

# St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 2: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

## Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

### 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.

### Beginning of the Year School Mass

We will be having a beginning of the year school Mass on **Monday 4th March at 1.45p.m.** in the Church. Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate this Mass.

### Swimming Sports

Our swimming sports will be held on **Friday 1st March (next Friday) beginning at 1.15p.m.** Everyone is welcome to come along to the Ranfurly Pool to watch and support the children.

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.

### Cricket Coaching

On Tuesday 5th March each class will participate in some cricket coaching sessions with Ryan from Otago Cricket.

### After School Parking

Some afternoons the carpark is full and parents park on both sides of the road to pick children up after school. If possible could you please park on the school side, towards Patearoa to make it easier for children to access you and the vehicle. Also please come to the school gate so both teachers and children can see you. Thank you.

Our road is very busy and many vehicles do not slow down even when there are cars and buses visible.

### Senior Class Camp

The Senior Class will be away on their school camp at Camp Columba near Gore from Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 5th April.

### **Term 2 and 4 - Teacher Only Days**

The Ministry of Education has directed schools to plan and coordinate two teacher only days to be taken during 2024, one in Term 2 and the other in Term 4.

In conjunction with Maniototo Area School and to enable parents to plan, our Teacher Only day for Term 2 will be held on Tuesday 4th June (after King's Birthday weekend).

The term 4 Teacher Only Day will be Friday 25th October (just before Labour Weekend).

Towards the end of March we have a number of short weeks due to holidays:

School is closed: \* Monday 25th March for Otago Anniversary Day.

\* Friday 29th March Good Friday - Tuesday 2nd March for Easter (Tuesday is a holiday for NZ schools)

\* Term 1 finishes on Friday 12th April.

\* Term 2 begins on Monday 29th April.

### **Reminder – Stationery & Contact Forms**

Stationery money was to be paid by today, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Could we please ask that if you haven't paid, please either pay into the school account 03 0951 0066195 000 or cash at the office.

Also we asked for all families to complete the contact form to keep our records up to date. If this hasn't been sent back to school please send it in now.

## **Special Character:**

\* On Wednesday 14th February we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a prayer liturgy led by Father Jaewoo. Children and staff received a traditional cross mark of ash on their foreheads at the liturgy.

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 for fasting and abstinence. But now we are encouraged to put God first in our daily lives and do more to help others.



## **Junior Class News:**

We have had a very busy start to the term with Swim Week, the A and P Show and the Life Education Trust classroom visit earlier this week.

\*The children were great at their swimming lessons and tried really hard to improve their skills.

\*Here are some stories from the A and P Show day:

At the A and P Show I got my face painted. It was Spiderman.

Bjorn Ball

At the A and P Show I went on the bouncy castle. I saw George.

Kyle Dang-ay

At the A and P Show I rode my pony, Pria. We won everything. My little sister, Ruby and I walked the parade together. I went on the trampoline. You could do a backflip. It was fun.

Georgia Dodds

At the A and P Show I saw Georgia on her horse. I got an ice cream. I went on the bouncy castle and I got a face paint. It was a cat. Then we had to pick Asher up. Then we went home.

Emerson Smith

\*On Monday 19th February the Junior Class dressed up in clothes like Jesus might have worn and tried some food like Jesus may have eaten, eg, olives, pita bread, dates and raisins. Here are some photos.



\*The children loved the Life Education Trust mobile classroom visit. They love Harold the giraffe and Pip the teacher.

We learnt about our feelings and what makes heavy "rock" feelings and light "feather" feelings and ways we can turn heavy feelings into light feelings. We learnt how we can help others with their feelings.

Here are some photos.





## Middle Class News:



Kia Ora Koutou,

What a busy few weeks we have had!

I was so proud of the children and their achievements during Swim Week. Jo gave feedback that the children all tried really hard and she was impressed with the progress that they have made.

Thank you to the parents who could make it to our Parent Information Evening. Hopefully, it gave you an insight into how the Middle Room runs. If you couldn't make this evening and have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

### Ash Wednesday



Father Jaewoo came and took an Ash Wednesday liturgy at school.

### A and P Show







All the children have produced some beautiful artwork around the topic of 'Smoko Time' for the A and P show.

