

Issue 9: 8th August 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome

We welcome new 5 year old, Jessica Cameron, and her family to St John's School.

Maniototo Schools Cross Country

A reminder that this is on:

Tuesday 12th August at the Maniototo Stadium grounds at 1p.m. and is followed by a prizegiving.

You should have received a notice about this on Tuesday, 5th August. These were given to the oldest child in each family.

A reminder that after the cross country event, school sports shirts need to be washed and returned to school, thank you.

Curling

In early September, the Middle and Senior Classes are booked for three sessions of curling lessons. This year, the classes will be bused to and from Naseby for the lessons, and there is no cost for these lessons. This year's curling programme has been made possible through the generosity of Claire Mulholland. Claire's late husband, John, was a very keen curler, and as a memorial to him, Claire has very generously offered to pay for curling costs and transport for curling lessons for Maniototo Schools. We appreciate her contribution to this experience for our students.



Teacher Only Day

A reminder that school is closed next **Friday, 15th August**, for a teacher only day.

Daffodil Day

Friday 29th August is “**Daffodil Day**”, which is a nationwide day of fundraising for the New Zealand Cancer Society.

We will have a mufti day on this day.

Children can wear bright clothes, including yellow or just ordinary mufti clothes and bring along a gold coin donation for the Cancer Society. Thank you.

Ngā Mihi

Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

*Friday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption. This day celebrates the assumption of Mary (Jesus's mother) into heaven.

Mary is the patron saint of Catholic people in New Zealand.

*On Monday, 28th July, we celebrated a school Mass in Faith Focus time with Fr Jaewoo. This was held in the Junior Classroom.

We will be having another one on **Monday, 18th August, at 8.50 a.m.** in the Senior classroom.

Parents are welcome to come along and join us for this.

Junior Class News:

Here are some stories that have recently been written by some of the Junior Class:

A quaver beach whale is the animal that can dive the deepest. A humpback whale is really friendly. They eat krill and shrimp and some other small sea creatures.

By George Love

Eagles fly. They flap their wings. They are strong.

By Oliver Crutchley

On the weekend, I went to the soccer final. We had pictures taken and I got one trophy. We had nuggets and chips.

By George McKirdy

Rockets blast off from earth to go to space to take photos and explore the moon. People that go to space are called astronauts. Rockets need fuel to make fire and energy to blast off. Rockets are black and white. In some rockets there are robots like in test rockets.

By Nika Miller

Parrots are colourful birds. They repeat words that people say.

By Ollie Kensington

I have a broken arm because I fell off my pony because Mum tooted the horn by accident and spooked Pearl. The ambulance and the helicopter came and took me away to the hospital.

By Ruby Dodds

I have a puppy called Bruiser. I like playing with him. He jumps on me.

By Cole Gloag

Middle Class News:

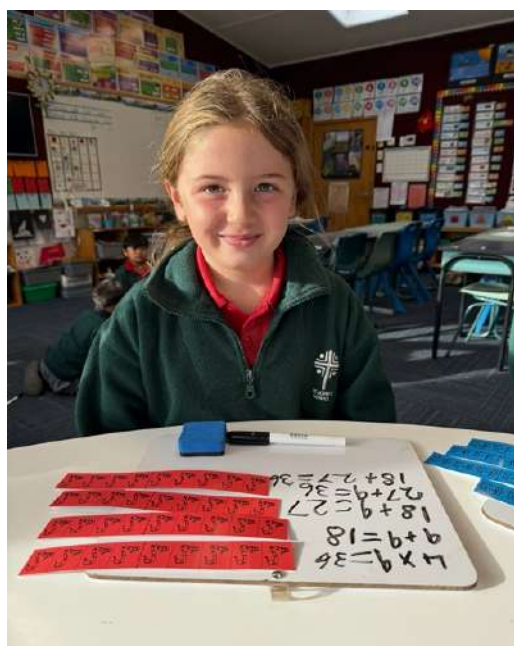


Kia ora!

Cross Country

We have continued to practise most days for the Cross Country by running around the school. This week we have been down to the Stadium to practise on the actual course, so the students have an understanding of how far, and where they have to run.

Our focus in class has been for students to push themselves to do the best that they can do and do better than before. I have been impressed with the students' resilience and determination in their running practice, and I can't wait to cheer them all on next Tuesday.



Maths

What's the trick to learning Times Tables?

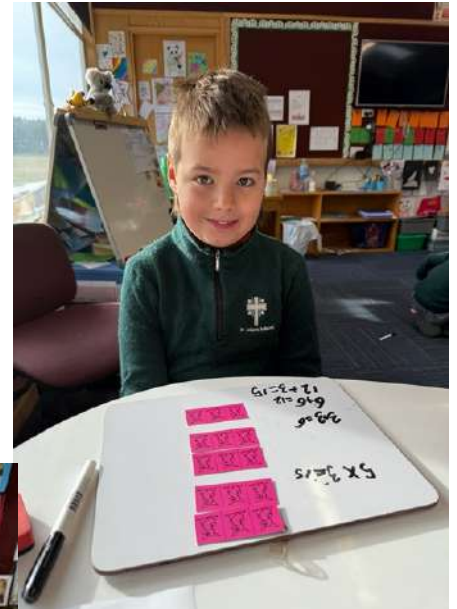
Practice, practice, practice.

