to the picnic can obtain refreshments at 1/- Ladies and Children free
18\textsuperscript{th} February School picnic held today
24\textsuperscript{th} May Kept Empire Day today. The chairman of the School Committee came and had a talk with scholars about the Empire
6\textsuperscript{th} June Mr Ward was present and stated he had purchased 40 books to the values of £3-10-6 also 15 books for the school library and placed £2-0-0 to the credit of the school sports fund, having received from the chairman £3-8-5 balance of the picnic fund and £6-11-4 Nett from concert and dance
That this School Committee is in favour of a new floor being put in science room
That a sub committee consisting of the Chairman J Roigard and A Larsen to examine the joists and arrange for the new floor.
That we apply to the Board for a new clock and this committee will get the present clock repaired for Miss Gray’s Room
5\textsuperscript{th} August Received notice of my appointment as assistant master in Newtown District High School
8\textsuperscript{th} August 1907 Mr. E. H. Ward (Mauriceville West) to the Newtown School
10\textsuperscript{th} August That the answer “Yes” be given to the Citizens Bible in State Schools Committee to their circular
22\textsuperscript{nd} August Held a concert in aid of new floor in laboratory. Cleared 6 pound 15 after all expenses had been covered
2\textsuperscript{nd} September That this School Committee select F L Combs and B Blake from the list of candidates applying for the position of Head master as supplied by the Board.
That this committee request the Government to supply a uniform standard of books to be produced by the State and sold at cost price
That Mr Jessen be given the old flooring for altering the counter as suggested by Mr Ward
4\textsuperscript{th} September Held a social in aid of the committees funds. It was a very stormy night and very few turned up. The chairman of the School Committee has money in hand towards cost of floor and microscope
9\textsuperscript{th} September Reopened the school this morning after holidays. Two seventh standard and two sixth standard pupils have left
16\textsuperscript{th} September. Miss Gray absent this morning. Received a note from her telling me that her absence was owing to an attack of influenza
26\textsuperscript{th} September Owing to prevalence of Influenza attendance at school the past two weeks has been very low. The school closes tomorrow for Dominion Day. I have been granted Friday and Monday for the purpose of shifting.
2\textsuperscript{nd} October. Came yesterday called in at school and found it closed. Heavy gale today. Came through it and got rather wet. Only 9 children present. The chairman called in and told me I had better take the first opportunity and dismiss school for the day
S Dempsey
21\textsuperscript{st} October. Mr Davies spent Friday afternoon here. We put some of the crops in.
1\textsuperscript{st} November. Received news yesterday evening to relieve at Mauriceville East. Roll 48
6th November F L Combs. Rode down from Rakanui yesterday had been closed on the 4th and 5th. Opened school this morning
15th November Punished J Deadman for throwing dirt in the garden As both his hands were sore punished him on the body
30th November That this committee procure a lamp for the science room to be paid for from monies received from socials
That the annual picnic to be held on Anniversary day 22nd January
That 2 cords of 2 feet rata firewood be purchased @ 27/- per cord
2nd December Wished to meet 5 to 3 express. ¾ hour for dinner and dismissed my own room at 2.45 pm
19th December Stopped work at 2 pm Straightened up school put things in desks away and dismissed school

1908
5th February The water in the school tanks being bad have told the children not to drink it.
18th February In absence of chairman spoke to Mr Larsen and in accordance with the general practice closed school for Masterton Show tomorrow
21st February Attendance and class prizes for the year 1907 were presented to the children by Mr Jesson today. School closed at 2.30
16th March That a dancing class be held next Saturday and then fortnightly
19th March Very wet ½ hour for dinner. Dismissed 2.30 pm
15th April The school was visited by Mr Davies and in the morning Standard 3 to Standard 6 in the gardens

21st April Punished 3 boys R Jensen, A Little and E Mattson who on Wednesday last hid behind trees and cried out to Miss Gray and myself as we went passed
27th April That an accordion be purchased.
That a piano be procured from Dresden Co at £48-0-0 ($7,481.02 December 2011)
Moved that a concert and dance be held on Friday 22nd May
Tickets 1/- for the concert and 2/- for concert, dance and supper.
6th May Heavy rain, attendance under half. No play ½ dinner dismissed at 2.15
8th May Read letter from chairman re old school, wrote a reply giving the information asked for by the Wellington Education Board Secretary
13th May A Mrs Deadman came to see her family. She is I believe divorced from her husband. I asked her to take the children if willing to go out of the playground. She did so,
14th May On the twelfth a small boy P Ratcliffe, belonging to this school was killed by a piece of a blasted log. His funeral is to take place today. As most of the children are with the consent of their parents going I am dismissing school at 2 pm
18th May That Mr William Jensen be asked to take charge of the Dancing Classes
That Mr William Jensen be requested to form a committee to manage the concerts.
That Mrs Combs take charge of the piano and key
That the charge for use of the schoolroom with use of piano be 10/- to local people and 15/- to outsiders.
That members of the School Committee met on Tuesday 26th Inst to cut down pines at back of school and trim the pines along the road.

**UPTO**

27th May 1907 Mauriceville West
(Special to Daily Times.)

Although heavy rain fell here all day on Friday, and in the evening a thunderstorm threatened, a very large audience attended the concert and dance organised by Mr Ward, headmaster of the Mauriceville West School to provide a school prize fund. Those who had the hardihood to face the elements were treated to an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental items, each number being fully appreciated and loudly applauded. Mr Jessen, Chairman of the School Committee, in opening the entertainment, referred to the good work done by the school at the recent examination, and briefly explained the object of the social.

The programme opened with a chorus by the school children. Mr Ward contributed the well-known song, Father O'Flynn which was encored, as were his two recitations in the second part of the programme. Mrs. M. I. McKenzie pleased the audience, with her rendering of "Listening" and "Marguerite." The duet, "Life's Dream is O'er," by Mr and Mrs McKenzie, received an emphatic recall. Mrs Ward had to respond to an encore for each of her items, "Tit for Tat" and "Home, Dearie, Home. Miss Mama Sigversten's singing of "Love's Old Sweet Song," and "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," proved unmistakeably her capability as a vocalist. Mr W. Jensen sang "Starlight" and "When the Harvest Moon is Shining," in his well-known capable manner.

The comic element was supplied by Mr M. I. McKenzie, who received an encore for each of his numbers, "Fidgety Fudgle" and "I'm Still Alive and Kicking Oh." A pianoforte solo by Miss Forsberg and a violin solo by Mr Edward Larsen, were capital items. The accompaniments were played by Miss Forsberg, Mesdames Ward and C. Brooks, and Mr Edward Larsen. The programme was interspersed with selections on the phonograph manipulated by Mr C. C. Jackson. The dance, which followed the concert, brought to a close an exceedingly pleasant entertainment. The dance music was supplied by Mr J. Jensen, extras being played by Messrs W. Jensen, McKenzie and E. Larson.

3rd June Resumed school after the term holidays. During these a working bee cut down the firs behind the school as they kept the rear portion of the building too damp and shaded.

16th June Dismissed school 2.30 pm So as to catch train to Masterton

1st July That 2 dozen rubbers to be procured. That Mr Combs be allowed to purchase one cord of pine firewood at 10/- Mr J Roigard requested his vote to be recorded against above motion.

That 4 teapots, 6 dozen cups and saucers, 1 dozen large plates, 6 white bowls, 4 milk jugs and 1 dozen teaspoons be procured

14th July Wrote to Mr Ratcliffe re his daughter Minnie having entered the school on the 13th and torn down a paper covering a small pane of glass in the corridor.
15th July Mr Ratcliffe called and made an explanation re the matter mentioned above.
16th July. Cold Snowing 39 present. No play ½ hour dinner. Dismissed 2.15
31st August. Some 2 weeks ago received 4 blinds for the upper classroom. Got notice that Board had authorised papering of kitchen
14th September The chairman reported having handed the committeemen’s subscription of 20/- to Mr Combs who added 5/- and procured books, for that amount for the school library. That a charge of 2/6 per week be made for the use of the school for evangelistic services as applied for by Miss Hodgins?
15th September The Head Teacher having to go in search of a nurse for Mrs Combs. The upper school was with the consent of the chairman dismissed for the day. During the term holidays the blinds were put up
25th September. The chairman made a short speech to the children and handed each one the Dominion medal sent for distribution.
2nd November That Miss Hodgins be notified that she cannot have the hall any more from date.
That the cricket club be only charged 2/6 for their annual meeting on 26th September
8th December. Spoke to chairman about furniture etc not being put back after dances etc.
14th December. Inspectors report of September 20th included Standard 3 to 6 Mr Combs Roll 24 Primers – Standard 2 Miss Gray 29

1909
5th February The painters today finished painting the school and house Mr Peterson has also been busy making repairs around the school
19th February Holiday for school picnic which was held in the school grounds
20th February On account of it being a danger to the school Mr Jessen and myself burnt some fallen fir trees in the gully to the east of the school
2nd April Ellen Deadman was reported as having Scarlatina on this account. I sent all the children home pending inquiries of the health officer as to the right course to pursue.
5th April The doctor informed Mr Deadman that Ellen Deadman was not ill with Scarlatina. The Deadman children came back to school today.
26th April That the School Committee for giving a send off to Mr and Mrs Jacob Jensen be given the free use of the hall for the occasion on account of Mrs Jansen having so ably assisted last winter towards the Piano Fund
That we ascertain if gatepost is broken and then write to Mr Fisher to pay the damage done to gates and post within a week or matter will be reported to Wellington Education Board
15th June. Resumed work today after a two week vacation which the Head teacher spent at Greytown Agriculture School
16th June Have decided not to take agriculture for 3 weeks pending alterations to laboratory and additions to its stock. The 6 missed hours can be then made up
29th June Correspondence from Miss C Gray “re leaving school”
Wellington Education Board re application from Miss Glanville for position of assistant mistress.

Eketahuna School Committee Re High School
That the Chairman write to Miss Gray expressing the Committee’s appreciation of her services in the school and wish to meet her when she has next holidays
That the School Committee approve Miss Glanville’s application

Eketahuna School Committee request for support to High School was not entertained owing to train time table not being suitable

2nd July Miss Gray finished duty here yesterday afternoon. She having been granted Friday off school. Today was conducted without her

5th July Miss Messenger relieving teacher arrived at 1 pm and commenced duty this afternoon

22nd July As no quorum was present no business was transacted

9th August Have forgotten to note that Miss Glanville commenced duty as assistant vice Miss Messenger on August 2nd

23rd August Circular from Wellington Education Board re Miniature Rifle Ranges
That a list be sent round to raise money for a presentation to Miss Gray our Late Mistress.

30th August The following tenders were received for the supply of 4 cords of 2 foot rata firewood.
Marias Neilson 26/6. John Anderson 26/- C Erickson 27/6 H Mays 24/-

That a social be got up for Friday 10th September to make a presentation to Miss Gray and invite subscribers and their families thereto and request mothers to bring a basket of refreshments, also to invite Miss Gray’s Father

1st October The exam holiday will be taken 4th October and Labor Day 5th October to permit Miss Granville paying a visit to Masterton Infant School

3rd December Whooping cough being prevalent the school with the consent of the School Committee and the Board was closed and is to open on the 17th January

1910

24th January In accordance with a Memo from Chairman school reopened today instead of the 17th memo filed

2nd February That the illustrated London News be procured for the use of the school
That the chairman invite the single and married ladies to form a committee to carry out work of preparing refreshments for the school picnic and dance.

14th March On Saturday the 12th Inst a committee man told me that 2 girls had been writing letters of a most improper character to a boy in the school I made enquiries with the results as under
The letters (2) had been written by the girls that sweep out the school and were so written in school but after school hours while sweeping
I got the letters (filed) which were of a highly improper character
I asked the Chairman to call a meeting of the School Committee on the night of the 13th
The letters were laid before them and I outlined the course I deemed it best to take.. It was the bigger girl R Erickson to leave the school and go to the East School
The other girl May Jesson to remain here and have no play. Go home to dinner and not leave the school till the other children were gone
Both girls to be severely punished
The Boy was Edgar D
The School Committee acquiesced in these measures
This morning I punished the girls and sent Ruby Erickson away.
The Boy Deadman had already been well thrashed by his father and as it seemed the girls were almost entirely to blame I did not further punish him He will have to go and come from school as does May Jepson
George Deadman who had written a letter for the other boy and given it to the girls I also punished
4th April Mr Fleming visited the school and awarded G Deadman and D Jessen Proficiency Certificates
8th April Ruby Erickson had left the district
12th April Mr Combs Roll 23
Miss Glanville Roll 26
Inspectors Report included
All registers should be kept up to date.
The teacher is always on the premises during recess
Work was proceeding satisfactorily in both rooms under good discipline
Physical Education and deep breathing are now taken daily as recommended
Reading should be more fluent in the lower classes. The teacher is handicapped by the fact that a foreign language is spoken in some of the homes of the children
An excellent feature of the work of the Upper Classes is the number of books such as King Solomon, The White Boy, The Water Babies and Alice in Wonderland which the scholars read during the year
The Boys Offices are only fair The arrangement for a urinal is not very satisfactory More supervision is required
Residence. There is a bad leak in the residence. The paper in part of the passage and in one of the rooms is very badly damaged.
15th April With the consent of the School Committee the school will be closed on the 15th to allow the HT to go to Wellington to bring back his family Arbor Day and Labour Day will not be taken as holidays so at make good the time
6th May In order to enable Miss Glanville to catch the train I allowed her to dismiss at 2.30 pm.. The Clerk of Work and Chairman decided on repairs necessary to put roof in order
9th May The school flag was hoisted half mast yesterday and today on account of death of King Edward V11
11th May. Yesterday in accordance with a note from the premier the school was closed. The chairman being away the note was given to me.
13th June On Friday night 10th Inst the lantern screen in the old school was damaged. I made complaint to those then in the building about it. F Legarth who was responsible will make good the damage
14th June Girls went to practice singing for concert at 2.45 pm
1st July A highly successful school concert got up and organised throughout by Miss Glanville was held last night in the old school. Takings of £6-15. The prizes for December 1909 was distributed 12th August Miss Glanville had afternoon off to go to (Funeral) wedding
20th August A circular from Wellington Education Board re sanction should be obtained before a committee made alterations to building on ground near the foundations.
That the Wellington Education Board be applied to for a grant to grub up gorse and blackberries as the inspector requires that they be eradicated
It was resolved that a presentation and send off be given to Miss Glanville who is leaving the school next month
Miss Emma Jensen appointed Assistant Teacher.
31st August 1910 Miss E. Glanville, assistant, Mauriceville West Resignation
12th September 1910 Mauriceville West (Mauriceville Railway Station) — Assistant Mistress, £90 to £120. Job advertisement
25th September. Miss Glanville left school on the 19th. The relieving teacher Miss Rose took up her duties. Miss Glanville was presented at a social with a gold watch and chain
25th September Today Dominion Day, no holiday was taken on account of the nearness of the inspector’s visit. In the absence of the chairman the children were addressed by the Head Teacher and the flag was hoisted and saluted.
30th September. By arrangement with the School Committee Dominion Day not taken on the 25th will be taken on October 2nd and the exam holiday on October 3rd
13th October Roll 39. Inspectors report of 29th September T R Fleming
Included
Physical Instruction Free arm and breathing exercises taken daily
One commendable feature of the work is the amount of reading covered during the year. Each scholar in the upper division has read intelligently a number of books such as “The White Company” “The Water Babies” etc.
The class work in History and Political Geography was also good
Practical work in the garden will now receive more attention.
A strenuous effort should be made by the committee and headmaster to maintain such an average for the year as will enable them to retain the services of an assistant
15th November By arrangement with the committee the school will be closed today and tomorrow and the day following to enable the Head Teacher to sit for English A and B papers in the New Zealand University exams in Masterton,
2nd December. Miss Rose today finished her term of relieving at the school
5th December. Miss Jensen commenced duties.

1911
30th January Dismiss Upper Room 2.30 to catch train to Masterton
14th February That Mr Jensen be asked to resign as he had left the district and not being able to attend a meeting. (Mr Jensen was Chairman Secretary and Treasurer and had to be replaced by J P Petersen) Letter received next meeting)
3rd March Miss Jensen asked leave for Monday morning as she wished to go to Wellington. I agreed to her being absent.

28th March Last Night the District Health Officer called regarding the case of measles at Mr Mattson’s. Everything is in order and the Mattson boys are to come to school again.

3rd April The growth from the front of the school has been removed and the space gravelled. The reduction in numbers on the roll and the addition of Military Drill to the timetable had lessened the attention that can be given to gardening.

11th April Yesterday owing to illness the Head Teacher had to go to Masterton to see the Doctor. Miss Jensen took charge of the school for the day.

20th March Inspectors report. Miss Jensen a student from training college is giving promise of becoming a good teacher.

2nd April Mesdames Mortensen and Petersen’s Tender for cleaning the school be accepted for the sum of seven pounds.

Owing to a disturbance made in the old school it was moved that the School Master be asked to lock the door and no one to have admission without his or the chairman’s consent and that in future a guaranteed of £1.00 of any person wanting the school.

18th May Have just completed the quarterly exam. Work as a whole is very satisfactory. I have come to the conclusion that it pays handsomely to early get the reading into a high estate of proficiency as possible. Once the child has come to read with ease and interest his other studies are supplemented by a tremendous entent any information self gained from literary sources. Moreover it means that by the time the child has reached the general journalistic and fiction matter of good quality is well within his scope and he is in a way to become a true reader. On this account what might appear to be a disproportionately large amount to be given to reading in the lower classes. Such a scheme may help 50% of the children to enter what Carlyle has called the true university that to wit of a library of good books.

The home stimulus to wide general reading if given never fails of good education at first. The same stimulus given in the school should reach three where the home influence reaches only one.

1st June Head Teacher left at 2 pm to go to Masterton to buy was procured by the School Committee school prizes.

16th June In the evening a concert worked up by Miss Jensen and given by the children was held. It was a great success both financially and generally.

30th June 4 loads of lime sand were procured by the School Committee to be distributed round the residence.

1st July A deputation waited on the School Committee to see on what terms the dancing Committee could have the old school at per night.

That the Dancing be charged 5/- for a short night 7/6 for a long night until further notice.

1st July. The coronation medals are to be distributed to the children on the 3rd of August.

3rd July Recommenced school after the Coronation Holiday.

Some of the children with their parent’s consent are to be away an hour fortnightly to attend a catechism class in the Lutheran Church.