Well done to Izzy, Millie, Zach, Henry and Ben who all got a certificate for their paintings.

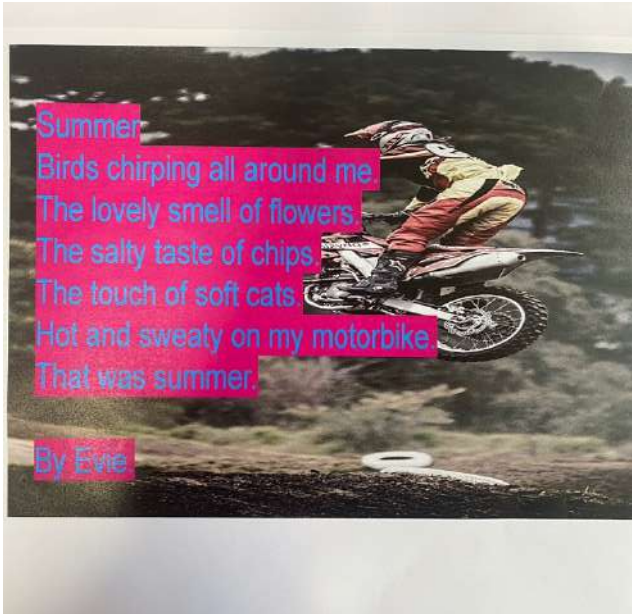
### **Life Education Bus**

We were all very excited to arrive at school on Monday to the Life Education Bus. Pip and Harold the Giraffe taught the Middle Room how we are all unique and to accept each other's differences. We also learnt about 'Rock' and 'Feather' feelings and how we can have 'Rock' feelings which are hard and can grow and make us feel upset and angry and we have 'Feather' feelings which are light and happy.

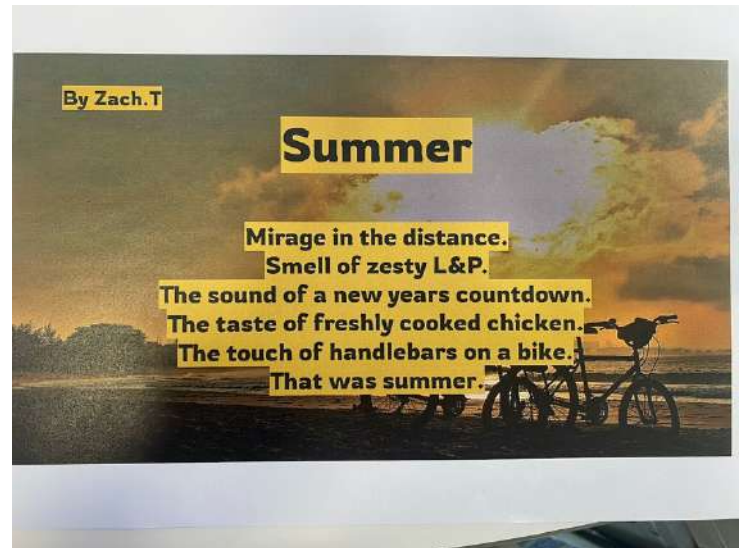


In class, we have started to read our shared book called 'Runt'. We are very much enjoying it. On a Friday we do activities around the book which the children enjoy. The activities are from a NZ Teachers Facebook page called 'Chapter Chat' and they just happen to be doing 'Runt' this term too.

Our Statistics topic is underway and our daily Guided Reading is in full swing. The children wrote some fantastic poems about their Summer in our writing time too.



Ngā mihi,  
Heather Dowling



### Senior Class News:



**How can we live our lives to show that we are the hands, feet, eyes, ears and heart of Jesus here on earth?**

Week 4 Term 1  
Hello parents and caregivers

It has been a busy and productive first few weeks. You will have seen the children's show art on display when you came along to the Class Information evening. It looks brilliant! The children are very clever with what they can create from blank paper.





This photo shows you the children who achieved a placing or Highly Commended award. Congratulations to Kaylah, Josie, Isla, Cyrus, Colleen, Xavier, Harry, Arthur and George.

They enjoyed the opportunity to look around the show and I was very impressed with the home entries I saw. The children were rewarded with certificates and Year group placings.

