

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 8: 18th July 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai.

Welcome

Welcome back to everyone for Term 3.

We especially welcome new five-year-old, Cole Gloag, and his family to St John's School.



Thank You

*Thank you to those parents who helped with transport and supervision to ice skating on the last day of term 2, Friday 27th June. Here are some photos from this.



*Also, thank you to those parents and children who came along and participated in our Matariki Mass on Tuesday, 17th June. The Church looked great, decorated with stars and lighting, and the children enthusiastically took part in various activities throughout the Mass.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Heather Dowling on being appointed St John's School Principal as of the beginning of 2026.

Portfolios

If you haven't returned your child's portfolio from the end of term, could you please do this asap. Thank you.

Bus Vests

These need to continue to be worn until towards the end of this term, please.

Cross Country

The Maniototo cross country will be held at the Stadium on **Tuesday, 12 August**. The postponement date for this is Thursday, 14 August.

Details will be sent out nearer to the date. Children have already begun training at school for this event.

Teacher Only Day

A reminder, school is closed on **Friday, 15th August**, for a Teacher Only Day.

Ngā Mihi
Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

In Faith Focus time, we have been learning about the charism of our school.

The charism of a school means links to the founding religious order of the school and the vision and values of those founders. Our charism is the "Mercy" charism, as the Sisters of Mercy founded our school.

The Mercy values are:

compassion, hospitality, respect, service and social justice.

The Sisters of Mercy started our school in 1945, so this year our school is 80 years old.

Our school was originally named "Sacred Heart School" but this was later changed to St John's School.

No one is really sure why the name was changed.

Junior Class News:

*Just a note re Junior class children's lunches.

It is preferable for Junior Class children to have lunch that does not require heating up in the microwave, as teachers are on duty at lunchtimes and there is always a queue of older students using the microwave at lunchtime, so it is time consuming.

We do have a pie warmer, which is easier - if lunch can be put into a small, heatproof container or wrapped in tin foil with the child's name on it, it can be put into the pie warmer to be heated up. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

*The Juniors are working on the topic of "Flight" with Mrs Elworthy this term.

*Our Religious Education topic is "Being Church". In this topic, we are learning:

-I am part of God's family, and what I do and how I behave towards others is important.

-We recognise that the Church has rituals, symbols and holy things, and I can learn what to do and say to be part of this.

*We are trying to run a circuit each day around our playground to get fit for the cross country, which is coming up in August.

Middle Class News:



Welcome back to Term 3!

Matariki Mass

Last term we celebrated Matatriki Mass. Thank you to everyone who could make it to celebrate with us. It was so lovely having a mass at night with just the candlelight.



This term in Religious Education, we are learning about the God Strand of the curriculum. The students will learn how God is the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and they will learn about the symbols and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Reconciliation

Last term, we had 7 students participate in the sacrament of Reconciliation. This was held in our church in the last week of school. Those students will receive their Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion next year.



Skating

Thank you to the parents who helped transport students to skating last term. We really appreciate your help. The students had a great time!



Altar Serving

We love seeing the children at church each Sunday for Altar Serving. There will be a new list coming out soon. Please check the list for the times of church, it is currently at 4pm. If your child is unable to attend their altar serving, then please organise to swap with someone else on the list. Thanks.

Literacy and Topic

Mrs Elworthy continues to teach on a Thursday morning in my classroom to provide me with some release time to do my paperwork. Together we teach Structured Literacy with a focus for the start of this term on the topic of Flight. Ask your child what they have learnt this week about Flight. It is fascinating to learn about the evolution of flying machines and how they quickly evolved into passenger planes.

Structured Literacy consists of daily: Vocabulary knowledge around our reading topic, Reading, Handwriting, Phonics, Grammar and Writing.

Maths

For the first two weeks of this term, we are finishing off our Statistics learning. The children have been learning to ask a survey question, record their data, present their data as a column, bar or picture graph and then interpret their data.

We will then move on to multiplication and division.

Cross Country

The Cross Country race is coming up on the 12th of August. The students have started training for this by running around the school each day.

Please ensure the students are wearing sneakers each day for this, and that they bring a full drink bottle of water to school each day.