7th August For the past 4 weeks measles have been very prevalent. Wurst a fortnight again when throughout the week the average attendance was 2.
I took sole charge and Miss Jensen went to Wellington for a week
On Thursday last I went to Masterton to have my teeth stopped
and Miss Jensen took charge
12th September Being ill with a cold and collapsed. I had to leave
Miss Jensen in sole charge. This continued over a week during
which the work under Miss Jensen’s direction went on with a
smoothness and efficiency very creditable to her
19th September. Returned to school today. There is still much
sickness. Two boys are quarantined on account of a case of scarlet
fever and mumps are becoming prevalent
13th October Forwarded 2 largest size dual desks to Kaiparora. Mr
Mattson carted them
13th November 4 boys are preparing for the school exam next
year. These I have set to read daily from the paper accounts of the
3 or 4 most important events
4th December. Repapering of residence throughout and painting of
scullery were completed today. Two new hand basins were placed
in the school porch.
7th December School closed for election
8th December Held a mock election
That tenders be called for splitting and delivering 4 cords of
firewood matai or rata.
13th December. 6 weeks holiday. The breaking up was two days
early on account of the 2nd ballot (For this election 1 candidate had
to get over 50% of the vote or the top two candidates had to have
another election. Repealed 1913 after 2 by elections were held
under this scheme)

Miss Jensen ceased today to be a member of the staff which has
been reduced to a sole teacher
It deserves notice that her work having been conscientious and
capable has been of both moral and mental value to the children.
She goes as assistant to Manakau

1912
29th January Recomenced school 40/42 present. Miss Jensen is
still on the staff. I have no word from the Board but understand
she was asked to remain on here as the attendance of last quarter
was sufficient to warrant her remaining.
31st January. From Wellington Education Board that Miss Jensen
is to remain here until March 30th
16th March. Two new coconut mats have been procured for the
school porch.
19th March. Received two fire screens
19th March That a petition be sent to Wellington Education Board
in order to try if it would be possible to retain the available teacher
8th June The School Committee meet on 2nd Saturday in the
month provision being made for wet night by meeting on
following Monday
14th August That Mr Lemstedt offer to keep down weeds be
accepted.
4th October The new sewing mistress has been absent twice from
sewing as her mother is too ill to allow her leaving home. (Miss
Anderson who has taken the place of Mrs Jacobson from the first
of the month)
That charge for hall fixed as follows. Meeting 2/6. Short Dance 5/-
Long night dance or social 10/- and all breakages to be replaced
by users. Also that copper and hall be left clean.
That the Board be written to with regards to selecting teachers by
classification.
9th October. Miss Anderson came to take the sewing
11th October. The school will be closed till date the 23rd inst as the
teacher will be away at the Victoria College examinations. The
September term holiday had been postponed till now for that
purpose. The School Committee are fencing off the rough ground
down the gully with the view of getting it eaten down
19th November By arrangement with the School Committee and
with the consent of the Board the school was closed on 8 days to
enable the teacher to attend the N Z U exam for BA degree at
Masterton
In view of these days the Xmas holiday is to be 5 weeks only and
three holidays, Arbor and Labor day and the inspector’s holiday
have been taken.
25th November
Yesterday afternoon Eva Phillipson was in the porch being taught
by Janey Deadman
Janey Deadman made complaint that Eva Phillipson would not
attend
I told Janey Deadman to send her in. The child would not come
I told Janey Deadman to tell her that if she did not come at one I
would give her the stick. About 2 minutes after that I went out.
The child would not take punishment on her hand so I copped her
on the legs with the stick till she held out her hand. I then gave her
one cut with the cane
Mr Phillipson called this morning to complain. There were slight
bruises on one of the child’s legs
I told him I regretted the bruises but under the same circumstances
would do again exactly what I had done as I would not tolerate
disobedience. I also told him that the child was very headless of
what was said to her and this was the cause of her difficulties.
Mr Phillipson made further complaint about the bigger girls
annoying Eva. I have enquired into it. The girls do not admit it.
I have cautioned them not to molest her in anyway and to bring
any real complaints about her to me.
There seems to be feeling on their part as Eva Phillipson has taken
from time to time biscuits and lollies out of their kits
I have twice had to punish her for this
10th December Received from Education Department a parcel of
medical appliances to be kept here pending the arrival of the
Health Officer

1913
19th January School picnic followed by a dance. School was
afterwards scrubbed out
27th January Reopened school Roll 34
2nd March 1913 Mr. F L. Combs, of the Mauriceville West
School, has been advised that he has passed the examination for
the M.A. degree, with first-class honours in history. PP
6th March ½ hour dinner Dismissed at 2pm to permit teacher to play in a cricket match
18th March Rubber stamp ordered for library
31st March That 10/- be the charge for hall hire on election of Harbour Board
11th April. Paid Miss Anderson cheque sent by Board for sewing Instructress’s salary up to December 1912
19th April Ordered library books to the value of £2-12-6 from S and W Mckay
21st April 18 children went on an excursion to the battleship New Zealand
23rd April. Sewing Instructress absent on a visit to Wellington
28th April That a man be engaged to work with teacher to cut out blackberries.
That Messes Lemberg and Nielsen attend to matter of grazing off playground
That teacher be at liberty to sell flower pots
That teacher ascertain of altitude and shadow instruments
1st May Roll 35. Inspectors report included. Mr Stuckey
Full schemes have been prepared in all subjects. They are somewhat too elaborate and this entails an under delegation of junior work to monitors
Buildings in very fair order
Sheds and Offices might be made neater
5th May Procured new football for the boys
7th May Sewing taken in the morning. 42 new books largely selected to suit the lower classes have been added to the library
12th May There has been appreciable increase of interest in the library due mainly to the reading of continuous stories in the school time.
9th June 7 cows have been grazed on the school grounds during the previous 3 weeks with the object of getting the growth eaten down. The manure left by them has been put on the garden
With regard to cleaning of school buildings. It was arranged to draw up a specification of what is required to be done during the year to be signed by the contractor.
The rules of hire to be placed in the hall. Only the building could be hired.
That the cricket club be charged 5/- instead of the usual 10/-
That applications to hire the hall should be made in writing also that the building be kept locked.
Mention was made of broken windows and window glass being required.
That the cricket club be charged 5/- instead of the usual fee of 10/-
13th June Received agricultural chemicals from Wilton and Co by order of the Board
18th June School two days unswept. Am writing a note to the school cleaner
14th July that the chairman interview Mr Erickson re school cleaning
Visiting member suggested that the scrub on back of grounds be felled and burned later in the year.
16th July. Arbor Day Teacher and Committee excavated the embankment behind the school with the object of improving the drainage.
18th July Committee and teacher put 9 loads of gravel round the school
31st July Wrote Secretary re case of glass received without advice from R and E Tingeys. In the afternoon all the children except two were being vaccinated by Doctor Prior on account of smallpox
11th August Only 18 present. Vaccination now in the 11th day has upset many. Claude Pain has something resembling smallpox. Visited his parents and asked them to keep all the children away pending development. Wrote re Claude Pain to the health officer.
10th September. Seeds and manure received from Coopers
12th September. Sowed Broad Beans and Parsnips
17th September. Sowed early rose potatoes, peas, carrots, lettuce
19th September Sowed French Beans and Radishes
2nd October. Ladder made by Mr Clarke for school received
6th October the following recommendations came before the School Committee
   a) The cleaning of playgrounds and paths be attended to at once
   b) That Mr Lahmstadt be approached with regards to clearing of weeds off school grounds grazed by him
8th October. Inspector Stuckley arrived at 11.30 pm The Upper Standards remained until 4.15 pm.
10th October School closed one week. Teacher with consent of School Committee and Board, absent at Victoria College.
22nd October. Planted out lettuce- Not sufficient for row each.
27th October Have spent a week practising all classes in drawing from the object. Work is improving. Today labour Day not taken as a holiday as teacher will be 3 days absent at University Exams
5th November. Teacher absent 2 days to attend BA degrees final exam
1st December It was resolved to call tenders re hay on grounds
That Dance Club be charged
8th December That Mr A E Clarke tender for hay 5/- be accepted
For following dance at closing Mr J Jensen take door and E W Neilsen take charge of sheep guessing

1914
28th January Received copy of new syllabus
13th March F Pain has returned to school after 2 weeks absence- as he is behind with his work ad attendance since the beginning of the year has been very broken I have placed him in Standard 3 rather than Standard 4. His age is 10 years 1 month
18th March. Yesterday was observed as a holiday because of local sports
7th April Will tomorrow begin to use “Dominion” sum books. Miss Anderson the sewing mistress will be away on holiday. The days she is away will be made up by taking two hour lessons in agriculture and sewing on her return. 3 loads of gravel were placed in front of the school. Commenced using 2 cords of rata supplied by Mr Forsberg
16th April 1914 From Our Own Correspondent.
Mauriceville West
The settlers here are endeavouring to get the West road connected with the telephone. The supply of milk and cream is now on the down grade, though the tests on the average arc better and the
supply is above that of last year. Master George Petersen, son of Mr and Mrs J. P. Petersen, who has been laid aside for about a week, is now slightly better. The School Committee will meet on the first Monday in May. The last meeting existing committee Pastor Bach conducted the 11 a.m. and the 7.30 p.m. services on Sunday, which were well attended. On Monday the Bible Class journeyed through from Palmerston North to visit the young folk here, and were well received, returning the same evening after a pleasant day.

Mrs P. E. Mortensen is at present staying with Mrs W. Jcssen, of Wellington.

The Hastwell Band held a successful practice in the old school on Saturday night, under the capable conductorship of Mr E. Larsen. The band has now 18 playing members. PP

28th April Received 1 dozen Fairfax calculators. Model relief map of New Zealand
12th May 1914. At the meeting of householders held on Thursday night, the old order of things was experienced, no one turning up to confer with the old committee, of whom five were present. Finally, the committee was made up as follows: Messrs B. W. Nielsen (chairman), A. B Clarke (secretary), P. E. Matterson, A. Forsberg, A. Milne, C. B. Nielsen and J. Jensen

2nd June School Reopened after 3 weeks vacation 2 weeks being spent in training camp Masterton and one week being term holiday

3rd June Inspectors Report of 15th April Mr Stuckley

The instruction in general is on intelligent lines
A good spirit of work is apparent

A new tank is to be supplied to the residence
The garden has been sown in a winter crop

19th June Teacher (F L Combs) as President Wairarapa NZEI going to Wellington Institute Meeting with the agreement of the School Committee

22nd June 1914 THE COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER
TO THE EDITOR. Sir, Your report, necessarily curtailed, of the meeting of the Wellington District Educational Institute, in the Masonic Hall on the 19th inst., at which the city members and Mr. Robertson, M.P. for Otaki were present, gave an excerpt from, and not a condensation of, my own remarks. As president of the Wairarapa branch and representative of the county teachers, it was my especial duty to voice the claims and disabilities of the country teacher, and the bulk of my speech was addressed to that purpose. The country teacher's demand for a substantial increase of salary, for improvements to his residence, for a glebe adjacent to that residence, were stated, and, what is important, cordially endorsed by a representative gathering of city teachers. Another special claim was also made in my remarks for the married teacher, whether in town or country. It was pointed out that as the "lifer" of the profession it depended on him to give continuity to what is best in the tradition of the Service, while, on the other hand, existing rates of pay made it impossible for a young married man to contemplate permanently remaining in the profession. Finally, all the reforms urged by the speakers of the evening—Dominion classification, a non-attendance basis of payment, the setting up of a council of education, reforms in regard to understaffing were endorsed on behalf of the country Service. As it is material that I
should not seem to have neglected the main purpose for which I was invited to attend the meeting. I trust you will, in justice to myself, be able to insert this letter. I am, etc., F. L. COMBS. Mauriceville West 22nd June. PP

23rd June

In Wellington on Saturday I called on the Clerk of Works who informed me that £1 had been placed on the work list. The School Committee to start straight away

Prince of Wales birthday will not be taken as a holiday

29th June

That tenders be called for cleaning of school and outhouses combined

That Mr Milne be appointed to inspect drain at Mr Comb’s residence

The promise of a donation from the Forester’s Lodge was thankfully received.

6th July. School closed Thursday 1st July in the afternoon to permit teacher to go the funeral of Mrs Forsberg

15th July. A week ago the cleaner accidentally broke a window

29th July Copy of wire (Telegram) from Secretary of Wellington Education Board re application for Gladstone School (I had wired asking that application be withdrawn as the school was said to going down in numbers.

Board in special circumstances assent your condition transfer especially provided that it does not create a precedent. Board consider that possibly there may not be for some time another vacancy in school same grade. Think very unlikely school will shrink this year. Do you agree to accept transfer if committee accept.

Stewart Secretary

Education Board

I replied accepting

14th August Two galvanised iron square tanks arrived. One to be placed down at the school and the other by the residence

On Monday 17th Inst a Miss Lund a primary teacher from Pennsylvania visited the school

1st A week ago a list for ambulance fund as per circular suggestion of Department was opened. Practically all the children subscribed Total 19/1 Received

15th September Children absent in afternoon at funeral of their school mate Alice Mattson

1914/5120 Mattson Alice Rachel 11Y

30th October ½ dinner Left at 2.15 pm to catch the mail

2nd November Miss Armstrong took charge for a fortnight. F L Combs occupied with work for honours and attendance at Honours Exam at Masterton

6th November 1914 Miss Armstrong, of Wellington, is at present doing relieving duty at the Mauriceville West School PP

16th November Resumed duties School closed for tomorrow. Teacher absent in Masterton sitting Paper E Honours in History. Holiday taken in lieu of Dominion Day

2nd December Mr G R Sykes MP paid a visit to the school and addressed the children on the value of steady application, affinity of purpose and worthy ambitions

7th December. That the sum of £ 3-10-0 be spent on toys. That the Chairman and Mr Combs be appointed to select toys
Decided to have sheep guessing on picnic day. Mr Mortensen to bring sheep
Secretary to get band to play.
That an American Broom be procured

10th December. School closed General Election

1915
10th March The Pain Children are away with the Chicken Pox
22nd March On Saturday I had a complaint from Mr A E Clarke re nits in his girl Emma’s hair. Today I spoke to the girls alone and told them to get their mothers to examine their heads and if necessary to use preventatives such as Kerosene or Dip
23rd March 11 girls present all had their heads examined and are free from nits
29th March
Inspector Bakewell paid the school a visit
Spelling from the test for Standard 2,3 4
Concentrating History and Geography on the present war

Commencing from the war against Louis XIV
3rd April The piano be tuned.
7th April Mr Bligh a Purity Lecturer called at the school. As he had a letter of his work from Hon J Allan Minister of Education. I acceded to his request to address the children for 35 minutes
29th April Visit from Mr Direen, Truant Inspector
3rd May Mr Combs brought up the question of laying a tennis court. Mr Combs to find out more about it.
24th May Piano Tuner called- had just the piano tuned-suggested Piano should be placed on insulators. A piece of wood to be put on soft pedal to block mice. Showed me rubbish he had taken out of piano viz tobacco tin, candle.
15th June Funeral of Mrs Erikson her child and grandchildren are absent this week. Few children here in afternoon. Closed school 2 pm and attended funeral
14th August That Social to be preceded by a lecture by Mr Combs on the war, for 1 hour be held on the 2nd September.
The Secretary explained that the best arrangements re cleaning of school were sweeping alternate days, scrubbing one room quarterly and twice a year
15th August Present at School Committee meeting. Resolved to have the dance preceded by lecture by teacher in aid of school funds.
Brought up the matter of cleaning before School Committee On expiry of previous cleaners year, tenders were called without response. Cleaning was then carried out pro term at old rate (£8 pound per annum and £2 for WC’s)
Arrangements being made to have school swept three times per week. And scrubbed quarterly. I told School Committee this was not sufficient. A meeting of householders is therefore to be held to discuss ways a means of having school thoroughly cleaned

27th August The School Committee elected last April have resigned. A difficulty being experienced in getting any one to tender for the cleaning of the school at a sufficiently low figure and only 2 parents attending the meeting held to discuss the general position of the Committee it was felt they were not receiving the support they should. 3 present being unmarried men were dissatisfied that parents should leave the onus of School Committee work so much to them and at the same time show no appreciation of what the committee was doing.

I have arranged with the older pupils 2 at a time and per fortnight to sweep out the school nightly. The School Committee will pay out 4/- per fortnight for the work and make separate arrangements for the cleaning

2nd September Procured at own cost Materials 5/- to water floor with. Sheep dip will be added to the water 3 days a week

3rd September. Last Night to an audience of about 50 The teacher gave a lecture on “The Present War” – A dance to follow

14th September On Friday 10th Inst there was a meeting of the ex committee present. Messers A Forsberg, A E Clarke, P Mortensen, B Neilsen. The cash in hand £5-0-8 and books of the School Committee were handed over to Mr F L Combs teacher. Mr A Forsberg ex secretary was to ring Mr L P Larsen regarding the formation of a new committee.

17th September. Methven Copper and Stand received from Coller and Co for use at the residence (12 gallons)

22nd September On Sunday a painter Mr Clayton called to see painting specifications, another called today

In the afternoon Mr Cairns, health officer for this district called at the school. Mr Clark ex chairman had communicated with the Board’s Secretary re the uncleanness of the Pain children. He had also mentioned a danger of another outbreak of Diphtheria in the school The previous outbreak (May 12th 1912) did not originate in the school. Owing to no doctor being summoned to cases in the home till they had become critical the complaint was not diagnosed till the injection had been brought here.

The school is well sanitised and satisfactorily cleaned. There is little likelihood of the diphtheria germs breeding. I told inspector Cairns so he called at Mrs Pain’s to tell her the children must be kept cleaner. The home however is inveterately dirty and untidy and there does not seem to me much prospect of a permanent improvement. Both the girls in attendance. I noticed this morning had had their hair cut short

14th October Received on 11th 8lbs plasticene from Smith and Smith

20th October A kind of whooping cough is prevalent and is impairing the attendance- two of my own children have it

1st November Mr Clark brought up from the station School four sheets of hydroplate (Blackboard) Have commenced using these for free arm drawing

1st December Yesterday I examined Martha and Cecil More (Standard 4 and standard 3) respectively. They came from
Taumaranui and had missed the annual examination. Both seemed to me to be qualified for a pass. I sent their marks onto Mr Stuckey.
The school roll is now 37. There are 6 children under age in attendance and the prospect of 30 or more after the Xmas vacation. 7th December Found a cheque for £1-0-0 captitation on purchase of library books sent me by Mr Clarke or put away in the wrong drawer, credited it to School Committee Account.

1916
25th January 1916 DISTRICT NEWS.
Mauriceville West
[From Our Own Correspondent.]
A good rain has fallen for about 24 hours, filling tanks, making the streams flow and refreshing the fields to a good extent. There is some talk of endeavouring to establish a first aid class here. Such a class has been found valuable in towns where a doctor is within easy reach. Why not even more valuable in the country? Harvesting of oat crops has been commenced, and will be general within a week. Although there is not nearly the usual quantity in this season, the crops are good.
The School picnic, is to be held next Thursday, in the school grounds. This annual affair is much looked for by the children.
I regret to state that Mr F. L. Combs was on Saturday called to the bedside of his mother, who is lying dangerously ill. PP
1st February Resumed duty today. During the holidays residence, School and Outbuildings have been repainted. The old school also received one coat. I have received no notice of my transfer to Fernridge
9th February On the night of the 7th there was a committee meeting. The teacher was deputed to pays accounts outstanding.
11th February A little boy Dowell Ratcliffe has been to school this week. He seemed quite imbecile followed his sister about like a dog and frequently started crying. As he disturbed the work and nothing could be done with him I told her sister to leave him at home in future.
15th February Four little boys below school age (5) are attending school. The object is two fold
To have them commence work at the beginning of the school year
To get them into a habit of regular attendance before they go on the roll
17th February School closed as usual for Masterton Show to which a few of the children went as did the teacher
23rd February Girls doing sweeping by my permission procured a new broom to be charged to committee’s account
25th February.
To my successor
Dear Sir and Madam
Followed a letter detailing children and their progress
2nd March Tomorrow by request of the patriotic Committee and with the concurrence of the School Committee the children will have a holiday in the afternoon. The object being given to the returned troopers on leave in the school ground
4th March Mr Nelson called. I showed him over the school and through the books
Received wire to report to Featherston Military Camp re my discharge
8th March Authorities unable to trace my papers so was ordered to return on the 18th inst, when discharge would be given
9th March Opened School
17th March Closed school at 2.00 to enable me to catch express on the 18th to Trentham
20th March Owing to papers still being astray I did not get my discharge until 10.00 this morning. Advised chairman of unavoidable absence
22nd March Ordered beading for hydroplate now lying in school.
Distributed old readers to school children, These were not used and were a source of untidiness
Several cases of gastroenteritis have occurred
25th March Reported presence of noxious weeds on school ground to School Committee The hedges adjacent to the house are in bad order. The drains are choked up. One tank is leaking. The fences are broken down. Two windows are broken
1st April Fixed hydroplate on school wall and changed desks into NW room.
7th April Cyclonic weather. 2.00 Day. 15 minutes lunch only.
9th April Ordered sawdust for use when sweeping school.
13th April School closed after fumigation (Infantile Paralysis)
14th April School closed on account of infantile paralysis
17th April That the Secretary arrange for thorough cleaning of school rooms, wall included, before the reopening of the school on May 1st on account of outbreak of infantile paralysis in the district.

8th May That we write to Wellington Education Board re window blinds
That the Old School building be locked and permission to hire building be obtained from School Committee
That a short night be up to 12.00 and a long night 2.00

1916/4475 Wilcox Wilfred Theodore 34Y
1st June The late teacher Mr Wilcox died in Masterton on Tuesday 6th June and I took charge as relieving teacher on Tuesday 13th June 1916

THE INQUEST.
8th June An inquest touching the death of Wilfred Theodore Wilcox was held at the Masterton Courthouse this morning before Mr E. Eton, Acting-Coroner, and a jury of six, consisting of Messrs Eli Smith (foreman), Richard Kibblewhite, George Phillips, James Petrie, Henry Laidlaw, and George Sladden.

Dr Maunsell said that on June 6th deceased called on him at 7.30 a.m. and was treated for an internal stoppage which had caused him pain during the night. Witness prescribed for deceased, and advised him to remain in town. Witness called to see deceased at the Empire Hotel about 9.30 p.m. Deceased said he had had an easy day. He was in a very depressed condition. He said he had suffered from kidney trouble for ten years, and remarked that he was tired of his life. He had passed the doctors in Auckland to go into camp, but while in camp the authorities found out about his kidney troubles’ and discharged him. He was very downcast about this. Dr Maunsell suggested that some treatment might be undergone for the kidney trouble, but deceased did not seem inclined to undergo any treatment. The following morning, at
20.30 a.m., witness was called to the hotel, where he found the patient dead. He was in bed in the same position as the night previous. Deceased had probably passed away while he was asleep. The complaint from which deceased was suffering was a very painful one, and would, have an effect of shock to the system.

Replying to the foreman of the jury, Dr Maunsell said it would be possible for deceased to have taken a drug that would cause death, as in the bad state of deceased's kidneys a very small dose of morphine would cause death.

Alfred Forsberg, farmer, of Mauriceville West, said that at on Tuesday morning deceased hailed and requested witness to take him to Masterton to a doctor. Deceased was in great pain. Witness saw deceased at the Empire Hotel twice the same day, when he said that the pain had left him very weak. Deceased said, "I haven't made a will, but look after my affairs.

Mrs R. Smith, proprietor of the Empire Hotel, said that about 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening she gave deceased a dose of medicine out of the bottle prescribed by Dr Maunsell. Next morning witness saw deceased lying in bed, and she thought he was sleeping. As he was still sleeping some time later, witness remarked to her daughter, "My word, that young fellow is sleeping. I wonder if I ought to wake him, so that he can have something to eat. Witness went back again and placed her hand on his forehead, and found he was dead. The doctor was then telephoned for.

To the Foreman: There was every appearance that deceased passed away in his sleep.

Sergeant Miller said that the body of deceased was lying in a natural sleeping position. There was no sign of any poisonous drug in the room. In deceased's clothing was found a discharge from the expeditionary forces as medically unfit. The discharge showed deceased to be 34 years of age.

A verdict was returned, in accordance with the medical evidence, that deceased's death was from natural causes, hastened by shock. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon, at 3.30 o'clock.

