

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 2: 27th February 2026



Principal's Chat

Nau mai, hoki mai

The year has certainly got off to a busy start!

Thank you so much for filling out all the beginning of the year paperwork and returning it so promptly.

We really appreciate you taking the time to get this done.

As part of our ever-changing school environment, we need to make sure we have permission in place for all student activities. Having this paperwork completed at the start of the year means we don't need to keep asking for permission for local trips and events throughout the year.

Thanks again for your understanding and support — it makes a big difference for our students and our school.

School Mass and Ash Wednesday Mass

A School and Ash Wednesday Mass was held at our church on the 18th February. It was lovely to see some parents and parishioners being able to attend as well.

Father's message was one of giving.



Swimming Sports

These will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, the 5th March, beginning promptly at 1.00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Ranfurly Pool to watch and support the children.

The school bus will come to the pool at the end of the afternoon to pick up any children who need to go home on the bus. Please let us know if your child needs to catch the bus next Thursday. All the other children will have their bags with them and can go home with an adult from the pool.

Thank you.

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 the names of children in each house. O'Neill's house colour is green, and McAuley's is red.

Points from swimming sports events are added up to get an overall house winner. Each school event during the year has a house winner, and at the end of the year, a shield is presented to the overall house winner for events held.

Awhi Atu Student Support Programme

This year we have the above school counsellor programme being offered in our school, once a week. Our counsellor is Kara Tarapi. She started by visiting our classrooms and getting to know the students and then she will work 1 on 1 with individual students or take small groups of students.

Students can be referred to Kara by the classroom teacher or Principal. Parent permission will be sought to support each referral.

A student may also ask a teacher if they wish to meet with the counsellor. Parents can also ask for their child to be referred by speaking with the classroom teacher or Principal.

Our Board of Trustees is so far funding this for 2026, and it is run by REAP in Alexandra.

Arrowtown Trip

Paperwork has come home recently for the Arrowtown trip. This will be a great day out, and we are looking forward to visiting the Museum as a school.

Thank you to the parent volunteers for our trip - we appreciate your help with transport and supervision. Due to our supervision ratios, we can't have any children that are not St John's students on our trip, please, eg, preschoolers.

More information will come home closer to the time.

Teacher Only Day and Otago Anniversary Day

A reminder that school is closed on Friday 27th of March for Teacher Only Day and Monday 23rd of March for Otago Anniversary Day.

Stationery and Emergency Contact Forms

Thank you to those families who have paid their stationery accounts.

If you haven't done this, please either pay into the school account 03 0951 0066195 000 or pay cash at the office. Thank you.

We asked all families to complete the emergency contact form to keep our records current. If this hasn't been sent back to school, please fill it in and send it back asap. Thank you.

Driver Licences

When you are transporting children for school, we are required to hold a copy of your current driver's licence. If you have given us your licence in the past and renewed it within the last year, we require a copy of the updated version. Please make sure that we have the front and the back of the licence. You are welcome to bring it in for Fiona to copy at school.

Education Review Office

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming the Education Review Office (ERO) to our school. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase the hard work our students and staff have been doing. Our visitor will be spending time in classrooms and speaking with our teaching team and School Board to see how we are supporting student achievement and wellbeing.

Parent Evening

Thank you to the parents and caregivers who were able to attend our parent evening this week.

Hopefully you found this a great opportunity to meet the teachers and find out how your child's classroom runs.

