

# St John's School Newsletter

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## Issue 1: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026



## Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai,

It's so hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the Term 2!!

Where has the term gone?

We have certainly managed to pack a lot into this term, and I am impressed with how well the students are coping with all their sports at the weekend as well as their learning during the week.

I hope everyone has a well earned rest over the holidays, we look forward to seeing you back in Term 3.

**Holiday Dates: 4<sup>th</sup> July - 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Term 3 - 20<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**Term 3 Holidays: 26<sup>th</sup> September - 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Term 4: 12<sup>th</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Recognition**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, Susan Mulholland was recognised at a Catholic Principal's dinner for her 'Outstanding Service to Catholic Education'. This was a very well deserved award for Susan after serving as St John's School Principal for 35 years.

We are very proud of you, Mrs Mulholland!



## **Miles Anderson - our local MP**

On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, we had our local MP, Miles Anderson visit the school for a couple of hours. This was a good opportunity for me to feedback how a small rural school was coping with all the government changes in education and for our students to ask what it is like working in the Beehive.

I was pleased a week later to receive an email from Miles saying that he had spoken to Minister Stanford about my concerns regarding teaching the new curriculum to multi level classrooms and that they were already moving towards addressing that and trialling different options.



## **New Appointment**

We are excited to announce that our new Office Administrator is Sharon Thompson. Sharon is currently a Teacher Aide in the Senior Room. She has extensive experience as the Financial Bursar for many years at Maniototo Area School, and we look forward to her working in the office from next term, as well as still teacher-aiding.

## **A Special Visit from Black Ferns Sevens Star Olive Watherston!**

Last Friday, our school community was incredibly lucky to host a very special guest: Black Ferns Sevens player Olive Watherston. What an inspiring young woman she is! Olive shared her amazing journey with our students, talking about growing up in Arrowtown and making the bold choice at age 15 to hang up her horse-riding stirrups and lace up some rugby boots. Inspired by her mum and dad, who both played the game, Olive decided to give rugby a go at high school.

In just seven years of playing, her talent and hard work have taken her all over the world, representing New Zealand at global Rugby Sevens tournaments in Singapore, Dubai, and Perth. Olive brought along her official playing jersey and a collection of her medals to show the children, which was a massive hit! Our students had a great time asking her some really good questions, and Olive was generous enough to gift the school several signed rugby balls. We want to extend a massive thank you to Jackie and Jess Cameron for arranging for their friend Olive to visit us. We hope she'll come back again soon!



## **Mrs Weir's Farewell**

At 10:15am on Monday, we are going to have a school farewell for Mrs Weir in the Senior Room - everyone is welcome.

Fiona Weir has worked in the office at St John's School for 20 years! She has enrolled 192 students and has seen her own children go through the school, and now her grandchildren.

Fiona has been a huge part of the day to day running of the school over the years and she will be sadly missed by all the students and staff.

We thank Fiona for her many years of dedication and wish her all the best for the future!

To the Board, the staff, and generations of students, Fiona has been a constant source of support, kindness, and reassurance. She has poured her life so selflessly into our school's journey, and for that dedication, we are profoundly grateful.

Fiona, as we look back on twenty incredible years and look ahead to all that the future holds for you, we wish you many years ahead of happiness and time with your family.

Pope Francis said:

"May the Lord grant us the wisdom to seek that which is worthwhile, and to love not with our words but with our actions."

You certainly have done this.

Thank you, Fiona, for everything you have given to St John's School.



## **New Sports Equipment**

Thank you to the PTA who have bought some new Basketballs and a Badminton Set for the students to enjoy at school.

The Badminton Set is a hit at lunchtimes, and I enjoy beating the children when I am on duty.

Already a couple of shuttlecocks have ended up on the roof, and I've had to order a larger set, but the children are loving having different things to play at lunchtime.



### **Junior Room for Term 3**

There has been a bit of a shuffle around for the Junior Room in Term 3 as Mrs Sarah Paterson has hurt her back and is now unable to teach.

**Monday and Tuesday** - Mrs Trina Steele

**Wednesday and Thursday** - Mrs Jayne Hazlett

**Friday** - Ms Philippa Pope

The teachers are working together to ensure that the students will have a smooth transition through the week