PP
26th June Mr. W. Wilcox sole teacher, Mauriceville West

Resignation PP

S Isabel Cameron
Organised insect hunts have proved very satisfactory and a few specimens of walking sticks and wetas have been preserved
The main subjects have been taken by me, special attention being paid to Arithmetic and English
My duties end on 31st July when I leave to take up permanent work in the Beramphore School Wellington
18th July Mauriceville West, -sole Teacher Mrs. A. Engstrom PP
1st August Mrs Engstrom began duties. Very wintery day. Attendance 27
3rd August Very cold snowy day at below half. Roof of my room leaks. And upper sash of Northern Window cannot be closed and much rain comes in through opening
7th August A new range brought for the residence last week
8th August Fine day attendance 37.
9th August. Telegram received from Board’s Secretary re stove.
10th August School was not swept as the 2 girls (Anderson) had to attend a funeral. I shall be very glad when the new range is fixed as far from satisfactory.

19th August During the meeting Mrs Engstrom the teacher attended and asked to fix drain at the residence, repair the sink etc, and procuring window blinds and that the Secretary write to Wellington Education Board re same. Before the end of the meeting the chairman spoke a few words of welcome to Mrs Engstrom who suitably replied.

21st August Unusually stormy day. During night (Sunday) schoolroom flooded and many school requisites spoiled, by water. Only 6 children at school. On Saturday the new range was put in the residence by Mr Rasmussen and is a decided comfort after the old stove.

23rd August Messers Clarke and Neilsen repaired residence drains and attached rope to school bell.

29th August received from Board memorandum warmly thanking all who rendered assistance in the efforts for the Relief of Belgian Children. The undertaking was crowned with a success quite beyond anticipation.

6th October Fred Pain who attends the Mauriceville East school called to speak to the boys in connection with the scout movement.

21st October That a new football bladder be purchased.

12th December Inspectors Report 12th October

Mr Stuckey
Teacher Mrs Engstrom Roll 33

Mrs Engstrom has recently taken charge. The work on the whole is only fair The owing partly to changes in teachers, partly to sickness. I classified the pupils for the coming year.

1917

13th January That Secretary was authorised to write thanking Mr Rayner for kindly donating a ham for the picnic. The tuning of the piano was also discussed when the meeting considered that it was necessary that the instrument be attended to.
Teacher Mrs E Engstrom

1945/31328 Engstrom Ellen Mabel 62Y

27th February School resumed Attendance 35

8th March From Whitcombe and Tombs, 3 boxes beads, assorted colours, 500 sheets coloured papers 4 inch x 4 inch 6 lbs plasticene grey

28th March. Standards 3 to 6 the local dairy factory (butter) and were shown around by the manager Mr Smith

31st March That the Chairman and Secretary meet on school grounds on Wednesday 4th April to do necessary repairs to windows, doors etc.

Mrs Engstrom attended the meeting and various items of interest to the school were discussed.

24th April Received a thermometer and one pound of Mercury from William and Co Chemists, Wellington
2nd May Wrote to Wellington Education Board re the non arrival of kindergarten sticks which should have arrived in parcel on 8th March.
11th May. Teacher ill having severely scalded one of her arms. Went to town in morning to seek medical advice. School held in afternoon
5th June. School resumed. Larrikins broke into school during vacation and interfered with things generally. Reported matter to School Committee who intend to see about it
1st May Inspectors Report included Mr Stuckey
   a) Roll 40 present 37
   b) The numbers are high for a sole charge school
   c) State of buildings very fair. The outside offices require some attention to put them in good order
   d) The rooms are fairly clean but somewhat untidy. The latrines require attention. A school of this size should be provided with a proper urinal.
14th June 1917 Mauriceville West
The ladies working here in connection with the Red Cross shop are meeting with great success. The sad news of the death in action of Private A. McPeak, which came to hand last week, cast a gloom over the district.
The School was entered by a number of hodlums (sic) during the winter holidays, but no great damage is reported. I understand that the Board is to be acquainted with the matter, when action I will no doubt be taken. PP
18th June Teacher and a few scholars work 1 hour daily before school at special work for Mauriceville Day at the Patriotic Shop in Masterton. Our sale is on July 7th so we have cancelled our normal Friday afternoon patriotic sewing in order to get as much time as possible for the new work.
21st June. Clerk of works inspected school buildings and authorised me to instruct School Committee that the Wellington Education Board would supply material for sink and repairs to kitchen roof
6th July Sent away two large parcels to be sold at the Red Cross Shop tomorrow, Saturday. Teacher gave 6 prizes to encourage scholars
9th August, Received one bundle of plastcine sticks (36)
18th August. Received one box of cardboard coins
22nd August Received word from School Committee to the effect that they are in favour of the school being closed an extra week this term as the teacher wishes to attend the Spring School in Masterton
18th September. During the holidays someone’s cattle have been in the garden and eaten all the children’s vegetables
2nd October Held examinations in English and Mental. Papers set by Inspector Stuckey
18th October Successful patriotic concert in aid of wounded soldiers. School Children took part in several items
22nd October. Teacher still extremely weak but in view of the approaching examinations is endeavouring to carry on the work of the school Till Christmas when she to have well earned rest before beginning again next year.
23rd October. The work of erecting a rabbit proof fence round five of the garden plots has been going in apace during the last weeks
and now that cyclone conditions appear to be abating the enclosure should soon be completed

25th October Mr Butler, attendance officer visited the school and impressed upon the children the necessity of regular attendance. He took the names of several who had not been attending as they should.

3rd October. Inspector’s holiday. Teacher asked all scholars to a birthday party

9th November. School closed instead of Labour Day. Teacher accompanied candidates to Proficiency Exam at Mauriceville East

8th December. Received memorandum from Agriculture Department requesting me to ask the children to inform their parents of the necessity of apiary registration

Roll 42

14th December Received from Sir Joseph Ward a supply of small folders on each of which the price of a War Loan Certificate may be saved in stamps. I have supplied the object to my scholars who seem to realise its good

1918

23rd January 1918 Mrs Engstrom resigned

26th January At it recent meeting the Wellington Education Board accepted my resignation which takes effect on 31st January

28th January Mr W B Black. Arrived here at 4pm and spent the time between this date and 5th February in arranging school presses, records etc

5th February School reopened Mrs McKenzie, temporary assistant arriving

19th March. Dense darkness from 5.30 a.m. owing to bush fires (and wind direction) at or near Ohakune. At 9.00 it was so great that reading was impossible in the rooms. Decided to dismiss the children for the entire day accordingly did so at 9.20 a.m. Darkness continued during all school hours

9th April 32/47 attendance. Outbreak of Diphtheria (31st March 1918) 2 of Johansen’s children having been taken to Masterton Hospital.

Picnic arranged for Easter Monday had to be postponed

11th April Very Wet Day Continuous School from 9 am to 2 pm with necessary 5 minute rests

At 2.00 had eye test for senior school

Picnic committee met and decided to hold it on Anzac day

15th April Was presented this morning by senior pupils with a chair and address intimating that it was my private property and hoping that I would long occupy it in Mauriceville. I was much pleased with this thoughtful act.. Filled in yearly entries in register which is wanting in many entries. Continued lopping of lower branches in avenue.

17th Extract from report on physical Education “Satisfactory” More attention to deportment, marching in upper standards

18th April Chairman distributed good attendance certificates to Cecil Moore, Vera, Eric and Wilfred Anderson, Norman Hood, Anna Engstrom. He gave children good advice re attendance
22\textsuperscript{nd} April Householders Meeting at 8.00. New Committee. C B Nielsen (Chairman), L P Larsen, A A Harris, E Frew, C Andersen. Mr Black (Self) was appointed Secretary

29\textsuperscript{th} April Picnic, concert and dance held today £8.00 realised for school funds

4\textsuperscript{th} April That the outhouses be cleared once a fortnight. The Headmaster (Mr W Black) was authorised to get the spouting of the school cleared. And the culvert at side of road leading to school fixed.

That a mimeograph (Printing machine before the Banda spirit duplicator) be purchased by Mr Black for a sum of £3-10

That an association football (Soccer football), tennis set and 2 racquets be purchased for use of school children in their games.

3\textsuperscript{rd} June. King’s birthday holiday.

13\textsuperscript{th} June Horace Frew and Cecil Harris (For wilful and malicious damage to small foot bridge over drain at side of path near turnstile) were warned that the next offense would entail corporal punishment.

22\textsuperscript{nd} July. Severe snowstorm. Average depth of snow 7 inches. School closed.

20\textsuperscript{th} August Inspectors report included

a) Mr Black’s class 18 Standard 3 to 6
b) Mrs N McKenzie 29 Standard 2 to primers
c) The quality of instruction is satisfactory
d) The grounds have been improved since Mr Black took charge.

7\textsuperscript{th} September. That 2 bracket lamps and wicks be provided by for the hall.

The Chairman was to see to the leak in the hall roof and report.

The Secretary brought forward the fact that a pupil in Standard 1 had been absent from school owing to attendance at a wedding, she being no relative of the parties concerned and the School Committee upheld the Headmaster’s actions.

The matter of the tennis court was then taken up and discussed.

The Secretary was instructed to obtain ½ ton Lime from the Mauriceville Lime Co. He was also instructed to ask Mr Lthemskedt to cart it gratis. He was also asked to procure 1 bag Waignawa Grass Manual 140lbs 2lbs para (Poa Potensis (?)) 2lbs Gester Dogtail 5lbs Italian Rye and 5lbs English Rye from the WFCA.

5\textsuperscript{th} October. Re the Old Hall. The clogging of the spouting was the problem. It is cleared.

That thanks be recorded to the following gentlemen who had gratuitously in the construction of the bowling green. Messrs Dryden, WFCA and Mr Lthemskedt.
The payment of 5/- out of Wellington Education Board funds for accidental breakage of measuring glass by pupil while dusting was authorised.
The Secretary referred to the urgent necessity for a cleanliness inspection and after considerable discussion it was approved by meeting.
The Chairman referred to the matter of drinking fountains and although it was agreed it was the proper idea, yet it was not feasible in the circumstances.
The drain from the school basin was referred to and it was decided that it be carried on line as before but with larger pipes.
That where possible concerts should be opened with, “God Save the King”
The purchase of a lawn mower was left in the hands of Mr Harris.
William Beech, Secretary

8th November All schools closed on and from Monday 11th November until further order owing to outbreak of influenza over Dominion

14th December It was arranged that the monthly meeting be held in future on the 2nd Saturday in each month
It was decided that the School Committee should devote an evening or two to clearing up the timber already felled
That the subscription for tennis club should be 5/- for gentlemen and 2/6 for ladies.
That Mr Smyth was authorised to complete purchase of net, 2 racquets and ½ dozen balls
Mr Smyth donated £1 to the tennis court for which he was accorded the thanks of the School Committee

The Secretary was authorised to write to the Wellington Education Board re Honour Board to contain 60 names

1919
13th January The Secretary was to apply to the Wellington Education Board for an “Honours” board to be fixed in school hall
The school picnic was then discussed. The Secretary was instructed to make application to Mr B Rayner Carterton for a ham
Vera Anderson and Maggie Lemberg were named as collectors-the lists to be out by Wednesday next.
The order of Wilson’s Bakery to be 13 large sandwich loaves and 6 gross assorted cakes. Mattson’s Order 2 lbs tea. ½ lb mustard 10lbs sugar. The Secretary suggested the Dairy Co be asked for the butter, 8lbs to be donated. It was decided that prizes be money given out on the grounds. A scale of charges was arranged as follows.
Tea (6.00) 1/-
Children not on school roll 6d
Dance (Non Subscribers) 2/-
That Mr Black to be entitled to the use of the wood cut by C Pedersen as long as it lasted.
The chairman was authorised to purchase 2 additional racquets for school use.
25th January This meeting discussed picnic affairs.. The following appointments were made
a) Catering Mr Harris
b) Sports Messers Smyth and Black
c) Lawn Tennis Mr C Anderson  
d) Handicapping Mr Frew  
e) Door (Dance) Mr Larsen

The Secretary reported that his request for a donated ham was successful.

4th February Opened school until 3 pm

8th February It was decided to purchase 2 additional racquets for children’s use.

The question of keeping the Tennis Club accounts separate was discussed. It was decided against such for the present system.

Mr Larsen reported that Mr L A Schow had promised a donation of £100 (One hundred pounds sterling) towards the construction of a school swimming baths

Mr L A Schow was a Danish poet living in Mauriceville district. Designed his own tombstone.

After unanimously passing a vote of thanks it was proposed to write to the Wellington Education Board re services of an expert (Re baths)

That the committee pay from private account a sum of 5/- of the cost of clearing tree from the path to Graveyard, at the back of the school site.

The headmaster empowered to obtain a plug and chain for wash hand basin. He was also empowered to act immediately in case of minor repairs which might be urgently needed.

20th February On investigation I found that 36% of the Roll Number attended Masterton Show.

Had the weather been better this percentage would have been greater.

8th March That the Secretary be instructed to write to Mr Clarke re old minute books and any other books held by him.

Arrangements for a 2nd tennis Tournament were left in the hands of Messers Smyth, Harris and Frew.

The Secretary was instructed to procure ½ dozen Slazenger’s Tennis Balls for use at the tournament.

14th March Acting under Section 55 of Education Act Page 24 I was compelled today to forbid the attendance today of Clara and Selina Pain for 1 week terminating Friday 2nd inst owing to the lack of cleanliness.

26th March. Received 2 dozen shoe knives for cardboard cutting.

10th April Closed owing to liquor referendum.

12th April The Secretary had received old Minute Book from Mr Clarke. This was all he had.

That the matter of additions to Old Hall be left in abeyance.

That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr and Mrs Clarke on offer of trophies for 2nd Tennis Tournament.

Re hot lunches for School Children. After discussion that these were neither suitable nor desirable in the case of Mauriceville West School.

Mr J P Larsen handed over £100 from Mr Schow for “baths” scheme.

That a Post Office Savings Book be opened for Baths Fund.

That the money should only be used for baths and was to be returned in case of the plan falling through.

That the members of the Lawn Tennis Club have the use of the court on schooldays from 3 pm., on Saturdays and Sundays from
1.30 pm (Except in case of a Sunday afternoon service in the church or old hall)
5th May John Dooley was warned that any further case of disobedience would result in severe corporal punishment 
10th May Mr Black still Secretary of School Committee.
New cups had been obtained for the hall
The Baths scheme was discussed and Fernridge School Baths reported on by chairman and Secretary who had paid a visit.
That the Secretary write to F W Kummer ESQ. Asking him to donate a sufficient number of old bricks out of a chimney from the Old House to brick in a copper in present in the old hall
18th May Mr Powell, clerk of works Wellington Education Board and School Committee looked at site for swimming pond
6th May. Two strokes to Eric Anderson. On shoulders for disobedience
9th June School site and proposed swimming site
   a) The present site is situated on the side of a hill with an area of about 5 acres
   b) There is little suitable for playing games
   c) The School Committee have excavated a tennis court out of the best part of the site
   d) The School Committee want to claim another 7 acres
   e) This will give level area for football and cricket games
   f) Will give access to the creek for a swimming pool
   g) There appears to be no title for this land
   h) The lease expires in November next then this land will need to be used.
14th June The Secretary was instructed to write to Wellington Education Board asking them to undertake the completion of Baths schemes as the money and ground had been provided. The Secretary was instructed to point out the urgency of the work and ask for an early reply
He was also write to Mr Kummer thanking him for donation of bricks
The chairman reported re an application from Miss A Neilsen for the purposes of a dancing class.
That the charge per night till 11.30 pm be 8/-
The Secretary was instructed to call a meeting of residents for the 21st Inst to consider the matter
That the Secretary write to Messers Daniells, Masterton asking for sketches and cost of Honour Board for School.
12th July. The Department could not subsidise the baths. The Post Office saving bank book had been returned and handed to the chairman.
18th July Read “Peace” Proclamation to assembled children
21st July Children’s day as Peace Celebrations in holiday
Inspectors report Mr Stuckey included
The present Headmaster has made considerable improvement in the Physical environment of the school Overgrown hedges have been trimmed, trees removed where necessary, ground is cleared and a tennis court made. The latrines have been remodelled.
9th August An application for grazing for one horse by Mr Johansen was left in the hands of the Headmaster.
The position of extending playground and of swimming baths was fully discussed.
A deputation consisting of Messrs E W Larsen, Johansen and Marius Neilsen was then received: Subject being repairs to the old school building. The Secretary was instructed to call a meeting of the public for Thursday next to consider the matter.
The Secretary to write to Secretary of Wellington Education Board asking him when he would probably be in Masterton.
It was passed that the necessary metalling for school be carried out by Mr Harris’s boys
That the School Committee thanks the chairman for his generosity and kindness in conveying by motor to and from Masterton Mr Hogg (Wellington Education Board Member and MHR) on his recent visit to the school in connection with the Baths and Schemes
The Secretary read the resignation of Mr Hans Neilsen (Re out offices removal) and the matter was left in the Secretary’s hands to see if any of the older pupils would undertake the work.
13th September That the School Committee are in accord with the objects of the lecture “The War on the Western Front” proposed to be given in Masterton. But the lack of railways and facilities will prevent children attending as suggested.
4th October Special Meeting The question of Liquor in the Playground on occasion of Returned Soldiers Reunion Picnic.
After a long discussion and after reviewing the matter from all standpoints it was moved by E Frew that Liquor be stored and Distributed from Boy’s Shed in school ground
10th October 1919 West Mauriceville

A RED-LETTER DAY.
WELCOME HOME TO SOLDIERS,
(Special to Daily Times. Thursday, October 9th, will be a red letter day in the history of this settlement. A welcome home to returned soldiers had been arranged and the heartiness of the whole proceedings showed that the residents were proud of their sons who had acquitted themselves so well in the great war. Old settlers were present with their memories of their own early battles with difficulties experienced in carving out homesteads in the virgin bush; of bush tracks through which men, women and children carried food supplies; then of the formed road, and the advent of the metal cart. The district is now cleared of bush. A dairy factory has long since become the daily meeting centre. The school house and the church on the hill are each well cared for, telling of kindly social life. Yesterday it was claimed that some 49 boys who had attended the local school had gone to the war, that some 29 actual residents had gone, 21 had returned and seven would never return. Yesterday's function took the form of sports in the school grounds, refreshments for all in the school hall, and a dance at night. In the afternoon a formal welcome was tendered to the returned men by the chairman and secretary, and Mr C. E. Daniell, of Masterton. Apologies were received from Messrs Sykes, M.P., A. W. Hogg, and Brigadier-General Hart. On reference being made to those men who would never return, the assemblage of men reverently removed their hats as a token of respect. PP
8th November That a cricket set be purchased for the school
Re photograph of returned soldiers it was agreed to hang photos in the school
It was suggested that the photograph be made complete by adding thereto photos of those not included – especially those who had made the supreme sacrifice
That recent improvements to hall be given one or more coat of paint
19th November School not reopened in afternoon owing to funeral of Lars Mattson JP storekeeper, Postmaster etc etc. Whose death was universally mourned- closing order by authority of School Committee.
6th December That the sum of £5.00 be taken from private funds to be used for school library funds
That the rights for the headmaster to a residence garden would not be interfered with in the contemplated changes to school grounds.
It was decided to finish the tennis tournament for the Clarke Trophy as soon as possible
That the piano be overhauled thoroughly

1920
17th January The Secretary (Teacher) reported on the purchase of £5-0-0 of book for library and showed his selection. He also reported on the Clarke Trophy Tennis Tournament the winner Miss A Harris and Mr H Amundsen having been given vouchers for prizes presented by Mr and Mrs Clarke
The matter of cleaning the school grounds of weeds was left in the hands of Mr Harris

The Secretary was instructed to write to Wellington Education Board re swimming baths and grounds as committee are anxious to know how matters stand
28th January Re the picnic
Dinner 12.00 to 1.30
Tea (for milkers) 3-4
Tea 5-7 and the Secretary be instructed to put up notices to this effect
Charges were 1/- non subscribers adults. 6d For children
Dance non subscribers 2/6
14th February The matter of burning out if possible the cut stuff etc but it was agreed that no action for the present be taken..
19th February Reopened school After holidays and Influenza Outbreak. 32 in attendance. 9 away with flu
8th March School
No of children who left in 1918

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<th>Those who passed Standard 6</th>
<th>Those did not pass Standard 6 But reached 14 years of age</th>
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<td>Boys</td>
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9th March. Having received word from the Department that I would probably be appointed to a Post Directly under the Department I have considered it advisable to plan my work so that the important subjects Reading, Arithmetic and English generally receive most attention so that my successor may have the groundwork in a satisfactory condition
8th March (Date order as in log) Mrs Dryden having received a wire from Wellington Education Board asking her to transfer immediately to Makuri, left here today at 12.00 and Mrs Black took her place as from that time until further notice.

15th March Miss M Hardie commenced duty today as relieving assistant vice Mrs Dryden’s transferred to Makuri.

20th March The committee agreed to assist the Headmaster in his request to the Wellington Education Board for remuneration of Mrs Black who acted as assistant for a week after Mrs Dryden had been transferred to Makuri.

Mr Black reported on his appointment to a school in Hawkes Bay. The question of his successor being a married man was then discussed but as Mr Black’s resignation could not be posted to the Wellington Education Board until his new appointment was ratified by the Public Service Commissioner, action was withheld.

