

# St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Road  
Ranfurly  
03 4449514  
[office@sjr.school.nz](mailto:office@sjr.school.nz)

Issue 3: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

### Welcome

We welcome new 5 year old Fergus Smith and his family to St John's School.



### PTA Meeting

The PTA are having their AGM on Monday 18th March at 7p.m. at school.  
Everyone is welcome.

### **“Night at the Races” thank you**

Also a final debrief on our very successful races night that was held in December 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that was involved. It is very much a hands on fundraiser and it certainly wouldn't have been so successful if it wasn't for the amazing parent & staff support that we received. The Maniototo Community really got behind our event and seemed to all enjoy the concept of “A night at the Races” so we will look at repeating this in a couple of years.

We raised an amazing total of \$27,738.11 for the PTA. Plus there was another \$7000.00 raised on the night with the auction of the Senior Class Calves for the camp account. Absolutely incredible - so once again a huge thank you from the PTA!

### **Otago Anniversary Day, Easter and Term 1 Holidays**

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

\*School closes at 3pm. on **Thursday 28th March** and reopens again on **Wednesday 3rd April** for the Easter break.

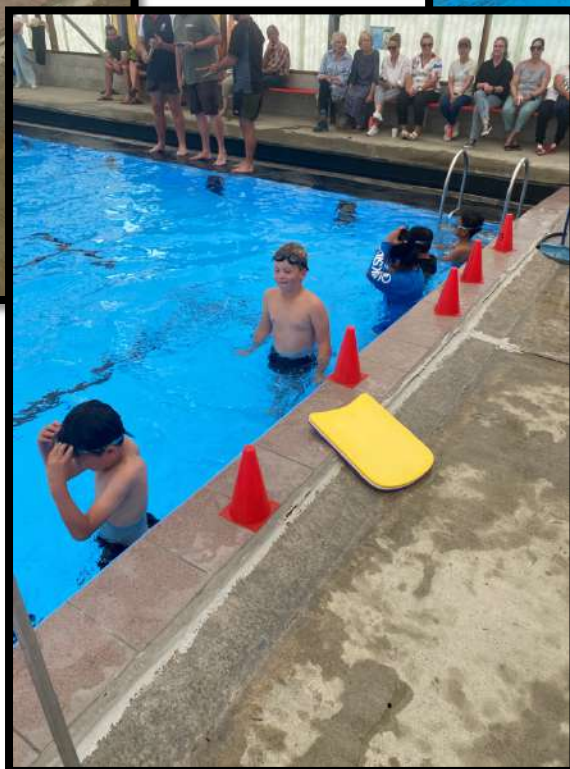
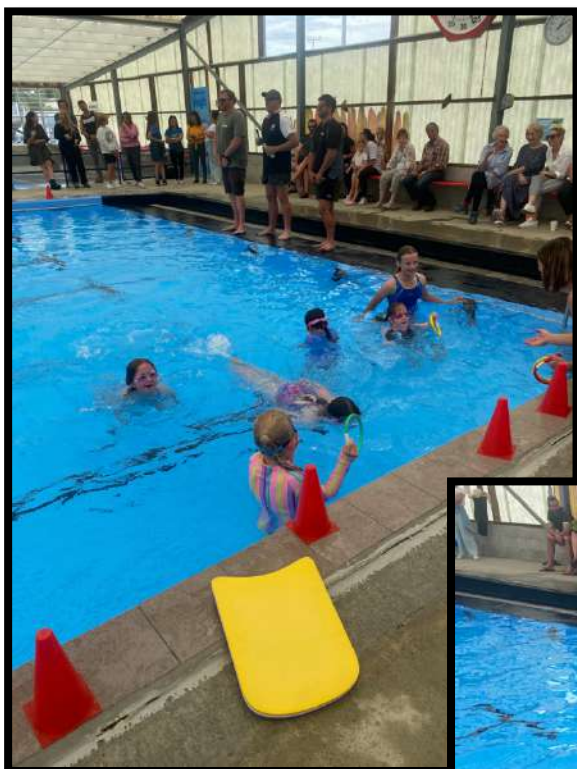
\*Term 1 finishes on **Friday 12th April** and Term 2 begins on **Monday 29th April**.

