



St John's School Newsletter

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

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Principal's Page:

World Book Day

We all enjoyed dressing up as book characters on World Book Day on the 3rd March. Here is a photo of each class.



Otago Anniversary Day

School is closed this **Monday 21st March** for Otago Anniversary Day.

End of Term 1

The end of term is coming around quickly.

School finishes on **Thursday 14th April** and starts again for Term 2 on **Monday 2nd May**.

NB: Easter and Anzac Day are both in the school holidays.

Senior Class Camp

The Senior Class are away to Camp Berwick from 11 - 14th April.

Covid Update

Here is some information from the Ministry of Education re Cases of Covid-19 and Household contacts.

Cases of COVID-19

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for seven days.

Day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day the test was taken (whichever came first). Cases will isolate for a full seven days and are free to return to normal activities on Day 8, if they are not symptomatic.

Household contacts

Household contacts are required to isolate for the same seven days as the case.

They can return to their normal activities on the same day as the first case in their household, so long as all test results have been negative, and they are not symptomatic.

Household contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms up to Day 10.

Household contacts will be required to take a self-administered rapid antigen test (RAT) on Day 3 and Day 7 of the case's isolation period.

If symptoms develop at any time during isolation:

- the usual advice remains in place to undertake an additional RAT
- if the test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again 48 hours after that negative test
- if symptoms resolve there is no need for a further test until the required Day 7 test. If this is negative, they can return to daily life on Day 8.

If a household contact has new symptoms on the day of release:

- They should undertake an additional RAT and stay at home while unwell
- If that test is negative and symptoms persist or worsen, test again after 48 hours. If symptoms resolve, there is no need for a further test.

If a household contact has finished their period of isolation they do not need to return to isolation if a new case is identified in their household. However, **this only applies for a period of seven days** following their leaving isolation.

Should a new household member be confirmed as a case eight or more days after the household contact has left isolation, then they must start a new period of self-isolation for seven days.

PTA Update

-At the PTA meeting on Thursday 10th March, the PTA agreed to purchase 5 new laptop computers for the Middle Classroom which means the students in that class will have access to a laptop each. The PTA has a special IT account set up for such purchases and the money in this comes from the buying and selling of stock. So a huge thanks to those parents who graze the stock on their farms and thank you to the PTA for agreeing to fund these new laptops.

-A second hand (only 7/8 years old) playground has been purchased from Columba College. This playground is suitable for intermediate aged students Yrs 6 - 8. It was purchased at an approximate cost of \$10,000 as opposed to the purchase of a brand new playground which would cost between \$80,000 and \$90,000! Columba were selling this to make way for their new boarding hostel and we were lucky enough to have somebody who was visiting onsite who noticed this was being dismantled.

This playground will not be put up quickly as it needs to be transported here, site decided, ground prepared and put back together again but it is a step forward towards having part of our playground more suitable for Senior students.

-Our fundraising "Night at the Races" night which was canceled at the beginning of December last year due to Covid, will hopefully be held at the end of this year.

Special Character Clipboard:

Each class held their own prayer liturgy to mark Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Children put their own mark of ash on their foreheads and many have shared how they are going to give something up or do more to help others during this time of Lent.

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.

Junior Class News:

The Junior Class held a farewell party for our classmate, Kheizeah Bryant on Friday afternoon, 11th March. Kheizeah is going back to live in the Philippines with her family. Here are some photos of the Juniors enjoying the goodies provided.



Middle Class News:



The Middle Room

We have been busy in the Middle Room over the past few weeks learning our Pepeha and speaking them in front of the class. A Pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in Maori. It tells people about where you are from by using your connections to the land and your whanau.

The children have been enjoying doing writing contracts over the past few weeks. I make up a writing contract with 8 different activities on it around a theme and the children have the freedom to choose which activity they would like to write about. We had one on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and this week's one has picture cues and newspaper reports.

Some of the reading groups are doing novel studies, and I have been impressed with the children reading their set pages for homework each night. This makes it easy for us to talk about it the next day and read the next chapter.



We all enjoyed the Book Character Day and it was such fun trying to guess who everyone was as they walked in the door.

Class Writing: Use a QR Reader on your phone to access the voice recordings



When I see through Emma's eyes I see an ancient Buffalon getting closer and closer! I know how she feels, scared! Then when the Buffalon had come up to her, without thinking she jumped on the ancient Buffalon!