Mr Black asked for a recommendation by the School Committee. That the matter be left in the hands of the chairman and Mr Smythe.

That 2 new bats be purchased for use of school boys

1st April My position here is now vacant Mr Reader takes over duties on Wed 7th.

7th April G H Reader Took up position as Head teacher (Temporary)

I am unable to find the weekly work book and scheme of work. There is no copy of the amended syllabus in the school.

19th April I have had occasion to punish Allen Larsen and Jack Martin for swearing on their way home from school. The words used were heard by three of the girl pupils.

27th April That the correspondence received from the Secretary Wellington Education Board re appointment of Mr R H Tregurtha as Headmaster and Miss J M Miller as assistant teacher was agreed to.

28th April That Mr Smith act as Secretary pro-tempem until the Headmaster Mr Tregurtha arrives when the School Committee would endeavour to secure his services as Secretary.

Mr Reader brought up the question of brushing the school for past month. The chairman paid over 10/- to Mr Reader to pay the two boys E and W Anderson.

A discussion on the reception by School Children to the Prince of Wales in Masterton. It was resolved to appoint Mr Trass to make final arrangements in conjunction with Mr Reader and Miss McHardy.

14th May. All records and workbook posted to date and in order G H Reader.

4th June. R H Tregurtha Head Teacher.

Took up my duties and reopened school on Tuesday 1st. I find the school in a rather backward state several of the subjects having apparently been more or less neglected Arithmetic and formal English are weak, History, Geography and Science particularly so. I find it necessary to make practically a fresh start in some of these subjects and am planning my work accordingly. There are no schemes of work or workbooks in the school and I have no record of work covered previously to my taking charge, with the exception of those kept by Mr Reader.

Miss Millar assistant teacher also commenced on the 1st.
The three Clarke children have left the school and Annie and Frank Tregurtha have been admitted.

5th June That Mr Tregurtha be appointed Secretary and Treasurer. That the Secretary forward to the Wellington Education Board the number of children attended at Masterton on the occasion of the Prince Of Wale’s visit for the purpose of a refund on meals.

11th June received weekly work books (2)

I have found it necessary to administer corporal punishment to two girls and four boys for misbehaviour in school

18th June. The discipline in the school is showing a decided improvement. Norman Hood has been absent owing to a poisonous hand.

25th June A start has been made in the trimming of trees and shrubs in the school grounds, some of which had been badly neglected. Some of the big boys had been breaking pickets off the entrance gates, after being cautioned. I informed that any further damage would result in some action being taken by the School Committee. So far the threat has had desirable effect.

2nd July The School Committee has been promised to repair the turnstile at the front gate. I have also spoken regarding the matter of the topping the pine trees in front of the school and putting the tennis court in order. Three broken panes of glass in the school are to be repaired. The roof of the residence leaks badly in two places and some of the fireplaces need attention.

3rd July To consider notice from Mr Schow demanding that the sum of £100 held in trust for the purpose of constructing a swimming bath be returned to him plus interest in accordance with the agreement. The time stated having expired. The money was to be returned.

Copy of Letter

In accordance with my agreement re £100 held in trust by your committee for the erection of a swimming bath as the time has now expired according to our agreement I now demand the said £100 from your trustees plus interest

I am an old man 84 years of age and should you in the immediate future decide to go on with the work I will consider renewing the agreement.

(Mr Schow died in 1920)

9th July Three Roigard children and Gladys Radcliffe have gone to live in Mauriceville East and their names have been removed from the roll.

23rd July Received a supply of paper for paper folding.

30th July Norman Hood has been causing a good deal of trouble in the school in the last two months by his misbehaviour. On Wednesday during drill he answered me back in an insolent manner and I sent him home. During the dinner hour I called on his mother explained the circumstances and told her that the boy could come back to school if he would promise to behave decently. She replied that she had intended taking him away in a month’s time in any case and that she did not think she would send him back to school. The age of the boy is given in the register as 13 years 10 months, but his mother states that in reality the boy is 12 months older.
6th August Gladys Radcliffe and the 3 Roigard children are attending Mauriceville East School this week. They may return to this school next week.

Last Friday Eric Anderson played truant. I wrote to his parents and understand he was punished for his offense.

13th The children mentioned on the 6th will not be returning to this school. The roll is 32, but I understand 2 or 3 new families will be settling in the district shortly.

7th August Received a package containing 3 shrubs (Camellia) and planted same.

13th August On Thursday Willie Hood was ordered by me to write 50 lines as a punishment for causing a disturbance in school. He flatly refused to obey the command pushed by me and left the schoolroom. At the meeting of the Committee on Saturday Evening the incident was discussed, and the members expressed concern that the discipline of the school had been allowed to deteriorate so markedly in the last four or five years and in spite of the diminishing roll numbers, decided to uphold the head teacher in any action he may decide to take in order to effect an improvement in the behaviour of the pupils.

I intend to repeat the command on Monday and in the event of the boy refusing to obey, my only course will be to expel him, as he has been the cause of much trouble and exercises a bad influence over the other pupils. His age according to the school register is 15 years 7 Months, but I understand he is really a year older and certainly looks it.

14th August. Re donation of 100 pounds from Mr Schow. That the Secretary inform the board that Mr Schow is an inmate of a private hospital in Masterton, his mind is unbalanced and he is required to be watched night and day. The Wellington Education Board to be informed that should Mr Schow recover sufficiently to reinstate the donation the work might go ahead.

The Secretary (Headmaster) that Mr Lemstedt was grazing cattle and horses on the eastern portion of the school grounds. After discussion it was resolved that Mr Lemstedt be charged for grazing...... In the event of the teacher procuring a cow the paddock was to be reserved exclusively for the teacher’s use.

The question of the school discipline was discussed at some length by the members, who expressed concern that the tone of the school had deteriorated so markedly in the last few years. It was decided to support the Head Teacher in any action he may think necessary to bring about a better state of discipline in the school.

20th August With regard to the boy Willie Hood, hearing that his parents intended taking him away from school at the end of this week and there being no repetition if his former offence, I did not pursue the matter further. He took home his books today being required at home to help with the milking,

Eric and Wilfred Anderson have moved to Masterton.

The School Committee has applied to the Wellington Education Board for a new centre post for the turnstile at the entrance gates, but has had no reply. Today native shrubs were planted near the entrance gates and the tennis court was prepared for resowing.

18th September That the Wellington Education Board be informed of Mr Scow’s death and the consequent collapse of the swimming bath scheme.
9th October. That the chairman from Mr O Peterson asking for the use of hall free or at a reduced rate for the tennis dance. That no reduction be made.
That the Head Teacher be authorised to buy a cricket ball for the use of the school. Also the Head Teacher write to Wellington Education Board for particulars of the rules for Basketball (Netball) and cost of Equipment
15th October. No word has been received from Wellington Education Board re subdivision of playground. Gardening operations are still in abeyance. The tennis lawn has been resown in lawn grass and has received a topdressing of superphosphate, the growth of young grass being rather slow.
29th October. Neither of these children have passed Standard 5 in spite of their ages (15 and 16 year respectively).
13th November. That Mr Black’s offer to buy the Mimeograph for £3-0-0 be accepted.
26th November. On Tuesday Dr Paterson visited the school and examined the children’s teeth and tested their hearing.
3rd December. Received inspector’s report. Annual Exam held. A fairly stiff test was set and all passed excepting two— a distinct improvement on last year’s results.
Harold Jesson and Horace Frew set fire to and burned half the scrub fence in front of the tennis court. Have ordered them to make good the damage after school hours.
Inspector’s report included. Mr A N Burns
a) Mr R H Tregurtha Roll 15 Standard 3 to 6
b) Miss I Millar Standard 2 to Primers Roll 20

1921
4th February. School reopened. Received from Wellington Education Board 2 dozen boxes of pastels and one litre and one pint measure.
5th February. The Secretary inform the Cricket Club that a charge of 5/- will be made for afternoon hire of hall with use of firewood and crockery. The tennis Club could strip the tennis court as desired by them.
11th February. Received 6 lbs coloured plasticene, 200 sheets coloured paper and 6 pairs of scissors.
Have received instructions from Wellington Education Board to cancel their letters re transfer to Mauriceville (East).
That the Secretary inform the Wellington Education Board that Messers Neilsen Bros decline to contribute anything towards the cost of erecting the dividing fence between their holding and the school grounds until their lease is renewed.
19th February Wednesday last a holiday was held for Masterton show.
The school picnic was held on Friday 18th. In the evening a dance was held in old school.
Prizes were distributed and attendance certificates were issues.
The blackberry, gorse etc in the school grounds has been cut down. The repairs to the main gates will be gone on with as soon as possible. The local tradesman has been very busy.
25th February Connie and Kathleen Dowding have gone to the Auckland district to live.
Miss Millar assistant teacher having been transferred to Makomako The school now becomes a sole charge.
4th March. The classes are now held in the Western Classroom.
The old school building has for some years been used for dances etc. During the last two or three years, however certain individuals have been making a practice of bringing liquor into the school grounds, and many of the gatherings have been disorderedly in consequence. The building and surroundings are frequently left in anything but a clean and tidy state.
I have expressed myself very decidedly in the matter and have given those concerned to understand that unless there is a decided change in their conduct the building will be reserved solely for the use of the school.
12th March In the matter of the late Mr Schow’s will That the Secretary refer the public trustee executor of the will.
There was some discussion over the picnic dance. There being some dissatisfaction over the fact that the dance closed at midnight.
19th April Mr L P Larsen Chairman. That a dance committee be formed. Mr H Neilsen to be declared head of same. Other members to be chosen at a dance on a date to be fixed by the School Committee.
That the Secretary be instructed to enquire from the Wellington Education Board as to the whether the Committee could proceed with the fencing of the new boundary, and to suggest the cost be charged to the Board who could in turn charge half of the amount to the lessees.
29th April Anzac Day celebrated on 25th As it was impossible to arrange a local function the children were assembled at 11 am and a suitable address was given by the teacher. After saluting the flag the pupils were dismissed.
11th June That no reply had been received from Wellington Education Board re fencing . That the School Committee wanted to take advantage of the tree planting season.
24th June Several absences this week owing to colds and bad weather. Punished John Duley for swearing on the playground.
8th July Madge Larsen has been attending Pahiatua School for last week.
15th July Harold Jesson has been absent from school for two weeks owing to an attack of rheumatic fever.
Every Friday morning the New Zealand Ensign is saluted and the National Anthem sung by the pupils and teacher.
22nd July On Monday Mr Brockett visited the school and inspected the site for the new garden. He reported favourably upon the answers given by the children to questions on the work covered
5th August Jack Martin is laid up owing to his having broken his collarbone.

6th August All meetings on a Saturday. In response to a circular, Secretary to inform Wellington Education Board that the building used for dances etc is a condemned school building which has been kept in repair by the Settlers and on which something like £200 has been spent in the past and to enquire whether in the circumstances the Board considered it necessary for the School Committee to insure the building when used for the purpose of public entertainment.

13th August That both tenders (for fence) were too high and neither be accepted.
That the chairman be authorised to get the work of fencing done by day labour.

19th August A start is being made with the work of fencing the new boundary of the school grounds and the entrance gate and turnstile have been repaired.

9th September. On Tuesday the 6th School resumed Mary Larsen (Who is very delicate) has not returned.

16th September. The attendance this week has been poor. This is chiefly owing to the fact that a wedding took place on Wednesday. Several of the pupils being related to one of the contracting parties.

Mary Larsen has been forbidden by the doctor to attend school for the present.

27th September On Monday 26th (really Dominion Day) Mr A Cowles (inspector) visited the school and tomorrow will be observed as Inspector’s Holiday. Dominion Day holiday to be observed on 3rd October.

7th October Mary Larsen has returned to the school after her illness. Ruth Morteson will be attending school near Dargaville for the next month where she will be staying with relatives.

14th October. The School Committee has decided upon doing nothing with regard to the half hours religious instruction per week, it had been possible to arrange for a regular series of lessons.

15th October That the chairman arrange for the fence to be erected by day labour.
That the cricket club be charged 5/- for use of the hall etc. Practice matches to be free. That the club be asked to send representatives to the next committee meeting in order that the matter may be talked over.

20th October. The school will be closed tomorrow on account of the funeral of Charlie Larsen (Child of Mr A Larsen of the School Committee).

1920/7400 Larsen Charles 37Y

The new playing area in the playground has been fenced in.

27th October. That the teacher had the right to grazing in the school grounds.
That a previous motion that the cricket club be charged 5/- be rescinded.

That the Cricket club be informed that no charge would be made for use of the grounds for matches, but the charge for afternoon use of the hall, firewood and crockery would be 5/-. The club to be responsible for breakages of crockery etc. The granting of use of
the grounds to be at the discretion of the teacher and no cricket to be played during church services
6th November Received a wall map of Australia.
11th November. Received 1st copy of Education Gazette
2nd December. Allan Larsen and Ethel Johansen will be retained in Standard 2 for another year owing to weaknesses in arithmetic
3rd December That the Secretary inform the tennis club that they may use the tennis court and net and have the use of two racquets for one month on the condition that the club has them repaired and kept and returned in good order. The racquets are not to be taken out of the school grounds and tennis equipment not to be used in wet weather.

1922
26th January That the Secretary order from Mr Carter 2 Dozen cups and saucers for the School Committee.
That the Chairman interview Mr Carter with regard to the returning of the Lawn Roller and other tennis equipment borrowed by the Tennis Club and which have not been returned.
Re Picnic Mr Jack is to interview Miss Braggins re music for the dance.. Charges (non Subscribers) Gents 2/6 Ladies Free
10th February School started on 7th Miss Rose Probationer commenced her duties
Evan Stevens and Daphne Trass have been enrolled in Primer 1
But being under 5 years of age their names have not yet been entered in the Admission Register.
3rd March Betty Carter has been absent from school this week owing to an attack of chicken pox, and acting on medical advice will be detained at home another week
10th March. Dan Johansen is detained at home where he is under going treatment for appendicitis
24th April Householders meeting. Credit balance of 4d in the board account. And £9-8-7 in the private account.
That the boys of this school having contributed 10/- towards the cost of a football that the School Committee pay the balance.
28th April On Tuesday 25th (Anzac day) the children assembled at the school at 10.00 a.m. Where an appropriate lesson was given by the teacher. Wreaths and flowers were then placed on memorial tablets to fallen soldiers in the local cemetery
12th May. John Dooley has gone on a trip to England with his people but will I understand return to this school in about 6 months time.
7th June That part of the Western end of the school grounds be planted in pine trees and that 300 young pine trees be ordered from the Wellington Education Board That 150 akeake and matipo be planted as a hedge for the school garden.
That the Salvation Army be allowed the use of the old school for the sum of 10/- per night in consideration of the entertainment being for a charitable object
23rd June. During the term holidays the boys played two football matches against Hastwell. In both cases the latter team were victorious.
20th August Today is being observed as arbor day. A hedge (150 akeake) has been planted around the school garden and 100 pinus
insignis at the Western Boundary of the grounds. Tomorrow has been granted a special holiday by the School Committee 6th October. On Saturday a cricket match between the boys of this school and those of Hastwell resulted in a win for our team 17th October That the Secretary order 3 cord sound rata firewood 4 foot lengths.

3rd November school was closed in order that I might attend the exam for “B” subjects (Leave granted by the board). School was again closed on Thursday on account of the proficiency exam at Mauriceville East.

17th November On Wednesday I put Standard 1 to Standard 6 through an intelligence test. The results were highly interesting. The highest intelligence quotient was 112 and the lowest 69. The results accorded in most cases with my own estimate of the native capacity of the individual pupils. The experiment will be repeated later using a different test.

1st December On Tuesday Miss Humphreys, addressed the school on behalf of Dr Barnardo’s Homes. A branch of the Young Helpers League is being established among the pupils Thora Jesson has had to undergo a slight operation and will not return this year.

8th December On Monday owing to bad weather. Miss Rose was detained at home. Yesterday the school was closed. The sum of 18/- has been donated by the pupils to the Church Army Fund.

12th December That the services of A E Larsen be procured for the purpose of cutting weeds in the school grounds.

15th December. School Roll 32. R H Tregurtha. Miss Rose

1923

2nd February Roll 31

9th February Jack Martin is detained at home owing to a broken collar bone.

On Wednesday afternoon visited the school and addressed the pupils on the subject of “industry as a means of success in life” Mrs H Foster’s illustrated lecture on the King Country was well attended by pupils and residents of the district

16th February John Dooley who has been home for a trip with his parents has returned to this school. His Brother Joseph is also attending this school temporarily

22nd February That Mr A Forsberg be charged 5/- for the use of the old school on Tuesday 27th for the purpose of a wedding.

23rd February Joseph Dooley has returned to his people in Wellington having attended this school two days only.

27th April On Wednesday Anzac day the children attended about 9.00 After singing the National Anthem the pupils were addressed by the Head teacher. They then marched to the local cemetery and placed several wreaths on soldiers’ graves

Mary Larsen has returned to school after a bout of scarlet fever. Two Months absence

30th April That a man be put on to cut down two trees in front of the school

7/6 Insurance for one piano

That the Secretary write to Messrs Robinson asking if they would replace pine trees supplied by them last year and which died

4th May At my request the School Committee has had the tops of two large pine trees near the school removed.. This should add
considerably to the comfort of the pupils on frosty mornings as these branches prevented the sunshine from entering the classroom in the early hours of the school.

29th June Yesterday Harold Jesson cut his foot rather badly whilst chopping firewood. He will probably be away from school for some days in consequence.
Percy Barron has left temporarily and will be attending Cross Creek for the next 4 or 5 days.

6th July Anne Tregurtha is attending Khandallah School for a week or so.

13th July. Today the plumbers commenced repairing the spouting on the school building and residence.

20th July Today was observed as Arbour Day and about 50 young pine trees were planted in the school grounds.

On Tuesday Morning Mrs W J Stevens died. The four children will in future attend Rangitumau School.

8th August Roll 30

31st August School was closed on Wednesday and Friday to attend teachers certificate examinations. Miss Rose has been absent all week from the same cause.
Percy Barron has returned to this school. During his absence has not attended any school as his parents were residing 5 miles from the nearest school.

Miss Rose was attending teacher’s certificate exam for 4 days.
Percy Barron will not be attending this school after today. His people have left the district.

14th September On Monday owing to the stress of weather Miss Rose did not reach the school until 1 pm.

4th October that approximately £6 be spent on metalling where needed near the school. That 2 hard broom and 2 straw ditto, also 2 doormats be procured for the school. That the school cricket bats be repaired.

5th October The name of Rita Swede has been added to the roll in Standard 3. Left 19th October.

In response to my request the School Committee has decided to do some metalling where needed around the school and down the drive. Approximately £6 has been allocated for the purpose.

2nd November. Harold Jesson has gained competency has left school.

16th November On Tuesday (13th) Miss Rose being unwell was obliged to go home to her people. I have heard since that the doctor has ordered her to rest.

13th December That the chairman endeavour to procure necessary labour for repairing front fence and cutting noxious weeds in the school ground.

1924

9th January That the school picnic be held on Thursday.

15th February Have received a communication from the Wellington Education Board the effect that it will be necessary to appoint a sewing mistress for the current year as a female teacher has not been appointed to the school. The vagueness of the communication has raised my feelings to a high pitch of excitement. What does it portend?. Am I really to be at last
transferred to a grade 3 school or is the female teacher merely a probationer? Time will show
28th February That sufficient timber be ordered for border of flower beds in front of school.
29th February The enigma of the female teacher still awaits elucidation, and in the meantime needlework is in abeyance
7th March Mrs Tregurtha has been appointed sewing instructress for the year 1924. Apparently the female teacher has failed to materialise
14th March Yesterday Mr Direen attendance officer visited the school The parents if Ivy Lemberg, Mary Larsen and Dulcie Palmer contend that in keeping their children home in wet weather they are acting on medical advice and I understand that they will apply for exemption.
4th April The Doctor has advised make that the climate of Mauriceville is injurious to my boy’s Frank’s health. I am therefore applying to the Board for a transfer.
6th June School was closed yesterday and today owing to an outbreak of measles in my family. On Monday last my girl Annie contracted the disease: On the advice of the Health Officer school was kept open, certain precautions being taken.
On Thursday Morning Mrs Tregurtha developed the symptoms: I immediately made efforts to get in touch with the health officer, but without success, owing to his being out of town.
I also had trouble getting help at short notice (For school or home?)
On Monday I was informed that Connie Palmer was suffering from Diphtheria.
13th June Attendances for the past week has been very low owing to the fact that certain parents consider that the school should be closed on account of measles in my family. School opened on Monday at 9.30 with an attendance of 6 and 8 in the afternoon. This morning my boy Frank also contacted the disease. Sylvia Seymour has gone home to Hastwell for the winter months. 4th July Measles has assumed epidemic form in the district.
1st August Owing to the combined effects of measles, a wedding, and bad weather the attendance for the past week has been very poor.
11th August The question of a certain girl should be allowed to remain as a pupil of the school was discussed at some length No motion was put to the meeting and the subject was eventually dropped by mutual consent, The understanding being that no action be taken
24th October. Today inspector Burns paid his visit of inspection. In Standard 6 John Dooley obtained proficiency and Ivy Lemberg endorsed competency
Clarence Trass promoted last year to standard 6 on account of his age failed Standard 6. Born 1911
21st November Iris Seymour and Douglas Smith are suffering from whooping cough and will be unable to attend school for another two weeks
28th November. Didn’t promote Marjorie Wiley a recent arrival very weak in Standard 3 although over 14 years of age.
Inspectors Report for 24th October
Mr Tregurtha Grading No 166
Roll 35
a) It will be advisable in some instances to withhold promotion at the end of the year
b) Attendance has been seriously affected by epidemics

11th December That the Secretary write to Mr M Gleeson re return of tables borrowed some weeks ago.

