

St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Footsteps Dance

The children have enjoyed a week of dancing and learning several dance routines over the week, with a performance for parents this afternoon at 2.15p.m. Here are some photos of the action.



"Survival Day" at Naseby

You should have received a notice (given to eldest in the family) about this day on **Friday 12th April**, the last day of term. It will be a fun way to end our Technology Challenge unit.

If children bring equipment to school before next Friday can you please ensure they give it to me to look after until the day and that it is named. Thank you.

Mrs M's Farewell

This is on **Tuesday 9th April at 12p.m. in the hall.**

We ask each family to bring along **a plate of food to share for a pot luck lunch** please.

There will be a presentation and prayer liturgy before lunch.

Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate Mrs M's 20 years at St John's School!

Education Review Office visit

The Education Review Office visited our school from 11th – 14th March.

They gave us some things to work on, eg deeper analysing of student achievement data and also gave some positives, eg "Settled classrooms. Students well engaged in their learning. Students know about their learning and what they need to do to improve."

We should get the formal report within the next few weeks.

Oil diffusers

In light of recent publicity re Doterra oil diffusers being used in classrooms, if you have any concerns could you please see the classroom teacher. We do use essential oil diffusers in our classes, mainly to ward off smells!

Last day of term

Term 1 ends on Friday 12th April.

Term 2

Term 2 begins on Monday 29th April.

We hope you all have a happy and restful holiday and enjoy the Easter celebrations.

Special Character Clipboard:

4th Week of Lent

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

ANZAC day will be here soon so it is a good time to think and pray for all those in the past and present who work in the world war zones.

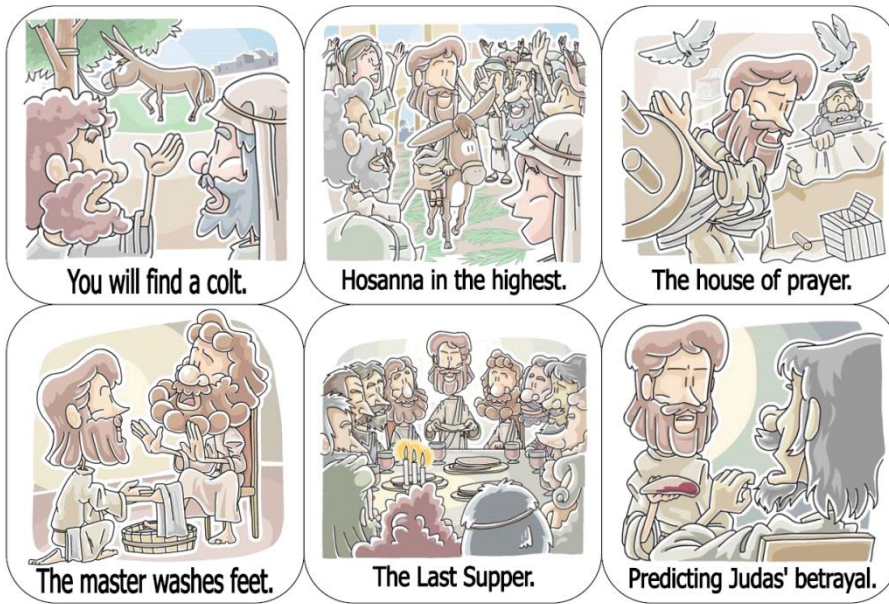
Loving God bless those whom you have called to work in the most dangerous parts of the world. Help them to bring healing, and to the prevention of disease, pain and violence. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that by their work the health and care of the community may be promoted, and your creation glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



5th Week of Lent

School Holidays

This year both Easter and ANZAC Day fall in the School Holidays. Your Children may be able to tell you about these pictures.



Remember Good Friday is a day to abstain from eating meat.

Caritas Challenge Day

This will be held on **Monday 8th April** at our school. The children will be challenged to go without their usual play equipment (adventure playground, sandpit, hockey, netball etc) and instead take part in games that the children in South Sudan might play during their school break times. The games require very little equipment, as money for things like this, is very limited.



