

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 6: 28th May 2021

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

What a difference 3 weeks makes! It feels like we have moved from autumn to winter well and truly. As the winter weather arrives, I would like to remind everyone that the children need to wear their high visibility vests for travel to and from school if they are on the bus, biking, walking or scootering. The colder weather also leads to ice forming on the pathways and we are encouraging the children to walk so they avoid slips.

Thank you for the detail in the texts indicating why your child is away from school. This is helpful as it allows us to fill our rolls in accurately. Please keep children at home if they have colds or the flu.

Your children are welcome to bring slippers to wear in the classroom, if they want too. We encourage the children to remove muddy footwear after interval and lunchtime, so a pair of slippers would be useful in this situation in the classrooms.

School Mass: This is being held on Thursday 24th June at 11.30am. Parents are very welcome, and we would like to see lots of you there. The PTA will provide lunch for the children after church, it will be nachos. Please come and join us.

Speech Competition

This is being held on Friday 4th June in our school hall. The outline for the morning is ...

9.15am Year 1 - 3 poetry recital
 Year 4 - 5 speeches
 Announcement of place getters.

10.30am approximately - morning tea for our parents and visitors in the hall.

11am Year 6 - 8 speeches
 Announcement of place getters.

From our school event, the children who placed 1st and 2nd will go onto the Maniototo Speech Competition. This is being held on Thursday 10th June at the Ranfurly Town Hall. The outline for this competition is ...

9.30am – 11.30am: Year 3-5 poetry and speech competition.

12pm – 2pm: Year 6-8 speeches take place.

At the front door of the hall, there will be children collecting a gold coin donation.

Queens Birthday

School is closed on Monday 7th June for Queens Birthday weekend.

School Website

The school website has been updated with the senior room Camp Columba photos. There are also photos of the rippa teams and Pink Shirt Day. The address for the website is

<https://www.sjr.school.nz>

Keeping Ourselves Safe

This is the link to the parent page on the Keeping Ourselves Safe website [KOS parent page](#) where we encourage you to go if you have any questions around the current health unit that is being taught in each classroom. This site has frequently asked questions and gives parents ideas on how to have conversations around school learning at home.

Central Dental

Yesterday the Central Dental team, lead by Amelia Paterson visited our school. They shared lots of great information with the children and each child received a pamphlet detailing the services that Central Dental can offer. Part of this was what to do in an emergency. They also received a free toothbrush & toothpaste.

Special Mention

Huts have always been a big part of the play experience at St John's School and history does not change! Below are photos of two hut areas the younger boys have set up and they are a source of fun for the kids. The negotiations over who has what role in the hut environment are a great opportunity for learning about the give and take of friendships and how to work together. When I visited, the pride these children had in their huts was very endearing and they really did deserve some space in the newsletter!



L-R

James Marshall, Theo Dowling, Charlie Dowling, Caleb Cai, Ben Scott.



L-R

Arthur Elworthy, Finn Dowling, Ethan Chisholm, Axel McAuley.

Special Character Clipboard:

School and Family Mass: This is being held on Thursday 24th June which is the Feast Day for St John the Baptist. Mass will be held at 11.30am and I warmly encourage you all to come along and celebrate with us.

After Mass we will be having a shared lunch that the PTA is organising for everyone - children and parents. So come along, enjoy our school Mass, eat lunch with us and have a catch up with your friends and family here in our school.

Birthday time!

Pentecost is the Church's birthday and like any birthday, it is a cause for a celebration. Fifty days after Easter we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the followers, and the beginning of their ministry to make disciples of all nations. Pentecost Sunday was celebrated on the 23rd May.

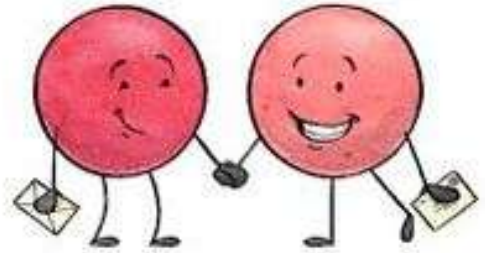
Faith Focus

This continues to be a very special part of our week where we gather together in the Senior Room and reflect on our week and learn more about the school wide focus for the following week.

