

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 13: 31st October 2025

Principal's Page:

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Nau mai haere mai

Athletic Sports

We wish all students good luck for the Athletics Sports tomorrow at the Maniototo Stadium.

Children need to be at the Stadium by 9 a.m.

All information about the Athletics was sent home last week. Please refer to this.

Thank You

We did not have much luck with our school athletic practices this year. We had one lovely afternoon, the next Tuesday practice was cancelled because of the wind, and then this Tuesday we had snow!

Thank you to those parents who helped us on Tuesday, 14th October. We appreciated your help with this.

Sports Shirts

A reminder that red sports shirts need to be washed and returned to school as soon as possible after the athletic sports. Thank you.

Crazy Hair Day

Thank you to everyone for their gold coin donations on "Crazy Hair Day" last Friday for Missionz.

We raised \$134.20 for Missionz.

Below is a photo of each class with their crazy hairdos.





Dunstan Zone Triathlon

Good luck to those Senior and Middle Class students who are competing in the Dunstan Zone Triathlon being held in Cromwell on Thursday, 6th November.

Another Thank You

A big thank you to **Skevingtons**, who supplied a sucker truck in the holidays, which was used to suck all the old woodchips from under the Junior playground. This enabled the area to be rotary hoed and then refilled with new wood chips.

Mid-Year 2025 Report on Student Achievement

As the end of the year is quickly coming and we will begin collecting end-of-year data, I would like to share our mid-year data in Reading, Writing and Maths.

<u>Reading</u>	<u>Whole School</u>	
	Exceeding	48%
	Meeting	33%
	Yet to Meet	19%

<u>Writing</u>	<u>Whole School</u>	
	Exceeding	26%
	Meeting	61%
	Yet to Meet	13%

<u>Maths</u>	<u>Whole School</u>	
	Exceeding	9%
	Meeting	73%
	Yet to Meet	18%

We report to the Board of Trustees mid-year and end-of-year and we look to see where needs are and how we can help, as a Board, with needs in specific curriculum areas.

End of Year Dates

Here are some important dates to note for end-of-year activities:

Monday, 1 December 1.20 p.m.

Farewell afternoon for Mrs Geraldine Duncan. All are welcome to join us for this. Please let anyone else know who you think would be interested in coming along to this.

Thursday, 4 December 7 p.m.

School prizegiving and concert in the Ranfurly Town Hall.

Friday, 5 December

Reports and portfolios will be sent home.

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

Monday, 8 December 9 a.m.

End of year Mass in the Church.

Wednesday, 10 December 1 p.m.

Year 8's graduation ceremony in the school hall.

Friday, 12 December

Last day for 2025.

Swim Week 2026 is Monday 2nd February - Thursday 5th February

(Please note Friday 6th February is Waitangi Day).

Ngā Mihi

Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

Saturday, 1st November, is a special time in the Catholic Church. It is All Saints Day.

On this day, we learn about and remember the Saints of the past, who were faithful, good, kind and brave.

Sunday, 2nd November, is All Souls' Day.

On this day, we remember and pray for those who have died, especially in our own families and friends.

Junior Class News:

In the Junior Class, we always have a number of children who have wiggly teeth or are missing teeth. Here are Nika Miller and Willow Eketone showing off their missing teeth smiles!



In Religious Education time, we recently drew some excellent mirror self-portraits. We looked in mirrors before we drew ourselves. We looked at the colour of our eyes and hair, we noticed freckles, ears, our noses and our skin. We noticed that none of us were the same; we were all different. These are on display in the corridor above our bag hooks.





Middle Class News:



Kia ora koutou,

Well, we knew it was going to be a busy start to the term, and we weren't wrong. The Middle Room has been busy learning about Fractions and Decimals in Maths, Poetry in Writing and our Guided reading is well and truly underway. We are learning about being part of God's family in R.E and are learning the songs for our school concert coming up. We have also been practising for the Athletic sports day, which is approaching fast - this Friday!

Times Tables Learning

The children are doing a fabulous job of learning their times tables for homework.

With the recent changes to the curriculum, it's fantastic to see them putting in the effort now to get ready for 2026.

