

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 6: 27th May 2019

Principal's Page:

Congratulations

- Congratulations to those children who represented our school in the recent Extra Spelling Quiz in Cromwell on Wednesday 22nd May. Well done to all teams.
- Also congratulations to all those children who played in school Rippa Rugby teams in the annual Rippa tournament held in Alexandra on Thursday 23rd May.

A special thank you to the Dad's who coached the teams and gave up many of their own lunchtimes to come and coach these teams.

Teachers' Strike

A reminder, school is closed on **Wednesday 29th May** due to the nationwide Primary and Secondary Teachers' strike.

Maniototo Area School have recently informed us that their teaching staff will now also be on strike this day too.

Queen's Birthday Weekend

School is closed on **Monday 3rd June** for Queen's Birthday weekend.

Catholic Schools' Day

This is on Tuesday 28th May. Last year we travelled up to St Gerard's School in Alexandra to celebrate Catholic Schools' Day with them. We invited them to come to us this year, but unfortunately they are unable to come.

We will be taking part in a whole school activity on Tuesday afternoon to celebrate this day.

Mid-year reports and portfolios

These will be sent home to parents on **Friday 21st June**.

A reminder that reports may be kept but portfolios need to be returned to school please.

We also ask parents to write a comment about their child's work in the appropriate box in the portfolio please.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/teacher interviews are going to be held on **Tuesday 25th** and **Wednesday the 26th June**.

Please note on the attached form that one of these days is different for the Senior Class due to a prior commitment Mrs Duncan has.

Please fill in the attached form indicating your preferred interview time and return by Friday 7th June. Thank you.

Confirmed ERO report

Attached is a summary page from our recently confirmed Education Review Office report.

You can read the complete report on ERO's website.

Special Character Clipboard:

* On the 2nd June it is the Feast of the Ascension of Jesus.

Forty days after Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday he ascended into heaven.

Children will be learning more about this story in Faith Focus time.

Mufti Day for South Sudan

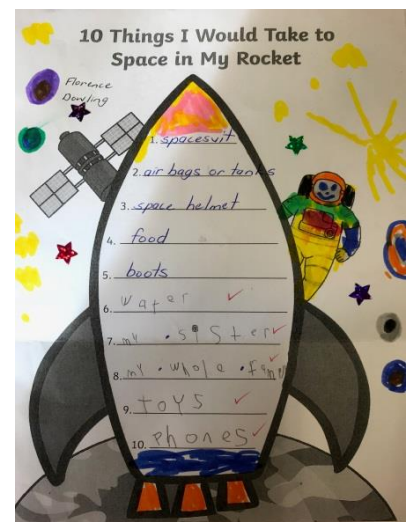
As part of our Faith focus, we have been learning about the country of South Sudan and how people live their daily lives in this war-torn country.

As part of this we would like to hold a mufti day on **Friday 7th June** and ask that children bring along a gold coin donation to help Caritas (Catholic Aid Agency) with their ongoing work in South Sudan.

Junior Class News:

One of our quick writing activities recently, was to write a list showing 10 things you would take to space in a rocket. The first five ideas we decided upon together and children had to think of five other ideas by themselves. Here are three from:

Xavier Love, McKinley Francis and Florence Dowling.



Middle Class News:

In the middle class this term we have been focusing on making interesting sentences in our writing. We have been 'bumping' up boring sentences and making them exciting. Below are some boring sentences followed by our bumped up versions.

The wheel turned.

Suddenly there was a deep dark pot hole in the road and dad had forced the wheel of the shiney expensive Mercedes away.

By Fred

The water splashed.

The big waves splashed into my beautiful face.

By Katelyn.

Dad sprayed the fly.

Dad yanked up the rusty old spray can to squirt the fly to its death!

By Phoebe

The snake slid down the tree.

The slithery snake slid down the brown tall tree.

By Alyssa

Ted barked at the gate.

Naughty Ted howled at the rickety old gate as the grumpy mail woman strode along on her bright red bicycle.

By Tessa

Senior Class News:

If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you.



Week 4, Term 2.

School Farm

On Friday the senior students were joined by parents and spent the afternoon in the school farm paddocks helping Scott Watson and James Hazlett with the farm fencing. The big job of driving in the posts has been completed. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us to do this aspect of the job.

Ian Hore and Jeff Pont organised and put in the water line last Friday and we now have two troughs in place and a tap on a post. This was followed by the hen house arriving on Friday afternoon. Progress is happening and it is exciting!

