

St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Road
Ranfurly
03 4449514 (ph & fax)
office@sjr.school.nz

Principal's Page:

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Welcome

We welcome new five year old, Maggie O'Neill, and her family to St John's School.



We also welcome Miss Bailey Smith to our school, teaching in the Middle Class, for the remainder of 2021.

Footsteps Dance

Here are some photos from our very successful Footsteps dance week. The children enjoyed performing the dances they had learnt for parents and grandparents. We have signed up to have Footsteps dance lessons again in 2023.



School Jubilee

Thank you to all those children who came along and sang our welcome songs to ex pupils and staff at our School 75th Jubilee. It was a great weekend and many memories were shared. Ex pupils enjoyed looking around our school and grounds and noticed many changes.

A special thank you to the PTA and to those parents who volunteered and helped out at the various events. Thank you for giving up your time to help with this and make the weekend successful.



10 of the first day pupils - 1945

Keeping Ourselves Safe Unit

Next term, each class will be working on the health topic "Keeping Ourselves Safe". We have not done this in our school for several years. The unit of work involves the children learning the following:

- to work out when their safety is at risk, for example, walking home alone in the dark.
- how to keep safe when they meet and mix with other people.
- who and how to ask for help if they, or someone they know, is being abused.
- to go on asking for help until someone does something to stop the abuse.
- that it is important to make and follow personal, family and school safety rules.

They will know:

- that abuse is never okay
- that abuse is never their fault

This unit is taught by the class teachers but the Police Education Officer, Garry Milford comes and teaches some sessions. Garry will be teaching 3 sessions with each class in mid June.

If you need any more information about this unit of work please talk to the classroom teacher.

PTA Meeting

A reminder that a PTA meeting is being held on **Monday 12th April at 7.30p.m.** at school. Apologies to Angela Francis or Geraldine Dowling.

Mufti Day

On the last day of term, **Friday 16th April**, we are going to have mufti day to raise money for Caritas, the Catholic Aid Agency. Children can bring along a gold coin for this worthwhile cause.

School Holidays

Term 1 ends on Friday 16th April and Term 2 begins on Monday 3rd May.

Special Character Clipboard:

The week of 29 March - 1 April was a special week in the Church Year - **Holy Week**.

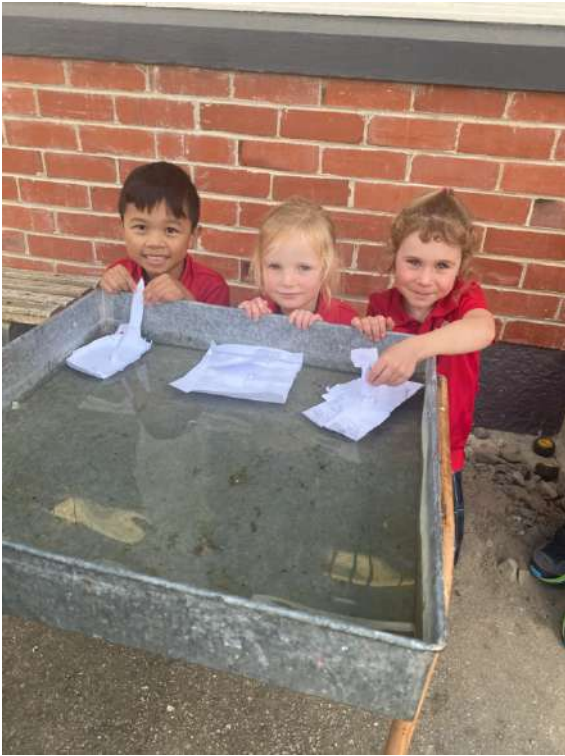
Children learnt about the stories of Holy Week in Faith Focus time and in Religious Education lessons. We finished the week with a whole school liturgy focussing on the "Stations of the Cross". We looked at 14 pictures depicting the last day of Jesus's life and reflected on these. We also looked at the 14 Stations of the Cross in our own church.

In Faith focus time we have also been looking at some of the countries Caritas, the Catholic Aid agency, helps out in. We have viewed some interesting clips about life in a village in Cambodia. Our focus for the children for the week has been to appreciate the things we are lucky enough to have, say thank you, and to support others who may need our help.