Week 1 was based on our very special mothers. We all enjoyed watching our mums beautiful faces appear on the TV screen in a slideshow - thank you for sending your images in. You will have received a Mothers Day card from your child and this was a great opportunity for us to practice something that is a strength of our school - working together in mixed age groups to help each other. The classroom was a hum with conversations as the connections were being built between various children.

Week 2 saw the year 8 children demonstrating how to be an 'Upstander' in a situation where something unkind is happening to someone else. The following week teachers were busy spotting children showing the qualities in the image below. Hopefully you see evidence of these actions at home also.

12 Ways to Show Kindness



© Pathway 2 Success
www.thepathway2success.com

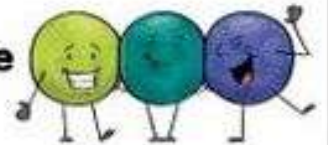
Just listen to a friend



Write someone a kind note



Invite someone to join you



Forgive someone for a mistake

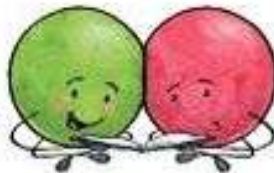


Let someone else go first



Give someone a high-five

Work with someone new



Help clean up



Help someone having a tough day



Hold the door open for others



Do an extra chore



Spend time with a friend

Clipart by Sarah Pecorino, Kate Hadfield • RebeccaB

In week 3 the focus moved to showing the Fruits of the Spirit in our actions and acting with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



At the end of Faith Focus we head out for a school game. What a hoot this is, children running in all directions having a great time. Those moments make me so proud to be a member of our school community, our faith is evident in so many ways but especially the relationships and actions that the children show to each other.

News flash! We now have Faith Focus certificates and stickers for our Faith Focus weekly recipients. A special recognition of the great qualities and actions shown during the week.

Pink Shirt day - We wore non uniform items last Friday and filled our classrooms with lots of bright colours. This was to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation. The children's donations raised \$105.80.

Junior Class News:

Wow I can't believe we are 4 weeks into Term 2 already!

In the Junior room we have been busy practising our poems for the up and coming speech competitions. All children have done extremely well to learn these off by heart.

We have been having a fitness break and having fun using hula hoops. All children have become a lot better at controlling and holding onto their hoops.



Library has been a quiet time to enjoy the many books our library has to offer. We have been looking at choosing suitable books to share.



We have been enjoying having special news on a Wednesday and our world news on a Friday has uncovered some interesting findings. Did you know they have discovered a new spider in Florida called the 'A Pine Rockland Trapdoor Spider'. (ask the children about it)

In the 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' unit we have looked at where we live and our phone numbers. Please continue to help the children learn their address and your phone number. We are also looking at what makes us happy, sad, angry, confused and will be using small role plays to show our emotions.

I hope you are enjoying the children's Poetry books coming home every Friday.

For Art, the children painted Autumn trees using their hand print as the branches. We then used a cotton bud to plot the autumn colours leaves over them. Many thanks to Mrs Paterson for helping complete these for us.



Please remember to send your child's bus vest with them each day as they need to wear these to and from school if they are on a bus or walking to school.

Any questions don't hesitate to get in touch.

Erin Elworthy

Middle Class News:

Kia ora, what a very busy couple of weeks of the start of the term. We have been busy doing our speech writing and reciting our poems for the speech competition, which is not too far away now. We are looking forward to sharing our topics to our audience. The students have all worked so hard to complete their speeches and their work ethic has been delightful to witness within the classroom.



I was away for two days recently for my Lincoln graduation which was great. I also went to an introduction workshop for beginning teachers in Dunedin.



The oral language homework is going well, it is a great way to get all students out of their comfort zone and talk in front of the class. We had our first masterchef this week which was a fantastic opportunity for students to be creative and bring their baked goods into class for the students and myself to see. These were very impressive and tasty.

