

St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all the children for their participation in Thursday's swimming sports.

A special congratulations to the following children who qualified with their swimming times, for the Otago Swimming Sports, being held in Dunedin on Saturday 7th April:

Toby Duncan, Ryan Crossan, Alivia Steele, Georgia Elworthy, Annie Dowling, Jock Duncan, Caleb McIntyre, Maggie Dowling Hannah Cormack, Briar Duncan and Jeremy Dumapis.

Changes to the Primary Schools Sports organisation in Central Otago

The significant roll growth in Central Otago in recent years has prompted Principals and personnel from Central Otago Sports to make changes to the structure of Primary School sporting events in the region. Central Otago has been divided up into three zones, Wanaka, Queenstown and Dunstan. We fall into the Dunstan zone. The change in the organisation means that in some cases schools will have their own event, then select children to compete at the zone event and then those who qualify will compete at the Central Otago event.

Please note that the only event that this change will affect us is the Triathlon. We are sending teams to the Dunstan Zone triathlon on the 21st March, if any of them qualify they will be eligible to go to the Central Otago Triathlon.

The changes will not affect our Maniototo Sports Day which will remain as normal with the event being held in Ranfurly and then a Maniototo team attending the Otago Sports.

Otago Anniversary Day

School is closed on **Monday 26th March** for Otago Anniversary Day.

Easter break and end of Term 1

School is closed for the Easter break from **Friday 30th March (Good Friday)** and opens again on **Wednesday 4th April**.

Term 1 ends on **Friday 13th April** and Term 2 begins on **Monday 30th April**.

Prayers needed

We would like to remember Mrs M's husband, John, in our prayers at the moment as he is unwell and in hospital.

Swim Week

A big thank you to Peter and Elsie Lyon who provided us with a van for our Swim Week at no cost. It was great and as you can see from the photos below, children enjoyed travelling in it, to and from the pool. Some parents also had fun driving it!



Hockey coaching

Each class will have 2 sessions of hockey coaching with Mrs Geraldine Dowling before the end of term. The first session is on Tuesday 27th March and session 2 is on Tuesday 10th April.

Dunstan Zone Triathlon

Good luck to all the children from Year 5 – Year 8 who are participating in the Dunstan Zone triathlon on Wednesday in Cromwell.

Church Cleaning

If anybody can help out with cleaning the church could you please send a text or note to Susan Mulholland. The older ladies of the Parish are looking for a few younger people to help out with this. You only get a turn once a year and it involves a bit of vacuuming and dusting.

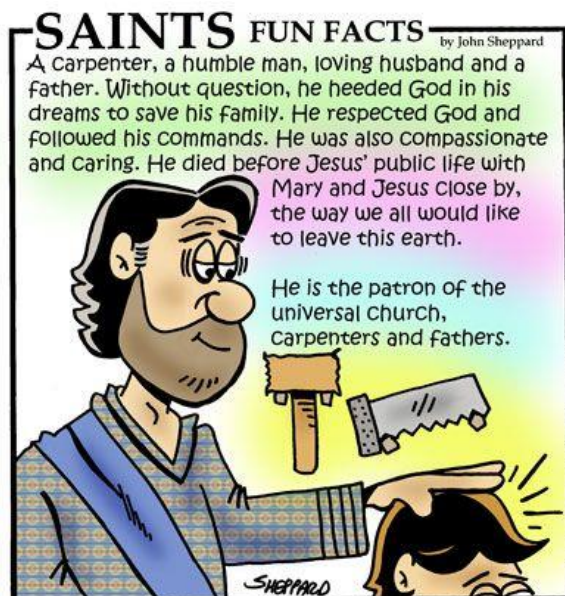
Thank you.

Special Character Clipboard:

The date for our school Caritas Challenge for 2018 will be Friday 13th April. On this day, every child and adult in our school will be giving up something for 12 hours. We will ask our family and friends to sponsor us, and all money will go towards families in Timor Leste (East Timor) to help them learn new skills and develop work initiatives. Challenge goals need to be discussed at home, and sponsorship cards will be given out after Easter.