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei.

"Seek the most precious thing; if you must bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain."

For our children, this means to aim high and be the best you can be. The 'lofty mountain' is a goal that is big and important. It encourages us to never give up on our dreams and to always try our hardest, even if it feels like a big challenge.

Week 1, Term 3

Welcome to the new term.

We are excited to be back in the classroom with the children. Here's a summary of what we will be busy working on in the coming weeks.

Math: We'll be building on our knowledge by continuing to develop our number skills in fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and algebra and towards the end of the term, we will be exploring geometry. I encourage you to practice any tricky multiplication times tables (the ones your child doesn't know quickly) at home, as this helps their math progress and confidence.

We will continue working on our Mathletics, many of the children will reach the goal of 20 certificates this term - it is called Gold level and means that they then stop doing weekly math homework.

We are continuing with our financial education through Banqer. This term, we will become homeowners and learn about the associated costs.

Reading: The children will kick off the term with novel reading. They will have a certain amount to read each week, and we will complete activities at school. This has been set up this week, and we will note each day in our HW book what we need to complete for homework.

Religious Education: Our topic this term is "Te Rongopai - The Good News." This focuses on Sacred Scripture, and we will learn that the Bible is filled with good news for us all. We will explore how God's stories of wisdom and justice call to everyone, regardless of who they are. We will also learn about how the stories from the Old and New Testaments are connected.

This RE topic links directly to a new unit we're starting on identity and self-awareness. The broad aims are to help the children identify their unique qualities, strengths, and interests. We will do this through a series of activities that clarify their values and help them understand what influences them. To help with this, we'll be doing some collage activities which require old magazines. If you have any spare ones at home, please send them in.

Spelling: The spelling words will be written into our homework books on a Friday and tested the following Friday, at the same time that the associated activity page is marked. This is the same routine as in term 2.

Writing: Following up from last term, we will spend the first two weeks perfecting our descriptive writing and then move into informative writing, our school wide writing focus.

Informative writing is all about sharing information about a specific topic. The students will be learning how to summarise information, fact check and correctly reference sources to ensure credit is given. The writing structure will be taught explicitly, and students will have plenty of opportunities to practice their new writing skills during our Topic/Reading sessions.

Topic: This term, the school wide topic is flight. This will mostly be covered during Thursday and Friday sessions with Mrs Gray, and there will be whole school flight 'activities' on Friday afternoons in the coming weeks.

Our Thursday and Friday 'Reading' sessions will be flight themed. Students will have group sessions where they read texts (mostly) related to aviation and the science of flight. They will continue to develop and practice their reading skills, as well as practice their writing skills by summarising information, fact checking and then correctly referencing the sources.

Handwriting: Back by popular demand! After many of you mentioned handwriting at the parent teacher conferences, we will spend some time working on this and highlighting to the students its importance in our increasingly online world.

According to Te Pautāhū, the Curriculum Centre, handwriting at this level is all about 'stamina and fluency while maintaining legibility, size, spacing, and slope.'

Updated Online Use Agreements: As AI is so easily accessible in our learning environment, we will be updating our online use agreement to include more guidelines and parameters around this. More information will be provided once the agreement is finalised, but we have had a brief conversation as a class about continuing to keep ourselves safe online and what this agreement may include. It is important that as parents and caregivers, we are aware of what our tamariki have access to and what they may be inadvertently exposed to.

We are looking forward to a great term of learning together.

Young Vinnies Term 3 Projects

This term, the children are working on a couple of projects

- a. Creating 'survival kits/backpacks' for people in our community. We have been donated backpacks from Strengthening Families and we plan to fill these with items that could be used in an emergency. The Executive will be in touch regarding this as we plan to purchase items and also ask for donations.
- b. We are fortunate enough to have Tim Carson continue to work with us on a fantastic project around intergenerational singing and community building. We are learning songs that we can sing and play on the ukulele, and we will present these to the residents at the Maniototo Hospital. I am excited for this aspect of our learning as it is an opportunity to live the values of compassion, service and community connection. Specifically, the children will be using their gifts and talents to bring joy and companionship to others. We are hoping to make a positive impact on the hospital residents by bringing them a sense of connection and joy through music. This will happen in weeks 3 and 4 of the term.
- c. Pine cones: We have plenty of bags to give away. Each week, the children leave some bags at the side of the church, but they are kept in the shed in Holy Paddocks, so please feel welcome to take bags for friends and family and yourselves. We would like to see these get used up. They are dry cones that make fantastic fire starters.