We had a lovely visit on Monday when Rachel Heaney and her baby Frank came to visit, which the class enjoyed.

This term is busy with sport commitments outside of school. It sounds as though the students are doing well within their teams which is fantastic to hear.

I hope everyone has a safe and warm weekend.

Warm regards
Bailey Smith

Senior Class News:

***“A school is a building with four walls,
with tomorrow inside.”
~Lon Watters***

Kia ora koutou,

Speech Competition

The children have continued their positive start to the term and our big focus over the last week has been completing the draft writing and then fine tuning their speeches. Our school competition is next Friday, the children will deliver their speech using their cue cards and any props that they have. They may ask you to help them find props or they may wish to dress in some way that suits their speech, this is absolutely fine. Any props used need to be linked to a point in the speech and used at the correct time to emphasise this. If dressing up is going to be used, please help your child to be comfortable in the outfit so they are not distracted or fiddling with some part of it, as we want to avoid costume mishaps!

Be an Upstander!

Last Friday our classroom was filled with bright and happy colours for ‘Pink Shirt Day’. To follow up on our learning around being an UPSTANDER when we see mean behaviour and actions, we have learnt about giving compliments. The tips that the children have learnt are

- Say things that are true: people quickly pick up on compliments that aren't true!
- Focus on strengths, qualities, and characteristics instead of appearances.

This week we have really made an effort to be confident and to give the gift of a compliment to others. I have encouraged the children to tell people what they notice they are good at doing and what qualities and characteristics they appreciate about them. It would be great to see this practice continue at home.



The Senior Room looked very colourful.



Pink Shirt Day school photo

Classroom Culture

Life in the senior room has been a little different for the children with a variety of teachers working with the class. Mrs Paterson has been teaching for the last 3 weeks as Miss Flintoff was away and Mrs Hazlett works in our class every Thursday this term. Both of these teachers and myself touch base daily to check in with child well being, focus, effort and attitude and the system we have is working well from an adults point of view.

I am however finding I am doing a bit of a general mop up on behaviours that do not suit our school or classroom values. I have emphasised to the children that we (the senior class) are the school leaders and that whatever behaviours we show, the rest of the school follows. So for example, turning a game of tennis into a game of brand ball is not ok at school as this then took 10 minutes to collect all the hit balls about the place and made children very late to class. This is fairly minor but I am working to nip minor actions like this in the bud before they grow.

A strength of our school is our ability to work together for the good of all and to make decisions with other people's feelings in mind. So please remind your children to

- Make the decisions that are best for that situation and to seek adult guidance if needed - talk to the classroom or duty teacher.
- To make a decision that they would be proud of Mrs Duncan and you to see.
- To be honest in what they say to myself and others.

School hoodies and sports tops:

If you have any of these at home still, please return them to me.

NZ Sign Language

Recently it was the official 'NZSL Week' and during this time the seniors started brushing up on their sign language skills. The children really enjoyed this and so I have continued this on. We are currently working through a series of short lessons that have been provided by NZSL online. Each day that I am working with the children we practice using our classroom TV and our expert teacher Angela Francis. NZSL is a clever way of communication and everyone is able to fingerspell, ask basic questions and respond with short sentences. The beauty of sign is that the communication is not just via the hands, the whole body is involved with posturing and facial expression. This is great as it links in well with our speeches which require similar skills.

We are also going to be meeting up with Libby Francis online and learning some more sign skills with her. We are all looking forward to this.

Weekly sports catch up

I am enjoying hearing from the children how their various sporting activities have gone. There have been some big scores posted by Maniototo teams in hockey and rugby recently! This is a lovely opportunity again for children to speak in front of the school (we have been doing these catch ups on a Monday after Rosary) and I like hearing about what else they have been up to outside of school life.