Hahana Apricots

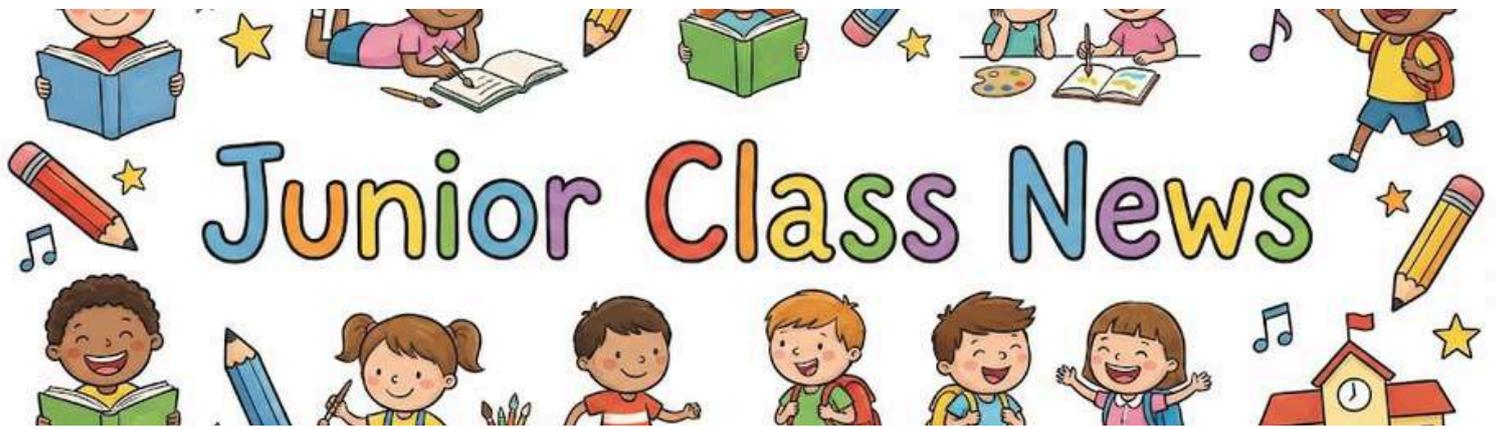
We were super lucky to be gifted 3 big boxes of Hahana apricots from Alexandra.

Each classroom got a box.

They were delicious.

Thank you so much Hahana Fruit.





Junior Class News

Thank you to those parents who came along to the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday. It is great to have an opportunity to share with parents about what goes on daily in the Junior Class programmes.



In our health unit "What can we do when we have problems", the Junior class have been learning how important it is to work together. One of our activities was "3 legged walking". It was hard but fun, and we had to work together to walk without falling over!

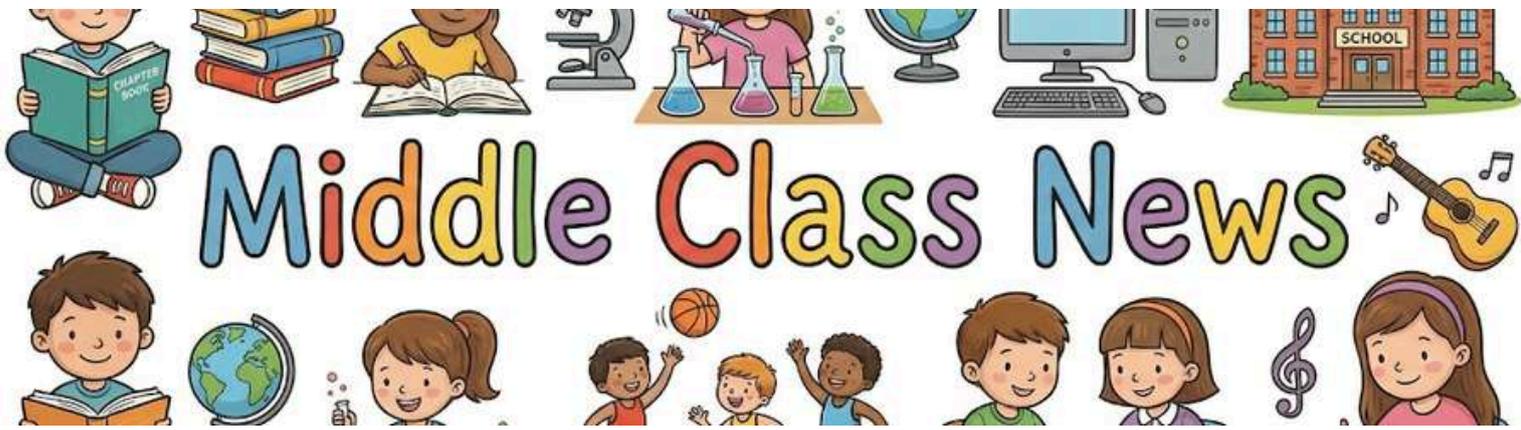


In Religious Education, we have been learning about what life was like for Jesus when he was growing up. On Tuesday, we tried eating food like Jesus may have eaten, eg, raisins, honey, olives, dates, figs and pita bread.



