

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 2: 24th February 2023

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome

We welcome new students, Sophia and Henry Crutchley and their family to St John's School.

A big thank you

A big thank you to those parents who came along to the PTA working bee on Saturday 4 February to help put down the matting under the new senior playground. What a massive effort on an extremely hot day! Thank you.



Another thank you

Thank you to those parents who provided transport and supervision help on our visit to the sunflowers at Patearoa. What a lovely afternoon we had and we learnt lots about growing sunflowers and what they are going to be used for.

A huge thank you to Anna Pettigrew and Robert McSkimming for allowing us to come and visit their property and Anna for talking to us about the sunflowers.



Swim Week

Thanks to all those parents who helped drive the van, get children ready for swimming and swam with the younger children last week. It was much appreciated.

Also thank you to Ryan and Geraldine Dowling for the use of their van for the week.

A big thank you to the PTA who funded the cost of the swimming teacher, Jo Blackie, for the swimming lessons.

Swimming and Swimming Sports

Next week each class will be going to the pool as we need to sort out which events children will participate in for the swimming sports.

Individual teachers will notify parents of class swimming times for next week.

The swimming sports will be held on **Friday 3rd March beginning at 1.15p.m.**

There will be no more swimming sessions after the swimming sports are held.

When children start at St John's School they are put into a house, either O'Neill or McAuley House. Attached is a list of names of children in each house. O'Neill's house colour is green and McAuley red. Points from swimming sports events are added up to get an overall house winner. Each school event throughout the year has a house winner and at the end of the year a shield is presented to the overall house winner from events held.

Parent Information Evening

Thank you to those parents who attended our parent information evening on Tuesday night. It was great to see many of you there.

Footsteps Dance group

From Monday 13 March - Friday 17 March our school and Maniototo Area School have employed a dance tutor from the above company to come and teach dance with all our students. We have done this in the past and it has been very popular with the children.

This year they will come to our school from Wednesday afternoon 15th March - Friday 17th March and children will participate in 2 lessons each day. Wednesday just 1 lesson. Sometime on the Friday children perform the dances learnt for parents and friends. We will let you know the time of this nearer to the day.

PTA Meeting

A PTA meeting will be held at school on **Wednesday 22nd March at 7p.m.**

All welcome.

Farm Safe Day

Maniototo Area School has invited our school and community along to a rural Farm Safe Day they are organising in conjunction with Harriet Bremner and Otago Rural Support Trust.

The date for this event is Friday 31st March and it will be held at Maniototo Area School.

The event is free and each child will be given a sausage for lunch. Also, each family will receive free copies of Harriet's books 'Use your voice' and 'Be Safe, Be Seen'. The hope is that the books help take the conversation around health and safety from the day, into the home and out onto the farm and into the community. Harriet has also developed student workbooks as a follow-up to the day, these are also free.

Background information

Harriet Bremner has developed a safety campaign called 'Think Safe Brain'

The campaign focuses on health, safety and well-being for rural children and their communities. Think of it a bit like the McDonald's 'Make It Click' campaign where children were used as advocates for generational changes in people's behaviours.

Harriet is a former primary school teacher, farmer and children's book author who is extremely passionate about changing the conversation regarding health, safety and well-being in rural communities. (www.gurtandpops.com)

Harriet has run these days very successfully in places like Middlemarch, Maheno and recently, Fairlie. There was nationwide coverage via Seven Sharp and locally, with articles in the Otago Daily Times.

Students will be put into groups and they will move around 10 different modules. Modules are run by a mix of specialists e.g. Police, local agricultural suppliers/contractors/farmers, and parents. Each module lasts about 10 minutes and topics include: fire safety, dog handling, safety around large machinery, motorbikes/side-by-sides, firearms, chemicals and electricity/power lines. It will be suitable for all ages.

St John's School parents may be asked to help with some of the modules students move around.

It sounds like a very worthwhile, fun day.

Term 2 Teacher Only Day

The Ministry of Education has directed schools to plan and co-ordinate a Teacher Only Day to be taken in the first 2 weeks of Term 2.

