



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome back

Welcome back for Term 4. We hope everyone had an enjoyable, relaxing holiday.



Thank You

A big thank you to all the parents who helped get rid of old wood chips and replenish the Junior playground area with new wood chips. It looks great. Thank you to Nick Love for organising the wood chips for us.

A shovel was left behind on Friday, 3 October, see the photo. If this is yours, it is leaning on the wall in the school office foyer.

Athletic Sports

The Athletic Sports this year will be held on **Friday, 31st October** at the Maniototo Stadium grounds in Ranfurly.

We will have three practices at school:

Tuesday 14th October

Tuesday 21st October

Tuesday 28th October

From 1.20 - 2.30 p.m. approximately.

If you are able to help, please fill in the form attached, indicating the days you would be able to help and return this to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Then please just turn up at 1.20 p.m. on the days you indicated. Thank you.

As a school, we run the high jump event throughout the sports day, and Ryan Dowling will be in touch with parents to organise a rostered timetable for this.

Parents are also asked if they would be available to chaperone an age group from 7 years up. If you are willing to help out and chaperone a girls' or boys' age group, please let me know. Thank you.

Measles cases in Aotearoa

You may have heard about recent measles cases linked to overseas travel that have been reported in Northland and in Queenstown.

Measles is very contagious and can make people of any age very sick.

Watch for measles symptoms - fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes and a blotchy rash.

Keep students home from school if they have any measles symptoms and ring a doctor or Healthline for advice on 0800 611 116.

Check that you and your family have been immunised for measles.

You can check the published locations of interest on the Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora website under Measles - locations of interest.

Shake Out Earthquake Drill

All classes will be participating in this New Zealand wide practice earthquake drill on Thursday, 16th October at 9.30 a.m.

Primary Teacher's Strike

You may have heard or read that Primary Teachers are going on strike on **Thursday, 23rd October.**

This means that school will be closed on Thursday, 23rd October, because of the strike day.

Labour Weekend

School is closed on **Monday, 27th October**, for Labour Weekend.

Fern Fuel for Schools

Thank you to those who have nominated our school to receive a donation from Fern Energy for the purchase of bulk fuel. We appreciate this.

Ngā Mihi,
Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

*October is "Mission Month." It is a time when we think about and pray for those living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression.

Over the next two Mondays, in Faith Focus time, we will be looking at how we can be "Missionaries of Hope" in our lives.

Mission Sunday is celebrated on Sunday, 19th October.

*October is also a month to celebrate Mary, Jesus's mother.

We will be praying the Rosary, as a school, in morning prayer time for 2 weeks in October, 14 - 24 October.

If students have rosary beads at home, they are welcome to bring these along for these prayer mornings.

*This Sunday, **12 October**, our Parish is holding a "Reflection on hope - what it means to be people of hope in our world". This meeting/reflection will be run by Amy Armstrong, who is a Spiritual Director with the Dunedin Catholic Diocese.

This will take place at St John's School from 4 - 5 p.m. (cup of tea to begin at 3.30 p.m.).

All welcome.

Junior Class News:

The Junior Class has a busy term ahead.

We will be busy practising for Athletic Sports, and this will include running each day to get fit.

We will begin singing practices to learn songs for our end of year concert, which is called "I'm Going To Shine" (a nativity play).

Mrs Elworthy will be working with the children on the topic of "Under the Sea".

Our Religious Education topic this term is "Our Story - Who am I?"

This topic focuses on:

- All life comes from God, and when people respect life, they grow in holiness
- People are all wonderful in different ways, and God has given us different abilities and qualities to develop and share with others
- Every person is a gift from God.

Middle Class News:



Tena Koutou Katoa,

Welcome to Term 4! We've got an action-packed term ahead.

Athletics

We're diving straight into Athletics practices. Please note that the Athletics Day has been rescheduled to Friday, 31st October, at the end of Week 4. We'll be using the first four weeks to get ready for it.

Maths

This term, we're focusing on Fractions and Decimals. We will continue to practice Times Tables at home for homework to help with understanding these concepts.

Mrs Elworthy will also be teaching about Volume and Capacity.

Literacy

In Writing, we're exploring a poetry unit under the theme 'Writing to Entertain'. We'll learn about various types of poems and have fun crafting our own on different themes. Look out for our creations in upcoming newsletters!