### **Matariki Mass**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Prayer Garden Opening

4:45pm

Matariki Mass 5pm

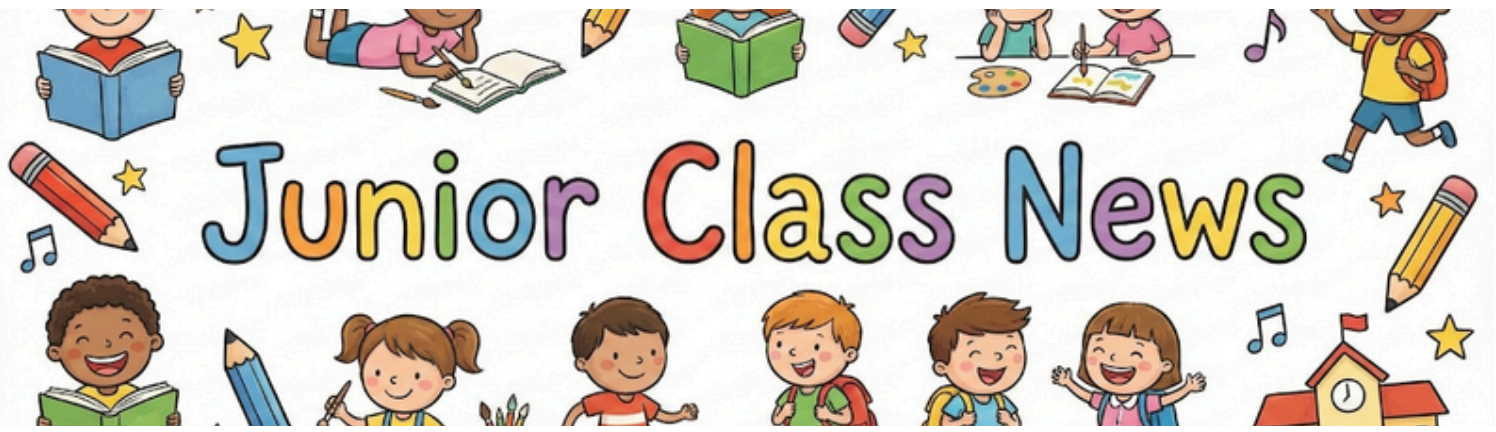
All welcome!



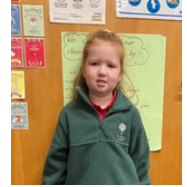
### **Reminder:**

Please remember to send back the children's portfolios to school. These need to be back in by Tuesday, please.

Please buy some tickets for the Fashion Show at Lohi in the holidays - they are \$35 and all the proceeds go towards St John's School. Available from the school office.



We recently welcomed new 5 year old, Saoirse Roberts, and her family to the Junior Class and to St John's School.



We also welcomed another new 5 year old on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Marley Eketone.

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> June we walked to the Town Hall to watch the dress rehearsal of the Maniototo Area School production "Worth More Than Gold". We all enjoyed the show which was a story about gold and included stories of gold in New Zealand. Thank you to Maniototo Area School for inviting us.

In the Junior Class we have been learning about the Matariki stars and what each star represents.

We have also learnt a couple of Matariki songs. We will sing one of these at our Matariki Mass next Tuesday at 5p.m. in our Church. Family and friends are welcome to join us for this.

Here we are with our decorated stars that we made recently.





As we come to the end of Term 2, we have been busy finishing off our space topic. The children have enjoyed learning about how the solar system works and creating some wonderful art to go with it. We have been painting the planets and getting ready to produce our final masterpieces.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for the purchase of the new basketballs. They have been fantastic during our PE sessions — balls that bounce are always a winner!

Next term, we will begin training for cross country, so if your child has some spare time over the holidays, it would be great to keep those steps up.

The Middle Room children have also been extremely helpful, and we really appreciate the support they give during lunchtimes with a variety of jobs. We also love the way many children are showing initiative throughout the day.

Daily prayers have been going well, with all groups organised and ready to begin at the start of each day.

As this is our last newsletter for Term 2, we hope you all have a wonderful holiday break and return refreshed and ready for Term 3.





# Senior Class News



What a busy and exciting term we have had in the Senior Room! We have been busy selling pies to help fundraise for our camp, and we are so proud of the effort and teamwork the students have shown.

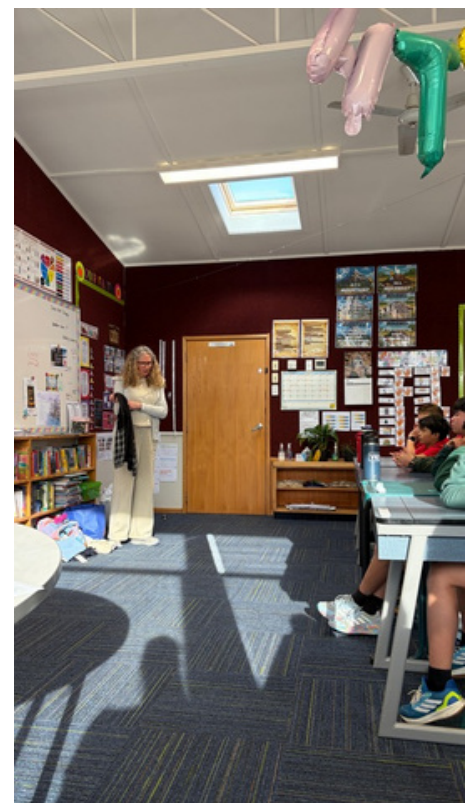
Our learning has been full of creativity, with Matariki art and solar system art projects giving students the chance to explore their ideas in fun and imaginative ways. A special highlight was our Lohi Matariki Fashion Show organising, where we visited the op shop and selected items to create our own garments. This was a fantastic way to learn about slow fashion and how old items can be transformed into something new, exciting, and unique. A huge thank you to Tania and Russ for allowing us to be part of this wonderful experience. We are looking forward to the Fashion Show and seeing our creations come to life!