We will do a money collection & mufti day for Caritas in Term Two. Information about this will be sent out next term.

Many thanks for your support of Caritas and the work they do in South Sudan 😊

Junior Class News:

It is amazing that it is almost the end of Term 1 already!

The Junior Class have been working hard. In the mornings when we get to school children sign in and write a word of the day, see the photo below. Some do spelling and tables even before school starts! Then it's off to the playground or, if it's colder, onto an ipad. Below is a photo of some of the children working on the ipads before school.

Word of the Day:	Write your name	Write the word of the day
	Ethan Chisholm	they
	Harry Jeffries	they
	Finn Dowling	they
	Jae McAuley	they
	Cyrus Janerol	they
	Harry Dowling	they
	McKinley Francis	they
	McKenna Suddaby	they
	Arthur Elworthy	they
	Jessica Greer	they
	Kaylah McAuley	they
	Xavier Love	they
	Jade Aquino	they
	Isla Jeffries	they
	Florence Dowling	they



Missing Polar Fleece

Arthur Elworthy has lost his polar fleece. Someone may have taken this home by mistake. It has his name in it. If you find this could you please return this to him at school. Thank you.

Middle Class News:

Well done and congratulations to the children who took part in the recent triathlon.

In the middle class we have been enjoying creating our own stem challenge ideas in writing and then making them! This stem challenge goal was to be able to make a floatable surf board that could balance an egg on top while remaining floating.



The children have also enjoyed writing postcards to another class somewhere in New Zealand. They are looking forward to the arrival of our postcards from Frankley School! We have been treated with some sweet treats from them in the meantime.

Don't forget the Hell's pizza wheel is underway in the classroom again.

A shared lunch to farewell Mrs M is being held on the 9th.

Next term I (Helen Flintoff) will be looking for reading help on Thursday's and Friday's from 11.00am to till around 11.25am, this would require an adult to listen to children read and ask some questions to children about the text. Are you free to help? I will send home a separate note that can be returned if you or someone in your family is able to help.

Anna Jefferies and I will be meeting over the next few weeks to make the new transition as smooth as possible for all children. There will be a timetable sent home soon to show parents what our schedule will look like in the middle class, it will closely match how Claire and I have set up the class programme already but the order of the programme will be altered to allow for specialist teaching. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

There will be an optional holiday writing booklet sent home for over the Term 1 holidays. The children will be able to opt if they would like the booklet as I understand it is also their break. More information will be sent home with the writing booklet. In the booklet there will be writing prompts to help your child with ideas for writing.

With the frosts starting to loom and the noses of the middle class running we are running out of tissues.....do you have any tissue boxes at home that you could donate?

The children have been enjoying making a clay camp of South Sudan. We are still working on this, photos to come!

The survival challenge at Naseby will be held on the last Friday this term, you should have received a note about this. Please help your child to source what they need for their group.

Returning next term is extra for experts requested by middle class children! This is optional and each task will run over a fortnight.

Middle class writing riddle:

I am a bird who likes the cold, I am a bird who is brave and bold, I take what I can and give nothing back, for example some tinfoil. I live in the cold mountains not a leafy tree. My beak is a short stub which I agree isn't great for flogging things so I'll just have to have curricular things.

What bird am I?

By Elliot Greer.

Senior Class News:

'Share your dreams and goals and make them real' Jup Brown

Otago Swim Sports

Tomorrow is the Otago Swimming Sports which are being held in Dunedin. We are very proud to be represented by Chloe McAuley, Tessa Steele, Annie Dowling, Jake Smith, Bianca Jorgensen, Maia Macdonald and Maggie Dowling at these. Best of luck to the children and enjoy the experience. Thank you to Becky McAuley for preparing these children so well through the Ranfurly Swim Club training sessions and for helping manage them on the day.