### **Swimming Sports**

Thanks to those who helped at the Swimming Sports, especially to Ryan Dowling, Luke Jeffries and Garrad Eketone for giving out the placings.

We were very proud of how the children all swam in their races, supported others and sat patiently waiting for their races. Well done.

A special congratulations to O'Neill House for being the overall winners of the swimming sports event.



## Lost Uniform

We are still looking for a size 8 skort with “Dodds” or “Georgia” written on the label. This is a new skort so please check your child’s skorts and if you have it, return it to school asap - we have a Size 8 skort here with no name on it.

## No cellphones

As you may be aware, students are not currently able to use phones during class time (this is a government requirement now).

From Term 2 our phone rules will be updated to include no use of phones during lunch times and breaks. If a parent or caregiver needs to contact their child urgently during the day please call or text the school cell phone: 027 266 1758

## EOTC Blanket Consent Form

As we are updating our Education Outside the Classroom procedures and paperwork we require each family to fill in a blanket consent form for events that occur during a school day, on-site or in our local area. These events and activities are at a low risk level, eg, walking to the swimming pool, swimming, cross country practice at the Stadium, going to the Town Hall for concert practices etc.

**Please read the attached form, fill in and tick as appropriate, then sign, date and return to school by Friday 22 March.**

You can use one form for your family but please write each of their names and current year group.  
Thank you.

## **Special Character:**

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who came along to our beginning of the year Mass on Monday 4th March.

Here are some photos from this celebration.



Sunday the 17th March is St Patrick's Day. St Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## Junior Class News:

On a very wild and windy day the Junior Class enjoyed cricket coaching with Ryan from Otago Cricket. Here are some photos.



Last Friday we blew bubbles and then wrote some stories about this. Here are some photos.



## Middle Class News:



Tena Koutou Katoa,

The weeks keep on flying by as we continue to be busy at school. It is great to see the students settling into our routine and arrive at school each morning with smiley faces.

### Swimming Sports

I was super proud of all the students for putting in such a great effort at the Swimming Sports. They did a fantastic job!



In class, we have been working on writing recounts of events that have happened. We have been focussing on structuring writing correctly and writing about the event in detail as well as correctly using fullstops and capital letters.

Splash, the blocks clap as I pound into the cold blue water. My heart is beating as I feel the water rush down my sides.

On the 1st of March, the whole school walked down to the Ranfurly pool to compete in the Swimming Sports to get points for their house team.

I was racing Zach and some other people from the Senior Class in Freestyle. I got into the cold water shivering like I was in Antarctica. Bang! I hear the blocks clap as I swim my hardest. I could hear the chanting of O'Neill. When I got out of the pool, I was so cold I couldn't talk.

When the next race started, I couldn't even cheer for my house name. I felt relieved as I saw a drip come down from my hair. I wrapped a towel around me and shouted O'Neill loudly. Now I was waiting for my next race. When all the races were done and Mrs Weir was counting up the points, I was waiting in suspense. Mrs Mulholland came up to say the house

winner. My heart was pounding fast. Then she said, O'Neill! O'Neill burst up in joy shouting loudly. McAuley was in total shock.

