



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Welcome back

Welcome back to everyone for Term 2.

A very special welcome to Mrs Anna Jeffries who is teaching in the Middle Class with Miss Helen Flintoff for the remainder of the year.

Mrs M's farewell

There are three plates in our foyer area that were left behind after our shared lunch and farewell to Mrs M held in the hall. They are all white and one is a long plastic oblong shape. If these are yours please just come in and pick them up or get your child to collect the plate for you. Thank you.

A big thank you to Freddie Hore for baking and decorating a delicious cake for Mrs M and to Alivia and Maia for singing a lovely song to farewell Mrs M.



Hockey Coaching

Mrs Geraldine Dowling is taking 2 sessions of hockey coaching with all classes. We had one session on Tuesday 30 April and our second one is next Tuesday the 7th May.

School Sores

This is doing the rounds at the moment and it is highly contagious. If you notice your child has a small spot or sore that isn't healing they need to be taken to the doctor and are unable to attend school for 24 hours until antibiotic cream or medicine kicks in.

Please encourage children to wash their hands thoroughly.

Naseby Survival Day

We had a great day at Naseby on the last day of term, making huts. Here are some photos of the action.



Thanks to Mrs Jayne Hazlett for letting us use her "estate" area, which was ideal for this activity.

Thank you to parents who provided transport, supervision and help on the day. We couldn't have done it without you!

Safety Vests for Bus Children

Bus vest will be coming home with children early next week. Please ensure that your child wears these as it is for their own safety while travelling to and from school. Thank you.

Special Character Clipboard:

* This term Mrs Susan Mulholland is taking "Faith Focus" each Monday morning. For most of the term our focus is on learning about the country and people of South Sudan and how Caritas (our Catholic Aid Agency) helps out in this country.

* May is the month of Mary and later in the month we will be praying the Rosary each day as a whole school. This will begin on Wednesday 15th May. Children can bring along their own rosary beads if they have them.

* A prayer for the beginning of term:

Lord God,

At the beginning of this new term teach us to be your hands and feet.

At the beginning of this new term teach us to love as you love us.

At the beginning of this new term teach us to pray for those in need so that we may show our faith in action and deed.

Amen

Junior Class News:

* The Hell's pizza wheel challenge is underway this term in the Junior Class. Children may bring along a book they have read, and are able to tell the class about, to earn a stamp on their pizza wheel.

* This term our topic is: **Beyond Planet Earth**

Mrs Elworthy will be teaching this topic but it will also be included in our writing times.

* The Junior Class was recently introduced to an old suitcase containing books and pointers for them to use in reading time. The suitcase stimulated a lot of wonderings, eg What was it? What was it used for? And the big question – How do you open it?

It reminded me of all the technological changes that have taken place in the world over the years since I walked to school holding onto my suitcase!!



Middle Class News:

Wow term two is already here. We have farewelled Mrs M and welcomed Mrs Jeffries.

This term our topic is space. The children are looking forward to researching their questions about space and we are looking forward to showing you some of our work.

Thank you for the feedback about holiday writing. Please know that this was an optional task.

The children are excited to be part of the 100 mile club.

We look forward to seeing you at our parent interviews later in the term.

Senior Class News:

Birds of a feather, flock together



Welcome back for term 2, it really is a pleasure to be back in the classroom with your children. They are excited to be starting into their winter sport activities, about duck shooting opening, the school farm making progress and the pleasure of running laps at school. Their enthusiasm is infectious and I have also been running laps before school and at lunch.

School Farm

Thank you to everyone who has responded in some way to the Young Vinnie letter regarding support. People have been very generous which has meant that we have been able to order the hen house which will then enable us to get the fencing etc into action.

If you have not had a chance to respond to the Young Vinnie letter, please feel welcome to at any point in time or contact me directly and I can put you in touch with Maia who is the president of the group.

50 Mile and 10 Mile Running Club

This has started with a lot of enthusiasm and we are quickly beating a track into the perimeter of the school grounds. We currently have 41 children and 18 adults on board - this is very impressive.

In the initial letter I only offered a 100 Mile Club (160km) but I have now added in a 50 Mile Club (80km) as I don't want to scare away any of these keen children.

The overall focus is to complete this running / walking distance by the end of the school year. For those children (and adults) doing the 100 Mile Club they need to cover 5.4km per week and for the 50 Mile Club you need to cover 2.7km per week.

At school we have worked out what we need to do each school week of the three terms left and it is quite achievable.

50 Mile Club - 6 laps of the school grounds per week

100 Mile Club - 12 laps of the school grounds per week.

We are tracking this outside my classroom on the wall if you are interested in seeing this. Parents that are keen - please track yourself and we will invite you all in to celebrate with us when we reach our first milestone.

New Routine

Trina Steele is teaching our class from 9-10.30am for the first four days of each week while I leave class to work with three writing groups. We are one week into this and the children are enjoying their time with Mrs Steele. This will be the routine for the entire term.

Maniototo Community Library

We will visit the community library every second week on a Wednesday from 12.40-1.20pm. We have already been this week and will go again in week 3, 5, 7 and 9. While at the library we complete oral book reviews which earn us a segment on the Pizza Wheel and a chocolate bar! Your child will be able to explain to you how the pizza wheel works. Please actively encourage and model reading for pleasure at home - I expect the children to build reading mileage by reading every day at home.

Making changes through school - not parents

I have included this again as with the Rippa Tournament and the Spelling Quiz coming up, it is really important that changes are made through school and not other parents to ensure we meet our safety guidelines and so that we have accurate information at all times. This is because the School is responsible for all children during school hours and so we 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 happens 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.

Lastly I have included a piece of writing that some of the writers that work with me have created - enjoy :)

Guidelines for the ducks on Duck Shooting Opening weekend

1. Fly in fast in big packs
2. Stay at the back of the mob
3. Look both ways before landing
4. Check the calendar for the date - be aware!
5. Check SnapChat in case you have been notified to avoid a pond
6. Sleep in
7. Use sheep as camouflage
8. Go to Dunedin to the Botanical Gardens and see your city friends for the weekend
9. Peck the other duck on the water to make sure it's real
10. Head to the hills!

Take care,

Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

* At our April meeting a discussion was held about our Lockdown policy. The local police visited our school and suggested several new locks. We provided a map of our buildings and grounds to the police.

* Board of Trustee elections are coming up in June. Fiona Weir was appointed our returning officer.

Board of Trustee Elections

Nomination forms will be mailed out next week. Nominations forms need to be back at school by Friday 24th May at noon.

If you are nominating someone, please ensure that the form is filled out correctly and signed by both parties as if they are not correctly filled in, they are invalid.



To the St Johns School Board of Trustees, PTA, staff, students and families, I would like to thank you all very much for such a lovely farewell last term. I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching years at the school, and the gathering of people, the offering of gifts and the sharing of fellowship and food, is what St Johns School is all about. May God bless you all.

With kindest regards Claire Mulholland – Mrs M ☺



Notices and Dates:

Week 2		Nominations forms out for BOT elections
Week 3	Tuesday 14 th May	BOT meeting
Week 4	Wednesday 22 nd May	Extra! Spelling Quiz in Cromwell
	Thursday 23 rd May	Rippa Rugby Tournament in Alexandra
	Friday 24 th May	Postponement day for Rippa Rugby
	Friday 24 th May	Nominations Close for BOT elections at 12 noon.
Week 5	Friday 31 st May	NYLD in Dunedin for Year 8

Maniototo Indoor Curling

Friday night free coaching starts this Friday 3rd May from 5.30-6.30pm.