### Young Vinnies



Jo Bell who is the Young Vinnies coordinator visited us last week. We learnt a lot about the works of mercy and about how we can live out our faith in our communities. The above image and quote are from her work.

This has led to us establishing the year 8 children as our Young Vinnie Executive for the year and talking about potential projects. Initially, we will work on the CARITAS activities around the Move It - Sweat It - Live It theme where we fundraise for CARITAS Challenge projects, and then follow this up with what the children see as valuable work.

The information box below details how the children see they could live out their faith in our community ...

| I can use my ....  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Heart to help my neighbours  | Legs to walk and visit people that live near us | My voice to stand up for others and myself if they are getting bullied | Hands to make baking for unwell people                |
| My voice to say hello to people and make them feel included            | My heart to be friendly                         | My hands to give stuff that I no longer need to others                 | My voice to speak up for the right things             |
| My legs and heart to visit my new neighbours so I can get to know them | My feet to visit and help the elderly           | My eyes to see who feels sad and I can spend time with them            | My eyes to see what others need me to do to help them |

**Swim Week** went very well. Thank you to the Dowlings for lending us their van for the transport of the children to and from the pool and to the parents who were able to volunteer time to drive and help. I took my class swimming last week and could see the benefit of having 4 lessons with a very good swimming teacher. The children felt lucky to be given this opportunity.

**Fitness Goals** - the children seem to be all getting their training done towards their goals which is excellent. Thank you for returning the form indicating that you could help out with supervision at one of the activities. I will be in touch with more information. Please mark Tuesday 26th on your calendar at home so you know what date we are working towards.

### Life Education Bus



Our learning has been focused on Emotions and Feelings and how to manage these. Our 4 sessions were fun and informative and the children gained a lot of skills that they could put into action if they feel overwhelmed.

This is Pip and Harold

You could ask the children to explain to you rock and feather feelings, our invisible backpack, the difference between worries and problems and ideas on how to manage all of the emotions that are associated with these words.

Florence wore a backpack over two of the sessions to experience the weight of rock feelings. Thankfully we were able to learn about feather feelings and replace those rocks for Florence!





Jessie and Karl had the opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes and feel what that was like. These very high stilettos were quite challenging!



### **Finally**

Here are the seniors in action again helping out when we can. The middle and senior classes have taken on the job of tidying up the library books in our school hall, so we can make this space inviting and the books easy to access.



It was a big job that we started at the end of last year but it will look good when we are done..

Looking ahead to next week

Monday - swimming

Thursday - Year 8 HPV chat 9.45 am, parents welcome (note change of day)

Thursday - swimming

Friday - School swimming sports

Kind regards,  
Geraldine Duncan.

## Board of Trustees:

At our first meeting for 2024 we welcomed Fr Jaewoo Lee to our Board of Trustees.

The Board approved our Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2027 and our annual plan for 2024. We had a discussion around our Board's strategic goals for 2024.

This will be able to be viewed on our school website from the 1st March: [www.sjr.school.nz](http://www.sjr.school.nz)

## Notices and Dates:

|                          |   |  |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Term 1<br/>Week 4</b> | Sunday 25th February  | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah<br>McAuley                            |
| <b>Week 5</b>            | Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March                                    | Swimming Sports 1.15pm   |
|                          | Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March                                    | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae<br>McAuley                          |
| <b>Week 6</b>            | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | School Mass 1.45pm   |
|                          | Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Harry, Isla & Jack<br>Jeffries                      |
| <b>Week 7</b>            | Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Arthur Elworthy,<br>Millie Smith & Sophia Crutchley |
| <b>Week 8</b>            | Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March                                   | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Xavier & Greta Love                                 |
| <b>Week 9</b>            | Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March                                   | Sunday Mass at 5pm<br>Altar Servers: Marley Weir &<br>Maggie O'Neill                     |
| <b>Week 10</b>           | Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday<br>5 <sup>th</sup> April | Senior Class Camp  |