1925

17th February 1925 FURTHER NOTIFICATIONS
The following further notifications of cases of infantile paralysis have been received by the Health Department for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. to-day:— Wellington city O. Taihape 1, Waimariri 1 Kaponga 1, Hawera 1, Palmerston North 1, Levin 2, Otaki 1, Pimmerton 1, Mauriceville West 1.

14th March it was decided that owing to prevalence of infantile paralysis nothing be done in the meantime in the matter of a school picnic.

20th March The assignments of work published by the daily papers are being done by the pupils in their own homes. I am paying house to house visits so as to give the children as much help as possible.

2nd April The correspondence course is working satisfactorily all the pupils having returned the written answers regularly. A certain amount of the work will require to be amplified (mainly orally) when school resumes.

17th April School was resumed on Wednesday 14th, attendances though voluntary are satisfactory. The name of Bernard McBrearty has been added to Standard 2

24th April Standards 5 and 6 dismiss at 3.30. The extra half hour has so far been devoted to arithmetic

4th May That it is recommended to the incoming committee that in lieu of a picnic an evening party be held on a Friday evening to commence at 6.30 pm

8th May Last Evening Mr H Foster gave an illustrated lecture on the West Coast region of the South Island. The lecture was well attended.

15th May On Monday at about 11.30 am news reached the school of the death of Mr Massey after an appropriate address by the teacher the pupils were dismissed for the day. School was closed on Thursday the day of the burial.

29th May The three Johansen children have left the school the family have removed to the Akatarawa

10th July. Received from the Wellington Education Board 8 sanitary pans. Also 220 beads and 1 ball of twine. For the work in number

20th July That we procure one large first aid outfit for the school That we support religious exercises in school. Carried unanimously.

31st July On Thursday about 50 young pine trees were planted to form a shelter belt along the Southern side of the Football Ground

7th August Yesterday Mr Brockett visited the school and handed over 28 lb of seed potatoes for the school garden

17th August That the Secretary (no longer teacher) and H Trass to interview Mr Tregurtha re the hall also to address residents re this matter at a dance to be held in the hall.
1st September That we call tenders for the splitting and stacking into cords of the trees on the Wellington Education Board property. Tenders to close on the 10th September
17th September The weather this week has been exceptionally boisterous and wintry, with showers of rain, hail, snow and sleet. Attendances have consequently been below normal.
2nd October The attendances has shown considerable improvement. The Jensen’s however are very irregular and the reasons given are in some cases open to doubt.
The trees which were felled by the Tararua Board’s men are still lying where they fell and the front of the grounds presents a very untidy appearance. The School Committee has not so far been able to make any satisfactory arrangements re the matter.
15th October That the Head teacher be invited to attend the next committee meeting.
23rd October The Jensen family have been very irregular this year. The father has received a warning from the attendance officer
30th October Inspector Burns came. 3 children gained proficiency, one competency and one failure
6th November On Wednesday (Election day) school was closed as building was required as a polling booth
Last night a dance was held in the old school and was well attended in spite of unfavourable weather. The proceeds will be used to buy library books
26th November That the rough lengths of the trees that remain and are unprofitable to be split to be cut into suitable lengths and to be rolled into the hollow, the Secretary to supervise the work.
Wages not to exceed 16/- per day when working horses.

That we call tenders for the sale of firewood.
That we allow £4 for the grubbing and clearing of blackberry and gorse.
That H Trass be authorised to interview the Head Teacher, re motion 15th October.
27th November Jack Martin has to undergo an operation and will probably not return to the school.
4th December The committee has the work of clearing up the pine trees in front of the school well in hand and a clearance should be effected in the course in the next few days.
Roll at 29th October inspectors 35 Sole Charge
Mr Tregurtha’s ranking C 156

1926
18th January. That we hold the school picnic and dance starting at 11 a.m.
That Mr Lemberg bring cakes etc from the station.
It was suggested that the ladies of the district should hold a meeting to enable them to assist the School Committee. The Secretary to be in attendance.
5th February Jim Jack is at present an inmate of Masterton Hospital and will not be returning to this school
During the holidays the house in which the family resided was burned to the ground. This boy received severe cuts and burns whilst endeavouring to escape from the burning building through a broken window.
26th February Owing to the death of their mother Jean and Albert Staples have been placed in a home in Masterton
26th March On Wednesday last a wedding of more than ordinary local interest was solemnised here. With the approval of the Board a special holiday was observed on the understanding that school be open as usual on Easter Tuesday
30th April Anzac day memorial service was held on Sunday Morning Last. The children assembled at 9.30 and after a suitable address by the teacher, wreaths and flowers were placed upon soldiers’ graves in the local cemetery.
3rd May The Head teacher asked the School Committee to consider the matter re a fence around the school. A new flag was requested.

That the School Committee elect a committee to inspect school grounds, re fencing and to report same at the next meeting.
That we take steps to definitely bring about centralisation of schools in the Mauriceville West District.
18th May I have prevailed upon the School Committee to erect a netting fence around the school as a first step toward the improving of the flower plots. The work will be put in hand at once
4th June That we call a meeting of householders in the district re the Consolidation of Schools to be held in the Mauriceville West Hall on Monday 14th inst at 7.45
Reply to Wellington Education Board stating what we were doing in the matter also asking for more information on the matter (No more minute books available)
2nd July Cyril Parker enrolled owing to age and physical disability.
in Standard 3. The boy is very backward having had infantile paralysis and was promoted on the inspector’s advice
9th July. A centralised scheme is mooted, the schools concerned being Mauriceville West, Mauriceville East and Dreyer’s Rock Whether or not the scheme will be carried into effect remains to be seen
6th August On Saturday last, feeling that I was developing an attack of influenza I got into touch with the Health Officer and wired the Board, asking permission to close school for a few days. I have since wired the Wellington Education Board that I shall be unfit to resume duty before Monday Next. The Board has approved the closing of the school.
13th July School was reopened on Monday as usual.
20th August The scheme of outside improvements, although approved by the Committee has not been carried out owing I understand to default on the part of a certain member and for reasons best known to the gentleman himself. I have protested to the chairman and the matter will be gone into at the next meeting
18th November Charles Jensen (Standard 5) has left school and his name has been removed from the register. He is over 15 years of age and has been very irregular for some time.

1927
25th February Wednesday 15th was a school holiday People’s Day
Masterton Show
4th March Arrangements have been made to convey 10 of the pupils from Standards 3 to 6 to Masterton tomorrow to take part in the function in honour of the Royal Visitors

11th March Ten of the pupils from Standard 3 to 6 proceeded to Masterton on Saturday last and spent a most enjoyable day.

Monday and Tuesday last were observed as holidays in commemoration of the Royal Visit.

25th March On Saturday last the school picnic was held in the school grounds. Bad weather prevented outdoor events being held but an enjoyable day was held in the old school,

19th August On Tuesday night last a dance was held in the old school under the auspices of the sports club. The proceedings were very disorderly, the area surrounding the school being rendered untidy and four flower plots being trampled upon and plants uprooted. In the early hours of the morning three cords of firewood belonging to the School Committee were destroyed by fire

29th September With regard to the disorderly dance on August 16th last, I have suggested to the School Committee that the old school be declared closed for a period of six months, and that in the meantime some adequate system of control be formulated. The School Committee however having ignored my suggestion. The matter has been reported to the Wellington Education Board

14th September Ten new desks of the latest pattern has been received from the Board. The new desks add materially to the comfort of the pupils and the appearance of the classrooms

28th October. The three children in Standard 6 (Frank Tregurtha, Ruth Mortenson, and Thora Jensen) all gained proficiency

26th October Roll 26. Grade 151 For Mr Tregurtha.

1928

Mr Arnold Raymond Key Relieving Teacher

3rd February Weather this week was very trying and in consequence the efforts of the class were not very great

10th February The school tennis court is nearly ready for play

This week a local wedding took place, thus helping to lower the average.

The committee have also employed a man to cut the weeds on the South End of the school.

17th February On Thursday Night 16th a social evening was held in the school hall, the buildings and hall being left in a clean and tidy condition.

24th February The long spell of dry weather broke last night Thursday.

The teaching of the Primers is fairly different on account of the lack of suitable apparatus, which I am making myself

2nd March The annual school picnic was held on Saturday 25th inst. Diphtheria has been reported in the district one child being taken to Hospital.

7th March 1928 Miss I. N. Scruby, sole teacher, Mauriceville West

PP
9th March Last Saturday I was notified by the Health Department of the detention of Mavis Trass on account of suspected Diphtheria. The remaining Trass children have been isolated. Standard 6 take at least ¾ hour to work out fifteen mental 16th March. I am very pleased to see that the children of this school are very keen on organised games. The school hall is let this evening for a benefit dance for the newly formed hockey club. 23rd March. The attendance of some children is very irregular and needs enquiry into. I forwarded my report on the effect of the Summer Time on Children to the board today. 30th March. Mr Bowden, School inspector called and congratulated me on the marked improvement in the school work also expressed a desire that I would remain under the Wellington Education Board.

11th April Miss I N Scruby Teacher 4th May Mr Sykes MP called with Mr Cameron and Mr Forsberg and addressed the children at 12.30 pm. School was dismissed at 1.30 pm. First Term examinations are very poor. The children will be examined at the end of June. 21st May School reopened. After holidays- attendance weak owing to serious illness of the fathers of two families. Old school is in course of removal- finished 26th May. 11th June. Mavis Martin from Harewood was enrolled today. 21st June Ten children from the Standard classes accompanied by two committee men and the teacher paid an educational visit to the Palmerston North Show.

27th July. An influenza epidemic has greatly depleted the attendance during the past two weeks, very few of the children have escaped the disease. After the winter vacation I had the empty classroom cleared of desks so that the children might use it for games and physical drill on wet and especially cold days. 10th August Second term examination results an improvement on those of the first term. 15th August School closed for the Spring Vacation on Thursday instead of Friday to enable me to call and inspect piano in Wellington. 12th September Major Cree, drill instructor, arrived and commented favourably on the tone of the school. The Board Architect called in. He agreed that the copper belonging to the schoolhouse is sadly in need of repair. I pointed out to him the danger of fire.

9th October The annual inspection was made by Mr Watson. One of the Standard 6 girls was absent owing to illness. Mr Watson very kindly journeyed the 2 ½ miles to her home to bring her to school. Three children gained their proficiency certificates. Alex Clement, Violet Mortenson and Ken Palmer. 14th November. School closed for election purposes. 19th November This month November we have had a series of informal evenings in the spare room have been a great success and have done much I am sure, to create a friendly feeling between parents and teacher.
14th December On the 12th December we held a very successful school concert in Mauriceville East Hall. taking about £15-10-0 in actual cash
Everyone seemed most agreeably surprised at the talent shown by the children who certainly worked well and behaved splendidly. This apparently is the first concert held in the Mauriceville West for some years. I am glad it was such a success.
9th October report received 19th December. Roll 30
Teacher Miss Irene N Scruby Grading 173
Teaching is good. Buildings have recently been painted inside and out. They are being kept clean

1929
4th February four new children admitted. Two of them being only four years of age.. Is it wise for children to attend school at such an early age? (Actual Note)
25th April A very wet day in a very wet week.
A particularly virulent “cold” is prevalent amongst the children
10th May The attendance this term has been remarkably good 95.86%
8th July The attendance has been very poor recently owing to very wet weather, and an important local wedding. An epidemic of sores has broken out in school.
4th October The boys have greatly improved the safety of the fireplace by breaking away many of the bricks, thus covering the fire and lessening the danger of wood and cinders rolling out and under the floorboards

11th November. Armistice Day The children sang recessional, after a short talk and observed two minutes silence. Work resumed as normal
22nd November Synchronous Proficiency Examination- school closed, while two candidates sat the examination
26th November Doctor Collier and Miss McLean inspected the physique of the children

1930
E R Clark relieving
19th February The children have been able to obtain their school books this week so the work is progressing more smoothly. The delay by the lack of books is regretted
31st March Miss Clark Finished
1st April Mrs F G McRae commenced duties. 28 present
24th April The new flag was received from the Wellington Education Board
9th May. Work in all classes of a very low standard
13th June. Miss Blackburn – drill instructress- visited school and took the children for games and folk dances.
16th June received word that Harold and Eileen Madsen have gone to Hastwell. Very sorry to lose them as they were interested in their work and showing improvement.
Gramophone received and also records
17th June. Mr May cutting down pines in playground and the children most interested in the young cones at the tips of the branches
25th June Strapped Peter Jensen because he hit in temper Owen Larsen with an axe
7th July Strapped Peter Jensen, Joyce Larsen today for scribbling on school wall with knife and old nibs. Had spoken to class on the matter in the morning- a class of wilful disobedience
6th August New maps of Asia, Africa and India received
18th August Term exams taken. Work shows slight improvement but is still very much below standard. Although much work has been put into tables for Standard 1 and 2 they are still very weak. History shows improvement but geography is weak (No ground work to work on)

1931
2nd February Felt earthquake. Roll 24
24th March Mr Stubbs paid a visit of inspection and commented on the improvement in the work and the high standard aimed at in old work Oral work still needs great attention to improve standard
10th April Ray and Colin Millen. Tom Johnson and Daphne Trass and Nola Freeman were punished (4 cuts girls 6 boys) for calling out a cheeky remark from the road. Apparently not meant to reach my ears but carried up by the wind. The first time such a thing has happened and for the general discipline of the school such things cannot be ignored
27th July Unemployed workers made a start on cleaning up the playground

1932
1st February Roll 28. Raymond Neilsen, Douglas Smith and Daphne Trass removed from school roll. All passed proficiency in December 1931. Douglas continuing work at Masterton Technical School. Others remaining at home
16th March School closed for school picnic. Weather being wet the picnic was held in the local hall.
27th May Teacher’s refresher day for drill held in Masterton from 9 am to 3 pm. School closed to enable teacher to attend
27th September. Mr Partridge (Inspector) paid second visit to school. Thoroughly examined all classes and reported general efficiency very good
1st December. 7 sat proficiency, all passed. Good class Keen workers
16th December. Prize Giving ceremony and parent’s afternoon. Display of drawing writing and handwork done through year Mr Sykes MP and Mr Donald member of Wellington Education Board both present

1933
1st February Roll 28
Joyce Neilson removed from roll. Only 13 year old staying at home
Concrete During Holiday- Later part of January The front of the school ground had been concreted- a decided improvement – 3 years agitation bearing fruit. Money raised at concert at end of
August and supplemented by Board. £9. No more winter quagmires
15th February School closed Masterton A and P show. Shocking weather, Norwest gale- heavy rain and thunder
4th March Local Athletic sports held. Mauriceville West second in school relay race
11th March. Local Flower Show, Poppy Manihera collected 1500 white butterflies and collected first prize. Girls were successful in the open classes with sugar bag work done last year
24th March. School closed for the Wairarapa Schools’ sports which were held in Masterton, Connie Palmer, Isma Newman Mavis Williams took part in the running, hoop and skipping events
Mauriceville West was runner up in the Country Schools’ Cup being beaten by 5 points by Te Ore Ore
Isma gained four firsts in the finals
Mr Donald and Mr Sykes were most eulogistic in their remarks about Mauriceville West at the presentation of the cups
26th February School closed for Carterton Show in lieu of closing for Labour Day (With consent of Board)
1st December Proficiency Exam 3 pupils sat- all passed
19th December. Prize giving ceremony and display of work of year. Most successful afternoon and all parents seems please with work of children

1934
5th February Roll 23 Measles prevalent in district. 3 children absent. L Forsberg going to High School in Masterton. U Larsen and I Clements staying at home
1st March. Desmond Freeman returns to school after 2 years absence on account of health.
5th March. Most severe earthquake Chimneys at school and house injured
16th March. School picnic held in Mr P Mortensen’s paddock and in hall A most enjoyable day and beautiful weather. All children received a small gift. Dance was held in the hall in evening.- a most successful function
23rd March. Received from Wellington Education Board brown paper sheets, 3 paint brushes, 9 tubes paint, 8 gum brushes, 10 boxes of crayons (Small), gummed strips
29th March Two children away ill. Ross Bray- appendicitis operation- hospital Wellington. Maureen Freeman badly scarred face owing to fall from bicycle
10th April Mr Brockett, agriculture adviser in the morning. Schoolwork disorganised. Showed children how to clean spade with water and brick. Spoke about potato experiment
25th April Children from Mauriceville West went to Mauriceville East School for special service which was excellent. The speaker being Major Everdon (Masterton)
17th 18th September School closed to allow mistress to attend refresher course in Drill and Art at Masterton. An excellent course of lectures, most helpful.
23rd October. Children all very interested in the Great Air Race. All admired Melrose’s fine spirit in giving his map of Rome to Athens section to Stoddart and thus flying without a map. Inspectors report included G H Stubbs
   a) Roll 26
   b) The school is functioning very successfully and under sound and stimulating teaching steady progress is being made.
   c) Art work and correlated handwork merit special commendation
1st November Proficiency examination in History, Geography, Drawing and science. Questions most suitable but long
30th November Proficiency exam in English and Arithmetic branches. Arithmetic is a very easy examination. English a most searching paper. All pupils finished all papers before time allotted.
12th December. Concert in evening. Audience claimed it the best yet. Mr Donald (Wellington Education Board Member) presented prizes and commented most favourably on display of work and concert items. Mr G Sykes (MP) was also present and he too spoke most highly of the work of the school. Proficiency marks received. All through and marks very fair.
15th November Had trouble with Ron Bray who when questioned re pot of red he had been using, told untruths and then worked himself into violent temper and defied me. Gave him six cuts on hand and 3 or 4 on his legs for remarks after being strapped
4th December. Trouble with R Bray again. Fighting in playground with A Williams. Ordered both boys into classroom. A Williams going in first. R Bray punched him in the back, then turned round dashed into the corridor striking out right and left at the children there. Left him in corridor all afternoon. Ron Repented and apologised at 3 O’clock
11th December. Another exhibition of temper from Ron Bray. Think children in their indignation at his conduct had certainly aggravated him. Ordered him to take his books and go home. Visited his parents–guardians in the evening and Ron admitted stealing paint. Didn’t get much satisfaction from visit. Ron’s language and temper when spoken to were shocking and he charged hitting Neta McKeown and Attempting to Kick June Larsen.
13th December. Wrote to Secretary Wellington Education Board stating what I had done with regards Ron Bray
18th December. School closed for annual holidays. Attendance during last two weeks has been very poor owing to illness and bad sunburn
16th December Had a visit from Mr Freeman re Desmond. Regret to have to state that I think Desmond’s illness is having a detrimental effect upon his mental development. I told Mr Freeman this and he seemed to resent it. But it is the conclusion I have come to through observation of the child, his mental development is not on a par with his age.

1935
5th February Monday 4th February was a holiday given by the Duke of Gloucester.
Ronald Bray has gone to Mauriceville East
Mavis Williams also left having gained proficiency and is staying at home. Pity she could not go on.

Isma Newman is continuing work with Correspondence School

11th February School closed at 1 O’clock on account of heat in accordance with Board’s suggestions

21st February School again closed early on account of weather. During February the swimming pool in Mr Hood’s paddock has been very popular and practically all children from Standard 3 up can now swim. Very satisfactory when remember none could swim at beginning of November

11th March, Isma Newman transferred to Correspondence School

Roll

25th March Strapped Denis Neilson (3), June Larsen for careless work. Cecil Godden for laziness and inattention. First time strap used this year.

26th March. Strap yesterday was most beneficial as whole school seems keener and anxious to do better work. It seems advisable to use it occasionally to let then learn that bad work earns a just reward.

New football arrived from Wairarapa Rugby Union

17th April received from Wellington Education Board

8 Drawing Books, Newsprint 3 packets, Plasticene 7 lbs, Pastels 8 boxes, Coloured chalk 280 sticks, Gum Arabic 1 tin, Canvas 2 yards, raffia 2 lbs, Wool 5 skeins, Ticket Ink 2 bottles, Tapestry needles 7 packets

9th September Desmond and Brian Freeman (Brian ill in Wellington future movements unknown) Mavis Trass 14 years

Roll now 21

7th October Dr Anderson and Nurse Hodges visited the school

Doctor found chicken pox spots on Zeta and Garth McKeown but when I asked said there was no need to send them home as the infection had already been spread.

29th October An exceedingly rough wet boisterous day- only 7 present

Mrs McRae still teaching

27th November School was used as a polling booth.

1936

3rd February Roll 24

4th May. Mr McCaskill (Inspector) visited. Formal work above average but children “lost their tongues”: and speech work most disappointing. Children were frightened and even the best were afraid to speak.

2nd June Had trouble with A Williams. When returning to his seat knocked L Mckeown, Bought him out and told him to return to his seat in proper manner. When his back was turned he made a grimace at Lyall. Called him back and gave him six cuts and told him he had no sense of free play, decency or honesty. He mumbled something when I turned away. I made him repeat his remark which was “any more and I’ll go home” So I told him to go home. He returned ½ an hour later with a note from his father supporting me and advised me to punish him. But I think corporal punishment is not correct treatment. I have been trying moral persuasion and also have tried to create a feeling of responsibility
in him, but he is a very hard boy to lead. His “Better side and sense of dignity” seem to be very much wanting.