For Reading, we're shifting to Year group reading. This change will allow me to hear more students read each day and focus more closely on individual progress. Each child will bring a reading book home nightly.

We loved our class novel last term, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and the movie too! This term, we're excited to read the sequel to 'Runt', titled 'Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping'.

Topic

Our end-of-year concert is themed 'I'm Going to Shine', a traditional Christmas story. We'll start rehearsals in Week 2. Costume details will be sent out later in the term.

RE

This term in R.E., we are going to be learning about the curriculum strand of 'Our Story'. Here is an information sheet about what the students will be learning this term:

Year 3-4
Loved

Here are some ways you can support your child's learning at home:

Fairness in your home
Talk about what fairness in your home looks like. Make a pin on what people in your family can do if they feel that something is unfair.

Courage
Talk about times you have needed courage in your life. Share some about times you might need courage and what you can do to be brave during those times. Remember that Jesus is always ready to listen to you!

Compassion
Talk about what compassion is. Why is it important to be compassionate? What things can you do in your home to be compassionate towards one another?

Click or scan this QR code to enjoy Six60's song - Papa's.

SIX60

The Choice

Read this story as a whānau and talk about times when you have witnessed grace yourself. Click the picture or scan the QR code.

God's grace
At dinner time this week, talk about moments and times of grace in your lives. Use these ideas to start you off:

- Times you have experienced good things.
- Times you have experienced loving words and actions.
- Times you have experienced a deeper understanding of life and the world.
- Times of strength and courage.
- Times of great joy and happiness.

Joseph would have played with Jesus, sang to him, taught him how to walk and talk, prayed with him, and they probably sat together in the synagogue and temple. Talk about what things the dad, granddad, uncles and other men in your family do with and for the children. Say a prayer for them as a family.

Joseph and Mary loved each other and Jesus. Talk with your family about how they both responded to God's grace. Use some of these ideas to help.

We see Mary as the first disciple of Jesus. Even before he was born, Mary said YES to him. Talk about how it might have felt for Mary when Jesus was born, as he was growing, when he died and when he rose. Pray the 'Hail Mary' together and remember women and mauns in your family prayer time.

At the end of Jesus' human life on earth, Mary didn't leave his side. She stayed at the foot of the cross. Out of love, Jesus gave to Mary, "here is your son," and to John, "here is your mother" (John 19:26). Mary would have been cared for from then by John and we also believe that John was representing all of us at that moment, and Jesus was teaching us that Mary is our mother, and the mother of his Church.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

Ngā mihi,

Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

"Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei"

"Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain"

The whakataukī above speaks of perseverance and endurance, and refusing to let obstacles get in the way, while striving to reach your goals.

Senior Room Newsletter Week 1 Term 4

Hello families,

Here we are starting the final term of 2025. We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for the ten weeks ahead. This last term is always a busy and exciting one, with plenty of learning, activities, and celebrations planned. We'll be hitting the ground running and aiming to make the most of every week together. We are looking forward to a productive and fun final term. See the upcoming dates at the end of our section so that you know what is coming up.

Wrapping up our Flight Topic

Our topic of **Flight** concluded last term with a kite-making project. The students excelled, displaying a remarkable level of precision and creative engineering. The ultimate test, however, was dampened slightly when the wind decided to take a holiday on Friday. Did that stop our budding aviators? Absolutely not! They demonstrated brilliant ingenuity, improvising a test flight by launching their kites from the highest point in the playground and running their fastest to get them airborne. Their determination to see their designs fly was the real highlight of the day!



Our final whole school Flight session was the last Friday of last term, and was a huge success! It was wonderful to see our senior students step up as incredible role models, patiently guiding and collaborating with the younger students. The positive interactions and support across the age groups were a fantastic way to conclude the project.



As a little extra fun, we tested out the aerodynamics of a Malteser - they are very light indeed! Look closely at the images below and you will see Harry and Nathan using their breath to levitate the Malteser. You may like to try this at home.



Athletics

The Maniototo Athletic Sports Day is on Friday 31st of October. It takes all day and is held at the Maniototo Stadium grounds. We will be training towards this over the next 4 weeks at school, and you can help at home by helping the children build their general fitness and strength.

The activities that the children participate in at sports day are -

Discus Shotput High Jump Long Jump Hurdles Sprints 800m.