Junior Class News:

Inspired by the America's Cup yacht racing and Miss Flintoff, the Junior Class made their own paper yachts, using stem technology. They then raced their yachts and Caleb Cai's yacht was declared the winner!





Middle Class News:



Kia Ora, my name is Bailey Smith, I have completed four years at university. I was given the privilege to teach in the middle classroom for the rest of the year. While at St John's I am looking forward to incorporating Manaakitanga (respect, kindness and honesty) and Whakamana (students reaching potential) within the classroom. I am originally from Fairlie. I am excited to get to know all the students and the families within the local community. I love the outdoors, camping and going out for a casual run. My favourite colour is mint green. I have an older sister who lives in Timaru.

Senior Class News:

Sit back like you're on the toilet seat - kick the door shut!



Kia ora koutou,

“Sit back like you are on the toilet seat”

This might sound silly but these were some of the keywords shared with the children to help them achieve success at Camp Columba. This was related to abseiling and rock climbing, where they had to lean back so they could descend a high wall or rock face. Camp was an amazing experience for the children and adults and we had a great time. The highlight of camp for me was seeing the support that our children so naturally gave to one another and the enjoyment that they got from their own and their friends' achievements. It was one full on camp that saw so much personal growth in ability and confidence. Thank you so much to the parent helpers for being part of a busy and rewarding camp experience.

Below are some examples of a moment in time writing that the children completed after the camp - they give you a good insight into how the children were feeling.

Leap of Faith

My hands and feet were slimy with sweat. My tummy was sick with butterflies as I clambered up the pole 12m above the ground. I spun my body around at the peak of the post to stand, facing a scrawny bar draped in mid air. I perched there for a while thinking of my choices as my life flashed before me. I tilted forward and I plummeted through the air ...

Paige Smith

Abseiling

“Ok, your turn!” said Willie as he opened the gate. I peered over the edge and my heart went into overdrive mode. I managed a weak smile. As I started to lean back I started going down. But I made one big mistake and looked down. My heart just got a 60 PSI diesel boost. “Are my hands slipping?” I thought. Then I felt my feet touch something hard. Ground - beautiful ground! What's that? I have to do it again? Maybe in your dreams!

Elliot Greer

Speed Slide

My body was shaking in the sack and my arms were sweaty while holding the sack really tight. I thought I was going to make a hole in the material with my nails. I was crunched up like a ball until I couldn't feel my body anymore. I bounced high and got huge air time. My heart was pounding fast and I was surprised my breathing was so calm.

Hayley Barroga

Rock Climbing

I was about to tackle the incline of the wall and I thought I was going to fall back. I struggled to get a good grip on the small plastic rocks. When I got past the slope part my heart started to calm down. When I made it to the top it felt like my body shut down and I didn't want to move. I had to get back down to the bottom and I relied on my trustworthy teammate Fred and thought to myself - "I'm not doing that again".

Billy Watson

Term 2

Term 2 will see a few changes in our classroom while Mrs Mulholland is away on sabbatical. I will be at school everyday but will be released from the classroom on Wednesdays by Miss Helen Flintoff and on Thursdays from 11am by Mrs Jayne Hazlett. Each of us has units of work that we will be guiding the children through so this will not affect any learning progress, in fact the combined effort of all 3 teachers will keep the children rather busy and very stimulated.

Otago Swimming Sports

I would like to extend our best wishes to our speedy swimmers who are representing the school at this event tomorrow. Go hard and best of luck Tessa, Chloe, Jae, Mckenna, Marley and Josie. The support these children have had through Becky McAuley and the Maniototo Swim Club has been a huge part of the achievements that these children have already made. We look forward to hearing all about it on Monday back at school.

Hei kona and enjoy your weekend everyone.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan

Board of Trustees

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 13 April at 7.30p.m.**

Notices and Dates:

Ski Season Pass

This year we have been given the opportunity for a Dual Mountain Season Pass. This pass allows unlimited access for the 2021 winter season at both Cardrona and Treble Cone. If you would like more information or an application form, please see Fiona Weir.

Week 11	Monday 12 th April	PTA meeting 7.30pm
	Friday 16 th April	Mufti Day
	Friday 16 th April	Last Day Term 1