FAITH FACT FOR WEEK 19th – 23rd March



St. Joseph

5th Week of Lent

19th St Joseph

We celebrate *two feast days* for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker. March 19 has been the most commonly celebrated *feast day* for Joseph, and it wasn't until 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the *Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker"* to be celebrated on May 1.

Junior Class News:

The Junior Class have recently been working on phonics in their daily class programme. Phonics means learning the sounds letters make and it helps children to sound out beginning letter sounds of unknown words they come to in their reading.

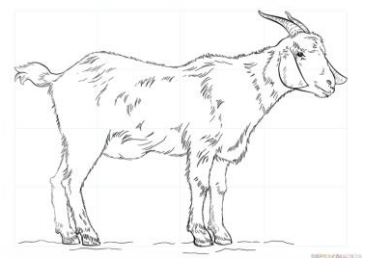
It also helps them when they begin to write as they can write some letters of a word they do not know how to spell, by listening to the sounds they can hear in a word.



Middle Class News:

Please enjoy some of the wonderful writing being done in our class!

In the weekend we went goat hunting up our hill with Jock, Dad, Bailey, Philip and I. We left at 11 o'clock and we started hunting at 12 o'clock, Thomas and I went with Philip. I spotted a mob of five goats and Granddad told us to stalk them. When we were 250 odd meters away, Philip shot 3 billy's and Thomas and I spotted a big fallow Buck! We begged Phillip to shoot it and he did. The buck



was in one of the deepest gullies on our farm and when we finally got down the gulley and gutted it and then tried to carry it, we only got a little way because it was so fat and heavy. A wee while later I saw a mob of goats but they saw us too, so we kept walking. Dad fired a shot and just what we wanted happened - we had success. Philip got ten, Thomas got 2 and I got 2 and they were both black and then we went home. **Toby Duncan**



On Tuesday we went to More than Books to get an icecream because it was hot in the car. Next we went to the playground for a play. First I played on the slide, next I played on the swing. After that we went home to bake a chocolate cupcake. I read a long big book called Fairy Unicorn. **Hayley Barroga**

Once upon a time I was in bed. I woke up and I heard a noise. I slowly opened the window. I saw a swoop. I knew what it was, but I did not know what it was there for, so I went outside. I saw a dragon. It swooped right down on me and dragged me to its cave and gave me heaps of fish. Then it put a big smile on its face. I smiled back at it. Then I jumped on and we burst out of the cave. **Mac Dowling**



Next newsletter look out for our “Crazy Recipes” !! 😊

Senior Class News:



Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate.

Hello families

Senior Room Adventures

Friday turned out to a wonderful day for a walk in the hills! We had a fun day out together where our entire group made it to the Buster Hut and back down again with a smile. This will be a school day that the children will remember far into the future – the feeling of wobbly and tired thighs coming down the hill, the mud squelching under foot, the sparrow hawk keeping an eye on us, the spider farm in the long grass and the feeling of well deserved pride in making it back to the trucks again in good form.

All of our excursions have been very successful for the children on a personal level, as they are looking and sounding fit and they have determination in their stride. But also for developing the children’s awareness of the environment around them, and their ability to make well thought through and informed decisions about how to prepare properly prior to an outing to avoid failure. Important life skills to have, which I have thoroughly enjoyed developing with them.

Unfortunately we did have a mind blank at the Buster Hut and a number of children made the mistake of writing their names in biro on the inside of the hut. This action was done with innocence but was not met with an indulgent smile when I discovered this – I consequently had to go back up on Saturday afternoon and sandpaper the names off which was very inconvenient, and the children have had a consequence at school. They have also written to their parents and the BoT as a common courtesy to explain their actions.

I want to give a big shout out to all of the helpers who have joined us on these trips, I REALLY appreciate your help with transport, being positive and caring to all of our class members and getting involved in what we do. You are an integral part of my teaching! Thank you so much.