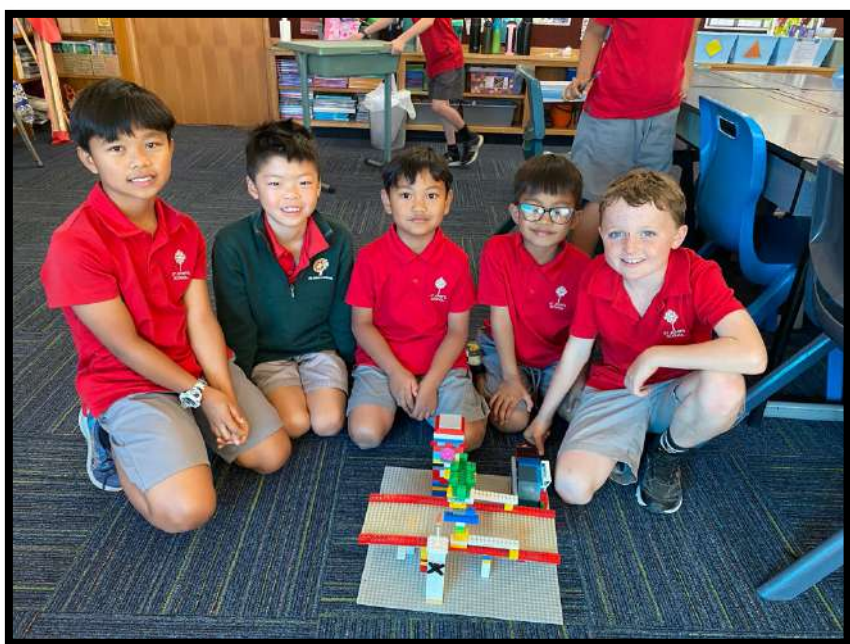
I was so happy O'Neill had won and I really hope we win again next year.

Eli Barroga Year 5

### Shared Reading - 'Runt'

We are continuing to enjoy our novel reading of 'Runt'. A book set in rural Australia where they are currently experiencing a drought. A little girl called Annie takes in a stray dog that she calls Runt and they learn that they are very good at dog agility courses. She takes Runt to competitions to win money to try and save her family farm, even making her way to London for the Krumpets Dog Agility competition.

Reading our novel is one of our favourite parts of the day. We have set pages that we read each week and then on Friday we do activities related to what we have read that week. Some of the activities are a Kahoot quiz, Lego making, Drawing characters, writing a diary, making a pretend YouTube clip, good luck cards and posters.



The Lego activity is popular - here the boys have made London landmarks - Tower Bridge, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace.



Archie Weir's picture of a 'Fog Sucker' invention from the story



Evie Steeles picture of the main characters



## Class Garden

This week we were lucky enough to sample a chocolate and beetroot cake that Becky made for us from our beetroot out of the class garden. It was yummy!!



Ngā mihi,  
Heather Dowling

## **Senior Class News:**

### Senior Room News

**“Motivation is what gets you started.  
Habit is what keeps you going.”**

Week 7 Term 1

Hello parents and caregivers

Everyone is settled into our classroom routine and the attitude and effort shown by the children is good. They are motivated to complete learning activities, they are engaged in class discussions and are managing themselves positively.

We have a busy time coming up ...

### Goal Day

This is on Tuesday 26th March. Last week the children brought home a letter to you explaining how this will work. Please make sure you keep this and send them to school in their exercise clothing. Thank you to the parents who can help with this exciting event.

Overall, the children have been training very hard and I have been blown away by their determination and effort. They have made big fitness gains and I can see they feel proud of what they have achieved.

This fitness will help the children complete the activities at Camp Columba better.

### **Camp Columba**

A final letter explaining the cost of camp and how to pay, transport arrangements and what time to be at school was sent home last week. If you need this sent home again, please text the school cell phone and I will send another one home.

***I want to borrow two wetsuits please - a small women's adult suit, and a small or medium male adult wetsuit. If you have these, please send them to school. Thanks.***

### **Otago Primary School Championship Swimming**

This event is being held in Dunedin on Sunday 7th April. The following children have qualified to compete at this event. We wish them good luck and are very proud to have them representing our school.

Xavier Love - Freestyle and Backstroke

Isla Jeffries - Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke

Jae McAuley - Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke

Harry Jeffries - Freestyle and Backstroke

George Dowling - Freestyle and Backstroke

Parents - I will send you home additional information once the entries are confirmed. The children need to pay \$6/event into this school account: **03 0951 0066195 000 with reference: swimming**

### **Young Vinnie 'Hand Me Down' Day - Wednesday 27th March**

The school hall will be open for you to come and look at what has been donated and take away what could be useful for your family. All of the items are free. The children tell me that they are collecting things from home and that there will be adult and children items donated.

### **Next activities:**

- a. In week 11 we are going to collect pine cones to donate to older community members. We will do this on Tuesday afternoon, leaving school at 1pm. If you can help with transport for this, please let me know.  
We are also asking for donations of feed bags etc to collect the pine cones in.
- b. On the Friday of week 11 we are going to complete a 'Move It' Challenge where we imitate other young people in the world travelling to their village well to get water for their families.
- c. We are also making Easter cards for our Parishioners.

