St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 12: 12th November 2026



Principal's Chat

My goodness, this term is certainly flying by fast! Week 5 already!

I have to say a massive thank you to all the parents who have helped leading up to and at the Athletics Sports Day on Friday.

- Thank you to Logan Dowling for marking out the lines at school for us to practise.
- Thank you to all the parents who came to our Tuesday afternoon practices.
- Thank you to all the parents who helped with the High Jump on Friday.

We are so lucky at St John's to have such a supportive school community and we couldn't do it all without your help!

Concert - 3rd December 7pm

Our production is ticking along nicely for the end of the year. The children with lines have brought home their scripts to practise, and the Senior and Middle Room children have the songs to practise as well. With a week of camp coming up for the Senior Room, it would be great if the students could be doing lots of practising for this at home so it takes the pressure off when they come back.

Last Day of 2026:

Our last day of the school year is the 11th of December. School will be finishing at 12:30pm. The buses will arrive to pick the students up at 12:30pm and town children will need to be picked up then as well.

2027 Dates:

Term 1: 1st February to 9th April
Term 2: 27th April to 2nd July
Term 3: 19th July to 24th September
Term 4: 11th October to 15th December

Sports Day

Congratulations to Xavier Love for winning the McSkimming Cup at Athletics Day!
We have also had 11 children qualify for the Otago Sports in Dunedin, next Tuesday 17th November: Jessie Greer, Kaylah McAuley, Xavier Love, Joshua Barroga, Neale Plena, Juliette Dowling, Theo Dowling, Millie Smith, Mack Mayo, Izzy Eketone and Jimmy Jeffries. Well done!

2026 Maniototo Primary School Sports Results: Girls

Age	Place	Name	School	House	Points
Matchett Cup / 36 (do not include U11 shot put)					
Under 8	1st	Willow Eketone	St John's	O'Neill	25
	2nd	Ruby Dodds	St John's	McAuley	24
	3rd =	Makaela Nicholl	Poolburn	Poolburn	17
	3rd =	Imogen Weir	MAS	Hamiltons	17
Under 9	1st	Greta Wilson	Strath Taieri	Yellow	31
	2nd	Stella Dykes	Strath Taieri	Green	28
	3rd	Belle Stevenson	Strath Taieri	Green	19
Under 10	1st	Frankie Pyle	Poolburn	Poolburn	28
	2nd	Izzy Eketone	St John's	McAuley	24
	3rd	Hazel Peddie	Macraes	Macraes	23
Under 11	1st	Abigale Graham	MAS	Serpentine	27
	2nd	Isla Rutherford	Poolburn	Poolburn	25
	3rd	Autumn Forbes	MAS	Hamiltons	17
McSkimming Cup / 42 (includes shot put)					
Age	**Place**	**Name**	**School**	**House**	**Points**
Under 12	1st	Olivia Ross	Poolburn	Poolburn	30
	2nd =	Juliette Dowling	St John's	O'Neill	21
	2nd =	Mackenzie Davis	MAS	Hamiltons	21
Under 13	1st	Thalia Hepi	MAS	Danseys	40
	2nd =	Osharne Huriwai Kirk	MAS	Hamiltons	23
	2nd =	Olivia (Poppy) Ross	Poolburn	Poolburn	23
13 & Over	1st	Aubree Mulholland	MAS	Garibaldi	28
	2nd	Kaylah McAuley	St John's	McAuley	22
	3rd	Nikita Wilson	MAS	Garibaldi	19

2026 Maniototo Primary School Sports Results: Boys

Age	Place	Name	School	House	Points
Matchett Cup / 36 (do not include shot put)					
Under 8	1st	Fergus Smith	St John's	O'Neill	27
	2nd	Cyrus Clarkson	Macraes	Macraes	22
	3rd =	Wade Watson	MAS	Serpentine	19
	3rd =	Bran Pyle	Poolburn	Poolburn	19
Under 9	1st	Blake Andrews	MAS	Garibaldi	32
	2nd	Ben Rutherford	Poolburn	Poolburn	26
	3rd	George Love	St John's	McAuley	18
Under 10	1st	Arthur Wilson	Strath	Yellow	33
	2nd	Jimmy Jeffries	St John's	O'Neill	22
	3rd	Oscar Jeffries	St John's	McAuley	20
Under 11	1st	Max Stevenson	Strath	Green	40
	2nd	Chrysler Houpapa	MAS	Garibaldi	27
	3rd	Riley Stevenson	Strath	Green	24
McSkimming Cup					
Age	**Place**	**Name**	**School**	**House**	**Points**
Under 12	1st	Jazreel Bani	Macraes	Macraes	29
	2nd	Toby McFadyen-Beck	MAS	Danseys	28
	3rd	George Dykes	Strath	Green	26
Under 13	1st	Edward Wilson	Strath	Yellow	30
	2nd	Sam Hore	MAS	Danseys	28
	3rd	Charlie Norman	MAS	Serpentine	16
13 & Over	1st	Xavier Love	St John's	McAuley	40
	2nd	Joshua Barroga	St John's	O'Neill	19
	3rd	JR Buragay	MAS	Garibaldi	14





Welcome

A special welcome to St John's School to new five year old, Eva O'Malley and to Eva's family.