Cross Country training

Our cross-country event is about so much more than just running. It's an experience that teaches us perseverance and resilience as we tackle the training and complete the race. I encourage all the children to prepare as best they can and to approach it with a positive mindset.

The distances aren't too long, and since we're all healthy and active, we know we can complete the course. We all need to prepare; no one finds it easy, but that feeling of accomplishment once we're done is fantastic. I am encouraging the children to be brave and determined in our preparation.

You received a notice earlier this week about our training. The date for the cross country is Tuesday, 12th August. All children take part, and they need a pair of comfortable and supportive sneakers to wear for training and the race day.

We have already run the course once and we will be doing the same again each week.

Holy Paddocks

I want to buy small square lucerne bales for the sheep and calves. If anyone has any for sale, please contact me. The money made through Holy Paddocks pays for camps, feeding the hens and other activities.

Upcoming:

Curling lessons - These lessons will take place in weeks 8 and 9. This year, we do not require transport help or payment, as a generous sponsor has paid for the transport and lessons for the children. We are very lucky. More information will come home closer to the time.

School Ski Trip - We are looking into a ski trip date for the start of September.

Kind regards
Geraldine and Rachel.

Board of Trustees:

A reminder that BOT elections are to take place on 10th September.
Each family should have received an envelope containing a nomination form. These need to be into the school office by noon on Wednesday, 6th August.

Our next Board of Trustees meeting is on Tuesday, 12th August.

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

Bank Account Details

Below is a list of bank account details that you might want to save in your phone for future reference.

St John's School Board of Trustees - 03 0951 0066195 000

St John's School Camp – 03 0951 0064739 000

St John's School Uniform Account – 03 0951 0045351 000

Young Vinnies – 03 0951 0083139 000

Please make sure when paying into any of the school accounts that you put what the payment is for in the reference field then it can be allocated to the right event/class.

Term 3 Week 1	Sunday 20 th July	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis, Sophia & Henry Crutchley
Week 2	Sunday 27 th July	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Isla, Jimmy & Oscar Jeffries
Week 3	Sunday 3 rd August	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele
Week 4	Wednesday 6 th August	Nominations close at noon for BOT Parents
Week 5	Tuesday 12 th August	Maniototo Cross Country
		BOT meeting
	Friday 15 th August	Teacher Only Day – School closed

PGG Wrightson Colouring Competition

PGG Wrightson are running a colouring competition. Details are below. The colouring page is attached to the emailed copy of this newsletter for you to print if your child would like to enter this. If you do not get the emailed version and would like to, please let Fiona know so she can add you to the mailing list or pick up a copy from the school office.

