

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 4: 12th June 2020

Principal's Page:

Life Education Trust Mobile Classroom Visit

On Tuesday 9th June our school had a visit from the Life Ed classroom and Pip, the teacher. The focus on the learning in the classroom was: feelings and emotions, stress management, resilience, self-efficacy and assertiveness.

We all really enjoyed it, and below, in the Junior Class section, are some photos from inside the classroom.

Reports/Portfolios

These are usually sent out to parents towards the end of this term, but because of our time in lockdown, they will be sent home at the end of Week 1, Term 3 - Friday 24th July.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews will be held on Monday and Tuesday the 27th and 28th July. A form will be sent out nearer the time, on which you can indicate your time preference for these interviews.

PTA AGM

This will be held on **Tuesday 23rd June at 7p.m.** here at school.
Please come along and support the PTA.

Term 2 holidays

Term 2 finishes on Friday 3 July and Term 3 starts on Monday 20 July

Ice skating

Mrs Duncan has booked an ice skating session at Naseby for the whole school on the last morning of the term, Friday 3 July from 9.30 - 11a.m. (approximately). The cost will be \$4 per child (those with a season pass the cost is nil). The PTA are generously subsidising the cost of skating so the cost for each child is \$4. No payment for those families with a season pass. A note will be sent out nearer the time asking for parents to help with transport to go skating on this morning. Please do not send money along yet.

35 Years

On May 27th I had been at St John's School for 35 years. During this time I have seen many changes in education but, ultimately teaching children stays the same, apart from the swings and roundabouts of different ways of doing things!

I arrived in Ranfurly with Mum and Dad and I remember crying because I didn't know a single soul here but along the way I have made many friends, including with staff, parents and ex-pupils! Mostly, I have enjoyed my time at St John's School and it has been a big part of my life.

Here is a photo of my class in 1986, my second year in Ranfurly. You will see some children here who are present day parents:

Vaughan Dowling, Mark McAuley, Geraldine Dowling (nee Kreft) and Trina Steele (nee McAuley).



Special Character Clipboard:

- Thank you to everyone for their gold coin donations on our "Dress up from a country around the world" day on Friday 29th May. We donated a grand total of \$177.40 to Caritas.
- Sunday, 31st May was Pentecost Sunday. This is a holy day in our Church that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter. Some churches consider it the birthday of the Christian Church and celebrate it.

Junior Class News:

*The Junior Class loved meeting Pip and Harold the giraffe from the Life Ed classroom on Tuesday. Here are some photos:



*We are busy doing some assessment activities at the moment so I can evaluate children's learning in various curriculum areas. Children may mention doing a reading test - this is where they come to my office in my release time and they read a story to me at the level they are reading. This shows me skills they use and skills they need to be taught and it gives me an accurate picture of what level they are reading at. These reading tests are included in your child's portfolios that will be sent home for you to look at, after the Term 2 holidays.

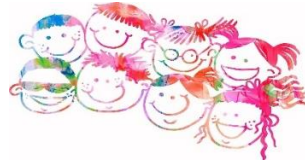
Middle Class News:

What a relief it has been to be back at level one. We are continuing to promote healthy hygiene and use the hand sanitizer regularly. This week we spent some time in the Life Education Bus with Pip and Harold learning about mental health. Pip used colours for different feelings and explained to the children how to manage these emotions. This is a great concept and we will continue to refer to these colours in the classroom. If you would like some more information about this please let me know and I can send home some resources.

With not much extra curricular activities planned due to Covid, it has been great to make the most of every minute in the classroom. The students showed an interest in earthquakes after talking about it in class and we were able to spend quality time learning more about what causes them and what damage they can cause. All students have created an amazing poster showing off their new learning and spend time in the mornings checking the earthquake website.

With mid year reports coming up, we have been doing more testing. The results have been amazing and I am very proud of the progress all student are making! I am looking forward to the next 4 weeks and hope to go ice skating before the holidays! Have a great weekend everyone!

Senior Class News:



**“You must be the change you wish to see in the world”
Mahatma Ghandi**

Life Education Bus

We had two informative sessions in the bus with Harold and Pip on Tuesday. Pip (the educator) was again very good at sharing key information with us and Harold (the giraffe) told us that we were good looking! No arguments there!

Our focus of learning was on understanding feelings, stress management and being resilient. A practical skill we learnt was star breathing which I would like you to ask your child about - they will be able to demonstrate this to you and teach you how to do this. We are using this regularly in the classroom to help bring our energy levels to where they need to be and to focus and ready us for the learning task we are doing. It is an easy and discreet tool that we can use whenever needed. We will continue with our learning next week.



Fitness

We are three weeks into our training program and the children are doing so well. I have noticed a significant change in our ability to keep going, push ourselves a bit harder, and to be strong in activities like planking and squat jumps. The other effect of this regular activity is that we feel good mentally. I am hoping that by participating in these activities at school, we are able to make daily activity a lifelong habit as the health benefits are significant.



The seniors showing their big muscles off!

Our Wednesday session was exciting this week as we had a special guest come in and join in. Our focus was endurance running where we decide on a number of laps to complete that we know will push our fitness and then we run these with no stopping and a pace that we find uncomfortable. Laura Dowling led the charge running with Annie and it was such a pleasure to have her energy and enthusiasm cheering us all along. Laura raced around 5 laps of the school and then completed our strength session with us also. This then led onto a discussion regarding a personal goal that Laura has that we are going to support her in. More details about this are in the Young Vinnies section.

Young Vinnies

The Young Vinnies are organising and hosting a run to support Laura Dowling who was going to do the New York marathon (42km) but now cannot because of Coronavirus restrictions. The whole school is going to join Laura as she runs 42km on Friday the 4th of September, and each child will be choosing a distance they want to run for this.