Dunstan Zone Triathlon

This is happening on Wednesday in Cromwell. Our entries are in and you will have received a letter regarding the day at the end of last week, if you are involved. Go hard children, and make yourselves proud!

I am now unable to attend this on Wednesday. If you can help out with transporting children from my carload, please let me know. The details for travel were on the notice that came home last Thursday.

Taieri District Pony Club School Teams Equestrian

This is a new event at the primary school level and riders participated in Mounted Games, Show Jumping, and Dressage. They were up very early yesterday morning to head away to this and spent the day being judged at the various events.

The girls did extremely well and placed 1st overall and came away with the primary schools shield. A huge congratulations to Hannah Cormack, Briar Duncan, Ella Gibson and Maggie Dowling and their coach Jo Dowling for being such positive role models for our school, participating with fairplay and determination and being able to take the win. Hannah also placed 2nd in the 75cm Show Jumping which was a great achievement.



Personal Training Goals

Our 'Big goals' are coming up in week 9; and the children are on track for this. There is still time to make a significant improvement to our fitness and endurance, so keep up the training.

The running of 'Goal Day' will require some tight organisation on my behalf, and volunteer time from you please. The date is Thursday 29th March, and I plan to have all the goals happening at the same time. The swimmers will swim at the Ranfurly Pool if the pool is open and warm enough, otherwise they will travel through to Alexandra. The running goals will happen at Maniototo Park (The Stadium) and the biking goals will take place on the Rail Trail. It will be an awesome day! To get myself sorted I will be sending home a notice later this week, please try and help out if you can. The area of greatest need will be the cycling, as we need to get children to their start points and cycle with/near them, and if some go past school we will have to bring them back. So I will need volunteers able to help with people and bike drop offs, and others to bike near groups of children.

If you are unsure what your child's goal is, ask them and have a look at the goal sheet they brought home in week 2 of the term.

Curly Wurlys

We have started getting into the routine of the students sharing book reviews to the class (from books they have read in their personal reading time at school and home) and I am inspired by the interesting novels that the children have been reading – so much so that I have asked to borrow some books from the children for my holiday reading. Keep building the reading mileage please :) and perhaps even read a book that your child has read, this will give them such powerful and positive feedback.

Shield Cup Cricket

We had children play in these matches a few weeks back. In the boys team we had Bradley Shaw, Caleb McIntyre, Jock Duncan, David Hore and Sage Paterson coached by Lauren Shaw. They played at Weston and faced a slick bowling team and unfortunately placed 2nd in the match. Ella Gibson and Briar Duncan travelled to Dunedin to play with the girls' team and they enjoyed their day out and unfortunately also placed 2nd in their match. Well done children for your efforts and next year may see a different result for you.

Steps work

Mrs. Hazlett is doing amazing work with the STEPs children and she is passionate about how good the programme is. The boys involved (Caleb, David, Ben, Jeremy, Jayson and Hamish) work with her on this during the school day on a Monday and Tuesday. They are making good progress and are proud of their achievements.

Swimming Sports

A splashing good afternoon was held at the pool last Thursday. I loved seeing the display of swimming endurance and personal determination that was on display, and the house pride and goodwill that the children showed to each other. Well done to O'Neill House on their swimming win, you have a house full of mermaids and men who whizzed up and down the pool.

We have worked out the children who have qualified for the Otago Sports. If this was your child, they will have brought home a notice today. Please return this a.s.a.p. as we need to have entries in by the end of the week.

Lastly – its week 8! How quickly is this term going by. Enjoy your week everyone and I will be sending the ‘Big Goal’ letter home on Wednesday.

Kind regards

Geraldine Duncan

Notices and Dates:

Week 8	Wednesday 21 st March	Dunstan Zone Triathlon
Week 9	Monday 26 th March	Otago Anniversary Day – School Closed
	Friday 30 th March	Good Friday – School Closed
Week 10	Monday 2 nd April	Easter Monday – School Closed
	Tuesday 3 rd April	Easter Tuesday – School Closed
	Saturday 7 th April	Otago Swimming Sports
	Friday 13 th April	Last Day of Term 1