We have been lucky enough this term to have some special guests. The students really enjoyed meeting Olive Watherson, Black Ferns Sevens player, and Miles Anderson, a politician. These visits gave us the chance to hear from inspiring people and ask thoughtful questions.



It has been a wonderful and busy term, and we are looking forward to what next term brings us!





Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> July is a public holiday in New Zealand (school holidays). This public holiday is held to celebrate Matariki.

Matariki is the star cluster most commonly known across the world as Pleiades. Around the world there are many names for this group of stars. For many cultures these stars are connected to celebration, planting, harvesting, weather and life.

For Maori, the rising of Matariki signals the Maori New Year. The appearance of Matariki in the morning sky is a sign for people to gather, to honour the dead, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Matariki Mass next **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June at 5p.m.** and also for the official opening of our school prayer garden just before the Matariki Mass at **4.45p.m.**

### A winter holiday prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of this season. As we enjoy our winter holidays we are truly grateful for the warmth of our homes, the laughter we share and the love that binds us together.

Help us to enjoy the holidays and bless our time together.

Amen.



**John the Baptist Liturgy at School - 24<sup>th</sup> June**

## Notices and Dates:

<b>Week 10</b>	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Sophia &amp; Henry Crutchley</li></ul>
<b>Week 11</b>	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prayer Garden Opening 4.45pm</li><li>• Matariki Mass 5pm</li><li>• Portfolios due back to school</li></ul>
	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ice Skating</li><li>• Last Day of Term 2</li></ul>
	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Isla &amp; Oscar Jeffries</li></ul>
<b>School Holidays</b>	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Maggie &amp; Harriet O'Neill</li></ul>
	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Caleb Cai &amp; Georgia Dodds</li></ul>
<b>Week 1</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Day of Term 3</li></ul>
	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Jessie Greer &amp; Izzy Eketone</li></ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Mass at 4pm</li><li>• Altar Servers: Florence, Juliette &amp; Arthur Dowling</li></ul>

**CARDRONA****TREBLE  
CONE**

## **Local School Child Season Pass 2026**

Unlimited Cardrona and Treble Cone season pass for local primary and secondary school kids.  
Available to purchase online or in-store.

**LOCAL PRIMARY  
CHILD SEASON PASS**

**\$179**

**LOCAL SECONDARY  
CHILD SEASON PASS**

**\$265**

### **EXISTING ONLINE PROFILE**

Your new season pass will be automatically loaded on to last year's RFID card (lift pass).

### **NEED A NEW CARD?**

Please pick up your RFID card (lift pass) at our Wānaka, Queenstown, Cardrona or Treble Cone offices.

Please note that as of Winter 2026, passes will not work without a photo on file.  
Photos can be added via your Cardrona X Treble Cone online account or in person at one of our ticket offices.

**[Click here to purchase online](https://secure.cardrona-treblecone.com/l/local-school-child-season-pass/p/local-school-child-season-pass-2026)**

**Or copy this link:** <https://secure.cardrona-treblecone.com/l/local-school-child-season-pass/p/local-school-child-season-pass-2026>

For information on our 2026 local kids programmes; Ride Tribe Cardrona, Ride Tribe TC, Ride Tribe Minis & Academy email [kids.programmes@cardrona-treblecone.com](mailto:kids.programmes@cardrona-treblecone.com)

For all winter product information visit our website - [cardrona-treblecone.com](https://cardrona-treblecone.com) or email [info@cardrona-treblecone.com](mailto:info@cardrona-treblecone.com)

# WINTER SCHOOL

# HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Come together this Matariki at your local library have fun, create and connect.

And introducing our brand new service starting in July!

**COMICS PLUS**

## Alexandra

Tues 7 July  
10.30am-11am  
Matariki Storytime

Wed 8 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Weaving

Tues 14 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Make your own Bird Feeder

Wed 15 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Make your own Comic Book

## Cromwell

Wed 8 July  
10.30am-11am  
Matariki Storytime

Wed 8 July  
11am-12pm  
Weaving

Thurs 9 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Make your own Comic Book

Wed 15 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Make your own Bird Feeder

## Māniatoto

Tues 7 July  
11am-12pm  
Matariki Storytime

Wed 8 July  
11am-12pm  
Weaving

Wed 15 July  
11am-12pm  
Make your own Bird Feeder

Thurs 16 July  
11am-12pm  
Make your own Comic Book

## Roxburgh

Tues 7 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Weaving

Thurs 9 July &  
Thurs 16 July  
10.30am-11am  
Matariki Storytime

Wed 8 July  
1.30pm-2.30pm  
Make your own Comic Book

Tues 14 July  
10.30am-11.30am  
Make your own Bird Feeder

Please register at the library to secure your spot for our craft sessions.