### **Being prepared for a school day**

Sometimes the children are very tired and are yawning by morning teatime, which means the school day is very long for them and it is hard to concentrate and learn. We have done a little bit of research on how much sleep children need and we found out that children of this age are recommended to have 9-11 hours of sleep each night - so all senior room children are aiming to be in their bed by 9 pm at the latest each night.

We have also discussed what we should be doing in bed - Studies have found that video games (gaming) are linked to later bedtimes, more difficulty falling asleep, and fewer hours of sleep. Children may also find it more challenging to wake up on time and are at an increased risk of feeling tired the following day. It is recommended that children have a quiet time before bed by reading a book or being read to, brushing their teeth and then settling in a quiet room with no other stimulation. Some of our class like to read in bed for a set period and they have said that they go to bed earlier to allow for this.



I feel sorry for the children when I see them yawning early in the day, so please help them to get enough rest, so the school day is not so hard for them. Thank you.

### **Homework**

Thank you for supporting your child's home learning. They have settled into this routine. The children have the login for Mathletics at the front of the homework book and can use this to log into Mathletics at home to help them complete their Mathletics weekly goal. I am away for three days of week 8, so we won't have homework this week.

### **Sick or Absent Children**

Please continue letting us know if your child is going to be absent from school (and why) by texting the school cell phone on 0272661758. We have to mark a roll twice a day and specify the reason for the absence.

If your child is away I do not provide work for them to complete at home.

### **Looking ahead to Week 8**

Monday, Thursday, Friday - swimming

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - Mrs Jeffries is teaching as I am away at a course

No homework this week

### **Looking ahead to Week 9**

Tuesday 26th - Fitness Goal Day (mufti)

Thursday - swimming (last swim session for Term 1)

### **Looking ahead to Week 10**

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th Camp Columba

Sunday 7th - Otago Swimming Championships

### **Looking ahead to Week 11**

Pine Cone Collecting - Tuesday 9th April (afternoon)

'Move It' Challenge - water-carrying challenge to experience life in someone else's shoes (CARITAS) Friday 12th April.

Thank you everyone.

Kind regards,  
Geraldine Duncan.

## **Board of Trustees:**

At our March meeting the Board was presented with, and discussed a curriculum report on Social Sciences.

We also reviewed the following school policies:

