

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 4: 7th April 2017

Principal's Page:

Literacy Information Evening

Parents, grandparents and friends are all welcome to come along to school on **Wednesday 12th April at 7p.m. in the Senior Class**, where teachers will talk about reading, writing and spelling programmes in our school, and ways parents can support children with home learning in these areas.

Footsteps Dance Week

The children have worked really hard to learn new dances each day this week, in dance week. It was great to welcome Kate, the tutor, back to our school again for 2017.

Kapahaka Festival

Thank you to those parents and children who are coming along to the Kapahaka festival in Alexandra on Sunday. It is a great occasion with Central Otago Schools joining together for a great afternoon celebrating Maori song, dance and culture.

Life Education Trust Visit

The mobile classroom will be visiting our school on Monday 10th April. Classes are timetabled to visit the mobile classroom twice during the day.

End of Term 1

The last day of Term 1 is Thursday 13th April and school starts again for Term 2 on Monday 1st May.

Coming Up in Term 2

Friday May 12th - Visiting performance "Strike" percussion group at Maniototo Area School, followed by workshops which we will be participating in.

Monday 29th May - Year 8's Young Leader's Day in Dunedin.

Special Character Clipboard:



Everyone is invited to join us for our Holy Week Liturgy called "The Way of the Cross" which will take place at school from 1.30pm on Wednesday 12th April.

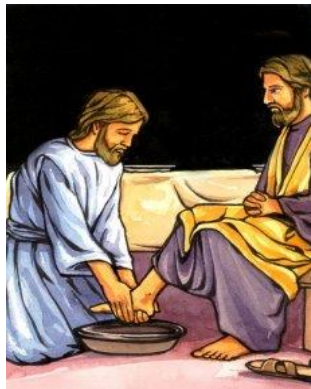
Can children all remember to bring something to wear that would have been appropriate to Jesus' time.

Holy Week

The last week of Lent is known as Holy Week. It is when Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life and is the most important time in the Christian year. There are many church services and processions.



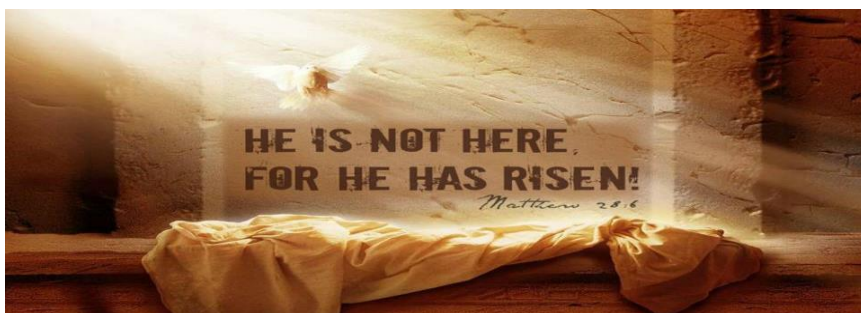
Palm Sunday



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Sunday

Junior Class News:

Maths

The Junior Class have been working hard on addition and subtraction in Maths over this term. They are encouraged to answer an addition or subtraction equation to, or from 10, using their fingers. Next term I will be sending flash cards home for the Year 2's and some Year 1's so that they can practise basic facts to 10 and get quicker with the recall of these. Please help children to practise these when they come home. To start with, they will use their fingers, but as they get more confident, encourage children to do the sum in their heads. Encourage them to answer quickly.

Stories about Susie Bates, cricketer

Today Susie Bates came to school. She said she plays cricket all over the world. She said she wins trophies. It was fun.

By Eddie Weir

Today Susie Bates came to school. I asked her a question. She is the captain of the White Ferns. She plays cricket.

By Josie Herlihy

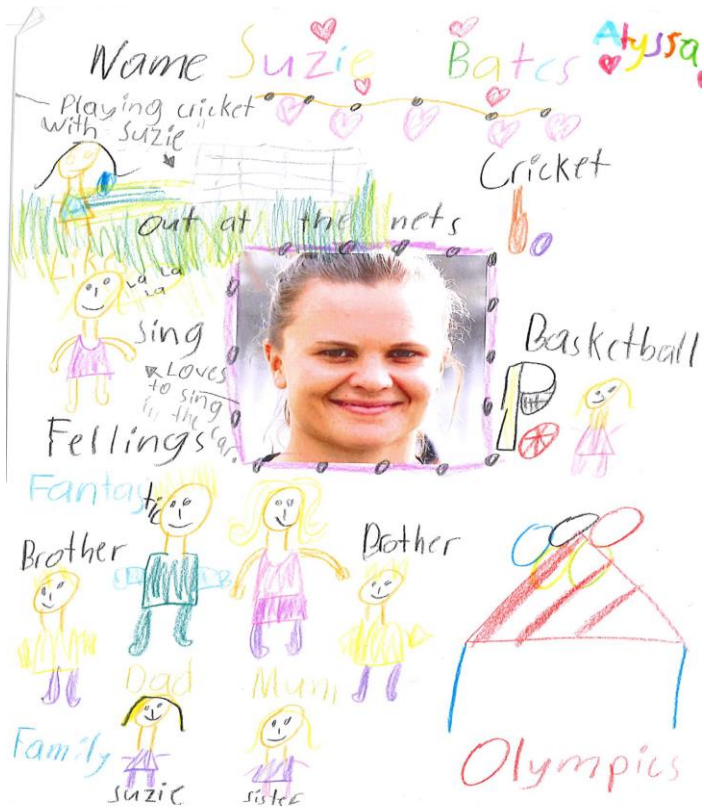
Today Susie Bates came to school. She is the captain of the White Ferns and Susie Bates gave Ben a t-shirt and she gave Marley a hat. She plays cricket.