Congratulations to all the children on their great paintings displayed at the A & P Show last week. A special congratulations to Cole Gloag for his third place and Jess Cameron on her highly commended certificate.





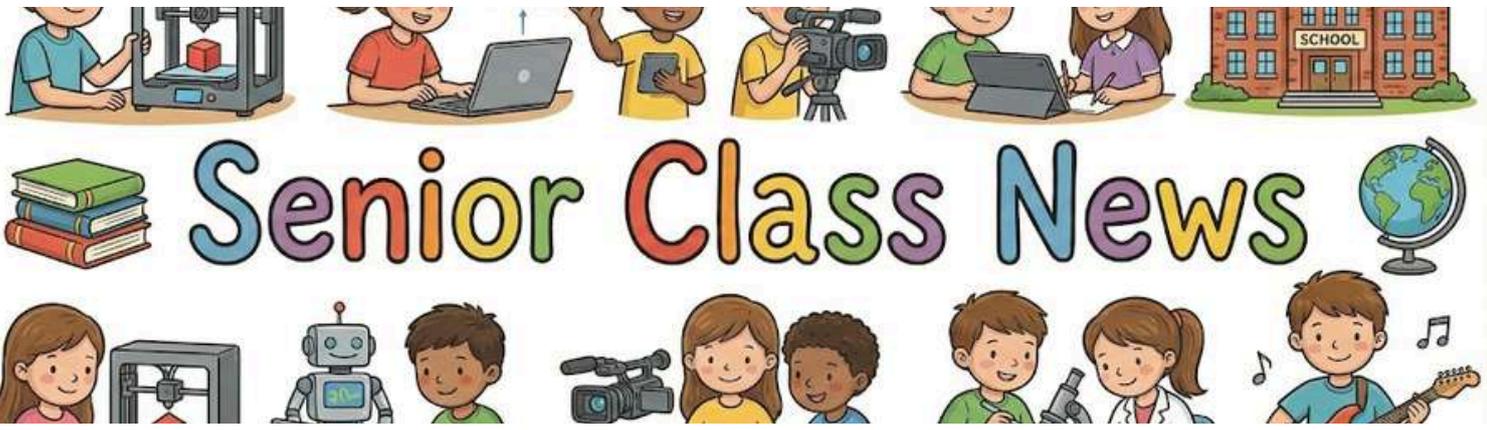
Swimming is super hard work!
Thanks Alina and Alex for rolling out 21 icecreams this week.
It helped us cool down on our hot walk back to school.

It has been a busy few weeks in the Middle Class!
We have been practising our swimming skills and building our confidence in the pool as we get ready for our upcoming Swimming Sports. The children have been working hard on their technique and stamina.

We also had a fantastic visit from Pip and Harold. During these sessions, we explored ways to make positive choices and looked at how to manage challenges in our friendships. A big focus was on the idea of "Is this a mountain or a molehill?" — helping students think about whether a problem is big and needs adult support, or small and something they can solve themselves. This has led to some really thoughtful discussions in class.
In the coming weeks, we will be starting our Focus on "Gold", which we are all really looking forward to.

We are so proud of the positive attitudes and effort the children are showing each day. 😊





Thank you to those who came to the Parent Information Evening on Wednesday night. It was lovely meeting you and great to share how our classroom runs

It has been a busy time in the Senior Room! We have been out on the school farm learning about our calves. The students have enjoyed this hands-on experience and have been building their knowledge about farm life and animal care. A big thank you to Sara and Becks for supporting us with this learning – we really appreciate it!



Our Show Art was based on the theme of Celebration, and it was a great success. The students put in a wonderful effort and created artwork they can be proud of. We have also been working on our self-portraits, showing creativity and attention to detail.

The Senior Room have been practising their swimming skills in preparation for next week's Swimming Sports. The students have been working hard to build their confidence in the water, improve their technique, and develop their stamina. It has been great to see everyone giving things a go, encouraging one another, and showing perseverance. We are looking forward to a fun day at Swimming Sports next week!



