

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 7: 13th June 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai.

Welcome Back

We welcome **Victor Suazo** and his family back to St. John's School.

Victor spent a short time with us a couple of years ago, and we are pleased to have him back with us. He is now in Year 6.



Parent Interview Notices

These were due back at school today.

A timetable will be sent out next week indicating the time of your parent interview.

Reports and Portfolios

These will be sent home on **Thursday, 19th June**.

Reports can be kept, but we ask that portfolios be returned to school before the end of the term. Thank you.

Matariki Mass

A reminder we have our Matariki Mass on **Tuesday, 17th June, 5 - 6 p.m.**

At the Mass, children will display artwork, and we have special lighting. Children will be involved in readings, prayers, dance, songs and other things they have been learning about Matariki.

If you haven't sent back your notice indicating if your child/children can or can't come, could you please do so asap.

Thank you.

Matariki Holiday

School is closed on **Friday, 20th June** for the Matariki public holiday.

End of Term

Term 2 ends on Friday, 27th June, and Term 3 begins on Monday, 14th July.

Bus Vests

A reminder that these need to be worn by all children coming to school on the bus and going home on the bus. They are worn in Terms 2 and 3.

These help children to be seen while waiting at bustops and when getting off the bus.

Buses and Snow

Just a reminder that if there is snow during the day and buses need to leave school during the school day, we are contacted by Maniototo Area School, who are the bus controllers. Buses then come to St John's to pick up the bus children.

In this process, we have to contact all bus families to ensure someone can collect children from the bus. If we cannot contact you or your emergency contact, the children will not be sent home on the bus, and parents will have to come and collect the children from school.

Coming up in Term 3

-Maniototo Cross Country Tuesday, 12th August.

Postponement date, Thursday 14th August.

-Teacher Only Day Friday 15th August

Special Character:

*Next Friday, we celebrate Matariki/Pleiades rising in our skies; a coming together to thank God for the provision of Creation, our home, its harvest, our whānau, our challenges and our successes. Māori also recognise this as a time to prepare the ground for planting, and to farewell, in this beautiful cluster, our loved ones who have died this past year.

Isaiah 40:26: *"Look up into the heavens. Who created the stars? He brings them out... one after another, calling each by its name."*

*Tuesday, June 24th is the Feast day of St John the Baptist, who our school is named after.

We will be marking this day with some sort of celebration.

John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin and is known for baptising Jesus.

*We would like to invite any families interested in having their children baptised into the Catholic Church to indicate their interest to us in the form below.

Baptism is what is called a Sacrament, and it is the first sacrament we celebrate in the Catholic Church. It marks the start of a faith journey as a member of the Church, where we are welcomed into God's family. If there is interest, we will form a group and spend a few weeks preparing children for this special sacrament.

I am interested in having my child/children baptised.

Name: _____

Junior Class News:

In Religious Education, the Junior class have been learning about the different names that God is called. We hear some of these in Bible stories, eg, Father, Shepherd and Lord.

We also learnt about how we got our own names.

Thank you to parents for your help with this. We all enjoyed learning about how everyone got their special names.

Children also brought along a baby photo, and we made this into a poster where we tried to guess who each baby was! Some were easy to identify, others not so easy!

These are displayed in the corridor outside the Junior Class.

Here is a photo of the baby photo poster.



Middle Class News:



Kia ora, Kumusta, Ni Hao,

Speech Competition

Well done to all the children who participated in our school's Poetry and Speech competition last week. I was super proud of everyone, as they all stood up and performed with great courage and skill. Speaking in front of an audience is no easy feat, but our kids nailed it!



A big shout-out to Georgia Dodds, Emerson Smith, Henry Crutchley, Evie Steele, Maggie O'Neill, and Sophia Crutchley, who represented our school yesterday at the Maniototo Speech Competition. Kia kaha and good luck!

Congratulations to the children who placed in the Maniototo School Speeches Competition. The placings were as follows:

Emerson Smith – 2nd Year 3

Evie Steele – 1st Year 4

Henry Crutchley – 2nd Year 4

Sophia Crutchley – 1st Year 5

Maggie O'Neill – 2nd Year 5



Sacramental Learning

We have a group of 7 children currently preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. They will be receiving this sacrament on the 23rd of June at 1:30 pm at the Sacred Heart Church in Ranfurly. As Susan mentioned in the newsletter, if you're keen for your child to participate in the sacraments, please feel free to pop in and have a chat with us at school.

This term, our Religious Education has been focused on exploring the various Sacraments and understanding the different signs and symbols in the church.

Matariki

In class, we've been learning about Matariki and having fun on Friday afternoons. The kids have been trying out Poi, Rakau, and Māori dance in different classrooms. We're excited to show you what we've learned at our Matariki Mass next Tuesday!

Parent Interviews

Thank you for getting your forms in. I look forward to catching up with you all in the last week of term.

End of termitis is setting in!

As we approach the end of term, the kids are starting to feel a bit tired, especially with all their sports and activities outside of school. In the Middle Room, we're focusing on building resilience, respect, and kindness to help everyone manage the school day and keep up with everyday routines. We're also encouraging the children to speak kindly to each other and use a friendly tone.

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

"The more you practice, the better you get!"

Week 7, Term 2.

Our students have worked hard this term, tackling challenges with a positive attitude and solid effort. We're also delighted to welcome Victor to our classroom! It's wonderful to have him back with us, and we're looking forward to getting to know him. This brings us to 26 children in the class, with 20 of these being boys!

'Life Skills' development

This will be shared with the rest of the class in the last week of school. I have seen lots of signatures starting to appear on the children's cards (in the back of the homework book). Please check in with your children regarding this activity.