Sheep Manure

We have kindly been offered 80 large (PGG 25kg seed bags) bags of sheep manure. We will sell these for \$5 a bag and will have them at school for pick up on Friday 7th June. Please fill in the order form at the bottom of this section of the newsletter and send it back into school. I would like to give a big thank you to Ryan Shead for bagging these up for us. A big job that was very well done.

50 Mile and 10 Mile Running Club

Well I am starting to feel more comfortable out doing my laps so that must mean I am getting fitter! The seniors have started running the school block and we are going to include one time slot per week where children can run the 'big block' which we have measured to be equivalent to 6 laps. I am impressed with the children's determination to meet each week's goal. Well done.

I hope you are feeling similarly positive about your home training - remember it can be run, walked or jogged.

Extra! Spelling Quiz

This took place in Cromwell on Wednesday night and was a fun experience for the 15 children who attended. No placings for us this year but we enjoyed the challenging questions, good company and lollies! Thank you to parents for transporting and supporting these wee superstars.



Fred Dowling, Toby Duncan, Jock Duncan, Alivia Steele, Sage Paterson, Chloe McAuley, Bianca Jorgensen, Annie Dowling, Maia Macdonald, Jake Smith, Rosa Herlihy, Tessa Steele, Paige Smith, Phoebe Hore
Absent: Grace Farquhar

Rippa Rugby Competition

This was held on another foggy Alexandra day - the word rippa seems to attract cold weather! Firstly I want to extend a very big thank you to the wonderful coaches for giving up so much of your time to come in and coach the children at lunchtimes - they loved their sessions with you and we appreciate how far you travel, and the time that you give us out of your busy lives to do this. It was also a bonus that rippa practice was worth 3 laps for our running clubs.

Thank you also to Fiona Weir for helping to gather together all of the information and helping keeping us on track with the paperwork. No small job.

We were lucky to have lots of parent support in Alexandra which was great. The kids love having you there to cheer them on and we appreciate that people are able to transport other people's children. It really does take a village to make this day available to so many of our children - we had 35 children participating.

Each team really worked hard on the field and although we didn't come home with medals, we all had a great day out and it was great to see all players getting involved and having fun. Sport is good for us :)



St John's Red coached by Phil Dowling and Mark Paterson



St John's Green coached by Wayne Francis (Alivia absent)



St John's yr 5 & 6 team coached by Ryan Dowling - posing with the Ranfurly Shield!



St John's yr 3 & 4 team coached by Logan Dowling and Gerard Weir

Beau-James Wells

On Tuesday we visited the Area School to hear Beau - James Wells speak. He is an Olympic Ambassador and shared his experiences in relation to the two Olympics that he has participated in and spoke about how we all need to believe in ourselves. He was an excellent speaker and we found him very engaging. His speciality is freestyle skiing which is a very adrenaline fuelled sport with amazing moves involved. Ask your child to show you a you-tube clip of him in action - he is amazing!



St John's School senior students with MAS students and Beau - James.

Maori language learning - mihimihi

A mihi is a formal welcome speech that shares important information about yourself to the audience. We are creating slide shows of these and the children will be inserting pictures. Can you please talk with your child and work out a way to share photos with them this week (you could email them on their school email address) of the following... Mum, Dad, Family, themselves. There are other aspects but these will be found on the internet so should not prove problematic. We will be working on this task this week. Thank you.

Winter illness and bugs

These are visiting the class, so to ensure we all stay well please keep your child at home if they are unwell so we do not spread bugs. Please be forewarned that the tummy bug that is doing the rounds likes to revisit! We also have a flu bug in the mix.

I hope you all enjoyed your Mother's day writing.

Take care,
Geraldine Duncan

Board of Trustees

- Nominations for the Board of Trustees closed at noon on Friday 24th May.
- At our May meeting our Emergency Planning and Procedures were reviewed.
- A curriculum report on Maths/Other Strands – Measurement, Geometry, Statistics, Algebra was presented to the Board.

Notices and Dates:

Week 5	Tuesday 28 th May	Catholic Schools Day
	Wednesday 29 th May	Teachers Strike – School Closed
Week 6	Monday 3 rd June	Queens Birthday – School Closed
Week 8	Friday 21 st June	Mid year reports & portfolios sent home
Week 9	Tuesday 25 th & Wednesday 26 th June	Parent/Teacher interviews

The Central Otago Regional Orchestra is presenting two concerts at the beginning of June which are designed to introduce children to the orchestra and its instruments.