The students are doing well with their times tables practice. The homework goes home on a Monday and then gets tested on a Friday.





Once the students know their tables out of order, then I move them on to the next set. In class, the students have been using their tables knowledge to work out harder equations. The more times tables they know, the easier the strategy work becomes. Here are the Year 3's doing some multiplication work:



Flight

During our Literacy time, Mrs Elworthy and I have been focusing the learning on our topic of 'Flight'. The students have learnt a lot about the Wright Brothers and also the History of Flight. We have all found this topic to be very interesting. The students are currently writing on one of the above topics to put into a slide show to share with other students.

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

‘Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawatu’

Be strong, be brave, be steadfast

- Kia kaha means ‘be strong’.
- Kia māia means ‘be brave’ or ‘be confident’.
- Kia manawanui means ‘be steadfast,’ ‘be patient,’ or ‘have a big heart.’

Week 4 Term 3

The first 4 weeks of term have been a flurry of activity. We have been busy with learning ukulele (we are up to 12 songs), we are training for the cross-country, learning about the principles of flight and making up secret handshakes! We have had a very positive start to the term.

Growth Mindset

This week in Faith Focus, I taught the school about having a growth mindset.

The takeaway was that we want to think of our brains (and our ability to learn things) as being like a muscle.

- So the more we use it and challenge it, the stronger it gets!
- We see mistakes as chances to learn, not as failures.
- And having to try and try again is a journey ... not a dead end.

With cross country coming up, we must have a growth mindset where we control the inner voice and make sure we say positive and worthwhile comments to ourselves internally. We can all finish the cross country, and we know that we have already run the course several times over the last few weeks.

So, encourage your child to be positive and to understand that **perseverance** is the *action* of not giving up and that **mindset** is the *thinking* that helps you keep going.

We had fun learning the St John’s School secret handshake, which the kids can teach you also.

Dear God

You know that sometimes things are hard, and we feel like giving up. We ask for your help to overcome these obstacles. Help us to remember that you are always with us, and that with your grace, we can face challenges.

Help us to persevere, even when it's tough.

Amen

Sickness

Over the last few weeks, we have had a lot of children unwell. Thank you for keeping them home until they get better, as this avoids the spreading of unwanted bugs. While at home and if the children are well enough, the children could be continuing with parts of their school learning - Athletics, novel reading, spelling sheet.



Career Chats

Will Becker had been working on the school hall and kindly agreed to come and speak to the class about his career path and job. He was fantastic, sharing good tips about what he does and what he plans to do in the future. What a fantastic young man, he made a very good impression. Here he is pictured with his little cousins, Axel and Kaylah.

Tim Carson has come in for 6 sessions to teach us the ukulele. He also spoke to the children about his study at Otago University in the field of music and his journey from there. He is an incredibly talented musician and teacher, and we have been very lucky to have been under his guidance. I have admired his skills and his care and patience with the class; he has a heart of gold.

Tim is also an old boy of the school.



Mathletic Certificates

We have had several children reach the 20 certificate milestone! This is a reflection of a sustained and determined effort, as this is not easy. Congratulations to Joshua, Arthur, Isla, Xavier, Neale and Harry J.

Cross Country

This is on Tuesday, and we have worked hard to prepare ourselves for this over the last 4 weeks. Expect that your child might be nervous; that is okay. They all know they can complete the course as we have done so every week of this term and so it is important that they come along and participate. Once they have completed the event, they will feel very proud of themselves, and they will have earned points towards the school, house shield. Everyone finds the event hard, from the winners to those further down the field, but with a growth mindset, we are capable of doing this.

At the end of the race, we have a class habit where we walk to the trees to give ourselves a mini breathing break and some recovery time, and then we come and see our friends and families. Give your child a little space at the end of the race to get themselves back to normal breathing and then give them their congratulatory hugs and high fives.

The Otago Cross Country is on Friday 5th September and is open to children in years 5-8. The qualifying times are not linked to your place in the event, but on achieving a qualifying time.

Years 5 and 6: Under 9 minutes (Otago Champs course is about 2km).

Years 7 and 8: Under 12 minutes (Otago Champs course is about 2.4km).

If your child qualifies, you will receive an email next week about attending the Otago Cross Country Championship event in Dunedin.



Holy Paddocks

Thank you to Luke Jeffries for responding to my request in the last newsletter for hay for the farm flock. He has generously donated us small square lucerne bales and also dry wood chips for the hen house. The Year 6 boys were great at getting stuck in and getting all of this unloaded. Thanks to the Jeffries family for your support.

Young Vinnie's activity this term

Ukulele - we are going to the Maniototo Hospital next week to sing and play with the residents. We have learnt 12 songs and each has someone (or a duo) singing the lyrics alongside the rest of us while we play. This has been an incredible experience where I have seen an amazing amount of concentration, perseverance, joy and growth in confidence under Tim's tuition and leadership. While at the hospital, we will sit alongside the residents, invite them to get on the microphones with us and enjoy the act of 'being together' with music being our connector. This is a special activity as, rather than presenting to the residents, we will be working with them, as Tim has been visiting and playing the piano and we are going to play similar songs. This will be a heart-warming experience for the children.

