



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Welcome

We welcome new five year old, Millie Smith, and her family to St John's School.



Swimming Sports

Thank you to those parents who were able to come along to the swimming sports - it was a bit different with only 1 adult per family there but the children still made a lot of noise cheering on their house and enjoying their swimming races.

Thank you to those parents who helped with placings and timing.



Working Bee

What a great turn out we had, once again, for our working bee on Sunday 7th March. Many jobs were achieved and the school grounds look really great. Thank you to those parents and children who came along and helped with this.

I still have 2 rakes left here at school, see photo below. If they are yours please come and get them from the office. Thank you.



Enviroschools trip to Naseby

Thank you to all those parents who helped transport children to the Naseby swimming dam on Tuesday 9th March and to those who were able to stay and help with supervision. We had a perfect day, weather wise, and the children enjoyed their morning puddling about in the water looking for bugs, animal life and using the various types of equipment to test the water. Our testing showed that the dam, pond and water race are full of healthy water.





Footsteps Dance

The children have enjoyed their week of lessons with the Footsteps Dance tutor, Paris. They have all participated with enthusiasm and listened carefully to instructions given, to learn 2 or 3 dances.

School 75th Jubilee

We are looking forward to welcoming about 140 ex students and staff to our 75th School Jubilee this weekend. We have a busy couple of days planned so, thank you, if you have helped in any way to make this a successful weekend.

Missing polar fleece

If anyone has a polar fleece at home with the name, Florence Dowling, on it (Size 6) could it please be returned to school, thank you. This has been missing since a muddle up during swimming time. Thank you.

Coming Up

A reminder on these dates coming up:

- Otago Anniversary Day School closed Monday 22nd March
- Easter break -School closed from Friday 2 April and we start again on Wednesday 7th April
- Miss Heaney's last day Thursday 1 April
- Miss Bailey Smith begins teaching in the Middle Class Wednesday 7 April
- Term 1 ends Friday 16th April
- Term 2 begins Monday 3rd May. A reminder that I will be away from school in Term 2 on sabbatical leave. Mrs Erin Elworthy will be teaching the Junior Class and Mrs Geraldine Duncan will be Acting Principal.

Special Character Clipboard:

During this week the feast days of two well-known Saints are celebrated - Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland and Saint Joseph, the father of Jesus.

Then on Sunday the 28th March, Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday.

Holy Week marks the final week of the season of Lent and it recounts the final days of Jesus's life, as well as his death, burial and resurrection.

Children will be learning about Holy Week and the stories about this time in Faith Focus and Religious Education time.

Junior Class News:

* Here are some photos of the Junior Class learning their dance moves to "Kung Fu Fighting".



* Last week we did some imaginative writing. Our sentence starter was:

I waved my magic wand and...

Here are some of the stories:

I waved my magic wand and abracadabra, I turned into Cinderella and I went to the ball in the carriage.

Millie Smith

I waved my magic wand and kapow, I was a top secret spy. I was looking through a magnifying glass.

Zach Tomalon

I waved my magic wand and kapow, I turned into a mermaid. I dived up and down.

Juliette Dowling

I waved my magic wand and kazoom, I turned into Spiderman. I was swinging on a spider web.

Jack Jeffries

Middle Class News:

This term is just racing by! We have been busy as usual cramming in as many activities as possible! A real highlight of the last couple of weeks has been our Water testing day in Naseby. The students loved exploring the different waterways in Naseby and especially finding different creatures that live in the water.



Water testing at Naseby.

On the 9th of March 2021, St John's school went to the Naseby Swimming Dam to do water testing. We did this to find out how clean and clear the water was. I got put in a group with McKenna and Harry D. Everyone got a turn at doing everything. The conductivity, water clarity test, PH level, temperature, insect and critter hunting and the water velocity (that was only in the water race because it tested how fast the current is moving). The water clarity test was a big clear tube with two magnets and you look through the clear hole. There was a magnet on the inside and outside and someone else slides the magnet on the outside and you look through until you can't see the magnet. That test was to see how clean the water was. To test the temperature we used a big thermometer that tested how warm it was. The critter and insect finding was my favourite. We caught lots of insects and critters like frogs, water boatmen, worms, snails and lots more things. The pH level was a little paper stick with colour on it and the pH level was perfect.