We will be joining our Community of Learning - Kahui Ako in Alexandra for this.

To enable parents to plan, our Teacher Only Day will be held on **Monday 24th April.**

The school holidays start on Good Friday the 7th April. Because of the Teacher Only Day, on the 24th April, followed by a public holiday for ANZAC Day on Tuesday the 25th April, it means Term 2 will begin on Wednesday 26th April.

Stationery

A reminder that if you haven't paid your stationary account could you please do so. Internet banking can be made to the following account number:

03 0951 0066195 00

Please remember to put your name and "School Stationery" as a reference. Thank you.

Special Character:

On Wednesday the 22nd February we celebrated Ash Wednesday by going to Mass with Father Gerard Anysley.

Ash Wednesday is a very important day of the year for Catholics. It marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day preparation for Easter. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and Lent were times of fasting and abstinence. But now we are encouraged to put God first in our daily lives and do more to help others.

Children received a traditional cross mark of ash on their foreheads at Mass.



Junior Class News:

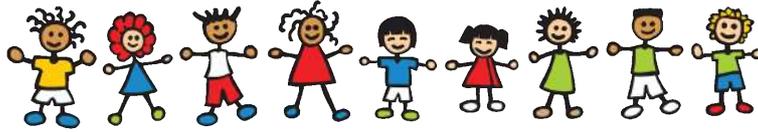
*The Junior Class recently welcomed Henry Crutchley to our class. Henry is in Year 2.



*The Junior Class children tried really hard at their swimming lessons last week. Here are some photos of them enjoying their lessons.



Middle Class News:



Firstly, I would like to warmly welcome Sophia Crutchley to the Middle Room, it's great to have you join us.



Our new students: Victor, Marcus & Sophia

We have had a busy few weeks in the Middle Room with our wonderful trip to the sunflowers out at Flynn's farm and our swim week. Thank you to all the parents that have driven cars and the van for us on our various trips, it is much appreciated.

We were all fascinated by the sunflowers and all the interesting information that Anna told us. The children could recall most of the facts and we had some great discussions about it.



Senior Class News:

I am the Light of the World CARITAS - Lent 2023

Firstly, thank you for coming along to our parent information evening earlier this week. Your attendance was appreciated and my classroom programme is planned around the collaboration between home and school and all the benefits your support brings to your child's learning.

We have had a good start to the year and I am enjoying getting to know the children and seeing them settle into the classroom. The children's attitudes are positive and they are working hard and trying their best.

Highlight moments so far this year

- Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday
- Having our first school Mass for the year on Ash Wednesday
- Our trip to see the fabulous sunflowers
- Enjoying swimming with Jo Blackie
- Enjoying the new playground.

CARITAS

On Tuesday Justine from the CARITAS team spent time with our class. This was an informative session and helped us to further build our understanding of why we do the different activities that we do - like the 'Move It' (carrying water) challenge last year.

CARITAS is a Catholic aid organisation whose goal is to stop injustice and poverty, using Jesus as the model to follow. It works worldwide and the money that we raised in term 1 last year went to CARITAS to assist with their work in Tonga after the volcanic eruption and tsunami.

An aspect that Justine spent quite a bit of time talking to us about was the main Catholic Social Teaching principles. These are below.



The children did really well at remembering what these mean, and we will continue our learning about these through our Faith Focus and RE sessions.

From this point we discussed our own goals for Lent. You will see that some of these are home goals and some are school goals. Your child will try to make new helpful habits over Lent and work towards breaking unhelpful habits. All of the children are keen to be helpful at home.