It is expected that the children train hard at school and compete in all events on the day. It is physically and emotionally challenging and so your positive support is really helpful. At this time of year, the children start to feel growing pains in their legs, and I suggest checking that your child's sneakers are still well-fitting and in good condition, as this can help with this.

From this event, children are selected to represent our region at the Otago Athletic Sports in Dunedin on Tuesday 11th November.

Thank you to Logan, Luke and George for doing the line marking for us this week. We are well into our practice sessions and these are very helpful.

Newsflash! When we opened the athletics shed on Monday, so we could start our training, we found the Wheelbarrow! It had not been lost or borrowed; it was holding the shot puts! This caused a lot of laughter for me as I had looked pretty much everywhere but clearly not the athletics shed!

Holy Paddocks



Over the holidays, Johnny came in to shear our ewe and ram.

The ewe had a very big fleece, which will be entered in next year's A&P Show.

She will have her lambs soon and I'm predicting twins as she is a good size!

The children's great feeding of the stock is having an impact.



I have also bought in 3 bantam hens and a rooster from home.

We now have two bantams sitting on eggs and hopefully we will have chicks hatch over the next few weeks.

The beehives are also abuzz as our bees are busy collecting with our spring growth.

Our vegetable garden has been dug over by the children, and we will do some planting soon.

There is plenty of action in Holy Paddocks.

We have also received several thank you letters and cards in relation to the Young Vinnie 'Survival Grab and Go Backpack'. I'd like to share what one of these letters said, as it was a kind acknowledgement of the impact of the Young Vinnies' work ...

"Since I first knew about the Young Vinnies and saw them at work well over 20 years ago, I have continued to be very impressed with your wonderful outreach and caring in our community and for overseas projects. You are wonderful examples of Jesus' words, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. God Bless you all".

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child's learning. We are going to have a great term.

Kind regards
Geraldine and Rachel.

Upcoming Term 4 Dates

Week 2 13-17th October	Mon - HPV Yr 8 Tues - Volleyball skill session Tues - school athletics practice
Week 3 20-24th October	Tues - school athletics practice
Week 4 27-31st October	Tues - school athletics practice Fri - Maniototo Athletics Sports Day
Week 5 3rd - 7th Nov	
Week 6 10th - 14 Nov	Tues - Otago Athletics Championship in Dunedin Thurs- Science Roadshow
Week 7 17th - 21st Nov	Mon - Otago Athletics postponement date Thurs - Dunstan Zone Triathlon
Week 8 24 - 28th Nov	
Week 9 1st - 5th Dec	Thursday - School Concert
Week 10 8th - 12th Dec	Monday - YV baking and delivery Tuesday - Kiwi Water Park in Cromwell (need a wetsuit) Wednesday - Y8 Graduation 1pm in the hall Friday - Final day of school for 2025!

Board of Trustees:

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 14th October at 7.30 p.m.** in the school staffroom.

Notices and Dates:

Term 4 Week 1	Sunday 12 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ben & Olivia Scott
Week 2	Sunday 19 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley & Archie Weir
Week 3	Thursday 23 rd October	Teachers Strike – School Closed
	Sunday 26 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley
Week 4	Monday 27 th October	Labour Weekend – School Closed
	Friday 31 st October	Maniototo Athletics Sports
Week 4	Sunday 2 nd November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Harry & Jack Jeffries
Week 5	Sunday 9 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers:
Week 6	Tuesday 11 th November	Otago Athletics Championship in Dunedin
Week 6	Sunday 16 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith
Week 7	Monday 17 th November	Otago Athletics postponement day
Week 7	Sunday 23 rd November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis, Sophia & Henry Crutchley
Week 8	Sunday 30 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Isla, Jimmy & Oscar Jeffries
Week 9	Thursday 4 th December	School Concert & Prizegiving
	Sunday 7 th December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele

Junior Squash Coaching

The Maniototo Squash Club are offering coaching sessions for students year 5 and up on Monday afternoons. Sessions will start on Monday the 13th of October and run for seven weeks. The cost will be \$20.

Register your interest by messaging Simon Paterson on 027444098.

Athletic Sports Practices

I can help with athletics coaching at school from 1.20 - 2.30 p.m. on:

Tuesday 14 October

Tuesday 22 October

Tuesday 28 October

(Please circle dates that are suitable)

Thank you.

Name: _____