By Logan Suddaby

Middle Class News:

We had Suzie Bates visit our school and here are some of the childrens' work. There is also an article and photos in this month's Positively Maniototo (page 9).





Senior Class News:



Don't ever let anyone dull your sparkle!

C.O Triathlon

The children came back from this event full of stories of their adventures at the triathlon. They were particularly good at explaining how their emotions changed from prior (terrified), to during (I can't keep this pace up), to after the event (so proud). Thankyou to the parents that transported the children there, and particularly to Judy Hore, Cheryl Cormack and Mark Paterson who all took on marshalling duties. Without you offering to do these jobs, none of the children would have been able to compete.

Two of our teams achieved placings: a year 8 mixed team made up of Andrew Fetalver, Ashleigh Cameron and Billy Dougherty who placed 3rd, and a year 7 girls team made up of Hannah Cormack and Briar Duncan who placed but we are unsure where (we are unsure due to a recording error).

Hannah and Briar competed at the Otago Primary Schools Triathlon Championships yesterday in Cromwell and had a great time. They placed 2nd in the Year 7 Girls Team section amongst speedy competition. Well done girls, this is an impressive achievement.

ALL (Accelerating Learning in Literacy)

Our school has been able to secure professional development and funding to support literacy learning, it is called ALL. This is similar to AliM, which I have taught for the last two years. Next term I will start a 15 week programme working with three different groups of students in the school, and while this is happening Heather Dowling will teach in my class (4 afternoons a week). I will be writing to each family next week if your child is involved in this. It is an exciting opportunity for us all, and I am looking forward to starting this. The focus will be on writing.

Hygiene

The children are growing up, and with bigger numbers in my class I am finding that it can become a little bit smelly! Please encourage your children to shower/bathe daily, to change their socks and underwear everyday and to brush their teeth twice a day. I will be teaching a puberty unit later in the year, but for now we could all do with brushing up on our personal hygiene habits 😊

Jewellery

Again jewellery is being worn to school, please make sure your children leave home with no jewellery on like rings, bracelets etc.

Life Education – Learning with Harold

The Life Education bus is visiting next Monday, and our focus is on 'Friendships, other peoples feelings, and decision making'. We will be having two visits to the bus on Monday, and then working on associated activities in class based around being a positive team member, what makes a good leader, what qualities make a good friend, and how to have strong and positive relationships with others.

CARITAS 'Stop it' Day

This is happening next Tuesday, and you may see some strange sights if you come into our class. Many children are giving up all forms of technology, furniture and electricity. It will be a dull day, down on the ground for many children! I'm quite looking forward to it, as I think that I will struggle myself 😊

Lastly, thankyou **for a great first term at school**. The year 6 children are trying hard to adjust to the Senior Room routines and expectations, and they are improving at working together. The year 7 and 8's are working hard in class and are aiming to manage themselves and are developing at being effective (but not bossy) leaders.

Thankyou also for supporting your childs home learning, taking an interest in their schoolwork, driving them to various activities and coming in for reading help. Learning doesn't only happen at school - the conversations, routines and reading that you do at home make the difference for your child.

Have a lovely Easter everyone.

Mrs Duncan 😊

Notices:

Alexandra School Holiday programme

Where: Dunstan High School Gymnasium

When: 26th & 27th April

Time: 9 – 11am (year 3-5) 11:30am – 2pm (year 6-8)

Cost: \$40

To register please visit: www.otagocountrycricket.co.nz/junior-cricket.html

And click the holiday programme button.

These programmes prove very popular right throughout Otago. It is a chance for kids to come along have some fun and to put some existing skill into action through bowling batting and fielding games.

It also give opportunity to improve on these skill sets

Any questions please contact Willie Miller at willie@otagocricket.co.nz or 0212790979

The kids love Harold....Here's a chance for the grown-ups to find out more about who he is, what the kids learn with him..... and get a sneak peak at what's in the pipeline.....



Dinner at the Becks Community Hall, on **Friday 28th April at 6.00pm**

Tickets \$35 per person for Dinner and Speaker. Drinks etc at your own cost.

Closing date for sales: 18 April - Limited tickets available

Book through: Gill Naylor - naylor@g@farmside.co.nz or ph 03 447 3642

Harold and a team from Life Education will be there.

Guest Speaker: Linda Taylor on the recently launched 'Empower' programme,

This programme teaches children about food and nutrition; how to grow,

harvest, prepare & share good food.

'Empower' is a collaborative effort between Life Education and Garden to Table. Linda is Executive Officer of Garden to Table.

This event is run in conjunction with Rural Women New Zealand



Coming Up:

Week 1	Monday 1 st May	First Day Term 2
Week 2	Friday 12 th May	Strike Performance
Week 5	Monday 29 th May	National Young Leaders Day

PTA Reminder

Can we please have all raffle cards and money into school on **Monday 10th April**. The raffle is being drawn on Thursday 13th April.

Thank you.

