



St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 10: 18th September 2026



Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai

Where has this term gone? It is hard to believe we have only one week left. There has been a lot happening in the school over the past few weeks.

A Huge Thank You

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Trina Steele, Mrs Jayne Hazlett and Ms Philippa Pope for the wonderful work they have done to keep the Junior Room humming this term. The classroom has run seamlessly between the different teachers, the students have done a lot of fantastic learning this term and have been really settled. Thank you to you all for ensuring that the Junior Room ran so well throughout the term and all the time and effort you have put in to it. It has been much appreciated.

We will welcome back Mrs Susan Mulholland at the beginning of next Term.

Mass Time Change

Please note from Sunday 27th September, Church Mass time changes to 10am.

Drop off's and Pick up's

Thank you for either using our school carpark or trying to park on the school side of the road at drop off's or pick up's to avoid children having to cross the busy road. It's much appreciated!

Congratulations!

We had 6 students who qualified for the Otago Cross Country on Friday 11th September. Well done to Izzy Eketone, Jimmy Jeffries, Oscar Jeffries, Theo Dowling, Juliette Dowling and Xavier Love for qualifying. Izzy went skiing and the 5 other students competed.

Congratulations to Juliette Dowling for coming 1st at Otago's and Xavier Love for getting 2nd!

This is a massive achievement! We are super proud of you all!



Juliette 1st and Xavier 2nd in their Year Groups

Honey for sale

We still have honey and honey comb at school for sale. \$20 each

Donations of Mash

We would be very grateful for any donations of Hen Mash as we get our hens up and running. Thank you very much to those people who have donated already.

Curling

The children have enjoyed their 3 Curling sessions and the Curling tournament (see the Senior Room news for more information).

A huge thank you again to Claire Mulholland for her generous donation of these lessons and the buses to and from the rink. The children have loved their time at the rink.



Changes next term

Next term, we will be making some changes to our classroom literacy programmes.

To create smaller teaching groups for Reading and Writing, Mrs Jayne Hazlett will teach some year groups in the hall. These smaller groups will give teachers more time with the students and allow more learning to take place during each session.

During the first part of the morning:

- Mrs Mulholland will teach Years 0 and 1.
- Mrs Hazlett will teach Year 2.

During the second part of the morning:

- Mrs Elworthy will teach Years 3 and 4.
- Mrs Hazlett will teach Years 5 and 6.
- Miss Booth will teach Years 7 and 8.

These changes will reduce class sizes during Reading and Writing and provide students with more focused teaching and learning time.

Enjoy the holidays at the end of next week!



Last Friday, the 11th of September, St John's School took 22 children up to Cardrona for our annual ski trip. Unfortunately, once we arrived, they put the mountain on 'wind hold' and only the Learner's slope opened after an hour. The children were very resilient and spent a couple of hours in the howling wind going round and round the Learner's slope. I was very proud of them for making the most out of a not-so-great situation. Thank you to all the parents and helpers who made the effort to get up the mountain and helped out on the day. It was much appreciated!





Bright, smiling faces walk through the door,
Ready to learn and discover some more!
Our junior classroom is buzzing each day,
As we work, grow, and laugh along the way.
We're diving into fractions and counting by tens,
Mastering times tables with helpful friends.
With top number knowledge and handwriting so neat,



Our CODE spelling practice just can't be beat!
We escape into stories, reading page after page,
And write magical fairy tales taking center stage.
In art, we coloured gingerbread houses so sweet,
Creating masterpieces that look good enough to eat!



Through daily prayers and respect shown all around,

A happy, fun space is where we are found.
We try our absolute hardest, always doing our best,

Ready to tackle every single new test!
(A little fun with AI)



By Marley



By Miller



Teaching this wonderful junior class over the past 10 weeks has been an absolute gift. Mrs Hazlett & Mrs Steele are so grateful for your bright morning smiles, your delightful daily stories & the boundless curiosity you bring to learning every single day.
You have brought us so much joy.