10th June Corporal Punishment administered to Lyall McKeown. Lyall came to school in a very bad temper, after having trouble at home and refused to bring milk. I ignored this but when I asked him a question (“Aren’t you feeling very well today?”) He had tonsils out in May Holidays. He sulked and refused to answer. I told him to come to me but he did not move. After being told 3 times by me and not obeying I strapped him 6 cuts- He’s a very difficult child and given to sulking fits for no reasons. I think its due to his tonsils having been so infected. I try to humour him and appeal to his better side- I help him with his stamp collection etc. But I will not allow defiance to go unpunished.

Later Lyall and I talked his behaviour over and he acknowledged how foolish he had been and said he would try and overcome his sulkiness.

His mother has remarked to me that he is very hard to manage at home and that he gets into very bad tempers. We both decided it was to do with his health.

18th June All the pupils from Standard 1 to 6 visited the winter show at Palmerston and then went round town. At Rosco’s they were all taken up to the roof in the lift. First time some of the children had been in a lift.

9th June Standard 1 -6 pupils visited the Butter factory and Limeworks.

11th September. Corporal Punishment administered to 89.6. She has not been following her reading lesson and answered most impudently when I asked her about her inattention. ....... I administered 4 cuts In all fairness to the other pupils such conduct could not be overlooked.

15th December All schools closed on account of outbreak of infantile paralysis in Dunedin.

1937

1st March School resumed today. Christmas holidays extended on account of infantile paralysis still appearing in Southern Districts

20th April. School closed on account Infantile Paralysis but lessons to be carried on at home by correspondence.

12th May Holiday for Coronation of George VI

24th May School resumed after long break on account Infantile Paralysis and one week of term holidays.

5th October With committee’s approval the work was commenced ½ hour earlier to enable the children to be well away from the school and off the roads before the heavy traffic in connection with Mr Mortensen’s funeral began.

Also as Mr Mortensen was an ex committee man and old pupil and all his family were pupils, it was thought that the school should be represented by the teacher at the Funeral.

1938

A note in margin stating “Complete Entries for 1938”

16th February School closed on account of Masterton Show. Heavy rain all day. A number of the children attended the show.

29th April School closed for afternoon at an refresher course was being held at Central School Masterton for speech work and
choral speaking by Mr and Mrs Mountjoy. Class attended by Mrs McCrae
15th June. School closed 13 children taken to Palmerston North
8th July. Holiday given in Honour of Prime Minister’s visit. Given
by PM
12th September Inspectors H G Johnston’s report included
a) Very sound work in the formal subjects is being done, arithmetic being worthy of special mention
b) Primer children have made good progress in their reading
c) The presentation of all written exercises reveals neatness and care and both Art and Handwork are being very ably catered for.
d) Children are very well behaved and there is a pleasing spirit of work in the classroom
e) Roll 25
14th September. Men began improvement in the playground concrete at back of the school and levelling a piece at the front for a playing area
3rd October. The public works men left the grounds all levelled and concreting being finished
15th October. Parliamentary Elections held the school being used as a Polling Booth
21st November The wireless set was linked up and tested for use
24th November First broadcast lessons listened to and much appreciated by children
28th November. Measles epidemic very bad- only 10 children present
16th December. School closed for summer vacation. Exhibitions of Children’s work and distribution of prizes. No concert was held on account of measles epidemic

1939
1st February 24 children on roll
28th February Owing to hot weather this month afternoon lessons have been taken out of doors and swimming lessons at 11.30 and 2.30- Several more children can almost swim
14th March All children were taken out to East Hall to see a “safety first” film. After the showing of the film Mr Stringer, the Traffic Inspector talked to the children about their conduct on the road re traffic. Afterwards he discussed “safety rules” with the teachers present. There were 7 schools present
4th September School work resumed. War declared Roll 23
2nd November Coronation Picture received- brought out by Mr Brockett
Undated application to remodel classrooms
a) Roll 1936 21, 1937 22 1938 25 last term 24
b) Only one room in use each classroom 23’ 6”
c) Mauriceville 2 miles 46 chains away. Kopuaranga 7 Miles 16 chains Hastwell 14 Miles 27
d) Mauriceville School is now being remodelled and enlarged
1940
L King
6th February School resumed. All the children looking well except Garth McKeown who had been under medical observation during January. All seemed pleased to be back at school again.

Roll 19

14th March Centennial Procession in Masterton School closed to enable children to attend as the different floats etc had a bearing on history and progress.

28th- 29th School closed on account of death of Mr Savage Prime Minister of New Zealand.

10th June All June the children have been very busy working for Red Cross. Children earning money for the school “soldier” tin, also bring bottles for sale, wool is being collected to make “eiderdowns” Peggy squares being knitted by all children in the standards: primers also learning to knit.

6th November Received notice of transfer to Te Ore Ore as Head Teacher.

16th December. Mr Trass judged lambs and calves. 5 entries 3 calves 2 lambs.

1941

New Teacher

3rd February Roll 19

13th March The children visited the Mauriceville Butter Factory where all the various processes were explained.

25th April School Closed- Anzac Day. The previous week talks were given to the children on the significance of Anzac day and appropriate stories read. On Anzac day a special service was held at Mauriceville and this was attended by several of the children.

3rd June. During May 3 rooms were papered in the school residence by the Wairarapa Joinery and Cabinet Company Carterton and a great improvement has been noted.

1942

Miss E Grant

2nd February Roll 22

19th March Children visited the Native Bush to study native trees and shrubs.

25th June- 3rd July School closed on account of damage done to building during the earthquake. Damaged chimney and tank made the school unsafe for the children to be in.

15th September

Another new teacher

School resumed after the August holiday. There was no school from September 7th to September 14th as no appointment made.

Roll 20

10th November Dental Clinic Nurse inspected all classes.

18th December. A very successful picnic was held. During the day races were run, lambs and calves judged prizes were presented and the children received gifts from the Xmas tree.

127
1943

1st February Roll 21
16th February Dr Mulholland visited the school and examined all children
5th March School closed on account of special Physical Education Day for Teachers in Masterton
2nd June Mr Trass was chairman of the School Committee for a great number of years died suddenly on Monday Night (May 31st). The school was closed in the afternoon of the burial
1st July Mr Brown, Inspector for woodwork visited the school in the morning. Tools were gone through and a very helpful and instructive lesson was taken by which both children and myself will benefit.
In the afternoon Miss Sellars of the Navy League visited the school. The school was presented with a 100% flag for 100% membership in the year 1942
Stanley William’s was also presented with a long service badge
23rd June Mr Lett from Masterton repaired broken window panes, fixed window cords and repaired the spouting
19th August A very pleasant break up afternoon was spent at school there being many parents and friends present. Children rendered several items which were very much appreciated by audience. Afternoon Tea was provided by the ladies
10th September Holiday declared by Prime Minister to celebrate capitulation of Italian Army
8th November Miss Sewell Physical Education Instructress visited the school in the afternoon. The children were taught how to play longball.

1944

1st February Roll 22 attended a combined primary school’s athletic day held in the Park oval Masterton.
8th June Received a very welcome parcel of library books from the Wellington Education Board. Under a new scheme books are evidently being forwarded to the schools at intervals throughout the year.
27th November Roll 16
4th December Two of the children took their calves into the Group Judging held at Solway School. Two of the competitors Keith Mortensen and Ronald Terry were successful in the Pedigree Class getting second and third place respectively

1945

5th February Roll 17
25th May Large cartons of supplies from Wellington Education Board arrived it included much material for the new number work with infants.
15th August Japan surrendered. School continued on the Wednesday and closed the two succeeding days
18th December Held end of year function at the hall. School prizes distributed and Father Christmas Presented children with gifts from the Christmas Tree.

1946

P Twiss Teaching
4th July commenced Relieving Duty Douglas Earnest Tooby
31st July Finished D E Tooby
1st August K B Marriott Roll 11
23rd August 8/6d collected for Wellington Health Camp Association
4th October Holiday declared by Governor General Sir Bernard Freyberg on occasion of his visit to the Wairarapa

1947
3rd February Roll 11. Includes Elva Neighbours who has left temporarily to attend Greymouth (Neighbours is a well-known Buller and West Coast Surname)
18th February Supply of timber for light woodwork arrived from Wellington Education Board. Also received notice that Elva Neighbours had won a prize (5/3) – First equal in the Dominion Industries writing competition
7th March. Received carton of library books from Country Library Service
11th March. Dispatched carton of library books to CLS
10th April School residence water tanks cleaned out today. 4 tanks cleaned
29th April received from Wellington Education Board one crate of pinex and bundle of mouldings. These are for display board to be put above blackboard for a display board along the wall.
28th May School closed on occasion of local licensing poll. School used as a polling booth

30th May Put up display board above the blackboard. It looks fine, I think
20th June. Table received for Table Tennis. Children are very keen and it will prove a great benefit in wet weather
30th June Ronald McCullough returned to school today, after spending some time at Whakatane.
21st July. Received a stirrup pump from Wellington Education Board (A stirrup pump was a hand pump used to fight fires)
24th July. Mr Hood of the transport department visited the school and spoke to the children on road safety. He also showed sound films dealing with the subject
1st November Received Filmstrip Projector ordered through the Wellington Education Board last July. There seems to have been some extraordinary delays connected with the ordering and delivery of this projector. However it is pleasing to have it at last
28th November Calf and Lamb judging was held at the school this afternoon. Mr H Myers of Mauriceville judged the animals. Three calves and three lambs were judged. Calves were judged for care and attention and Dairy Type. Lambs were just judged.
A goodly number of parents and friends was at the school to see the judging. Following this the ladies held a bring and buy and raised £1 while the boys and girls of the Junior Red Cross conducted games and competitions which brought in over £1 also
1st December. School closed indefinitely according to instructions issued per radio by Minister of Education owing to instances of
infantile paralysis. On duty at school from 8.40 a.m. Did various necessary jobs of tidying up. Also prepared test papers.

2nd December. Again on duty all day. Sent out a message to children to come and collect books and tidy desks. Children came at various intervals during the day

3rd December. On duty all day. Elva Neighbours came at 9.00 to do test papers- completed mental and written arithmetic and formal language.

In afternoon I visited and judged the Home garden Projects.

Final Results were
Standard 5 and 6 Kelvin Naysmith 1st Elva Neighbours 2nd Eric Pain 3rd
Standard 3 Barry Godden

4th December. Elva Neighbours again came at 9.00 to do test papers. Written Comprehension, Reading Comprehension and Letter. Mrs Marriott supervised while I left with Mr Wallis for discussion group at Mauriceville.

5th December Took part in discussion at Mauriceville.

12th December Schools declared officially closed as from today

1948

2nd February Commenced duty for the new school year. No pupils present as schools not yet officially open. Children to do correspondence work.

9th February Lessons for Primer 3 to Standard 3 arrived today

11th February Attended Mauriceville School at request of senior inspector to take part in discussion on correspondence work and class work generally.

1st March School opened today for beginning of first term.

5th April The track up to the school was graded today in preparation of a topping of limestone

10th April A picnic was held in the school grounds today. The Home and School Association (First mention of) provided luncheon- afternoon tea. Races- games were held, the winners of the races receiving prizes. At afternoon tea a book prize was given to all children. It was a very successful function

3rd May Biennial meeting of householders. 10 present. Mr Lumsen (Chairman). L Neighbours (Secretary), O Mortensen, AH Godden.

11th June Mr Warham Physical Education visited and left a dozen rubber balls

18th June Received parcel of Social Studies Text Books

28th June Received parcel of 2 Standard 3 English text books

9th July Mr Warham introduced to children some new activities using hoops.

6th September Roll now 14

7th September. Received one Swedish bench for Phys Ed purposes

10th September. Mr Warham visited. Showed the children some exercises for the balance form

15th September. Timber for school flooring delivered today.

2nd November Sent children home at 10.00 and closed school for the day for private reasons

3rd November. Received radio from Department Appears to be in good order and condition.
Elva Neighbours has again been successful in the writing section of the Wairarapa show this time gaining 1st Prize in the secondary group.

3rd December. Calf and lamb club. 2 calves and 3 lambs

1949

1st February 16 children on roll

The flooring in the classroom has been renewed during the holidays. It is a vast improvement. 8 new filmstrips have been received for the school Timber for a carshed was delivered during the holidays

16th February Received word that Elva Neighbours had won 1st prize in the All Standards Division of the Dominion Industries Writing Competition Prize Goods to the value of 12/6

1st March. One tumbling mat received today.

9th March Set of Large Photographs for Social Studies

School closed for Licensing and Gaming Poll

14th March At the Mauriceville’s Gardening Circle Show all the school children entered exhibits. 60 entries being put in. Prizes listed

25th March. Received a microphone to use with the new school radio.

28th March. Received a crate containing a speaker for the radio

5th April Cupboard with sliding door delivered from Wellington Education Board This cupboard was apparently dispatched without any covering and the top is badly marked. It has spoilt the whole appearance of the cupboard

1st August Returned to duty today. Have been absent on sick leave since 22nd June. Mrs Marriott has been relieving during the last four weeks.

5th August Received parcel of 14 books from AH and AW Reed

8th August. Very wet today only 2 children present in morning and 3 in afternoon

5th September. 7 tables and chairs arrived and also Hot Doggy stove for the spare room

14th October. Mr Warham called today. Supplied school with skipping ropes and basketball

3rd November. Miss Lowry Infant adviser visited the school today

28th November Today the whole school went to Kopuaranga to witness the Group Judging of the Lamb and Calf Club. Pupils of this school were successful in gaining awards.

30th November. School closed for general election

7th December Today the stumps along the driveway were pulled out and the basketball court made larger by a bulldozer. Later the basketball court will be made into a hard area

Tomorrow Saturday 17th is to be a party day for children of the districts and parents and friends. There will be a Xmas Tree in the school room and Santa Claus will be there.

1950

1st February Roll 14.

25th February Various children were successful in the schools section of the District Gardening Circle
21\textsuperscript{st} March Today a Physical Education Field Day was held at the Hastwell School. Three schools took place, Mauriceville, West and Hastwell. The children were combined and put into teams. Morning. Tabloid Games, the children expected to achieve a certain standard in various skills. Afternoon Relay games. Reports seem to indicate that the parents and friends who attended considered the day quite a success. Requests have been made for more such days to be held. 12\textsuperscript{th} April Diphtheria immunisation was carried out on two or three children. Nurse Williams examined the children today. 22\textsuperscript{nd} May. 3 children of Bolstead family have left owing to the sudden death of Mrs Bolstead. The children are to go to the Whatman Home. 7\textsuperscript{th} – 14\textsuperscript{th} August, On Monday 7\textsuperscript{th} August 7 children from Standard 1 to Form 2 and myself travelled by Railcar to Lower Hutt where we were the guests of the Gracefield School, Mr Gardner and pupils for a week. While there we visited places of interest in the Hutt Valley and Wellington. We returned to Mauriceville on Monday 14\textsuperscript{th} August. 7\textsuperscript{th} Griffin’s Biscuit Factory (lower Hutt) 8\textsuperscript{th}. Felt and Textiles Factory (Lower Hutt) 9\textsuperscript{th} Dunlop Tyre Factory (Upper Hutt) 10\textsuperscript{th} Wellington Municipal Milk Department (Wellington) Dominion Museum (Wellington) 11\textsuperscript{th} Ford Motors (Lower Hutt) 12\textsuperscript{th} (Saturday) Wellington Railway Station and train control. National Broadcasting Studios Newtown Park Zoo 14\textsuperscript{th} Monday. Wharves and “Corinthic” The rest of the week was spent in the classrooms at Gracefield School. The week was most enjoyable and instructive. While we were away Mrs Marriott took charge of the rest of the school. 24\textsuperscript{th} October United Nations Day. The NZ Ensign was flown today and the children given a talk on the significance of the United Nations and a brief outline on the functions of the United Nations Organisation. Mr O’Conner and Mrs Tooby, Phys Instructors, visited the school today. I have received preliminary notice of transfer to the Hawkes Bay Board. I have provided my resignation to Wellington. 31\textsuperscript{st} January Mr Peter Mortensen passed away suddenly aged 82. Mr Mortensen was a former pupil of this school being among the first pupils to attend a school in this district. He can truly be described as one of the pioneers of the district. 1951 21\textsuperscript{st} May J Gibson (Relieving) School reopened after being closed since the 9\textsuperscript{th} March Roll 9. Found school house and school in clean condition. But grounds, hedges and gardens overgrown and in need of urgent attention.
24th May. Received quantity of school correspondence which the Post Office held since the 9th March. Repairs made to school house water heater.

25th May Inspected the school grounds and creek on the Hood’s property (Has been dammed for use as swimming pool some years ago) in company of children

I find the children particularly the older ones very subdued and lacking in initiative, work is fair after their lengthy absence from needlework General lack of knowledge about their own district and its background

8th June School was closed for the afternoon of Friday 1st June as I had to visit Masterton re cheque complications

School was closed for 3 days as I had compassionate leave 28th June. Sewing for girls began today at the schoolhouse with Mrs Gibson

6th July Advised School Committee that school required firewood.

31st July Shopping Day. Have received 3 cords of firewood

6th September This afternoon Hastwell School Played Mauriceville West at this school at Table Tennis. Thanks to cooperation of Mr Bruce (Hastwell School)

11th September Mr Harbut of “School Savings Bank” called yesterday to describe the system and today to collect deposits.

17th October School closed owing to illness of myself. (Fear of infection and incapacity)

18th October. Dr Mckendrick and Nurse Hubbard visited the school at 1 pm. They examined all children and interviewed parents. Dr McKendrick also inspected toilet facilities, basin and waste, lavatories and urinal (I fervently hope). She also discussed all the children with me- I supplying personality and background she supplying physical data and recommendations. Dropped timetable children carried on general activities- while I used the afternoon to some profit in talking to parents. They all showed interest in what was being done in school and have agreed to call a meeting next month to discuss new trends in education

19th October As a gesture of sympathy to the relatives of Mr Godden who died early this morning and with consent of committee and Board the school was closed 10.30 am

24th October Tuesday 23rd constituted a shopping day. On this letter day I presented to the Wellington Education Board a request for sundry improvements to the school buildings e.g Renovation and painting. Septic Tanks or alternatives to present pan toilets, telephone etc. Also requested the replacement of tubs and drainage for the schoolhouse.

5th December. Hastwell school combined to hold calf and lamb day.

1952

4th February Roll 9

7th February. Received news of King’s death. Flag flown half mast. School closed. Commenced swimming yesterday.

11th February Appointment to Makarora confirmed At 11 am school attended the proclamation ceremony of the Mauriceville County at Mauriceville School.

15th February Observed 2 minutes silence at 11 am after a short ceremony.
15th February House keys handed over to Mr Bailey, School Keys handed to Mr Smith. House and School left in a tidy and clean condition.
18th February G R Smith (Relieving)
Took over school- received keys School roll 8. 6 girls 2 boys. Ranging from Primers to Form 1
Power Board Electrician came and cut off the power to the school house.
20th February Power also is cut off at the school. Have written to the power board at Eketahuna for them to put matters right.
27th February Power Board Electrician arrived and returned power to the school Mr Evans (Agriculture) visited the school and decided to await the arrival of a permanent teacher before making any plans.
26th March School closed due to my being unable to travel. My motor cycle broke down and had to be repaired.
17th April School closed for one day due to my having a severe cold and not being able to travel to school
7th May. Today we received a visit from Mr Meyers who is making a survey of Noxious weeds in the district. He pointed out to me the presence of Hemlock at the rear of the Cemetery reserve. I ruled the cemetery reserve out of bounds to the children to prevent a possible case of poisoning to the children.
9th May G R Smith finished
26th May Teacher W C Kane. (Permanent)
Took over the school, received the keys from Mr Bailey, Chairman of School Committee. Roll 9. 7 Girls 2 Boys
I found the school and residence in a very clean condition. The school grounds are in urgent need of attention. I also received a fairly large quantity of official mail.
19th June. Inspector Horsfall, Traffic Inspector, visited the school at 10.00 and took some of the pupils in his car and I took the remainder in mine to Mauriceville East School for films and road safety instruction. He was assisted by Inspector Coe. We arrived back here at 12.40 pm and school commenced for the afternoon session at 1.40 pm
18th July. The School Committee decided to redecorate the interior of the schools. Plans have also been set in motion for the cutting of numerous trees around the school and residence. School Committee have leased part of the grounds to Mr Hood
31st July. Roll 7 Edward and Valmar Raynor have left the district.
4th August The School Committee burned off the front paddocks. During the holidays Members of the School Committee and I completed the repainting of the schoolroom. I repainted certain articles of furniture. The chairman has commenced cutting back the Macrocarpa Hedge and the grounds and school are now beginning to take on a much more attractive appearance
9th September. I received notification from Wellington Education Board that I had been granted a months leave of absence to attend University in order that I might complete my M A degree. My wife will relieve in my position.
10th September F Kane Relieving.
3rd October F Kane finished
9th October I resumed duty after 4 weeks study leave. I found everything in good condition
24th October. I was absent for University exams in Masterton.