The programme includes:

- A collection of themes from the very popular *Harry Potter* movies
- *Perky the Pukeko* - written by Cathy Irons, narrated by Mayor Tim Cadogan
- *Ferdinand the Bull* - violin solo played by Cathy Irons, narrated by Mayor Tim Cadogan
- Wieniawski violin concerto

Of particular interest to children is the *Perky the Pukeko* piece which shows off the various instruments of the orchestra in much the same way as the classic "Peter and the Wolf", but with a New Zealand context. We are really looking forward to Tim Cadogan doing the narration!

This is a great opportunity for you to cover part of the Arts Curriculum in the Communicating and Interpreting Music strand. Children will see and hear the instruments up close and be able to observe all the instruments playing together.

In addition, the children are invited to dress up as a Harry Potter character if they would like to.

This concert is **free** for school children, **\$20 for adults**. Tickets are available for purchase in Alexandra at the Unichem Pharmacy and Bookshop, or Gifted Design shop in Wanaka. Door sales will be available. Any school that wishes to organise a group booking can email me at jacqui.hopkins@gmail.com - any size group is welcome.

Details:

Wanaka concert: **Saturday 8 June, 7.00pm**, Presbyterian Church, Tenby St, Wanaka

Alexandra concert: **Sunday 9 June, 2.30pm**, Dunstan High School Hall, Enterprise St, Alexandra

The orchestra would love to have lots of children at the concerts, and we would really appreciate it if you could let your staff and families know about this opportunity.

If you would like more information, please feel free to email me jacqui.hopkins@gmail.com.

Kind regards
Jacqui Hopkins
Central Otago Regional Orchestra

4 ERO's Overall Judgement

On the basis of the findings of this review, ERO's overall evaluation judgement of St John's School's performance in achieving valued outcomes for its students is:

Well placed

ERO's Framework: Overall School Performance is available on ERO's website.

5 Going forward

Key strengths of the school

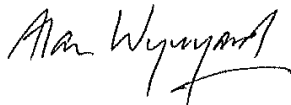
For sustained improvement and future learner success, the school can draw on existing strengths in:

- the enactment of Catholic values and the focus on the development of the whole child within its curriculum
- maintaining a positive learning environment that supports student engagement
- collaborative and supportive relationships at all levels
- provision of good quality teaching practices and programmes, and extra support for students at risk with their learning so that all students have the best opportunities to learn
- governance by the board that strongly supports teachers' ongoing professional development so that they are better able to meet students' learning needs.

Next steps

For sustained improvement and future learner success, priorities for further development are in:

- more systematically carrying out internal evaluation to know in greater depth what is or isn't working well
- analysing learning information in greater depth to focus on measuring sufficiency of progress
- ensuring student progress is reported to the board throughout the year to better monitor success in accelerating the progress of those students who have yet to reach achievement expectations.



Alan Wynyard
Director Review and Improvement Services Southern
Southern Region
6 May 2019

Junior / Middle Room Parent – Teacher Interviews

* I would prefer to have my parent interview on:

Tuesday 25th June afternoon (3.15 – 5.15p.m.)
 evening (6 – 8p.m.)
Wednesday 26th June afternoon (3.15 – 5.15p.m.)

* I do not mind which day or time my parent interview is scheduled for (box)

Name: _____

Please return this form to school by Friday 7th June. Thank you.

Senior Room Parent – Teacher Interviews

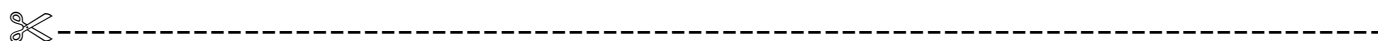
* I would prefer to have my parent interview on:

Wednesday 26th June afternoon (3.15 – 5.15p.m.)
 evening (6 – 8p.m.)
Thursday 27th June afternoon (3.15 – 5.15p.m.)

* I do not mind which day or time my parent interview is scheduled for (box)

Name: _____

Please return this form to school by Friday 7th June. Thank you.



School Farm manure fundraiser

Name:

Number of bags ordered:

Total cost:

Paid cash / internet / cheque (please circle)

Please pay with our order - we can send home the bank account number to you for internet banking if this is more convenient.

Pick up will be from a trailer on the sports field on Friday 7th June.