During our time with Harold, we have been learning about the different types of problems we face and how to solve them. We explored the idea of "molehill" and "mountain" problems, helping us to think about when we can manage things ourselves and when we might need extra support.

It has been a full few weeks of learning and new experiences in the Senior Room





In Faith Focus time over the next couple of weeks, we will be using the Caritas Lenten Resources. The theme this year is:

“Hear the Voice, Answer the Call - Whakarongo ki te Reo”

We are invited to listen to God’s voice and the voices of the vulnerable, and to respond with love and action.

We will be learning about the importance of water in the world and the following week, the theme is “Vision” and how we can use our eyes and vision to help others when we see they may need help. Each week, we will watch a clip showing Caritas people at work in our neighbouring Pacific Islands so that children can see how our donations to Caritas make a difference to the lives of others.

Board of Trustees:

At our February BOT meeting, we reviewed two policies:

- Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances
- Digital Technology and Online Safety

If you are interested in reading any of our school’s policies, please go to:

1. Log onto 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

Our next meeting is in the St John’s Staffroom at 7pm on 11th March 2026

Notices and Dates:

<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Mon 2nd- Wed 4th March Thursday 5th March Sunday 8th March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Review Office visiting • Swimming Sports • Sunday Mass at 5pm • Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Sunday 15th March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Mass at 5pm • Altar Servers: Sophia & Henry Crutchley
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Thursday 19th March Sunday 22nd March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School Arrowtown visit and the Middle Room's overnight stay • Sunday Mass at 5pm • Altar Servers: Isla & Oscar Jeffries
<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Monday 23rd March Friday 27th March Saturday 28th March Sunday 29th March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otago Anniversary Day - No school • Teacher Only Day - No school • The Night at the Races Fundraiser • Otago Swimming Sports
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>Friday 3rd April</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Friday - No School - Start of the school holidays



Football Registrations Are Now Open!



Is your child keen to play football this year? We'd love to have them join us!

Games will be played throughout Term 2, with practices held in Omakau.

If you're interested or would like more information, flick Kyle Hinton a message on Facebook or send a text to 027 867 1944.

Looking forward to another great season!



**MUSCLE
& HUSTLE**



A fitness fundraiser for the whole community
All proceeds support Alexandra and Districts Youth Trust

10 May 2026

RUN → LIFT → REPEAT

Five strength zones. Short running laps.



TYRE FLIP FARMERS CARRY WEIGHTED LUNGES BURPEES TYRE PULL

For more information and registrations
muscleandhustle.co.nz

House Groups 2026

	McAuley	O'Neill
Y8 7	Jade Jessie Kaylah Xavier	Isla Joshua Neale
Y7 7	Charlie Ben Victor	Zach Theo Caleb Eli Juliette
Y6 7	Olivia Greta Millie	Maggie Sophia Jack Bryleigh
Y5 8	Evie Izzy Oscar Archie James	Jimmy Mack Henry
Y4 7	Georgia Emerson Bjorn	Harriet Evelyn Flynn Arthur
Y3 6	Nika George Love Gab	Amiria Kyle Lochy
Y2 12	Ruby Patrick Harry George McKirdy Ollie Miller	Willow Thea Fergus Walter Oliver Braxton
Y1 4	Cole Lucy Chester	Jess
Boys	17	18
Girls	13	11
Total	30	29 = 59 (March 2026)

Back to
School

2026 School Update

Central Otago Area



Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year!
The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.



Local Community Clinics:

- Alexandra - 5 Ventry Street; Ph: 448 5915
- Wānaka - 11 Ironside Drive, accessed from Koru Way
Ph: 443 7185

Mobile Dental Units:



- Cromwell - 25B Gilling Place; Ph: 027 284 9852
*From 2 February
- Roxburgh - 70 Scotland Street; Ph: 027 284 9857
*From 2 March - 8 April
- Ranfurly - 15 Caulfeild Street; Ph: 027 284 9857
*From 24 March - 21 May



Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media



*Dates subject to change
For appointments outside these dates please call

0800 672 543

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service



Talkteeth Southern