On Monday at noon, the junior and middle room are coming to listen to us, and parents, you may also wish to come in also. This will be in the senior room.

We are being driven to the hospital on Tuesday, will return to have lunch and then will walk to the cross country course. Thank you to Geraldine, Alina, Gabby, Brittini and Sharon T for helping to transport the children. Please come into the classroom at 10.15am.

Survival Backpacks - Be organised for the 'just in case' moment:

The St. John's School Young Vinnies, in partnership with Strengthening Families, have come up with a project to create **starter survival backpacks** for families in our community. These backpacks are designed to provide essential supplies in case of an emergency.

The survival backpacks may contain the following items:

- Torch and batteries
- Bottles of water
- Notebook and pen
- Roll of toilet paper
- Plasters
- Hand sanitizer
- Plastic gloves
- Canned food
- Masks
- Small first aid kit
- Small radio
- Details of how to make a plan for an emergency

These backpacks are only starter packs and will not contain everything that would be needed. These items will help families be prepared for unexpected situations.

We're asking for your support to make this project a success. If you're able to donate any of the items listed below, please indicate on the form at the back of the newsletter and send it back to school, to the senior room.

Your contributions, no matter how small, will make a significant difference to local families.

Thank you for your generosity and support. We are hoping to donate 40 bags.

Young Vinnies Executive members.



Missing!

We are missing the school wheelbarrow - it is red, lives behind the tunnel house and currently cannot be found.

If you have borrowed it, could you please return it?

Thank you very much.

Upcoming dates

Week 5 (11-15th August)	Mon - ukulele presentation at school (noon) Tues - music with the residents at the hospital Tues - cross country Fri - Teacher Only Day
Week 6 (18-22nd)	Mon - Curling letter home
Week 7 (25-29th)	Mrs Gray teaches all week. Fri - newsletter
Week 8 (1-5th September)	Mon- Curling session (mufti) Mon - Ski trip parent meeting 3pm Tues - Curling session Wed - Ski trip gear check for the seniors Fri - Otago Cross Country Championship event in Dunedin
Week 9 (8 - 12th)	Mon - Ski Trip Tues - Curling session
Week 10 (15 - 19th)	Tues - Curling tournament (all day) Fri - newsletter Last day of the term.

Kind regards
Geraldine & Rachel

Board of Trustees:

*Nominations have now closed for Board elections.

You will receive your voting papers in the mail within the next week.

Notices and Dates:

Term 3 Week 4	Sunday 10 th August	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Bryleigh, Eli & Joshua Barroga
Week 5	Tuesday 12 th August	Maniototo Cross Country
		BOT meeting
	Thursday 14 th August	Maniototo Cross Country – Postponement date
	Friday 15 th August	Teacher Only Day – School closed
	Sunday 17 th August	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Xavier & Greta Love, Arthur Elworthy
Week 6	Sunday 24 th August	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Jessie Greer & Izzy Eketone
Week 7	Friday 29 th August	Daffodil Day – Mufti Day
	Sunday 31 st August	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Florence & Juliette Dowling
Week 8	Monday 1 st September	Curling Sessions – Middle & Seniors Ski Parent Meeting at 3pm
	Tuesday 2 nd September	Curling Sessions – Middle & Seniors
	Friday 5 th September	Otago Cross Country Championship in Dunedin
	Sunday 7 th September	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Finn & Charlie Dowling
Week 9	Monday 8 th September	Ski Trip – Middle & Seniors
	Tuesday 9 th September	Curling Sessions – Middle & Seniors
	Sunday 14 th September	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Keisha Evangelista & Mack Mayo
Week 10	Tuesday 16 th September	Curling Tournament
	Friday 19 th September	Last day of Term 3
	Sunday 21 st September	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Zach Tomalon & Harry Dowling

Family Name:

Survival Backpack Contents
Do not send the item to school yet
- We will let you know if we need it.
We have about 40 backpacks to prepare.

Item	Tick if you can donate	How many of the item?
Torch and Batteries		
Notebook and pen		
Box of plasters		
Hand Sanitiser		
Plastic Gloves		
Canned food		
Can opener		
Small first aid kit		
Small radio		



Kia Ora, my name is Angela Francis, and I am the Strengthening Family Co Ordinator here in the Maniototo. The main purpose of a Strengthening Families Coordinator is to facilitate and lead a structured, interagency process that brings together families/whānau and the various government and community services they are engaged with. Leading families to reach their goals, and fostering a sense of connection, strength and support.

Families often seek support with:

- Parenting Skills/Child Management issues
- Child or young person's behavior
- Childs or young person's physical health or disability
- The family's financial situation/budget management problems or level of debt
- Truancy
- Mental health issues
- Family isolation/relationships within the family
- Family violence

If you require assistance with any of these issues or wish to discuss and gain further insight into the Strengthening Families process, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me. All communication remains confidential.

Angela Francis

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