We plan to raise money with each runner getting personal sponsors who will agree to pay a certain amount per km run. The Young Vinnies will also be working hard to find big sponsors who might donate something towards this event like tee-shirts for the event, screen printing, caps, drink bottles or sausages for the BBQ which we will have at the end, drinks for children, or a sum of money to the overall cause. If you think that you might be able to be a big sponsor please contact Mrs. Duncan. Parents please put this in your diary as we will need lots of parent help for this and we would love you to run with us too.

This idea has only been put in place this week so we have not yet finalised who / what group we will donate the raised funds to. When we decide we will let you know.

We feel really excited about this activity.

Enviroschools

Thank you for the amazing work done with the home activity where families drew a school map and suggested environmental changes / additions to the school. These were insightful and have given direction on our next steps. We have decided that the initial first steps will be the establishment of a vegetable garden and planting of flaxes and toitoi. The children will be involved in these and future developments. The plans are on the wall outside the junior room and you might like to look at them.

Milo

This started on Monday and the children enjoyed a lovely milo. If your child has decided they now want to be part of the Monday Milo Club, they can still sign up. The cost is \$5 and they must bring along their own named cup.

Maniototo Community Library

We will be visiting this every week until the end of term and beyond. Please help your child to locate their card and to bring this along to school so they can learn to independently get books out of the library. If they do have a card they can apply for one through the library.

Ice Rink opening

The ice rink is opening today at 4pm and will be open over the weekend. Head along and enjoy some time on the ice and enjoy the unique activities that a chilly Maniototo winter gives us.

I have booked two skate sessions for the senior room this term. They are Friday the 26th of June and Friday 3rd July from 9.30am - 11am. I will send home a note next week seeking transport support. Due to the generous support of the PTA, the cost will be \$4 per child per session which is very cheap. Those children with a season skating pass will not pay for these lessons.

School history

As you will have read, our lovely principal has been teaching at this school for 35 years. One of our families was having a dinner time conversation about whether or not Mrs. Mulholland had always had a Dowling person in her class, this quickly extended to whether there had been a Dowling in attendance at St John's School since we opened in 1945. This led to a series of phone calls that discovered that Gerald Dowling was a first day pupil and Theo Dowling is the latest Dowling enrolment. In between times there has been a Dowling on the school roll every year apart from 1959 - 1961. What a strong association with the school they have maintained.

Thank you
Geraldine Duncan

Board of Trustees

-We held our AGM on Tuesday 9 June. Ryan Dowling was re-elected as Chairperson, Cate Herlihy as secretary and Kym Smith as treasurer. Our school is in a healthy financial position.

-A curriculum report on Maths - Other Strands (Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Algebra) was presented to the Board.

Notices and Dates:

Naseby Ice Park

The Ice Park is opening this Friday 12th June from 4pm onwards and welcomes you along. The lolly bags are packed, the hot chips are sizzling and the ice is smooth.

2020 Information: The prices for families / individuals are

Per visit (full day)	Season Pass (have been adjusted to help accommodate the effect of covid-19 on people's situations)
Child Skate hire \$14 (\$10 if they have their own skates) Luge \$25 / hour	Kids Skating was \$125 less 15% now \$106.25
Adult Adult skate hire \$18 (\$13 if they have their own skates) Luge \$25/hour	Adult Skating was \$150 less 15% now \$127.50
	Luge was \$180 less 15% now \$153.00
	Family Skating was \$300 less 15% now \$255.00
	Family Skating and Luge was \$450 less 15% now \$382.50
	Curling Only was \$135 less 15% now \$114.75

During the school holidays the Ice Rink hosts an Ice Camp in the first week and a Luge Camp in the second week. Prices and details are included in the links below.

Ice Camp

This five day holiday camp from Monday 6 to Friday 10 July (10am to 3pm) is suitable for those aged 8 years and older. It will include a luge race on 10 July (at 10am). Each day participants receive three instructed sessions, one each for figure skating, ice hockey and luge, and there are also opportunities to try Bavarian curling. Attached is a flyer with further information.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFgPsFboesvCFKfYZZV2V8dOCrq_ixZzcvrI0YVKIR6j0PVg/viiewform?usp=pp_url

Luge Camp

This five day holiday camp from Monday 13 to Friday 17 July (10am to 3pm) is suitable for those aged 10 years and older. Preference will be given to those who have lugged before and can attend all five days. The camp will include a race on 17 July (1pm) and there will also be races on 10 July (10am), 18 July (1pm) and 2 August (10am). Racing is highly encouraged. Attached is a flyer with further information.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYEuOUDSRcxExPPaFFix7j6P0oK3XAZidFf7D3zzf5qdTFeA/viewform?usp=pp_url

The Ice Rink also hosts some fun ice parties that anyone can be join in

- Ice Rink / Costume Party – Saturday 11th July
- Ice Festival – Saturday 25th July, starting at 1pm.

Week 9	Tuesday 23 rd June	P.T.A AGM at 7pm at school.
	Friday 26 th June	Iceskating 9.30am – 11am Senior Class
Week 10	Friday 3 rd July	Iceskating 9.30am – 11am Whole School
	Friday 3 rd July	Last day of Term 2
Term 3 Week 1	Monday 20 th July	First day of Term 3
	Friday 24 th July	Reports/Portfolios sent home
Week 2	Monday 27 th & Tuesday 28 th July	Parent/Teacher Interviews

St Kevin's College
Redcastle Oamaru

OPEN DAY & EVENING
Thursday 25th June

Principal's Welcome
1pm & 7pm



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Oamaru
www.stkevins.school.nz