29th October Absent again for examinations

4th November, 6th November Absent for Exams

21st November. School Calf and Parents Day. Five calves and two lambs The weather was inclement. Home and School organised the afternoon tea. Janice Neighbours won the prize donated by Mr Neighbours. The afternoon was a moderate success- any failure was due to lack of cooperation on the part of the Home and School Association.

24th November I organised for the children to attend the Wairarapa Calf Show at Matahiwi. Not one of the calves won a prize, however, the contest was of great educational value for the children.

25th November School Committee was held. 3 Members present Mr O Mortensen was again absent. He has attended only one meeting since I have been at the school I put forward certain proposals to the School Committee Fencing of Paddock, cutting trees, clearing and spraying of blackberries. The School Committee intends to do something about it in the future. I complained about the irregular attendance of certain children and the ill mannered attitude of certain parents

15th December. On Saturday the 13th a children’s party was held at the school The Home and School and School Committee organised the function and it was well attended by parents and residents. It was a well conducted party and everybody enjoyed themselves. Father Christmas presented the prizes

1953

2nd February School commenced at 9.00. Roll now stands at 18. 14 Girls and 4 Boys

4th February The children and I inspected the swimming pool in Mr Hood’s property. We are now using it regularly for swimming instruction. A February timetable is being operated and swimming is being taken in the afternoon

26th March 1953 School closed for the day. I attended a discussion group with Inspectors at Te Ore Ore. It proved to be a valuable day profitably and an enjoyable day socially

13th April. A School Committee meeting was held. The Secretary has once again endeavoured to obtain a plumber to repair the hand basin and the blocked drains. The hand basin is now completely US

The School Committee has agreed to obtain the service of the milling contractor to remove any trees from the school grounds that I should consider desirable. I have written to the Board regarding the trees in the residence grounds.

28th May. The Biennial meeting of householders was held at the school last evening. There was a good attendance of men. Unfortunately no women attended, It appears to be an unwritten tradition in this community that men and women do not or cannot work in cooperation together on committees in the society. I feel it is due basically to the Scandinavian background which still permeates the attitude and ideals of those living in the community.

For the first time in 20 years an election was necessary, a good thing, I feel. My constant requests for action and not words might at last bear fruits. Voting was keen and 9 nominations were
received. I acted as returning officer. Those elected were Larsen, Marshall, Neighbours, Forsberg, and Hislop.
The School Committee elected their own chairman and Secretary.
Once again an election was held for each office,
Chairman Mr T Larsen. Secretary J Hislop
Mr Bailey the retiring chairman did not seek re-election.
The new committee authorised me to submit the name of Mauriceville West as host school for the combined Calf and Lamb judging contest to be held in November.
29th May Coronation Ceremony held at the school. The School Committee neither organised or suggested anything, nor was any member present. Two representatives of the Women’s Division of the Federated Farmers presented an oak tree and were present for the planting. Mrs Dagg spoke as did Mrs Cheetham the local president. I made some short relevant remarks regarding the coronation. The flag was flown and the tree was planted. Each child added a little earth.
17th June Roll 20
12th August A School Committee meeting was held at my residence. Various matters were discussed and I was requested to contact the Bell and Howell Representative to give the School Committee a demonstration of their machine (Film Projector). The hand basin and drain still require urgent attention. The Wellington Education Board’s approval is still awaited for this work.
The transport of the children is now on a much sounder footing and I have agreed to convey 5 children daily. The children are arriving at school on time.

Mr Marshall still persists in his attempt to upset the arrangement
7th September I was instructed by the Senior Inspector to attend a meeting at the Wellington Education Board in Wellington.
8th September Mr Marshall called on me again regarding the transport run - he still wants a door to door service at my expense. I referred him to the Wellington Education Board’s letter regarding this matter. I suggested to him that if his daughter was not fit enough to walk the required distance as laid down in the regulation that he should investigate the possibilities of correspondence work for her.
14th September. The roll is now 23. The necessity for a septic tank becomes greater as the roll continues to grow.
28th October Holiday granted by Governor General. Official visit to Masterton
9th November Annual Calf and Lamb Judging contest was held at school.
Entries Calves, 10: 9 Jerseys 1 Friesian 12 Lambs.
17th December The contractors have completed the tree felling, and we now receive much more sun and light than previously.
The school painting seems to be as far as ever. Wellington Education Board suggested if we could get another painter to do the job we should get him to submit a price. The chairman and I are making enquiries.

1954
1st February Roll 22. 6 boys and 16 girls Teacher W C Kane
2nd February Mr Henshaw (Painter) visited and inspected the school. If his tender was accepted he could commence the job sometimes in March. Mr Henshaw said that it would be quite useless to paint the residence in its present condition. So far we have received no notification from the Wellington Education Board regarding woodwork repairs to the residence.

10th February A meeting was held to form a new Home and School Association. At long last we are to have a Home and School Association along the right lines. The old hopeless, outmoded inefficient group of interfering women has gone. Mrs McKenzie was in the chair.

I was asked to express my point of view. I expressed what I always believed should be the underlying basis of any such association. The benefit of the children not only physically but educationally and emotionally. C T Bailey was dramatically opposed to such ideas and he endeavoured as per usual, to dictate to the meeting – his arguments were most skilfully summed up and explained by J Haycock- Bailey as a result became most aggressive. A new committee was elected as follows.

President: Mrs M Mckenzie. Secretary Mrs F M Kane. Committee Mr J Haycock, Mr J Patterson, Mr R Yarrall, Mrs B Hislop, Mrs M Price. Unsuccessful Candidates. Mrs Bailey, Mrs Trass, Mrs Haycock.

The first duty of the Committee was to draw up a constitution and asset of rules.

Name: Parents, Teachers, and friends Association

12th February School Committee meeting. A threatening letter was received from C T Bailey making accusations against me. Each and every statement contained therein was false The School Committee was unanimous in its decisions that the allegations were unfounded. The Committee supported me 100%. The Secretary has written to the Wellington Education Board and the Board Member. I have attached my letter- complaining about such false and assaulting allegations. I am seriously considering taking civil action against Bailey

Started swimming instruction at Opaki Memorial Baths. It is hoped that every child will be swimming by the end of February or beginning of March

25th February School closed for the day. Children and I attended Opaki Baths where we engaged in swimming sports with Opaki, Rangitumau, Kopuaranga, and Mikimiki. Our children did particularly well

10th March. Children went to Opaki to qualify for their certificates. 14 certificates and seals were obtained. 70% of the children received certificates. Two years ago only one pupil could swim

16th March Mr Martin arrived to carry out repairs to the residence. Replacing of rotten boards, renewal of cooper and tubs in washhouse. Insertion of two new windows in sitting room and front bedroom

18th March School attended Wairarapa Country School Athletic Sports in Masterton

29th March Mr K B Wilson a section T student was posted to me for a 4 week section.

5th April I went to Masterton to attend an inservice course in Masterton Mr Wilson conducted the affairs of the school
4th May Children stood at the fence to observe the funeral procession of the late Mr C Johansen. Mr Johansen was an ex pupil who attended the school in the 1890’s.

7th May The front fence was completed today and the job is a credit to the men who gave their services.

24th May The children were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Mr W H Bird who died on 22nd April 1954. Mr Bird was a good worker for the school and a very generous benefactor.

6th July The PTA held a successful “Shop Day” in Masterton. The day and raffles raised £70. The association is now quite financial.

2nd August There is still no sign of the painter and carpenters to install the septic tank in the school and residence.

6th September. Mr Kiernan has commenced the painting of school and residence. He estimates the job will take 10 weeks.

School roll 25

School will now be classified 3a. First time for 20 years.

7th September. Mr Kiernan started painting of school and residence. The first time for 30 years. Mr Barker, Carpenter and Mr Curtain Plumber have commenced work on the installation of septic tanks. The residence WC is now to in the bathroom which is to be extended and renovated in accordance with the plan I submitted to the Board. My persisting with the architect has at last been successful.

12th August The painter still on the job but progress is very slow. It looks as though the job will take all of 3 months. The carpenters and plumbers progressing quite favourably.

19th September. Forwarded my official resignation to the Wellington Education Board. Despite the vast improvements that I have had effected at the school and residence we are very pleased that our term in Mauriceville West is terminating. The chairman of the School Committee will be given the usual months notice.

24th October. On Saturday an election was held to fill the vacancies on PTA. Mrs Forsberg and Johnson were elected.

10th November Annual Calf and Lamb Day. 13 lambs and five calves. The day was organised by the children and it was a huge success.

16th November. Masterton Calf and Lamb judging was held at Mauriceville West School. There were 150 entries.

1955

18th January Keys of School and residence handed over to Mr Larsen, chairman of the School Committee.

Teacher E T Siebert

1st February Roll 23. 15 Girls and 8 Boys. School residence found to be neat and tidy.

5th February Two films arrived “Kangaroos and “Oh No John”

7th February District Nurse visited, X-ray for teachers and injections from Department.

10th February PTA meeting. Decided that parents would transport children to Opaki for swimming two days per week. Instruction by Head Teacher.

24th February Went to Masterton Hospital for X-ray following circular from Wellington Education Board and instructions from District Nurse. School closed in the afternoon.
6th April During the afternoon an Easter Party was held. Parents and younger brothers and sisters. Children had made gifts and hats.
21st April During the afternoon of this day the school was invited to attend the opening of a swimming Pool at Hastwell School. All went.
9th June Snow fell continuously all day
16th June Six senior pupils and myself went to Hastwell to play table tennis
8th July. School Closed for half day for shopping
12th July. School visited puppet show in Masterton
21st July. Senior Pupils Standard 3 to Form 2 visited Mauriceville East
28th July A Fancy Dress Children’s ball was held in the local hall. It was a success both as to enjoyment and finance
20th September Visited by Hearing tester. Children from Standard 1 to Form 2 tested
29th September Visited by a team from Mauriceville East to play rounders
29th October Visited the printing works at Masterton to see the Times Age printed. Also visited the park to study trees, flowers find life. Discussed and visited work at Railway Station. Travelled by Railcar. Data used for project.

1956
1st February 23 children

2nd February Householders meeting to decide on the holding of a school picnic. It was decided to hold the picnic on the 3rd March at Rathkeale
6th February First swimming at Hastwell baths Transported by parents
3rd March School picnic held at Rathkeale, first for 26 years.
5th March Mr P Davis a student arrived for one month
12th March Mr P Davis failed to arrive at school Delayed in bush (Deer Stalking)
13th March Children from Standard 1 to Form 2 taken on excursion to visit local dairy factory and limeworks (Morning Only)
28th March A Penny Concert organised by senior pupils as a farewell to Mr Davis, the Student.
11th April Three Senior Girls and self attended Navy League Lecture in Masterton from 2.30 pm
25th April School closed for Anzac day. Senior Girls laid wreath on Mauriceville East War Memorial.
12th June Older girls and boys taken to Kopuaranga to practice for football and netball.
27th June School closed. Took part in Basketball (Netball) and football (Rugby) tournament in Masterton.
14th July PTA and Friends held games evening to raise funds for playground equipment.- Poor attendance worst weather during winter!
15th July Lighting tested in school by Mr Heath, Masterton, found to be 4 candles maximum 5 candles with light on on a dull day. Blackboard without light none, Teachers table 1 1/2
24th September Choir taken to Masterton for a practice for Music Festival also 9 year olds received first polio injection.
8th October 2nd Choir practice (again 16th)
18th October. Attended children’s matinee of Music Festival in Masterton. 2nd polio injection
5th November 10 calves 8 lambs at Calf and Lamb day.
9th November At last, after almost 2 years the ground in front of the school is ploughed, harrowed and sown with grass seeds.
2nd November Annual group calf and lamb day held in Masterton. We attended and had 5 calves and 4 lambs.
Also we met our guest school pupils from Johnsonville
26th November School taken to nearby farm to observe felling cutting and hauling logs by machinery. Timber for local church,
17th December School Pupils Standard 3-6 visited Hansell’s Essence factory.
18th December. School closed. As usual wet day. 3 Form 2 girls leaving. One Janice Neighbours closed family record of 40 years of members of this family attending this school.

1957
6th February Took school to swimming pool made by men. Rather deep and uneven for safe swimming
8th February Second day of swimming at pool. Needs careful supervision.
11th February School picnic at Rathkeale. All except one pupil present
18th February Susan White absent with scarlet fever

20th February Attended sports held at Rangitumau School First of a series of fortnightly sports gatherings to be held by 6 schools in the North Wairarapa.
25th February Afternoon party given for me by Mothers, Children and Sunday School Children-very enjoyable and much appreciated by me. It was a kind thought
26th February Film and Card Evening held in hall. Very enjoyable.
28th February So ends my two years at Mauriceville West. I have handed keys of school and residence to the School Committee Chairman Mr L Forsberg.
4th March D P Anderson commenced relieving duties
6th March. Mr Barnett Agriculture Instructor visited the school. Lesson on weather observation
15th March. School attended Wairarapa Country Schools Picnic held at Masterton Park
11th April Combined School Sports at Mauriceville East (Softball)
10th May D P Anderson finished
27th May S Parsonson
Found school buildings and out houses in need of a good spring clean. Material and Equipment needed sorting and cleaning. School and house grounds much overgrown and in need of a great deal of alteration. Interior of house left tidy.
Roll 21
30th May. Dental Nurse visited school and inspected teeth. 9 children are to go to Masterton for treatment
17th June I took 7 children into town to attend a Navy League Programme for members
20th June Combined sports practice at Kopuaranga. Senior children taken by myself
3rd July School closed for basketball and rugby tournament in Masterton Games were cancelled at 1.00 due to the bad weather. The girls drew in the two games they played
12th July Traffic Inspector Doyle visited the school and spoke to the children on road rules
8th August Mr Matheson Physical Education instructor visited the school. Taught three folk dances
10th September School Committee and parents cut hedges and cleaned local school out
27th September Ten children inoculated against polio
1st October. Six senior children attended music festival rehearsal at Masterton
4th November Dental Nurse inspected children’s health. Children’s teeth poorly kept.
3rd to 12th December School exams. Results in some quarters very satisfactory but in others disappointing

1958
January During the holidays the contractor cleared all the untidy area at the rear of the school and house. It has greatly improved the general appearance
3rd February School reopened on a bright sunny day. 16 children were present
6th February Permission granted us by the School Committee of the East School to use their baths for swimming instruction. This is much appreciated by children parents and myself.
7th February Special holiday granted by the Wellington Education Board in honour of the Queen Mother’s visit
17th February Load of sand delivered by Mr Williams for the children’s pit.
19th February Purchase of rotor scythe agreed upon.
20th February Elected chairman of the West Teachers Group
24th February Mr and Mrs Johnson presented the school with a very nice first aid kit.
24th February. Mr Barns demonstrated two rotor mowers to the School Committee. The committee is to decide.
4th March The school picnic was held at the Double Bridges in perfect weather.
11th March The school closed for teacher In Service Training.
24th March Miss Pemberton called and will try to procure more drill gear. She took the Holgar Artificial Resuscitation Artificial Respiration. Included the Rocking method for carrying out of water or carrying across paddock to house
26th March Sergeant Hogg from Wellington Police Station called to talk to the children of the duties of a policeman
His talk was to encourage children to think of a policeman as a friend.
21st April At a class meeting the following school rules were agreed upon complete with punishments for breakage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Punishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swearing</td>
<td>Wash mouth with soap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t leave school grounds without permission</td>
<td>Writing Lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stealing</td>
<td>Teacher Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting</td>
<td>Guilty child write a letter of apology to other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riding Bicycle in grounds</td>
<td>Push bicycle up and down drive 12 times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Arrival</td>
<td>Make up time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rude Behaviour</td>
<td>Teacher Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misbehaviour in assembly or classroom</td>
<td>Letter of apology to leader, class or teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaging trees , plants</td>
<td>Write a story on care and use of such</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet weather boundary</td>
<td>Tidy all library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Weather boundary</td>
<td>Tidy all infant apparatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaging property</td>
<td>Replacement or repair of damage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive talking</td>
<td>Write a story for the infant library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21st April Pastor Bliss continues to take Bible instruction every third Monday in the month from 9-9.30
6th May Mauriceville West Table Tennis Club reopened for this season at the hall. Seventy odd people including visitors from other clubs in attendance.

26th May. During the holidays Mr Johnson erected a parcel box at the school gate.
26th May Subsidy on the new rotor scythe has been approved at £40.00.
26th May 16/17 were in attendance
31st June Plumbers arrived at school to commence work on erecting new space heater and repair leaks in roof. Things beginning to happen!
5th June The new Rotormoa was delivered to the school today. Now the long grass can be tackled
6th June. The father’s erected a boundary fence surrounding the house. This is a great asset as the wife no longer has to chase the two imps all over the property
9th June the children received their booster injection for polio. It knocked one or two of them.
Miss Pemberton arrived at 1.15 p.m and took the children for large ball passing and handstands
16th June. A shop day has been arranged for the 5th July. Mr Williams has supplied a pig, Mrs Patterson two fowls and Mrs Johnson a duck. Mrs McKenzie is making a fruit cake and Mrs Williams is supplying two bran tubs of toys
7th July A successful shop day held at the school It raised £23. This will purchase a Phillips radiogram, records and encyclopaedia set
26th July Folk Dancing Records and Arthur Mees Children’s encyclopaedias arrived
1st August Phillips Electric Gramophone purchased £19-18-06
Drive from cashed to gate reinstalled
10\textsuperscript{th} February Carpenters completed their repair work on the house. Doors and windows now burglar proof!
19\textsuperscript{th} December. School closed at 12.00. Weather disappointing as the boys had been looking forward to avenging their cricket defeat by the girls

\textbf{1959}
13\textsuperscript{th} February First School Committee meeting. Picnic to be held on 24\textsuperscript{th} at Payton’s Bush. Mauriceville East School have kindly allowed us the use of their baths from 2-15 to 3 daily
16\textsuperscript{th} May. With the colder weather settling in there is a drop in the attendances. Several children have been absent with colds.
27\textsuperscript{th} April An enjoyable afternoon was spent at the Masterton Post Office. We were taken on a conducted tour of all the departments.
8\textsuperscript{th} May A well attended working bee was held at school last Saturday. All the hedges were trimmed and the trees along the drive topped
25\textsuperscript{th} May. During the holidays the porch and classroom were painted in 4 pastel shades. Looks like a new pin. The transformation is amazing
25\textsuperscript{th} May Wellington Education Board supplied a roll of malthoid for car shed roof at residence. This I fixed on the shed during the holidays. It is now drip dry!. Also replaced the shed doors.
1\textsuperscript{st} July School tank drained and cleaned. One large drowned rat responsible for stench in water!

3\textsuperscript{rd} July The School Committee has handed over the school cleaning duties to my wife. £25 will be given by the School Committee for the children’s functions
12\textsuperscript{th} August Fire shield and tank line still to be done plus the residence
19\textsuperscript{th} August Board Architect called and measured walls for modern windows. Calling for tenders soon.
28\textsuperscript{th} August 3 firms tendered for alterations for remodelling school windows
7\textsuperscript{th} September The School Committee commenced preparing a garden plot for the children. They also cleaned all the windows and polished the floors
12\textsuperscript{th} October The school tennis court project commenced on Saturday with the felling and trimming of 23 trees. There were 13 locals present. This is the most we’ve ever had at a working bee. There are still 25 trees awaiting slaughter.
13\textsuperscript{th} October Cheers ! Its over? Inspection visit Per Mr Decan yesterday. Quite favourable. Just wait for the report?

\textbf{1960}
1\textsuperscript{st} February Water supply very grim?
10\textsuperscript{th} February School picnic held at Payton’s Bush. The weather was glorious. Even a trifle too hot. All we could do was swim.
10\textsuperscript{th} February, The building of the bank has been completed and it has certainly tidied up the side and rear of the school
17th February I took Standard 2 upwards in to the film Ten Commandments. It was very good and the children were impressed with the idea of God’s power.

23rd March. School closed yesterday as the Summer Bug laid hold upon me. Nearly all the children have now been absent with the complaint.

26th March Completion of tree felling. All logs ready for timber trucks. A jovial and good humoured gang completed the job midst showers. From an angry sky.

20th March. Logging trucks commenced to cart away logs

28th March. Carpenters arrived to dismantle classroom wall and insert our new sunshine wall!. Three cheers for the light!

School held in the old dirty dark and cold spare room. Should say morgue!

14th April Ten children to Wellington on a social studies trip. Junior school given a holiday much to mother’s delight

a) Left on 9.2 a.m railcar and arrived at WELLINGTON at 11.33

b) Cable car
c) Lunch top of the Botanical Gardens
d) Dominion Museum for 1 ½ hours studying early settlement and Maori.
e) Escorted over wharves
f) New Wellington airport for a quick visit.
g) 5.30 Railcar home

23rd May School reopened on a dark, damp and dismal day. The fire and chimney were finished by yours truly and finished off the room nicely.

26th August Organising teacher called today. Organised me but disorganised the children.

21st June The plumber has at last repaired the broken pipe line. Water at last! The hound took all the old pipes!

29th July Off with foot injury Nail pierced shoe and foot in school wood shed. Friday off the doctor. Very painful

2nd August Still hobbling on one foot. Table tennis team still unbeaten

14th September Maintenance officer inspected school and residence, Moans and Groans! Not much hope of new residences as yet.

15th September Plumber completed maintenance at residence. No further need of umbrellas.

20th September. Local Table Tennis Club won the Cheetham Cup for 1960. Undefeated for the season.