One of the areas of change in the curriculum is times table learning:

The Year 3 students next year will need to:

- Memorise multiplication and corresponding division facts for 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 8s, and 10s

The Year 4 students next year will need to:

- Memorise multiplication and corresponding division facts for 2s to 10s

The Year 5 students next year will need to:

- Memorise multiplication and corresponding division facts for 2s to 12s

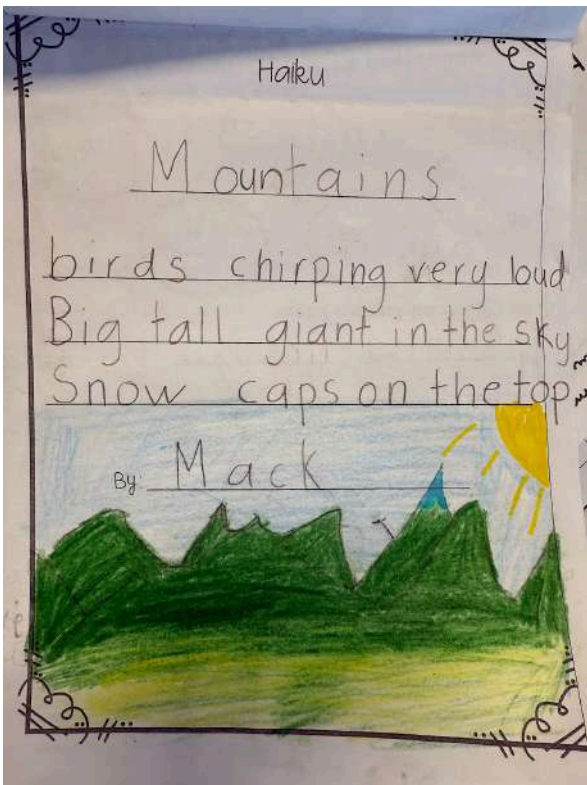
By memorising these at home, we'll have more time in class to focus on applying these skills in different ways.

Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

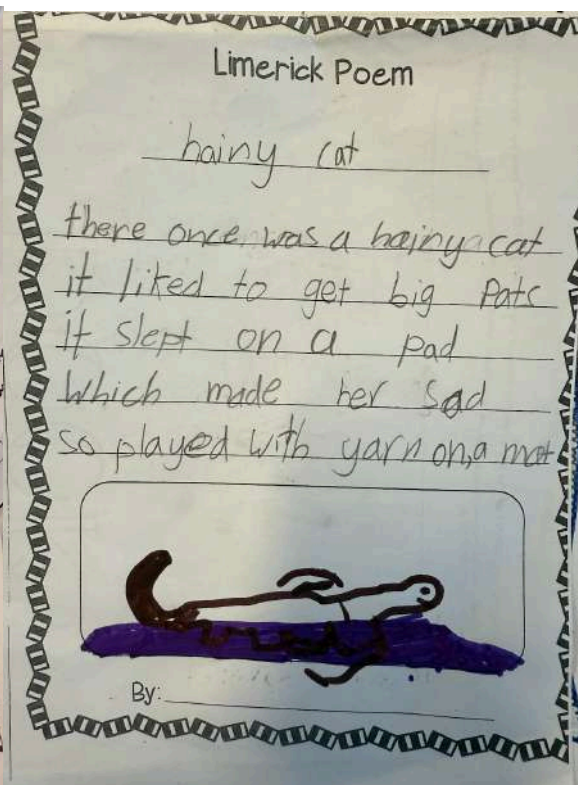
Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping Activities