Jup Brown

On Monday we were visited by a real life adventurer Jup Brown, who is originally from Wanaka and is an amazing man. He spoke to us about his adventures of running the length of NZ (50 km per day), America and Japan and biking across Canada. He did these crazy activities not just for fun, but to raise funds for various causes. One of these was in a remote village in Nepal where he facilitated the building of a school playing field.

Jup promoted to the children his values of living to seek and explore through having fun, and how to set goals and the importance of sharing these goals with others so that they can become real.

We really enjoyed his talk and I encourage you to visit his website www.jupbrown.com

I was inspired by Jup and we have talked as a class about about our goals. We have come up with...

1. To have a school 100 mile club (we will run 160km by the end of the school year)
2. To conquer Little Mt Ida and Mt Ida
3. Set a personal goal in term 2 that is physical and that we work towards.

Dunstan Zone Triathlon

This awesome event took place last Friday and was well run and supported by our children and families. Congratulations to all children who participated and particularly to the children that qualified for the Central Otago Triathlon Champs which were held yesterday. Our teams all finished in the top 8 which is a great achievement - well done children.

Thank you to parents for helping marshall the course and to those that were able to help transport other children. We really appreciate your kindness in doing this.

Photos from the triathlon have been uploaded to the school website so pop on and have a look.

Central Otago Primary Schools Sports Association

The website for checking up on activities under this heading is www.copssa.nz

Please have a look through this and refer to it if you need to.

Making changes through school - not parents

With organising activities outside of the classroom, there is a process that we follow to ensure we meet our safety guidelines and so that we have accurate information at all times.

Please make any changes to transport (prior to leaving for an activity or event) through the school and not personally through other parents, as the school's responsible for all children during school hours and so must have accurate information.

When at an event and transport details might change, please inform the teacher so that they can okay this and make a note in their paperwork.

We like to be out and about being active but the paperwork to make this happen is done with detail and care so that safety is paramount - we would appreciate you being aware of this and informing the school in the first instance of changes.

April Fools

Monday was a fun filled morning in the senior room and there was a lot of activity with post-it notes and 'spider poop!'. I do enjoy a laugh with the kids but no-one seemed to fall for my joke about naming a new species that had been discovered - there is a picture on my classroom door you might like to look at!



Homework

Thank you for supporting your child with their homework. Please continue to monitor their reading at home and I continue to recommend that you ask your child to read aloud a couple of paragraphs from their book 2 or 3 times a week to build on this aspect of their reading.

With Mathematics homework - please encourage your child to use the 'I' (information) button for extra help with questions. These are matched to what activity they are doing and help build their independence and ability to problem solve themselves.

In our class we have just started completing the Pizza Wheels - our goal is for each child to complete one pizza wheel each for the year which means they read and review 7 books to us at school. I have enough pizza wheels to allow for two for each child so let's keep up our daily reading at home. Help your child to find good books at the Community Library so they can achieve this challenge.

Gumboot Friday

Today we saw lots of lovely gumboots at school as part of a nation wide day that was observed in support of mental health. The funds will be donated to help fund free and timely counselling for any kids in need.

Visit the Gumboot Friday Facebook page to find out more information or visit

www.iamhope.org.nz/gumbootfriday

Rippa Rugby

This event is being held next Thursday in Alexandra. The children have been practicing with their fabulous coaches and are feeling ready to take on the world (the rest of Central Otago!)

If you make any travel changes please ensure that you inform the school first so we have accurate information.

Children who are not participating in the Rippa Rugby will have a normal school day.

Take care,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 9th April** at 7p.m. at school.



Notices and Dates:

Week 10	Saturday 6 th April	Otago Swimming Championships in Dunedin
	Sunday 7 th April	Kapahaka Festival in Alexandra
Week 11	Tuesday 9 th April	Claire Mulholland's Farewell Pot Luck Lunch 12pm
	Tuesday 9 th April	BOT Meeting
	Thursday 11 th April	Central Otago Rippa Rugby Competition

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