



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome

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



School Holidays and Term 4 start

School holidays begin today and Term 4 starts again on **Monday 9th October**.
Our last school day for 2023 is Thursday 14th December.

School Photos - Friday 20th October

This year we have McRobie Photographics from Dunedin taking our school photos.

(Jack n Jill Photography who have taken our school photos in the past has been sold, unfortunately.)

This will be taking place on **Friday 20th October**, in the morning.

Below is a link with the photo day information for parents/caregivers to read please, this includes a form to fill out if you would like sibling/family photos.

Photo Information – St John's

School: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oDbwD0nuldojM_rYXuC2nP0o0Ndi75HPmlbz9FuxNXA/edit?usp=sharing

Please ensure you read and complete this if you want sibling/family photos. Teachers will not be able to do this as it requires parent/caregivers permission and it is also important it is done prior to the date of the 20th October so the photographer has the information before they come.

Bus Vests

If your child has not returned their bus vest we would like this back asap please.

Labour Weekend

School is closed on **Monday 23rd October** for Labour Weekend.

End of year school concert and prizegiving date

After several changes of dates due to various community events on towards the end of the school year we have decided to have our school end of year concert and prize giving earlier than usual for 2023.

It will be held on **Thursday 23rd November in the Ranfurly Town Hall at 7p.m.**

Please note there is a Teacher Only Day the next day - information below.

Teacher Only Day - Friday 24 November

The Ministry of Education has given all schools in New Zealand a teacher only day to be taken in Term 4. We are to spend time working on the refreshed NZ Curriculum which gradually comes into effect over the next few years. In conjunction with Maniototo Area School we will be having our Teacher Only Day on Friday 24th November.

Puketeraki Marae Visit - Karitane

A reminder this is on **Tuesday 24th October** (after Labour Weekend).

Details about this school trip will be sent to parents during Week 1 next term.

We wish everyone a safe, happy and relaxing holiday

Special Character:

*This afternoon we ended our Caritas Social Justice teaching with a prayer liturgy to end the term. The theme for the prayer liturgy was "Imagine Peace for All".

*Last week I had the privilege of spending two days helping out on a "Special Character Review" at St Joseph's Cathedral School in Dunedin. It was a great learning opportunity for me as I got to hear about the school, hear and see what they do and observe Religious Education taught in a number of classes.

*Holiday Prayer

God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.

Thank you for the coming of growth, life, birth and rejuvenation that a Spring holiday can bring.

Thank you for the things that are awakening in the world.

Let it be a time when the Winter passes and a time of hope.

We hope in your gift of Spring these holidays.

Junior Class News:

The Junior class has been busy over the last few weeks.

We enjoyed cricket coaching with Jordan on Wednesday 13th September and we also enjoyed our show with musician Bob Bickerton. Here are some things about what we saw in his show and enjoyed:

At Bob Bickerton's show he had lots of instruments to show us. Some instruments Bob made he had used a chisel to carve out the designs on the instruments. It was fun. He played a little flute. It was my favourite.

Evelyn Cai

At Bob Bickerton's show he showed us some instruments. It was music. I loved the whale tooth. He made a rain noise with two sticks. There was a horn. That horn sounded like birds. It was fun.

Harriet O'Neill

At Bob Bickerton's show Bob played some Maori instruments. My favourite was an albatross wing and he hit two rocks. I found two rocks and hit them too. I could make a noise with my drink bottle. It was fun.

Jimmy Jeffries

We welcomed new five year old Amiria Cribb to our class on Monday 18th September. Amiria shared some very delicious cupcakes with us all to celebrate her birthday!



Middle Class News:



22nd September 2023

Phew! We made it! We've had lots of sickness in our class the past few weeks as there seem to be a few bugs doing the rounds. I really hope that all the children can be healthy in the holidays and get some well-earned rest.

The last couple of weeks have been busy with Curling and Cricket coaching. Thank you to all the parents who helped with transport - it was much appreciated!



We had two teams of Year 5's go to a Curling tournament on Thursday. Well done Arthur, Xavier, Joshua, Kaylah, Isla and Jessie.

We had Jordan come from Otago Country Cricket last week. He took the children for a skills session and a fun cricket game which we all enjoyed.



We had Bob Bickerton come to school and show a range of Maori instruments that he played for us and told us the history behind them. We enjoyed listening to the different sounds that they made.