1st October Mr Barker called and measured up installation of the new water system. A 4000 gallon tank to be installed to supply house and school.

20th October Two ladies from the local women’s Institute demonstrated how to make decorative objectives out of vegetables and fruit. Use of flowers, plants leaves and novelties. This is in preparation of our calf day.

14th November My son Kevin started today. Now my troubles begin

26th November. Today was election day. My wife and I ran the booth. 52 votes were recorded. The results shocked a few!
1961

30th January School Committee have given the school a good clean. Windows and floors. The floors are oiled tomorrow.

7th February Tennis Court still doubtful. Wellington Education Board will not grant subsidy. We're very disappointed.

13th February Mr Hedley called re urgent 1960 maintenance work. Contractor for new water tank due in a fortnight’s time. We Hope!

20th February Inspectors Mitchell and Campbell called at 12.45. A Social Visit!

This school is now in the North area as far as Inspector’s division and meetings. Mr Mitchell explained the ceiling mark on reports. Also there is no record of a school inspection by Mr Deegan on 11th December 1958.

21st February School Closed for Masterton Intermediate. Dr Arvidson NZCER Spelling addressed a large gathering.

28th February School Picnic at Payton’s Bush. A very few parents turned out. Majorly the School Committee. What would we do without them.

23rd March We visited the local limeworks.


Parents evening held at school. Rather a poor muster. Several interesting films thanks to the Shell oil company.

12th April We followed the local dairy company. Followed the cream process through to the cooling, storage vast. Handling and treatment of the cream.

Tomorrow we again visit the factory to follow the process from vat to butter.

17th April Community meeting to elect a new School Committee. A very poor attendance. Eleven persons only attended. Four of the present committee re-elected. Mr White resigned as he is moving to Dargaville. Mr F Williams elected.

The past School Committee have done an excellent job and have been very understanding and cooperative at all times.

The tennis court project was the main item discussed and further community meeting is to be held as early as possible to discuss same.

10th April Manual Training and Cooking Instruction have commenced in Masterton for the Senior Boys and Girls. Three attending on Thursday afternoons.

24th April The contractors have completed the lower playing area. Once the grass has grown it should prove a great asset.

The large concrete tanks for the new water supply were delivered today.

29th May Electrician wired up new water pump. Water now being pumped from school tank up to the 5000 one. Plumber to commence the house plumbing shortly.

31st May Took the children to the film Royal Tour of India. A very educational outing.

7th June. Carpenters finished work at school yesterday. House maintenance halted for some reason.

20th June. Today 6 members of the Wellington Education Board visited the school. The school was in good order and presented no problems. They were especially interested in the residence which...
is down for replacement. They were highly impressed with the condition inside and very satisfied with my interior decorating work.

29th June A community meeting was held to elect 2 new members (Mr McKenzie and Mr A Williams have left the district) The 2 new members are K Mortenson and J Neilsen.

12th July The plumber has completed the maintenance work. All tanks have now been removed. The new water scheme is now connected and it’s great to have a good water supply and plenty of pressure.

10th August. A pleasant surprise! Electricians called unexpectedly and fitted a new hot water system in the residence. It’s lovely to have plenty of hot water. No more lighting of coppers and carrying buckets of water! Cheers!

Everything comes to those who wait! We’ve certainly waited!

31st August. The Board architects called and surveyed the front paddock for the proposed new schoolhouse.

Patterson’s to be contracted re a ¼ acre off the area rented by them. Things look promising.

4th September Roll still 14

Mr Urquhart died during the holidays. Our storeman was a very popular man and will be greatly missed in community offices.

8th September School was closed Wednesday and Thursday owing to my crippled back.

11th September Rev A Leske Lutheran Pastor called and made arrangements to take Bible in schools every 2nd Monday of each month.

16th October. Police called to inspect disappearance of articles from the house. Mostly the wife’s underclothing except for £5 belonging to me! Moan! No clues, they are going to check the district.

25th October. Measles epidemic in the community. Only nine pupils at school today.

2nd November Measles in full swing. Only 6 pupils here this afternoon.

9th November. Measles in full cry. Only six pupils here all this week.

10th November Tenders have been called for the new residence.

27th November So far two contractors have called for information regarding the new contracts.

6th December Owing to the death of my father the school was closed from the 4th to 5th.

1962

5th February Four new entrants including my own Daughter. Roll 18

Peter and Stephen Williams are moving into Masterton. Sandra Paterson will be attending Intermediate School on my own recommendation. The school has become a real infant department.

28th February Letter from Mr Parsonson to Wellington Education Board Roll now 15

Unfortunately the school roll has dropped considerably over the last 12 months owing to three small farms having sold to larger holdings already established in the district.
13th March Letter from I Williams Secretary Mauriceville West and E Cameron Secretary of Mauriceville schools to Wellington Education Board

The committees met today to discuss the possibilities of amalgamating

It was decided to seek details and further information from you. It was proposed that you at your convenience address the joint committees on the possibility

At the same time well invite the committees of Kopuaranga and Hastwell school to attend if they are interested

24th March. School picnic to be held at Masterton Park

13th March A joint meeting of East and West Committee was held at the East School to discuss amalgamation. All present seemed keen on amalgamation for the benefit of the children. That is provided transport is available. A joint letter was written to Wellington Education Board asking Mr Charles (Wellington Education Board Secretary) to address a further meeting.

15th March Two dental nurses called and inspected the children’s teeth. One checked their teeth and the other spoke on care of teeth. They were very pleased with the condition of the children’s teeth

9th April Combined meeting of East and West to discuss consolidation. Mr Charles and Mr Golding were present to address and answer questions. A householders meeting has been arranged at West with the same men on Thursday 3rd May.

Notes for meeting included:

a) The department would not approve of transport of ineligible children
b) At present the Children attending West are all under 10 and are eligible for transport
c) 2 are children of the Head teacher so 13 would require transport
d) The combined roll would be 65 close to the roll needed of 71 for a third teacher
e) The case would be much stronger if Kopuaranga was included for a departmental bus
f) The bus could be operated by a teacher living in the Kopuaranga house
g) If Kopuaranga joined the roll would be 85

17th April Health Nurses visited and gave children oral polio doses. All 15 children were dosed

4th May A large meeting of householders met last night to listen and discuss with 3 Wellington Education Board people the proposed idea of consolidation with East and East. There was plenty of discussion and question. A vote was taken on paper which will be checked over by the Wellington Education Board and the results made known later this month.

15th May Meeting held in Mauriceville West. Parents for amalgamation 8 Parents against 6

A new residence was going to be built at West but as roll is down to 11.
That West be notified that Consolidation would not happen because of voting split.
That the new residence not be built.

29th June Now that the amalgamation is not happening the Board will now renew the residence.

6th August School drastically hit with flu bug.
15th August Bulldozing of site for new residence commenced today.

3rd September. Roll 13 Carpenters now working flat out on new residence! Pouring concrete for foundation today.

2nd October. School Committee meeting. Calf and lamb day cancelled because lack of entries.

3rd October. Miss Small from Dr Barnardo’s Homes addressed the children. Very interesting. It is hoped more children will join league.

18th October. Bill Hedley, Wellington Education Board maintenance officer called and we discussed with him the water problem. For the last month we have been struggling to survive on the present supply. We have had over 2000 gallons carted. He is going to discuss the matter with the Board

19th October. TB tests given the two 5 year olds.

7th November Mr Oldfield called to measure, inspect and quote for proposed sealed tennis court. £450 quoted complete with two new posts.

8th November School Committee meeting. Tennis Court quote too high!

19th November. Vacated the old residence during the weekend and occupied the new one. It is a lovely place after spending 5 ½ years in the old wreck!

26th November Painters arrived to paint school and much to my surprise the interior of room 1 and the playsheds. Wonders never cease! Should be a perfect set up here when all is finished.

27th November Received word today that I had been chosen for 1st assistant Harley Street Scale 3. Three mighty cheers!!!

5th December. Painters and carpenters working on school maintenance what a shambles and right at examination time.

10th December. Carpenters arrived to dismantle the old residence built in 1885. So ends the reign of a grand old lady after 77 years of faithful service.

1963

5th February. Roll 15
During the holidays Jim has left the lawns neat and tidy.
7th February Owing to the lack of transport swimming has been cancelled for the month.
The School Committee decided that owing to the young age of most of the pupils the trip to the Hutt on the free train to see the Queen would be of little profit.

My official resignation was handed in read and accepted by those present.

12th February The school was closed yesterday for the Queen’s visit to Wellington.
28th February The school closed today until the reliever takes over on Monday. After almost 6 years of service my term here has completed. We have enjoyed our stay in the valley and have found the School Committee and parents very friendly and cooperative. I have left the school clean and in good order.

4th March Barbara Boys Relieving Shirley Shoosmith eldest child was a marvellous help to me. Impressions: Spotless inside and well kept. Children Polite, friendly and eager to assist and please. A definite contrast to previous position. I look forward to this term’s work very much.

Swept out toilets and school rooms after 3 pm. Mr K Mortensen is chairman of School Committee and it is at the Mortensen residence that board has been offered to me.

18th March Electricians placed two hot points one near Zip one in room for Projector. Projector still out of order owing to lack of parts in NZ’ Radio not working.

27th March School received information of first school in Mauriceville from K Holyoake (PM).

10th May School closes for Term 1. As yet no notice as to my staying or leaving. Have cleaned out school and all in order. Here’s hoping another term at Mauriceville.

4th June K Shaw. Took up position as Sole Teacher. School was closed for first week awaiting my arrival. Residence in beautiful condition.

7th June End of first week. Most of this week spent in tidying up rooms and sorting out books, art materials. Children appear to be a good bunch.

12th June. School Committee will request Wellington Education Board to allow my wife to take sewing. School cleaning to be done by wife. School Committee asked if First Aid Kit could be kept in the residence under the supervision of the wife.

28th June. Last day for Shoosmith family. This family will be missed. Shirley (Standard 5) and Joy (Standard 4) have been of great assistance to me during my first month here. I am sorry to see them go.

1st July Roll 8

24th July Received OK for Guillotine, plastic for book covers, plant and film catalogue.

26th July. Snow! There was great excitement when I allowed the children to go out in the snow. It has been bitterly cold and the fire has been working overtime.

27th July Today the snow fell again and this time it settled all over the district. It provided a wonderful sight.

12th August. Girls attended ballet in Masterton.

27th September. At Council meeting children decided with much prompting by teacher to purchase a spirit duplicator (Banda?) for the school. Because of School Committee obligation to finance sealing of tennis court children decided to raise money themselves—by doing school cleaning and by organising a copper trail.

8th 11th October I attended Maori Arts course in Masterton. Wife relieved at school.
11th October. Children organised Bring and Buy to raise money for Duplicator.
17th October. Builders arrived to start work on the Tennis Court
23rd October. Purchased Duplicator (Ornig Piccolo). Children thrilled. If subsidy is granted we have sufficient money. Will keep money trail going in the meantime
29th October. Builder completed work on tennis court
31st October. Distributed our first edition of Korero Pai Also sent out first monthly Newsletter
12th November. Bonfire (Belated Guy Fawkes was held in school paddock)
13th November School Committee Main discussion centred around Tennis Court Finances a bit low but with half from Wellington Education Board will just make it.
25th November Final count for copper trail £4-11-2. With other money total reached £24-9 (A very creditable effort for 11 children) Children voted £1 to pay for paddle tennis bats (6)
19th December School finished for year

1964

K Shaw Teacher
February 1964. New log book. A Summary of all residents of Mauriceville West and who lived where is made.
Communications
   a) All the roads are metalled and good quality
   b) Most of the houses connected to the telephone. A party line (917) linked to the Masterton Manual Exchange.
   c) The remainder are on an automatic party line.
   d) Mail is delivered every day except Sunday
   e) Three houses have TV Sets
   f) The Times Age evening newspaper is delivered to some houses

4th February School reopened Roll 11
18th February School picnic at Queen Elizabeth Park. A disappointing turnout of parents
29th April Held a barbecue in school grounds to help raise funds for filing cabinet. A very successful gathering with all families represented. Raised 35/-
10th June Began weekly sports with Mauriceville School. Hope to arrange sports with other schools
8th July Purchased under subsidy a filing cabinet
4th August Parents invited to school to see school in action. Morning Tea provided by the children
7th September. School reopened. During the holidays a bottle drive was held to help raise funds for a tape recorder. 74 Dozen beer bottles were collected. Altogether the bottle drive raised £13.00
9th September Country schools football and basketball tournament in Masterton
23rd September Combined with Mauriceville for rugby and basketball matches with Hastwell and Kopuaranga.
7th October. Whole school attended Maori Social Studies Project in Masterton.
7th November. A Guy Fawkes bonfire held in school paddock
24th November A Hangi and display of work was held
The tennis court was officially opened. Mrs Shaw had the honour of hitting the first ball. The court is now available for public use and a set of rules has been drafted and circulated to the community. The children demonstrated the various games they play on the court. 3rd December. Swimming at Mauriceville East began today.

1965
1st February Teacher only day.
2nd February Roll 14.
3rd February Began school swimming at East School I have drawn up a transport roster this year to do away with continual ringing of people in order to organise transport.
4th March. Took children to visit Wool Court and Golden Shears in Masterton. This was to have been in conjunction with School Picnic. Owing to poor weather the picnic was delayed.
8th April Attended meeting at East School to discuss with parents the proposed Social Studies trip to Waikato in October. Parental support very good.
28th April Biennial householders meeting. Because of insufficient nominations the election was not held and another meeting will be convened at a later date.
4th May. Another Biennial meeting Nine householders present- K Mortensen chair, J Neilsen, sec-treas, J Patterson, J Stringfellow J Atkinson. Initial enthusiasm fine- it is to be hoped that it lasts.

17th June Mr Hamish Henderson, School Inspector, visited the school to carry out a personal examination.
28th June Heavy snow fell during the night and was up to six inches thick. The children had a wonderful time- needless to say there was little schoolwork done.
16th August, Children from Karapiro School arrived for weeks visit. 6 children billeted in our school.
4th 8th October. 6 children went with Mauriceville East School to Waikato. Billeted by children at Karapiro School £22-10 was raised by children to help cover cost of trip.
11th – 12th November Two Day visit by Colombo Plan students from Malaysia. This was organised by W Farland (Organising Teacher) Children enjoyed the two days very much.
19th November A new automatic telephone exchange was installed and opened today. We now have individual lines.

1966
2nd February Roll number 16. 12 Boys 4 girls
10th March Because of invasion of bees we were forced to evacuate the school and set up camp in the hall. Quite a good day spent mainly on Social Studies. We took the opportunity to visit an old residence on the Hall Road.
26th April A holiday was taken in honour of the visit of the Queen Mother.
15th July Four Corlette’s removed from roll. Roll 9. All boys
2nd August Boys attended Lion’s match in Masterton Lions won 9-6.
11th August Received visit from Chairman and Secretary of Wellington Education Board Purpose of visit to investigate discontent expressed by Mrs Wulf(?) re school and two children Board members expressed satisfaction with running of school
29th August Received notification of appointment to a school in Fiji.
3rd October. New lawnmower purchased by School Committee, This should help appearance of grounds
5th November Guy Fawkes Bonfire at John Stringfellows. A full turnout of parents and children.
24th November Children visited Rangitumau School for combined Agricultural and Pets day
25th-26th Sealing of road from Mauriceville to Patterson’s Corner. A big improvement
16th December End of my Term at Mauriceville West
21 children have left the district since 1964 and 4 have taken their place.
February 1964. 41 adults and 36 children in district
Now we have 34 adults and 20 children
Because of this drop in population Among the following have ceased to exist. Cards, Table Tennis, Indoor Bowls. The Hall Committee have been extremely active organising 8 cabarets over the last 3 years.
Television is installed in all but 1-2 houses
The road from Mauriceville to Patterson’s corner is now sealed.

1967
D Slater Principal
2nd February 9 pupils
14th February School picnic rained out at Eketahuna so moved to Double Bridges. Weather good
24th-27 March School 90th Jubilee
A full summary of events logged
19th April TB test by district nurse
10th August Visit from Kopuaranga to arrange parts for play to be performed at North Masterton Country Groups cultural festival.
16th August Older boys to Kopuaranga to practice “Whiteman Aren’t for Eating”.
17th October District Nurse talked about need for washing hands and how to do it.

1968
6th February 11 children 10 boys and 1 girl still
14th February Took senior boys down to Hidden Lakes as part of preliminary camp activities, while Mrs Slater instructed junior children
26th February School Picnic at Kopuaranga (Mr Brophy’s). This was a work day. Nature study included in the programme.
15th March Sleep out with senior boy at Mauriceville East Preliminary to school camp.
30th-31st April Teacher at science course (The particle nature of Matter)
25th June AM Combined gymnastic practice at Kopuaranga
PM Combined Rugby Practice at Mauriceville East
16th July Very positive Inspectors Report 12/1 received
No suggestions
12th 13th September Teacher at science course. Earth Science, Electrical Energy. Identifying small animals, radiant energy
23rd October Masterton NW country school’s athletic standards meeting at Memorial Park Masterton
4th December School trip to Wellington
11th Dec. Combined with Kopuaranga and Opaki for softball at Kopuaranga A good day marred by an unfortunate accident. One boy broke two toes when he collided with another lad while chasing a ball.
19th December Finished for the year

1970
18th February Swimming meeting at Kopuaranga. A great improvement noted in the performance of children from this school
23rd February School Picnic at Eketahuna. The camping ground is admirably suited to this kind of activity.
3rd March District Nurse at school for 3 Heif tests (TB Testing)
6th May Teacher and Senior pupils Mauriceville East for a social evening. An enjoyable experience of all
17th June Visit to Masterton Fire Station
20th July Visit to Regent Theatre for stage show “Camelot” bright and tuneful if a little long for the younger ones
3rd August Rubella Vaccination
12th October Spent the afternoon at Kopuaranga planning agriculture day, which is to be at Kopuaranga this year. Planning well underway. A game of pegball followed
27th October Visit from Kopuaranga to finalise programme for Ag day. Followed by team relay practice and a game of pegball.
17th November Wellington Education Board’s transport officer visited the school to examine the possibility of establishing a bus route based on Mauriceville East

1969
5th February Roll 11 10 boys 1 girl
20th February Combined with Kopuaranga and Opaki for swimming sports. In spite of too deep baths, it was a good day
12th March Visit from Mr Yule, traffic officer. Main theme Safety on Bicycles. Very opportune as all but one pupil now has a bike and some of them are ignorant of Road Rules
19th June Football practice @ Mauriceville East with Ihuraua
6th August Country School Sports- Memorial Park
Went to “Oliver” in the morning. Film enjoyed by children and adults alike
18th October Final Agriculture day Meeting. Softball practice.
1st December. Started swimming at Mauriceville East.
11th November. Mrs Braddock visited the school to show us home movies of her trip to Australia. Most Interesting
24th November Agriculture Day. Combined with Kopuaranga at Kopuaranga A most successful day assisted by mild if not sunny weather. Numbers of calves and lambs well done
15th December. Concert and Break Up ceremonies attracted-children performed well

1971
2nd February Full Roll 8, 6 boys 2 girls
10th February Local Scout leaders distributed leaflets about lone scouts
15th February Swimming at Mauriceville East. Exchanged classes with Kerry Crossman
22nd February Visited by three members of the inspectorate-discussed future of the schools
24th February School Picnic at Queen Elizabeth Park at Masterton
16th March Post Office PRO discussed savings with the children-one of the few visits of this nature that has been worthwhile
23rd March Swapped classes with R Strong Ihuraua for afternoon. A valuable experience for teachers and pupils

1972
Roll 10
24th February School picnic at Greytown. The Greytown park is perfect Includes Tennis Courts and a handy store

27th February Unveiling at Kopuaranga of a memorial plaque commemorating the early Scandinavian Settlers in the Mauriceville West
5th May My last Day at teaching Mauriceville West
Statement included
  a) Farm sizes increased with fall in local population
  b) Only the church and school continue to exist as functional entities
  c) The Hall Committee, of which I am chairman as the hall has been condemned its use being permitted for non public functions e.g Institute,
  d) Church services are down to 2 a month. Sunday School remains strong
  e) Local cricket matches have been replaced by snooker evenings
  f) School functions are the only unifying activity
  g) Even Village (Mauriceville East) have declined. Bowls, Junior Table Tennis and rifle shooting remain
  h) Increasing numbers seek their entertainment in town of TV
  i) List of local population entered
16th May Only 9 children at West it was recommend that West be closed Roll is only 9

22nd May J E Cameron Started
19th June Ended period as relieving teacher
5th August Lance M Win started Roll 8. Two off with mumps
7th August. Maintenance Officer called for survey, no committee member present.
20th August Small fire on grounds, promptly extinguished by bucket brigade. Caused by ashes of previous days fire, survived a morning of constant rain, still alive enough to be fanned by a constant wind.
The weather in this place leaves much to be desired has rained every day I’ve been here. Blows hard every day too!!.
27th November Official notification of school closing at end of this year. Great Scrambles over who should get what gear. Me have first pick.
Formally closed on 24th November by Board.
29th November Water has run out Alternative supply nothing. Will get water trucked in.
5th December School trip to Wellington
15th December School formally closed today. All equipment removed except heavy furniture.

1977
3rd June. The teacher’s residence has been retained by the board as a teacher drivers residence.
The school was handed back to the government to be passed onto the Domain Board 4 years ago.
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