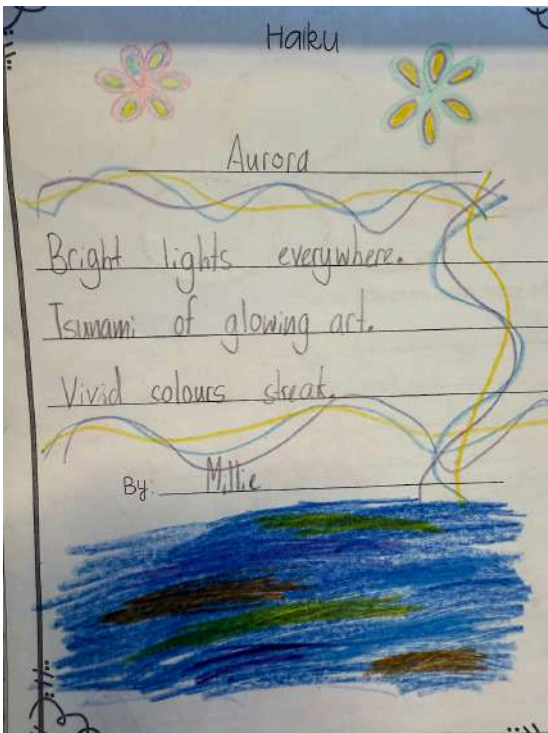
Poetry



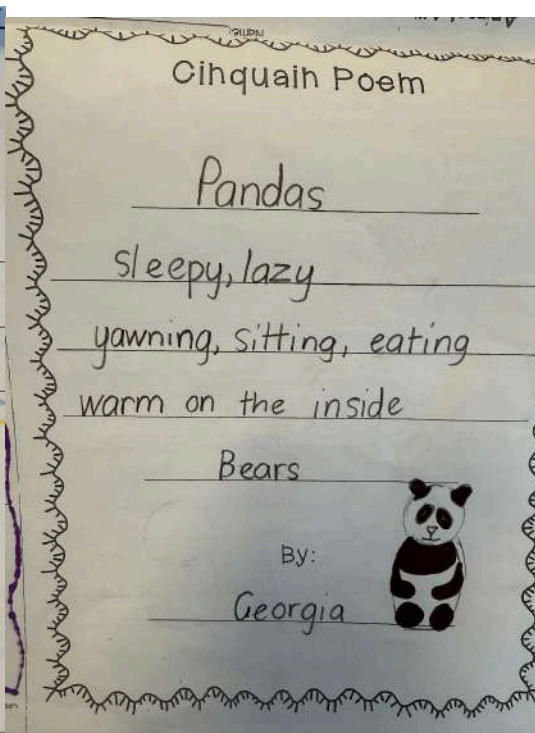
By Emerson Smith



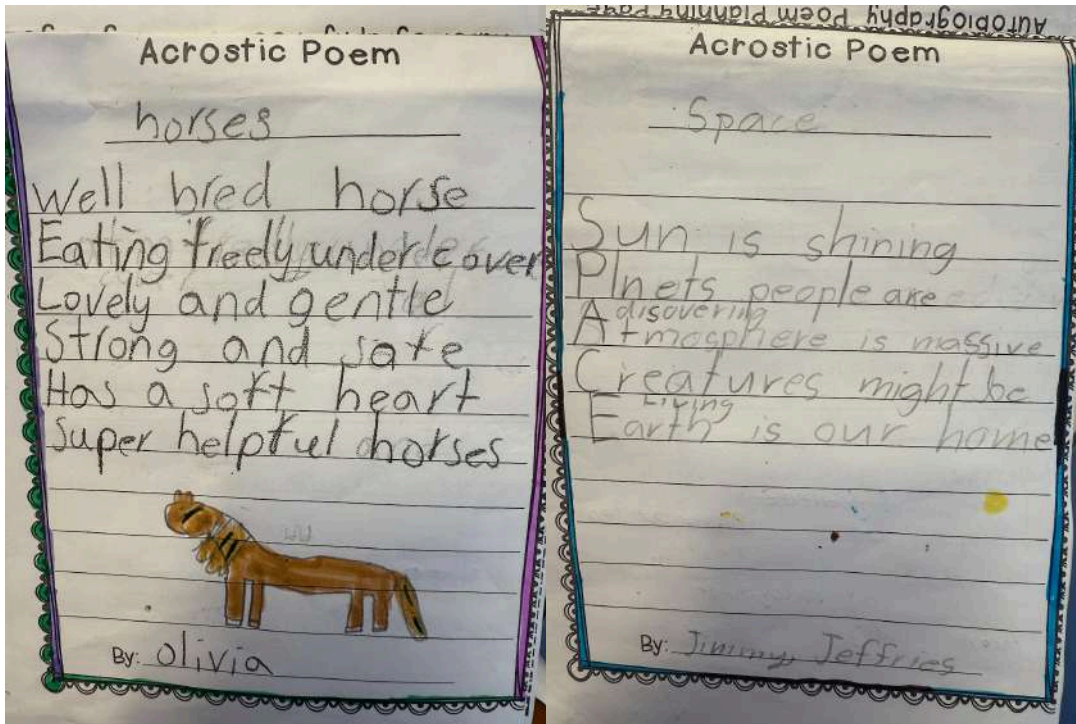
By Mack Mayo



By Millie Smith



By Georgia Dodds



By Olivia Scott

By Jimmy Jeffries

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." — Aesop

Senior Room Newsletter Week 4 Term 4

Hello families,

We're at the end of Week 4 already—this term is certainly moving fast! It's been a busy and productive few weeks, and the children have been great. We're enjoying all the learning and activity happening around the school.

Athletics

The children have trained hard for Athletics Day, and they all deserve success. We hope they reach their personal goals and feel a sense of pride in their achievements and efforts at the end of the day.

On Monday, we will send home the information about the Otago Athletic Sports with those students selected to represent the Maniototo region.

Optical Illusions

This term we are learning about Optical Illusions with Mrs Gray. During our reading sessions we learn about the science behind optical illusions - how our brains are constantly making quick guesses about what it is we see based on our perspective and prior understanding of the world. Optical illusions are designed to trick our brains, leaving us questioning what it is we are really

seeing. Our art sessions are then based around this new understanding and we try out different techniques.

Forced Perspective in Photography was our challenge earlier in week 2 and the students NAILED it!!



Holy Paddocks



We're thrilled to introduce the newest members of Holy Paddocks: Mary and Joseph! These two good-sized halfbred/Dorset cross lambs were born on Labour Day in the blizzard-like conditions. Thanks to my handy shepherd, they had a warm night shut in the "inn" and are doing very well.

Unfortunately, we've had a small setback with the bantam project. We've discovered the eggs were unfertilised, so we've cleaned out the nest and are starting over. We still have time for new chicks to hatch before the end of the term!

Young Vinnies

Our Young Vinnies group is hosting a special Caritas "Move It" challenge on Monday, November 24th.