Congratulations to Archie and Breianne, who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation a week before Confirmation.



It is hard to believe that another term is almost over. At the top of our classroom board this term has been the saying, "Smile, it's contagious." The children have been wonderful at brightening one another's days and ensuring that everyone feels included. A smile may be a small gesture, but it can have a powerful impact. The middle room students have been busy engaging in the daily routines of learning, including literacy and numeracy, while also finding time for the occasional dance move and a range of out-of-school activities. Our cross country training paid off with all children competing and doing their very best on the day. They should be very proud of themselves.

This term, we were fortunate to take part in curling, which was a first-time experience for some of the children. We are very grateful to Mrs Claire Mulholland for funding this opportunity. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the Year 5 students were especially fortunate to finish the term by participating in a curling tournament.

As we count down to the holidays, we wish all our families a well-deserved and enjoyable break—whether it involves lambing, tailing, feeding calves, or simply spending time at home together.

Term 4 is set to be a busy one.

Happy holidays!



The Senior Room had a fantastic day at cross country. Everyone showed determination and perseverance, and it was lovely to see them supporting and encouraging one another.

A huge congratulations to Juliette, who broke the Year 6 girls' record, and Xavier, who broke the Year 8 boys' record. This was a fantastic accomplishment, and we are very proud of their hard work and commitment.

A group of our runners then represented the school at the Otago Cross Country. Juliette placed 1st in the Year 6 girls' race, and Xavier placed 2nd in the Year 8 boys' race. Congratulations also to Theo, who was selected to compete and performed extremely well. Well done to all three for showing such determination and giving their very best.



Our class has also been enjoying curling practices and working hard to develop new skills. It has been fantastic to see everyone learning, encouraging one another and giving everything a go.

The teams performed wonderfully at the curling tournament. One of our Year 5/6 teams placed 1st, our Year 7/8 girls' team achieved an excellent 3rd place, and two other teams placed 5th and 6th. We are incredibly proud of the effort, teamwork and sportsmanship shown throughout the day.

A special congratulations to Jack and Neale, who received the Spirit of Curling Award: Jack for Year 5/6 and Neale for Year 7/8. This award recognises the positive attitude, encouragement and sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout the tournament. They were very deserving recipients.

A huge thank you to Trina and Sharon for being there to support the teams throughout the curling tournament.

A reminder that camp is coming up next term. Please return all camp notices by 21 September so we can continue getting everything organised.





Confirmation

On Sunday 6th of September we held a lovely Confirmation Mass in our Church. Bishop Michael came up from Dunedin to perform the Sacrament and we had 11 students receive Confirmation. It was lovely to see the church filled with the student's families to celebrate this special time.

Their final Sacrament will be Holy Communion on the 22nd of November.





Year Group	Name	Place
1	Cole Gloag	1st
2	Ollie Kensington	1st
2	Willow Eketone	1st
2	Fergus Smith	2nd
2	Ruby Dodds	2nd
2	Thea Huddleston	3rd
3	George Love	2nd
3	Nika Miller	2nd
4	Arthur Dowling	1st
4	Georgia Dodds	1st
5	Izzy Eketone	1st
5	Evie Steele	2nd
6	Juliette Dowling	1st - New Record!!
8	Xavier Love	1 st - New Record!!

Board of Trustees: 21st October 2026 7pm

Notices and Dates:

Week 10	Sunday 27 th September	• Last week of Term 3 • Sunday Mass at 10.00am (Daylight Saving begins) • Altar Servers: Ben & Olivia Scott
	Sunday 4 th October	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Kaylah McAuley & Archie Weir
	Sunday 11 th October	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Evie Steele, Evelyn Cai & Bjorn Ball
Week 1	Monday 12 th October	• First day of Term 4
	Sunday 18 th October	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Millie & Emerson Smith
Week 2	Sunday 25 th October	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Sophia & Henry Crutchley
Week 3	Monday 26 th October	• Labour Day
	Sunday 1 st November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Isla & Oscar Jeffries