Some more of our writing:

As the door opened bright light shone in. A figure was standing right there. He shut the door with a loud slam. I found myself in heaps of tunnels made of rock. Crunch, crunch, crunch. I was walking on the soft gravel. I was shivering in the dark tunnels. I walked on. The candlelight was the only thing that made me see. I saw two tunnels with rocky entrances. I always like a challenge I thought. I decided I would take the risk. I would...rrrrrrrr. Rumble. "That sounded like a plane taking off," I said talking out loud. Anyway, as I was saying, I would take the left. It was starting to get darker. I got to a spot with heaps of tunnels. I was so confused, I didn't know what to do, so I got out my book. It had all sorts of symbols and Egyptian writing. I saw it ... a long-lost ancient statue. "What is this?" I said.

Charlie Dowling

It was a dark and gloomy night in the peaceful village. Rooftops as sharp as needles were pointing to the wind, only the slightest. The clothes on the washing line moved as the breeze went past. Suddenly a flash of light hit the air as something raced across the sky so fast even quicker than a cheetah. Then a curved window opened a little. Something or someone peered through and then opened the window all the way. It was a mysterious creature like a half man, half mosquito and appeared with some old goggles, the size of tennis balls. Soon it looked at the children when they were asleep in their bed and on their pillows.

Maggie O'Neill

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break. I look forward to seeing the children back refreshed next term!

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

Whakatauki - Māori proverb.

*Kia mau ki te tokanga nui-a-noho.
There is no place like home.*

Coronet Peak Ski Camp

It was simply amazing - our camp was our term highlight! We had sunny skies, great snow and the best crew of adult helpers. Our first night saw us settle quickly into our accommodation at Joel Lodge, which was full of many others like us who were taking time out to spend time on the mountain. We walked up to rentals before dinner and got ourselves oriented with where everything was and then headed back to the hut for a yummy dinner and then game time in the downstairs game room.



After a good sleep, we were up early the next day as we had to be at rentals in good time to get our gear organised and get our first children into lessons. While this happened other children explored the mountain and became familiar with the trails we had studied on the map when back at school. We skied until 4pm and then headed back to our Lodge for a big afternoon tea and then into Queenstown for a relaxing and fun swim.

By the time we got into bed, our bodies were ready for sleep. We didn't have to be up as early for the final day as our gear was already organised and waiting for us in the storage area at rentals. Again we had a perfect day of sunshine and snow, and we had a late lunch. At this point, some carloads headed away as there were sports tournaments for children to get to and some others stayed on to ski for longer.

Our first ski camp to Coronet Peak was a success. I was very impressed by everyone's improvement in their skiing, how they helped others out, and the positive attitude of everyone. Most importantly, we thankfully came away with no significant injuries which had been a concern of mine! Our support team was an important part of making this all come together so smoothly and we enjoyed the company of our adults and the care and support they gave us. Thank you to everyone for donating items to camp and for

preparing your children with the correct clothing.

There are photos on the school website for you to see.

Our class camp in 2024 is to Camp Columba towards the end of Term 1.

Balmoral Book Bonanza

Just this week I have given out the first vouchers to be used at The Balmoral Dairy to Logan Suddaby and Josie Herlihy. I know they will enjoy their treat from Alina and Alex Cai who very generously support this initiative that encourages reading amongst our children. We have many other children who are close to getting this completed.

Mathletic Gold Certificates

Twenty children have reached 20 certificates in Mathletics which is awesome, and I have my fingers crossed that the remaining two children get this completed this week as they are currently at certificate number 19. This week has also seen \$35000 paid out in Green Bar money - this has been a very quick way for children to boost their savings in Banqer (an online financial platform) and use this money to help them put a deposit down on an investment property.

Curling Tournament

Yesterday, 22 children from Years 5-8 attended a tournament hosted by the Maniototo International Curling Rink. This involved 14 teams from the Maniototo Area School and us and followed on from our three curling sessions. This was a fun way to put our skills into action. We had four teams entered in the years 5 and 6 competition, and three at years 7 and 8. All teams had 5 games of two ends and were awarded points. It was a pretty busy day for the competitors and they enjoyed their games, and as expected in a competition, we had a variety of results. At the prizegiving, we were thrilled to see Harry Jeffries, Axel McAuley and Mckenna Suddaby awarded 1st place in the year 5 and 6 category. In the year 7 and 8 category, our year 7 team made up of Logan Suddaby, George Dowling, Marley Weir and Josie Herlihy placed 3rd. What I love about this tournament is that a large number of children get the opportunity to participate and we know that some of these children will go on to play throughout high school and may be our next NZ Junior representatives. We have quite a few past pupils who have achieved this honour.