The children are going to be asked to bring a gold coin donation and wear mufti. The challenge involves moving water over a distance, which gives students a practical example of a daily task faced by children in some impoverished communities.

Look out for a sheet coming home soon with ideas for home challenge activities, allowing your child to experience this task in a home environment. The last time we did a water-carrying activity, it was a lot of fun!

All money donated to us will be donated to Caritas.



We tackled the long grass in the Church garden recently, and the children were once again fantastic. They were so helpful, managing to pull out quite a load. They are good at mucking in and clearly grasp the importance of lending a hand to help the community.

Rosary





We recently led the entire school in praying the Rosary throughout October. It's been a wonderful way to start the day as one whole school community.

The 'Maniototo Dairy' farm trip is happening on Monday. A notice came home last Wednesday regarding this. Children are to wear warm mufti, please. Can the drivers please be in the classroom at 9.10am.

Triathlon

We have had plenty of interest to compete in the Dunstan Zone Triathlon that will be held next Thursday, the 6th of November. More information will come home early next week for those competing.

Kind regards,

Geraldine and Rachel.

Upcoming Term 4 Dates

Week 5 3rd - 7th Nov	Mon - Maniototo Dairy farm trip 9.10am Wed - Sausage Sizzle Thurs - Dunstan Zone Triathlon
Week 6 10th - 14 Nov	Mon - Lawn Bowls at the Ranfurly Bowling Club 11-12 Tues - Otago Athletics Championship in Dunedin Wed - Sausage Sizzle Thurs- Science Roadshow
Week 7 17th - 21st Nov	Mon - Otago Athletics postponement date Wed - Sausage Sizzle Thurs - CO Triathlon
Week 8 24 - 28th Nov	Mon - Walk up Little Mt Ida
Week 9 1st - 5th Dec	Mon - Golf at the Maniototo Golf Club Tues- Rubbish Run Thursday - School Concert 7pm
Week 10 8th - 12th Dec	Monday - YV baking and delivery Tuesday - Kiwi Water Park in Cromwell (need a wetsuit) Wednesday - Y8 Graduation is 1pm in the hall Friday - Final day of school for 2025!