Athletics Day

Congratulations to all the Junior Class children who participated in the Athletic Sports on Friday at the Stadium. Everyone participated really well and gave their best effort.
A reminder that if your child has their school sunhat at home could they please return these to school asap.
Also all sports shirts need to be washed and returned to school, please.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

Thank you to all Junior Class parents for helping children to fill in the form showing name, address and an important telephone number. We have been practising and role playing what we would say if we got lost in, eg, a shopping mall.

Stories

Here are some stories from some recent writing we did about our weekend.

On the weekend Mum and I set up some Halloween decorations. One of them popped out and tried to bite my finger.
Saoirse Roberts

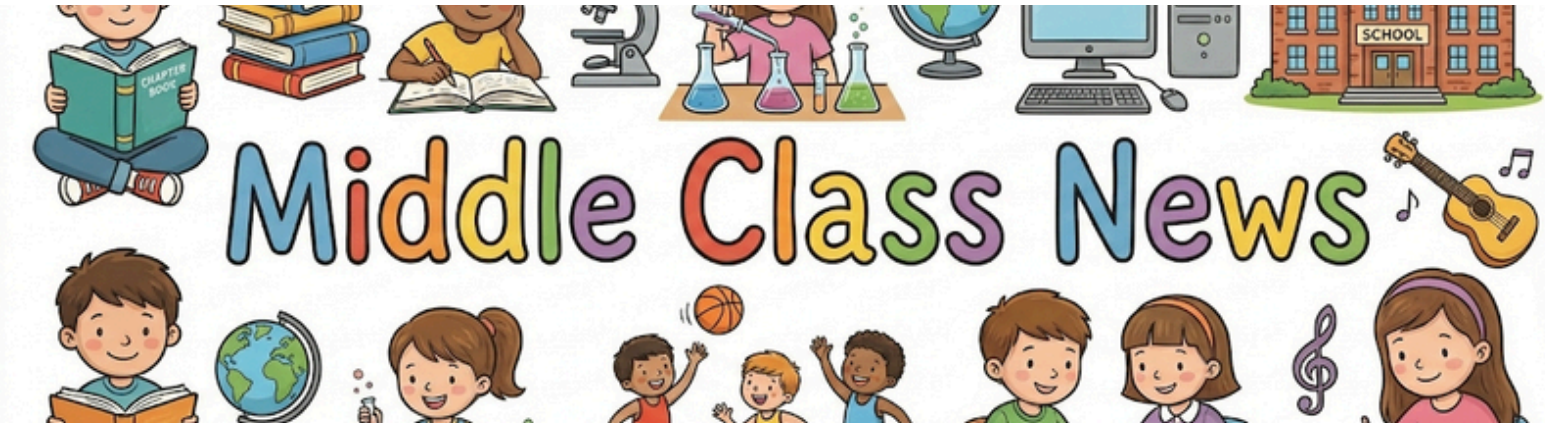
On the weekend I went to the beach and made a sand snowman. I went for a swim. It was cold.
Fletcher Barnish

On the weekend I did some biking at home. We played on the trampoline.
Marley Eketone

On the weekend I went to Gigi and Gramp's place. I went to St Bathans. I went swimming and caught a fish with my cousins. We were passing the ball and the ball went into the water. I had to swim out into the dam to get the ball.
Cole Gloag

Junior Cricket Skills Yr 0-2
Starting Thursday 19th November after school at MAS turf. Please contact Sara O'Neill on 0278233418 to register your interest.