\*Community Conduct Expectations

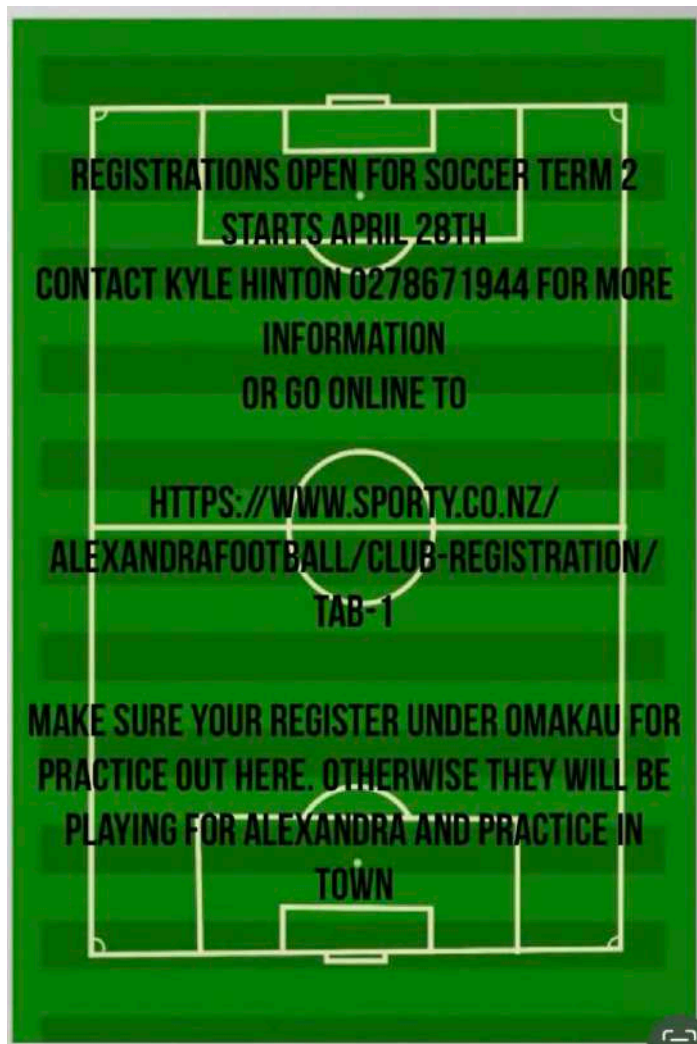
\*School Planning and Reporting

If you would like to read any of these policies please go to:

1. Log onto [www.schooldocs.co.nz](http://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

## Notices and Dates:

<b>Term 1 Week 7</b>	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Arthur Elworthy, Millie Smith & Sophia Crutchley
<b>Week 8</b>	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA – AGM 7pm at school
	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Xavier & Greta Love
	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Otago Anniversary Day – School Closed
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday – School Closed
<b>Week 9</b>	Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Marley Weir & Maggie O'Neill
	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Monday – School Closed
	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter Tuesday – School Closed
	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Otago Swimming Sports in Dunedin
<b>Week 10</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Senior Class Camp
<b>Week 11</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of Term 1



### Maniototo Junior Rugby

For those interested in playing rugby  
this year please contact Erin Elworthy  
or email [maniototorugby.junior@gmail.com](mailto:maniototorugby.junior@gmail.com)

Thankyou

## Education Outside of the Classroom Blanket Consent Form

Tēnā koutou

This Education Outside of the Classroom (EOTC) form is to request consent for your child to participate in EOTC events which occur during a school day, on-site or in the local area, and at a low-risk level. Example events include: **(going swimming, going to the stadium for events or practices, Maniototo Library, town hall etc)**. These events will be managed according to the school's safety management procedures for such events. Information will be communicated about these events but your consent will not be requested. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's participation at any time please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Where an event involves risk exposure greater than what would typically be the case at school, such as adventurous activities or hazardous environments, or the event continues overnight, specific consent will be required. At the time of our seeking any further consents, you will also be asked to update the health and contact information held by school.

This form must be completed at the start of the year for all students who will be participating in EOTC events (as described above). Details on this form will remain confidential to school staff, contractors and volunteers associated with supervising activities on EOTC events. It is crucial that you provide us with up-to-date information, that is accurate and complete, to allow us to plan appropriately for EOTC.

Please ensure that student details such as health information and emergency contacts are kept up to date with the school office during the year.

Please ensure that all sections of this form are completed and it is returned by **Friday, March 22nd.**

If you have any questions, please contact me via the information below.

Kind regards,

Susan Mulholland  
principal@sjr.school.nz

### Privacy Statement

The personal information being collected on this form is for the purpose of running EOTC events. It won't be used or disclosed for any other purpose except in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. You have the right under that Act to access and seek correction of the information from the school.

### Student Information

Student Name	Student's Current School Year
--------------	-------------------------------

### Medical and Support Consent

In an emergency the school may act on my behalf.

Should my child require pain management the school may administer pain relief, as indicated on their enrolment form. The school will contact me first.

If my child has extra support needs, I have informed the school and have been involved in the individual support planning for this activity to be successful for my child.

I will inform the school as soon as possible of any changes in the medical or other circumstances.

### Parent/Caregiver Consent

I agree to my child taking part in EOTC events. I acknowledge the need for them to behave responsibly.

I have read the EOTC activities information covered by the blanket consent, and I understand the specific risks associated with involvement in these.

I understand that these risks cannot be completely eliminated.

I understand the school will identify any foreseeable risks or hazards and implement effective management procedures to eliminate or minimise those risks.

I know that I can ask any questions of the school about the activities my child will be involved in, to gain a better understanding of the risks involved.

Caregiver Signature	Date
Full Name of Caregiver	