Board of Trustees:

. -At our October Board of Trustees meeting, the Board were presented with parent feedback on our Health and Physical Education curriculum and delivery. This feedback is now used to update our Health and PE curriculum statement.

-A curriculum report on Maths - Number was presented to the Board.

-Three policies were reviewed:

- Behaviour Management
- Searches, Surrender and Retention of Property
- Bullying and Harassment.

Notices and Dates:

Term 4 Week 4	Sunday 2 nd November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Harry & Jack Jeffries
Week 5	Thursday 6 th November	Dunstan Zone Triathlon
	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
	Monday 1 st December	Farewell Afternoon for Geraldine Duncan from 1.20pm
Week 9	Thursday 4 th December	School Concert & Prizegiving at 7pm in Ranfurly Town Hall
	Friday 5 th December	Reports & Portfolios will be sent home
	Sunday 7 th December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele
Week 10	Monday 8 th December	End of Year Mass in the Church
	Wednesday 10 th December	Year 8's Graduation Ceremony at 1pm in the school hall
	Friday 12 th December	Last day for 2025

	Sunday 14 th December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Bryleigh, Eli & Joshua Barroga
2026 Term 1	Monday 2 nd – Thursday 5 th February	Swim Week
	Friday 6 th February	Waitangi Day

Billy Laing Swimming Lessons

27th Dec - 31st Dec 2025

Ranfurly Swimming Pool

For those that are new to these lessons Billy has been providing swimming lessons in the Maniototo for 25+ years.

Your child will be put into groups depending on their ability to swim.

Stronger more capable swimmers will have one lesson per day (usually early morning for an hour) and for those starting out with strokes / learning to float or new to swimming/water these children will have two shorter lessons per day. Lessons go for 5 days.

For more information or to enrol your child/children please text Geraldine Dowling


0274859693 Or Facebook messenger


YEAR 9
in 2026?

Have a Teen starting Year 9 next year?

From Year 9 onwards, your Teen will see a participating Dental Provider for their dental care in most areas.

This remains FREE until they turn 18 even if they have left school





At your teens last checkup in Year 8, please ask us for a list of participating Dental Providers in your area.


For further information please contact us

0800 672 543

community.oralhealth@southernhb.govt.nz

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service



Talkteeth Southern

SAINT BATHANS

VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY
17 JANUARY

10.00AM TO 4.00PM



GET TICKETS ON [HUMANITIX.CO.NZ](https://www.humanitix.co.nz)



→ Otago Region Chemical Recovery

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

When: Collection runs through December 2025

Limit: Limited collection quota – early registration recommended

With free or subsidised recovery for over 3,000 products, Agrecovery makes it easy to return unwanted or expired agrichemicals. Most are free to dispose of, though some may incur a cost depending on type or volume, which will be confirmed before collection.

Please take an inventory of your agrichemicals and book via our website agrecovery.co.nz or by emailing info@agrecovery.org.nz.

Please book early to avoid missing out.

BOOKING DEADLINE

9 NOVEMBER 2025

Proudly supported by



Otago
Regional
Council

agrecovery.co.nz | 0800 247 326 | info@agrecovery.org.nz

JINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER
What could be more fun than musical bingo?!

From 6:30pm; Jingo starts at 7pm sharp!
\$25 per person - includes supper and 4 games of Jingo
Cash bar available.

NZ Junior Curling Fundraiser
Help us get to Finland!

MANIOTOTO ADVENTURE
PARK, NASEBY

GREAT PRIZES

BRING YOUR CASH FOR RAFFLES

CONTACT: JANET STEELE 0275393355 OR LISA NEVILL
0277332775 TO ENTER!