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# House Groups 2024

|              | McAuley   | O'Neill   |
|--------------|---|---|
| <b>Y8</b>    | Josie<br>Karl                                     | Marley<br>George                                  |
| <b>Y7</b>    | Colleen<br>Nathan<br>Axel<br>Finn<br>Cyrus<br>Jae | Keisha<br>Harry D<br>Harry J<br>McKinley<br>Ethan |
| <b>Y6</b>    | Jade<br>Jessie<br>Kaylah<br>Xavier<br>Marcus      | Isla<br>Florence<br>Joshua<br>Arthur<br>Neale     |
| <b>Y5</b>    | Charlie<br>Ben                                    | Zach<br>Theo<br>Caleb<br>Eli                      |
| <b>Y4</b>    | Olivia<br>Greta<br>Millie<br>Yuri                 | Juliette<br>Maggie<br>Sophia<br>Jack              |
| <b>Y3</b>    | Evie<br>Izzy<br>Oscar<br>Archie<br>James          | Bryleigh<br>Jimmy<br>Mack<br>Henry                |
| <b>Y2</b>    | Georgia<br>Emerson<br>Bjorn                       | Harriet<br>Evelyn<br>Flynn<br>Arthur              |
| <b>Y1</b>    | Nika<br>George<br>Lochy<br>Gab                    | Amiria<br>Kyle<br>Fergus                          |
| <b>Y0</b>    |   |   |
| <b>Boys</b>  | 18  | 20  |
| <b>Girls</b> | 13  | 11  |
| <b>Total</b> | 31  | 31  |



**REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR SOCCER TERM 2  
STARTS APRIL 28TH**

**CONTACT KYLE HINTON 0278671944 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
OR GO ONLINE TO**

**[HTTPS://WWW.SPORTY.CO.NZ/  
ALEXANDRAFOOTBALL/CLUB-REGISTRATION/  
TAB-1](https://www.sporty.co.nz/ALEXANDRAFOOTBALL/CLUB-REGISTRATION/TAB-1)**

**MAKE SURE YOUR REGISTER UNDER OMAKAU FOR  
PRACTICE OUT HERE. OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE  
PLAYING FOR ALEXANDRA AND PRACTICE IN  
TOWN**





# One hour a day of reading, writing and maths

## What's happening?

Starting from Term 1 2024, children in Years 0-8 will be taught reading, writing, and maths for an average of one hour a day in each skill.

Daily teaching, along with a quality curriculum and good teaching practices, has been shown to improve children's progress and achievement.

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### What does this change mean for my child?

Many schools already spend an hour a day on reading, writing and maths, so this will not be a big change.

The new 'one hour a day' requirement has been designed to be practical and flexible. Schools will still be able to hold events like athletics days and school camps since the requirement is for an average amount of time each week.

### What will the lessons look like?

The National Curriculum outlines what your child should be able to understand, know and do as they progress through their school years. Teachers will continue to use the curriculum and teach in ways that best suit the learning. This includes using things like active learning opportunities, group work, investigations, practice, and consolidation activities.

The 'one hour a day' requirement can be broken up into small blocks throughout the day. Your child's teacher will manage these to fit the needs of your child.

## How you can help at home

To support the learning they do at school, you can help your child develop reading, writing and maths skills by:

- having your child read to you
- reading to your child and talking about books and stories
- encouraging your child to share what they think about a book (or video game, podcast, or movie), and being positive about the material they are reading, listening, or watching
- letting your child see you enjoy books, audiobooks, podcasts, games, movies, or videos in your first language
- encouraging your child to write, and talking with your child about what they are writing
- showing your child that you write for lots of reasons too, such as replying to an email, filling out a form, or writing an invitation or letter
- involving your child in activities where you use maths (for example playing games with cards or dice, grocery shopping, cooking, and DIY activities)
- encouraging your child to share how they solve mathematics problems (they may use different mental or written strategies to the ones you were taught)
- being positive about your child's reading, writing, and maths experiences, and praising their efforts.

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## Working with your school

It can be helpful to share your child's interests, languages spoken at home, and cultural practices with their teachers, so they can be included in your child's learning.

You can also talk with your child or their teacher about their progress in reading, writing, and maths and discuss with their teacher ways you can support your child at home.





# Top Tips for Toothbrushing!

## How much Toothpaste?



0-6 years old,  
use **a half pea**  
sized amount



6+ years old,  
use **a small pea**  
sized amount

**Brush twice a day**, in the **morning** and especially at **night before bed**. Spit out toothpaste but **leave mouth unrinsed** as fluoride left on your child's teeth helps to keep them strong



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tooth tips



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