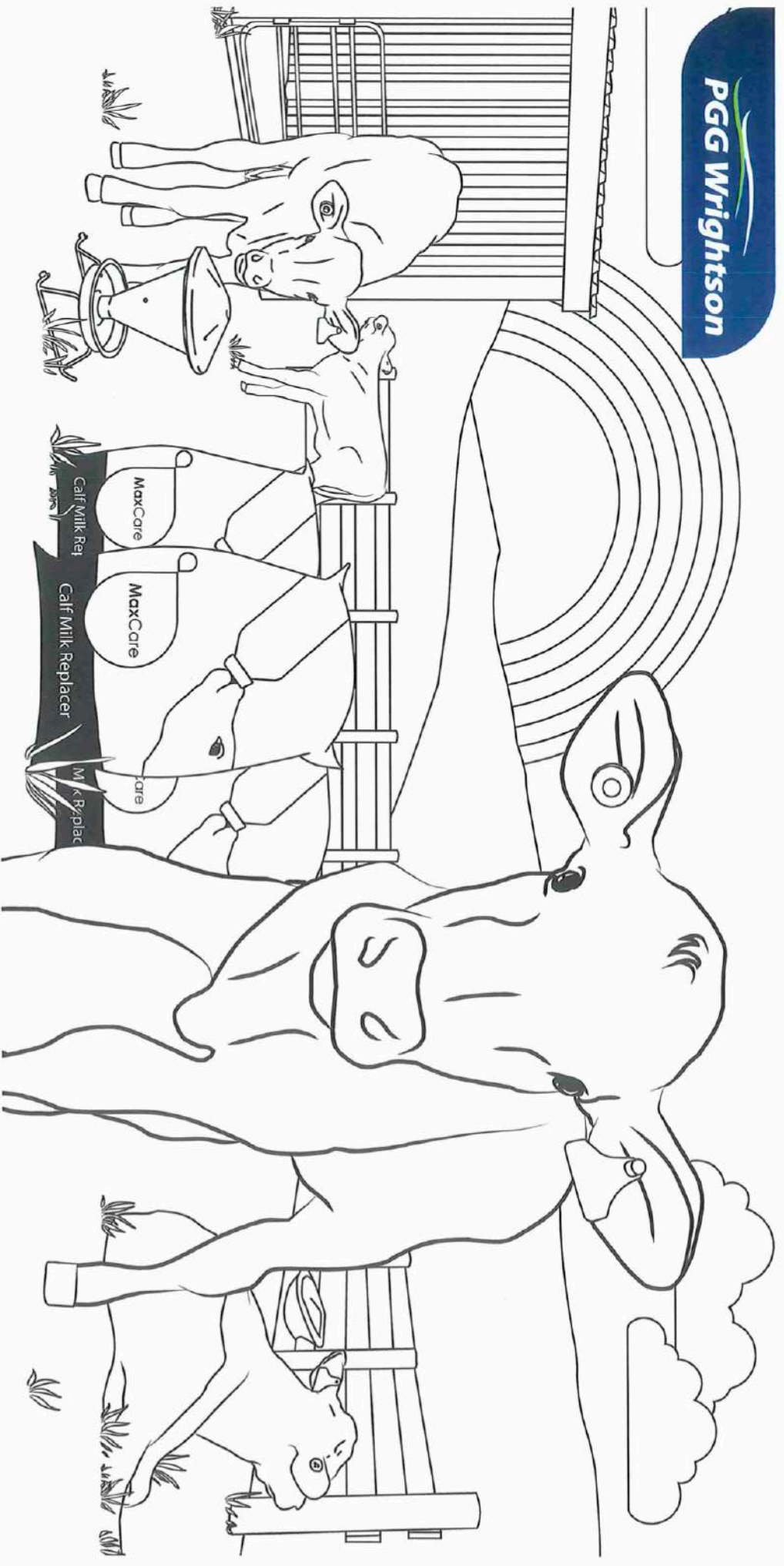


HEY KIDS!
COLOUR IN &
WIN SOME LEGO!

To enter the draw, colour in the back page and drop off at your local PGG Wrightson store by Friday 29 August 2025.

Please note, LEGO pictured may not be the final prize or an exact representation of it.

PGG Wrightson



Full Name:

Age (please circle):

3 - 5 years

6 - 8 years

9 - 12 years

Postal Address:

Email:

Phone:

Deliver your entry to your local PGG Wrightson store before 5pm on Friday 29 August 2025.

Terms and Conditions: Entries close at 5.00pm on Friday 29 August 2025. Only entries received in-store by PGG Wrightson before this date will be accepted. Winners will be announced before or on Tuesday 30 September 2025 and contacted by PGW using the contact details submitted with the entry. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded in each region, and PGW will decide the winners and may change the prizes in its sole discretion. PGW reserves the right to amend any aspect of the competition, including the prizes and number of them, or withdraw or cancel the prize draw at any time, without liability to any party. Winners consent to PGW using their name, city of residence and/or photograph for promotional purposes in any media for an unlimited period without remuneration. Employees and immediate families of PGW or any supplier sponsoring or supporting this competition, and their associated companies, are ineligible to enter. PGW is not responsible for lost, ineligible or fraudulent entries. By participating in the competition, applicants are deemed to have accepted these Terms and Conditions.