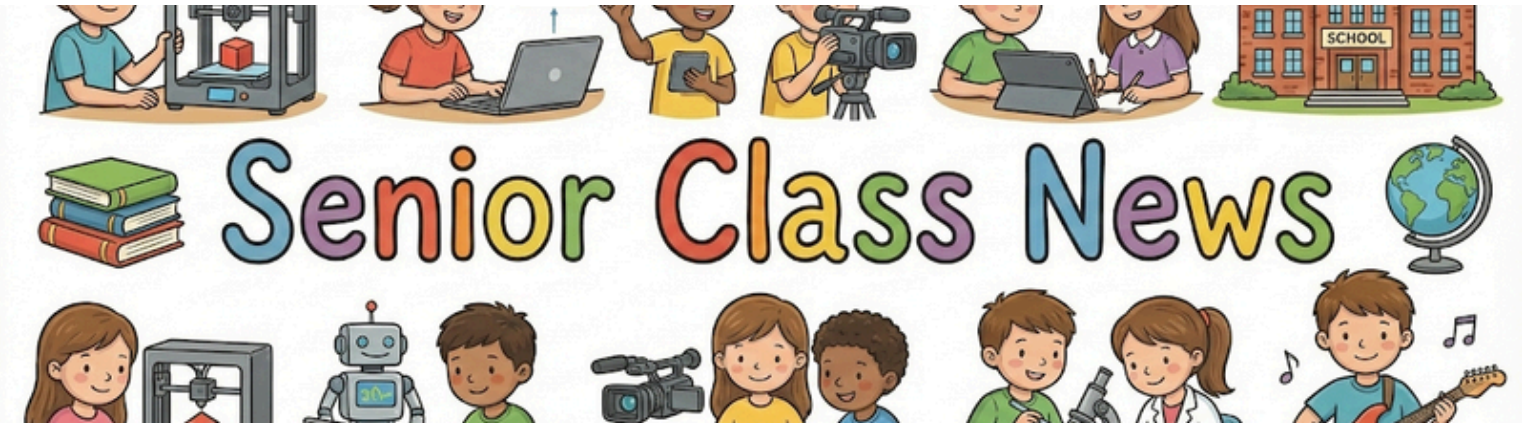
We still have Honey and Honeycomb available to purchase. Please see the office they are $20 each.



I feel like a broken record, but Week 5 already? The Middle Room has been getting our school gardens ready by filling up the boxes with more compost and breaking down the clods, ready for planting. We were lucky enough to be given $300 through Enviroschools to spend on getting these back up and running. We have purchased some hand spades and forks, along with some seed potatoes and lettuce plants with some of the money. We plan to grow the potatoes and lettuces along with carrots (at a later stage) and bag these up to donate. We have also been lifting lavender plants from the garden out the front of the school and repotting these. Hoping we have green fingers and these grow!! Thank you to Becks Smith for helping us with these.







A big well done to everyone who took part in Athletics Day. It was awesome to see everyone show up, give things a go and do their best!

Good luck to everyone who has been selected for Otago Athletics: Neale, Juliette, Kaylah, Xavier, Millie, Jessie, Joshua and Theo. We'll be cheering you on!

Camp is less than two weeks away. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

We'd also really appreciate any helpers who are available for the Young Vinnies baking. If you can help, please return your form.



Concert practice has been going really well! It's been wonderful to see everyone working hard, and many of our senior students have already memorised their lines!



- On **Sunday 13th December** our Parish is having a double celebration. We have 11 students who will be making their First Holy Communion and this year is the 100th year since our Church was officially opened in 1926.
  This is written by Father Pete to everyone:
  "Hand in hand with the next generation of our faith community, we will gather as one family in Christ to give thanks for the blessings of our past, celebrate the vibrancy of our present and look with hope toward the future."
  Our school community are all invited to come along and join in this celebration:
  Sunday 13th December 2026
  10 a.m.
  Sacred Heart Parish Church and Hall
  Celebrational refreshments will follow in the hall to celebrate our First Holy Communion students and our 100 years.

- On Monday 2nd November our school students and some parents gathered to do a walkathon as a fundraiser for Caritas. We walked around our school grounds. It was a warm afternoon and we enjoyed our walk. The Junior Class walked on average about 6 or 7 laps but the older children did a few more than that. We enjoyed walking with others and chatting while we did this. We raised $154.00 for Caritas.
  Thank you to everyone for their donations and a big thank you to those parents who joined us for this.







Board of Trustees: 18th November 7pm St John's Staffroom

Notices and Dates:

Week 5	Friday 13th November	• Teacher Only Day (No School)
	Sunday 15th November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Caleb & Evelyn Cai
Week 6	Tuesday 17th November	• Otago Athletics (Postponement Date is Thursday 19th November)
	Friday 20th November	• Pet Day
	Sunday 22nd November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Jessie Greer & Izzy Eketone
Week 7	Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th November	• Senior Room Camp
	Sunday 29th November	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Florence, Juliette and Arthur Dowling
Week 8	Thursday 3rd December	• School Concert 7.00pm
	Sunday 6th December	• Sunday Mass at 10.00am • Altar Servers: Charlie Dowling & Victor Suazo
Week 9	Monday 7th December	• Whole School Mass 1.30pm
	Wed 9th December	• Year 8 Graduation 1.30pm
	Friday 11th December	• Last Day of School (Finish at 12.30pm)