| During Lent, we will | |
|---|---|
| Do more ... | Do less... |
| <p>Great self-management of ourselves. This means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembering to do our homework and bring it to school everyday • Getting enough sleep • Packing our own school bag • Making our own school lunch. <p>At home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making our own bed • Doing the dishes • Mow the lawn • Hanging out the washing • Folding washing • Feeding pets • Playing games with your family • Visiting people • General helping out. | <p>Eat less sugar.</p> <p>Milo! Have less of this.</p> <p>Nagging! Try to not nag others.</p> <p>Moaning and groaning!</p> <p>Answering back - learn to be quiet.</p> |
| <p>As a class we are going to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do a rubbish clean up along the Rail Trail area in Ranfurly in the last week of term • Fundraise for CARITAS by running sausage sizzles each week of the term. If you would like to donate sausages for this, please let me know via the school cellphone. • Work hard to be inclusive to others • Run schoolwide games • Make Easter cards for the Parishioners and others in our community. | |

Housekeeping

1. **HPV Year 8's** - Please make sure that you return the form that your child has bought home by Monday. Thank you.
2. **Homework** - this has started very well. The children are trying hard with this routine. Thank you for signing this each night.
3. **Swimming** - we are swimming on Monday and Tuesday next week. Our swimming sports is on Friday of next week.
4. **Banqer** - It would be interesting for you to ask your child to spend time showing you their Banqer account and talking you through their understanding of it. We will start our Financial Literacy lessons soon and these will continue throughout the year.



The children enjoyed their pancake with jam and cream on Shrove Tuesday.

Thank you for bringing your child to Sunday Mass so they can support our parish and special character by completing their altar serving and bell ringing duties. We had our first school Mass on Wednesday and it was a special occasion to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. It is also a good opportunity for the children to experience a formal occasion and to practice how we behave in this situation.



Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan.

Senior Room Motto 2023

Before

We speak - we listen

We quit - we try

We do - we think

We react - we breathe

Board of Trustees:

-At our first meeting for 2023 we approved our school's 2023 - 2026 Charter and Strategic Plan
For your information, the updated Charter can be viewed on the website at

www.sjr.school.nz/information/charter then scroll to the bottom and click on Charter 2023.

Or here is the link <http://sjr.kiwischools.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/135/2023/02/Charter-2023.pdf>

We value any feedback you may have - if you have any feedback please contact Susan Mulholland or one of our Board members: Ryan Dowling, Logan Dowling, Cate Herlihy, Garrad Eketone or Anna Jeffries.

Notices and Dates:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Term 1 Week 4 | Sunday 26 th February | Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ben Scott & McKinley Francis |
| Week 5 | Friday 3 rd March | Swimming Sports at 1.15pm |
| | Sunday 5 th March | Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley |
| Week 6 | Sunday 12 th March | Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley |
| Week 7 | Monday 13 th March – Friday 17 th March | Footsteps Dance Group |
| | Sunday 19 th March | Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Harry & Isla Jeffries |
| Week 8 | Wednesday 22 nd March | PTA meeting at 7pm at school |
| | Sunday 26 th March | Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Noah & Nathan Smith |
| Week 9 | Friday 31 st March | Farm Safe Day |
| | Sunday 2 nd April | Sunday Mass at 4pm (NOTE: change in time) Altar Servers: Eddie & Marley Weir |
| Week 10 | Sunday 9 th April | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Eli & Joshua Barroga |
| School Holidays | Sunday 16 th April | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Xavier Love & James Marshall |
| | Sunday 23 rd April | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Hayley Barroga & Jessie Greer |



House groups 2023

| | McAuley | O'Neill |
|----|---|---|
| Y8 | Jacob Sam Mac | Eddie Hayley Noah |
| Y7 | Logan Josie Karl | George Marley |
| Y6 | Nathan Axel Finn Cyrus McKenna Jae | Harry D Harry J McKinley Ethan Keisha |
| Y5 | Jessie Kaylah Xavier Marcus | Isla Florence Joshua Arthur |
| Y4 | James Charlie Ben Victor | Zach Theo Caleb Eli |
| Y3 | Olivia Greta Millie | Jack Juliette Maggie Sophia |
| Y2 | Evie Izzy Oscar | Jimmy Bryleigh Mack Henry |
| Y1 | Georgia Emerson Archie Bjorn | Harriet Arthur Evelyn Flynn |
| Y0 | George Lachie | Nika |