Young Vinnies - Caring for Our Community:




Pinecones: Please share these with everyone. The cones are outside the church, and anyone can take a bag. They are free and we want them to be used.

This term, we have supported Strengthening Families by donating 20 pairs of winter pyjamas.

Sausage sizzle: we have two left to go (Tuesday 17th and 24th). The children and Sharon have been managing the cooking of 80 odd sausages very successfully.

School Speech Competition

Over the last few weeks we have been busy writing speeches for our Speech Competition that was held last Friday. The standard was exceptional, and the students all presented their speeches with clarity and expression, making it an almost impossible job for the judge Joe Ferdinands. The results from our St John's School competition were as follows.

| | Second Place | First Place |  |
|--------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Year 6 | Eli Barroga | Theo Dowling | |
| Year 7 | Kaylah McAuley | Isla Jeffries | |
| Year 8 | Cyrus Janerol | Jae McAuley | |

These students then represented the school at the **Maniototo Schools Speech Competition** yesterday (Thursday, the 12th). Again, they stepped up and wowed judge, Claire Mulholland! Congratulations to those who placed:

Theo Dowling - 3rd place

Isla Jeffries - 3rd equal

Kaylah McAuley - 1st place.

It was a great afternoon watching talented speakers from different schools in the area.

I just wanted to let you all know that I'll be finishing up my teaching role here at the end of this year.

It's been a rewarding time, and I'm super proud of everything we've achieved, especially with the Outdoor Education program, the Holy Paddocks space, and all our community connections through Young Vinnies. It's been a privilege to help your children develop in their classroom learning and also their practical skills and watch them grow in confidence, perseverance, and teamwork – values that I truly believe are so important for young people.

Outside of the classroom, I've always really valued the kindness parents have shown me. Your support and enthusiasm for my many ideas (especially the ones that needed an extra pair of hands!) have meant a lot.

I'll cherish the connections and experiences I've shared with our students and staff. This school will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Geraldine.

Ngā mihi nui,
Geraldine Duncan and Rachel Gray.

Looking ahead

| Week | Dates | Activities planned at this stage |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 8 | 16-20th June | Sausage Sizzle - Tues Reports/portfolios home - Thurs Matariki - Friday is a Public Holiday |
| 9 | 23 - 27th June | Sausage Sizzle - Tues Parent-teacher conversations - Tues/ Thurs. Ice Skating - Fri |

Board of Trustees:

-On June 10th, we had our Annual General Meeting.

Positions stayed the same with Ryan Dowling, Chairperson, Garrad Eketone, Treasurer and Sarah Ball as secretary.

-The Board were presented with a curriculum report on Religious Education - Encounter with Christ.

-We reviewed two policies:

- Crisis Management
- Disaster Management

-A reminder that BOT elections are coming up on Wednesday, 10th September.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees, please speak to a current Board member or come along to a meeting and see what it's all about.

Notices and Dates:

St John's School School Board Elections

Parent Election Notice (notify community)

Nominations will be open for the election of 5 parent representatives to the school board.

All eligible voters will receive a nomination form. Use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community. You will also receive a nomination cover letter calling for nominations. Information on who is not eligible to be a board member is provided with this notice, and the nomination form.

If you need more nomination forms, contact the school office.

Nominations close at **noon** on *6th August 2025*. You may provide a signed candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.

The electoral roll is held at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

As nominations are received, there will be a list of candidates' names kept at the school up until election day, which you can view.

Voting closes at **4pm** on 10th September 2025.

Sharon Thompson
Returning Officer

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Term 2 Week 7 | Sunday 15 th June | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley & Archie Weir |
| | Tuesday 17 th June | Sausage Sizzle |
| | Thursday 19 th June | Reports/Portfolios sent home |
| | Friday 20 th June | Matariki Day – School Closed |
| Week 8 | Sunday 22 nd June | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley |
| | Tuesday 24 th June | Sausage sizzle |
| | | Parent/Teacher Interviews – afternoon & evening |
| | Thursday 26 th June | Parent/Teacher Interviews – afternoon |
| | Friday 27 th June | Last day of Term 2 |
| School Holidays | Sunday 29 th June | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Harry & Jack Jeffries |
| | Sunday 6 th July | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Colleen & Yuri Torres |
| Term 3 Week 1 | Sunday 13 th July | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith |
| | Monday 14 th July | First day of Term 3 |
| Week 2 | Sunday 20 th July | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis, Sophia & Henry Crutchley |
| | Sunday 27 th July | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Isla, Jimmy & Oscar Jeffries |
| | Sunday 3 rd August | Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele |

2025 Ice Camp & Luge Camp

The July school holidays brings an opportunity for children in Central Otago and surrounds to experience holiday offerings that are unique to our area. Each winter Naseby, the ice capital of New Zealand, offers ice and luge camps. These are a wonderful opportunity for children 8 years and older to experience the fun of the ice sports - ice skating, ice hockey, luge and curling. Naseby is the only place that this happens. Our camps are: Ice Camp (1st week of the holidays - 30 June to 4 July) and Luge Camp (2nd week of the school holidays- 7 to 11 July). Attached is a flyer about the camps and following are links for registering for the camps:

Ice Camp

<https://forms.gle/kKePoYWDDm1L8yrN9>

Luge Camp

<https://forms.gle/FCMKbCQ5AwwDi9zs7>



What you do **EVERY DAY matters!**

Caring for your teeth every day makes the biggest difference - **your daily 1, 2, 3** will keep them happy and healthy

- 1** Brush twice every day with fluoride toothpaste
- 2** Give your teeth a rest by eating main meals and snacking less
- 3** Make unsweetened food and drinks your everyday choice

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Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service

f Talkteeth Southern



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