We had commented last week that the children are starting to look tired. I feel it goes hand in hand with term 2 and sports travel. Please continue to do all the great work that you do at home with having a good routine with homework, good sleep and being well organised as these positive efforts by you impact the children at school. I appreciate your efforts with these aspects of school - home life. In turn, I take the time every day to really look at the children to gauge how they are and I adjust my teaching style and content to meet different needs.

Hei kona everyone.

Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

- At our recent meeting, I shared a Technology report with the BoT.
- We have set our AGM date for Tuesday 8th June at 7pm. You are welcome to attend.



Notices and Dates:

Week 5	Monday 31 st May	National Young Leaders Day – Year 8’s in Dunedin
	Friday 4 th June	School Speech/Poetry Competition
	Sunday 6 th June	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Fred & George
Week 6	Monday 7 th June	Queens Birthday – School Closed
	Tuesday 8 th June	BOT AGM & general meeting
	Thursday 10 th June	Maniototo Speech Competition – Years 3-8 at Town Hall
	Sunday 13 th June	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Phoebe & Ethan
Week 7	Monday 14 th – Wednesday 16 th June	Keeping Ourselves Safe – Garry Milford
	Friday 18 th June	Newsletter
	Sunday 20 th June	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Paige & McKinley
Week 8	Thursday 24 th June	St John the Baptist Feast Day and School Mass- 11.30am. Shared lunch after Mass.
	Sunday 27 th June	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Tessa & Axel
Week 9	Friday 2 nd July	Report & portfolios go home
	Sunday 4 th July	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Chloe & Jae
Week 10		Potential Ice Skating trip
		Portfolios to be returned to school
	Tuesday 6 th & Wednesday 7 th July	Parent/Teacher interviews
	Friday 9 th July	Newsletter
	Sunday 11 th July	Sunday Mass Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Ryan, Elliot & Harry J

Ice Camp 21

Monday 12 to Friday 16 July 2021 Naseby, Central Otago
NZ Olympic Luge Association & Maniototo Ice Rink

www.lugenz.com

www.facebook.com/naseby.luge/

Mobile 0274 958 923

20% discount for additional family members, pay \$120 (or \$28/day). Attend both camps and get 33% off the 2nd camp, i.e. pay \$100.

This five day holiday camp from Monday 12 to Friday 16 July (10am to 3pm) is suitable for those aged 8 years and older. It will include a luge race on 16 July (at 10am).

The camp takes place at the Naseby Adventure Park. 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.

Single day attendance is permitted. The camp is a day camp and there is accommodation available in Naseby.

Things to know about the camp are:

- Clothing – it is winter and we are outside. Warm tighter fitting clothing, thermal underwear is a must, and try to avoid bulky jackets. Layers are always good. Tighter fitting sweat pants or tights over long-johns work really well.
- Footwear – we supply luge boots and skates. Runners are fine for curling but bring a change of socks. No gumboots!
- Gloves – essential, ski/snowboard gloves are fine but they will take a battering on the ice so bring old ones rather than new ones. Having two pairs is good as they get wet.
- Helmets - we have a supply of helmets but if you have a ski/snowboard helmet please bring it along.
- Lunch - we stop for an hour for lunch (noon) and use the Patearoa Lounge at the Ice Rink to eat in and also keep our dry clothes, bags etc. Bring a healthy lunch which can be supplemented with food and drinks from the canteen which has pies, chips, soup, toasted sandwiches etc and a range of drinks, so bring a few \$\$\$ for that. The canteen volunteers will also heat up food if they are asked nicely.

Cost (incl. GST) – \$150 (or \$35/day) Payment direct to the NZ Olympic Luge bank a/c: 03 1369 0217888 00

If you are interested in attending the 2021 Ice Camp, or finding out more information, please contact Geoff Balme:

Email gbalme@xtra.co.nz or phone/txt 0274 958 923

Register on-line at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfql5t3TNTG9jY8sBmu74v_0N6a3c7U7c1VEh2VImiWcY5thQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

or by emailing the paper form, that can be picked up from Fiona in the School Office and emailing it to gbalme@xtra.co.nz