By Josie Herlihy



We have also loved having Paris, our awesome 'Footsteps' instructor, in to teach us some sweet dances.



There are only two weeks left before I am off on maternity leave and the Middles get to welcome Miss Smith into the classroom. The students have been working well and I'm sure they will make her feel welcome when she starts. Have a lovely long weekend.
Miss Heaney



Senior Class News:

Oh the places you will go ...



Kia ora koutou,

Camp Columba

I have written this newsletter prior to us going but no doubt we are having a wonderful time. There will be some feedback in the next newsletter.



Water Day at Naseby

On the 9th of March we were doing water testing as a whole school at the Naseby Swimming Dam with Anna from EnviroSchools.

We used the water testing kits so that we could test clear water clarity, water pH, temperature, water flow, animal life and conductivity.

We had an awesome time testing all different types of water and seeing how much life and stuff that was in the swimming dam, pond and water race. We could tell the water is healthy.

Thank you to our parents, helpers and teachers that could transport us from the school to Naseby, that was helpful and we liked doing the activities.

Sam Elworthy, Eddie Weir.

Swimming Sports

Congratulations to McAuley House members for winning this event. It was great to see such competitive swimming and positive attitudes shown by the students - well done.

Holy Paddocks

We have been giving back to the Maniototo Community in the form of

- a) Giving eggs to our Maori teacher Whaea Mary-Anne.



a.

'Our Girls'

Georgia Elworthy, Ryan Crossan, Hunter Sutherland

- b) Donating the eggs for the 75th (plus 1) Jubilee cake that Sylvie Carson is making.
- c) Giving eggs to the Young Vinnie coordinator from Dunedin - LJ Apiapo.
- d) Donating our two big beautiful lambs to the Lions Club as we entered them in the local Lions Lamb competition, the proceeds are going towards the St John Ambulance.



a.

'Sheep Mustering at Holy Paddocks' Fred Dowling, Hunter Sutherland, Toby Duncan

- e) We also entered two fleeces in the wool section of the Maniototo A & P show. A romney fleece and a merino fleece. No placings with these but we are certainly doing our bit to be part of the community.



'Presenting the fleeces'
Hamish McKenzie and Toby Duncan

Hei kona and enjoy your weekend everyone.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan

Board of Trustees

- At our February meeting the updated Strategic and Annual Plans for 2021 were presented to the Board.
- The Board received some funding from the Ministry of Education's Covid 19 Urgent Response Fund to use in Term 1. This funding has been used to employ Mrs Angela Francis as a Teacher Aide working and supporting groups of students in the Middle and Senior Classes three mornings a week during Term 1.
- Two new laptop charging stations have been purchased by the Board - one for the Senior Class and one for the Middle Class. These allow 30 laptops or i-pads (at each charging station) to be charged in one area and to be stored securely.
- The back hall wall has been replaced with colour steel and looks great. This project has been done in conjunction with the parish, as the parish actually owns the hall.
- We were generously donated 2 TV's. These are presently being installed so that each classroom will have 1 to use, replacing the data screen and projectors.
- The sandpit shade cover has been replaced.
- At our March meeting the Board reviewed the policy:

Home Learning

If you are interested in reading and reviewing this policy, you can:

1. Log onto www.schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click Search for your school.
3. Start typing the school name and then select it from the dropdown list.
4. Enter the community username and password: sjr sjr
5. Put the name of the policy in the search section and it should come up for you to read.
6. Select your role (board member, staff member or parent/caregiver) from the dropdown list.
7. Enter your name (optional)
8. Submit your ratings and comments.

Notices and Dates:

Week 7	Fri 19 th – Sun 21 st March	School 75 th Jubilee
Week 8	Monday 22 nd March	Otago Anniversary Day School Closed
Week 9	Thursday 1 st April	Miss Heaney's last day
	Friday 2 nd April – Tuesday 6 th April	Easter Break
Week 10	Wednesday 7 th April	Miss Smith's first day
Week 11	Friday 16 th April	Last Day Term 1