She felt even more scared than before. Then a spear went to the beast and she killed it. Victory for Emma! When she jumped off the dead Buffalon, she hopped on her ostrich and went home to tell the tale.

By Nathan Smith



Emma is riding away from racing goblins. They wanted to stop her from discovering the secrets of rainbow valley, then tell their mistress Avala the witch. The secrets can't be in bad hands and that's why the queen of rainbow valley sent Emma. As she rode on, she saw they were creeping up, so she whispered in her ostrich's ear "Go faster buddy, go faster! I'll give you a treat, I'll give you a treat". She only said it twice so that her ostrich heard her.

By Florence Dowling

Senior Class News:



Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

There have been photos uploaded to the school website this week - check them out.

Young Vinnies

The Young Vinnies are underway with their weekly Friday sausage sizzle. Thank you for your orders. The children would like to acknowledge Richard Smith from the Ranfurly Auto Super Shoppe for his continued support to the Young Vinnies. So when you next see Richard, thank him for the tomato sauce that the children love to lather all over their sausages.

The workday has been a great experience for the kids. We enjoyed helping people out and were thankful for the donations we received. In the next newsletter, we will be able to share with you how much we have made in total for our Tonga disaster donation.

Last week we had a very energetic and fun visitor. Jo Bell (Youth Coordinator for the St Vincent de Paul Society) travelled up and spent a couple of hours with us and her vibe was fun! She shared a great message with the children As a Young Vinnie, we help those who are lonely or unable to do things easily, as well as those who are affected by events such as the Tongan earthquake and the Ukrainian people. But we also help out those right in our own life bubble - our classmates, families and school friends. If we see someone down, we give them some of our time to help perk them up. Young Vinnies help everyone, whenever they can, daily.



Young Vinnies with Jo Bell

Patearoa Swimming Hole

This was fun and the class was awesome! The weather turned out good for our outing and the children made the most of the opportunity to try out their survival skills in deeper and cold water. I was really thankful to my parent helpers for coming along and being such stars at taking activity stations. Thank you also for the gear and milo/ hot chocolates that were supplied for the children to enjoy.



Science Badges

A number of the children have got started on these. The array of topics is large - from Large Animals to Geology to Botany. The class has already taken part in a student survey, and been taste testers for biscuits. It is great that everyone is getting started.

Camp Berwick from 11th - 14th April.

At this stage, I just have some reminders for you

Cost: \$50 if attending all of camp, \$25 if attending part of camp.

Account number: 03 0951 0064739 00 - reference your name

Payment is due by **Thursday 24th March**

The camp meeting date is **Wednesday 6th April at 7pm** in our classroom.

The children need to be physically fit for camp. Can you do some fitness-based activities with your child? - biking, hill walking etc.

Parents attending camp - if you are doing a swap over, you don't need to be at camp until Wednesday morning.

Gear advice from the AdventureMasters instructor who is running our activities:

- Lace-up shoes with a decent grip on them. These could be sneakers or light tramping boots. Having good footwear will make activities easier for children.
- Thermals and fleeces are ideal
- Thick socks, hats and gloves
- Jacket (note that puffers are warm when dry but useless when wet, and we won't be stopping for rain). Camp does have some spare waterproof jackets.
- Hay Fever meds, insect spray and repellent are advisable.
- Prepare for 30 degree heat and/or snow.
- Get your child to pack their own bag so they know what they have with them.
- Jeans are not suitable for camp.

Camp Berwick 'official' Equipment List

**Ensure all gear is named
We are away for 4 days and 3 nights.**

Shoes for being active in - lace-up and with grippy soles. (two pairs if you have them)	Wetsuit if you have one	Sleeping bag (a warm one)
1 container of baking to share	Own pillow and pillowcase	Extra bedding if wanted
Shoes for wearing inside.	T-Shirts	Personal toiletries (soap, toothpaste etc)
Jacket - waterproof and windproof	Trousers/track pants	Day pack (school bag)
Two towels	Shorts	Lunchbox
Warm hat	Socks	Water bottle
Thermal tops and bottoms (more than one set would be best)	Underwear	Large rubbish bag for bringing home dirty and wet washing
Gloves	Togs	Tea towel
Sunhat	Personal medication - named with clear instructions	Torch or headlamp (and batteries)
Pyjamas	Sweatshirts/jerseys	No devices There will be a Messenger Page set up.

Camp rules include

- using manners
- hats off inside
- footwear stowed against the wall
- don't prevent others from sleeping
- respect others' gear and personal space.