Year 5 and 6 winners:

Harry, Axel and Mckenna. Congratulations!

The children are pictured with John Grant who is the new manager of the Maniototo Adventure Park, which is made up of the indoor and outdoor ice rink, and summer and winter luge.



The first three placegetters in the year 5 and 6 category.



The first 3 placegetters in the year 7 and 8 category.

Cross Country

Another term highlight! The 5 weeks that we dedicated to training and preparing for this event paid dividends. The children looked strong both physically and mentally and were all able to put in a fantastic effort on race day. The highlight for me was seeing the proud smiles on their faces after the races and especially seeing four of our St John's children beat the previous course records for their age groups. This was very impressive and reflected a natural ability to run fast but also a strength of mind and huge determination to push themselves along so positively. Congratulations to O'Neill House who won this event in our School House competition.

Otago Cross Country results

This was held in Dunedin in the week following our event. We achieved some top 20 results (including 1st place by Eddie) which is amazing as these races have up to 80 children in them and can be very congested in some parts of the course. Those placings were achieved by the following children.

Eddie Weir - 1st in Year 8 boys

Marley Weir - 6th Year 7 girls

Josie Herlihy - 17th Year 7 Girls

Xavier Love - 8th Year 5 Boys

Joshua Barroga - 12th Year 5 Boys

But placings are not always the most important aspect of a race and I warmly congratulate all of the children who took the opportunity to experience the event. It is a tough race and you have all been great ambassadors for our school and we are proud of you. There are photos on the website that were shared with me by spectating parents.

Young Vinnies 'Strengthening Families' Project

This has been a very successful project that will have a direct impact on nine families in our community. What this project has taught the children is that our community has people who need support, not just in the big cities or in less developed nations but right here on our doorstep. It has also shown the children that doing something for the sake of helping people is powerful and the motivation is not that we will receive letters back or have people praise us, our motivation has been internal in our desire to help those in need in simple yet effective ways by gathering together your very generous donations.

This week in prayers we read the story of 'The Rich Fool'. In this, the man died an asset rich man yet he had not taken opportunities to share his riches throughout his life so he had concluded on his deathbed that he was a fool, as he had missed opportunities to give to others.

I explained to the class that for us that is the opportunity to connect everyday and how important it is to purposely speak to everyone in our class daily. Giving to others does not have to be based on material items, but rather on the things we cannot touch but all seek - love, friendship, trust, loyalty, companionship and inclusion. Let us be a strong motivation for all of us in our daily lives.

Holidays

Enjoy this time with your children and be happy together. If you have time, please check up on and practice telling the time with your child on both an analogue and digital clock. I have noticed that some of the children find this challenging and it is a skill that gets better with lots of real-life practice.

Encourage your children to stay active over the holiday break as we will be into athletics training as soon as we return from the holidays. We have already practised some discus and sprinting this week and completed an athletics 'bootcamp' session. We will be aiming to be well prepared for the Maniototo Athletics Day on Friday 3rd November.

Kia pai to hararei - have a nice holiday.

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 September meeting staff presented a curriculum report to the Board of Trustees on the curriculum area of Reading.

-We reviewed the following policies on our Schooldocs website:

*Learning Support Coordination

*Identify Learning Support

*Gifted Learners

-Plans were presented to the Board for preparing a meditation/reflection area near the entrance way of the school.

Notices and Dates:

Term 3 Week 10	Sunday 24 th September	Sunday Mass at 5pm (NOTE: change of time) Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Josie Herlihy
Term 4 Week1	Sunday 1 st October	Sunday Mass at 5pm (NOTE: change of time) Altar Servers: Karl Suplente, Jade Aquino, Marcus Carig
	Sunday 8 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: George and Theo Dowling
	Sunday 15 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Cyrus Janerol & Keisha Evangelista
	Sunday 22 nd October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ben Scott & McKinley Francis

Reminder

Our school fundraiser “Night at the Races” is happening on Saturday 9th December. We will require all families support to make this a successful fundraiser for our school.

More detailed information will come out next term