Fundraising opportunity at Maniototo Dairy

The Senior Room has been asked to do a weed pulling job (rouging) in a crop at Luke Jeffries farm next Thursday. This is on Puketoi Runs Road near Patearoa.

This job involves walking in a uniform line and pulling out tall weeds as we go. We are being paid a substantial amount of money for this and the children are currently thinking of possible options for what to do with this money.

We will leave school at 10.30 am on Thursday morning and return by 2.30 pm. We will have a BBQ lunch hosted by Luke and Anna, out on the farm. The children will wear mufti for this day and I suggest they bring gardening gloves to wear. They should also dress to be warm and take their hayfever medication.

We will travel out in the Dowlings van and I will also take my car. I need one more parent to do this activity with us and transport 4 children. If you can help out, please contact me via the school cellphone. Extra adult help would be welcomed as I have never done this before.

Whakataukī - Proverb

Mā to huruhuru ka rere to manu.

Adorn the bird with feathers so it will fly.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan.

The 50km Amazing Amazon Race

I bend down to tie my soggy boot laces. I am participating in an Amazon jungle race and it's 10 minutes until the race starts. So I walk over to the food stand and ask for a triple shot coffee because I need lots of energy! I slide on my special neon race jacket because it's raining but I only put on my thin one because it's also so hot and humid in the jungle.

I am nervous, but very excited, to push myself and get in the top 3 of this amazing race. The whistle blows and I'm away! I use the spray painted marks on the trees because there is no track to follow. It's muddy, hot and humid as I run getting close to the person in first place. I have to dodge all the hanging vines and clumps of ferns. I try to focus because there are heaps of animal sounds; birds calling, insects buzzing and animals roaring.

I see the runner in front of me trip and fall into the mud, just in time I see an Amazon python slithering over the track. I leap over it with a shudder and carry on. Now in front of me is a bubbling stream full of black caiman crocs. As I near this treacherous place I realize there's a bridge that I have to walk across that is missing planks and is also level with the croc infested water!

I sprint across the rickety bridge but I slip into a hole through the broken plank and the crocs are wildly snapping at my leg. I leap back up and start to run again. I see a vine above the bridge and I grab hold of it and swing off the bridge and I land safely on the other side. Phew!

I keep running along the jungle tracks . Suddenly I start to fall and slide, wildly tumbling down the hill. Finally I have stopped rolling and I am very wet, muddy and hot but I can hear people shouting in the distance. I run the last 20m to the finish line and everybody is crazily cheering.

Boy do I need another strong coffee!!

By Noah Smith Yr 7

Board of Trustees

*At our Board of Trustees meeting on the 8th March, Susan presented a report on English, Visual Language to the Board.

*We reviewed several policies on Emergency, Disaster and Crisis Management and these are available for you to read and review on the SchoolDocs website. To do this 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

*Board of Trustees elections are coming up in September this year. Please consider putting yourself forward for a position on the Board. If you are interested and would like to know more, please come along to our next meeting, **10th May at 7p.m.**

Notices and Dates:

Week 7	Sunday 20 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Tessa Steele & Florence Dowling
Week 8	Sunday 27 th March	Sunday Mass – 5pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Mac & Finn Dowling
Week 9	Sunday 4 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm NOTE: Change of time Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Sam & Arthur Elworthy
Week 10	Sunday 10 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Rosa & Josie Herlihy
Week 11	Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th April	Senior School Camp at Berwick
Holidays	Sunday 17 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Logan & Mckenna Suddaby

Holidays	Sunday 24 th April	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Fred & George Dowling, Jacob Sutherland
Holidays	Sunday 1 st May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Phoebe Hore & Ethan Chisholm
Week 1 T2	Sunday 8 th May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Paige Smith & McKinley Francis
Week 2	Sunday 15 th May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley
Week 3	Sunday 22 nd May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Chloe & Jae McAuley
Week 4	Sunday 29 th May	Sunday Mass – 4pm Altar Servers/Bell Ringers: Harry & Isla Jeffries

A Message from Jack 'n' Jill Portraits

I thought I had better let everyone know that I am no longer in the photo business and I Karen Fraser from Jack'n'Jill Portraits will be closing down my website at the end of April.

IMPORTANT - Once I do this no one will be able to make any orders online so if anyone wants to order photos from 2019 to 2021 then they **MUST** do it before the end of April. After that they will be deleted.

