



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Happy Holidays

As today is the last day for Term 3 we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. School starts for Term 4 on **Monday 14th October**.

Bus Vests

These should all be returned to school now. If your child hasn't handed their bus vest in could they please do so. Thank you.

Athletic Sports Practise reminder

Thank you to those parents who have offered to help with athletic sports practises on two Friday afternoons next term. If anyone else can help please let me know. These are happening on Friday 18th October and Friday 25 October from 1.20 - 2.30p.m (approximately).

The Maniototo Sports Day is going to be held on Friday 1st November at the Stadium. Details will be sent out at the start of next term.

Labour Weekend

School is closed on **Monday 28th October** for Labour Weekend.

End of Year School Concert

This is going to be held on **Monday 9th December** in the Ranfurly Town Hall.

Special Character Clipboard:

At Faith Focus on Monday we talked about "Social Justice" and the theme for Social Justice Week this year was "Seeking fairness in an unfair world".

Mrs Duncan led an activity which highlighted the injustices in different countries in the world and showed the children that here at St John's School, we are very lucky to have food on our tables every day. As a result of this activity the Junior Class ended up with a lot of apples, in fact some children were able to eat two pieces. The Senior Class had enough for about half a piece each and the Middle Class had barely enough for each person. This highlighted to the children "unfairness" in the world.

Pope Francis encourages us to live the Catholic social teachings of:

- Solidarity - Walking together
- Stewardship - Being responsible guardians
- Participation - Everyone has a part of play
- Subsidiarity - Empowering communities
- Human Dignity - Made in God's image
- Common Good - The good of each and all

Junior Class News:

The Junior Class are making great progress with their STEPS work. This programme really helps the children with sounding out letter sounds in words and this flows on into their reading and writing. 5 year olds do not start STEPS until they are confident with the naming of alphabet letters and can also randomly identify the sound each alphabet letter makes.

Here are some photos of some Juniors, hard at work on the computer part of the STEPS programme.



Middle Class News:

Bus vests

Thank you for those children who have returned their bus vests.

Missing books

Please look round at home for any St John's reading books. We are still missing 'All about Dogs'.

Topic

The children have really enjoyed our topic this term. I hope you have enjoyed the diorama's that have come home. In topic this term we have been looking at 'our place'. The children have enjoyed learning about Early Maori and how things have changed since a raft of early settlers came to this land (Maniototo). This learning has been supported by an educational visit from Otago Museum in which the children travelled back to a time when people lived off the land and mātauranga Māori was paramount in order to survive the landscape of southern Aotearoa. They have learnt about the amazing technologies of early Māori people, and handled real artefacts as children immersed themselves in early Maori life.



Curling

The middle class children enjoyed curling this term. Here are a few photo's.



Holidays

Wishing you a happy term break. We have a busy term next term with production.

Senior Class News:

Go the All Blacks!

The end of term 3 has snuck up very quickly and I know your children are looking forward to a break from school routine and to spending some time at home.

We have had a wonderful last few weeks with some particular highlights.

Maniototo Dairy farm visit

This took place last Friday on a picture perfect Maniototo day. The children were really buzzing after this and we learnt so much. Thank you very much to Luke and Anna Jefferies for hosting us, supported by Jeremy Anderson and Gregor the Scotsman. We saw the shed in action, fed calves and had a really interesting talk from Paul the milk tank driver from Fonterra. From this the children have been writing information reports which we can share with you next term. We all value the opportunity to get out and experience different aspects of Maniototo life and I was certainly quite inspired. Thank you to the parents that joined us for the day.



Maniototo Primary Schools Curling Competition

This was held on Tuesday and there was great competition between Poolburn, St Johns and Maniototo Area School teams. We reached the finals in both the year 5/6 and 7/8 grade which was impressive but alas, did not manage to bring the trophies home this year. I was blown away by the amount of people that popped in to watch the games - thank you for giving such positive support for the children.



Year 5 team



Year 6 team with our super sub, Ben Gibson, who stepped in for an unwell team member. Thanks Ben. They played MAS in the year 5/6 final.



Year 8 girls looking very stylish! They played MAS in the year 7/8 final.



Year 7 girls



Year 8 boys



Year 7 and 8 boys

School Farm

The farm naming competition results are in and we are very proud to announce the school farm name as **'Holy Paddocks'** designed by Paxton Francis. What a great name choice. Congratulations Paxton and we look forward to having an official opening where we can celebrate this.

Cell phone use at school

Recently we became aware of cell phone use happening at school that we didn't know about. Our guidelines are that cellphones are not to be used at school and if for any reason a child needs to contact their parents (during the school day), they are to use the school landline after first speaking with their class teacher.

If your child brings a cellphone to school so they can contact you after a sports practice, it is to be placed on the teachers desk for safe-keeping or left in their school bag. We are unable to take any responsibility for the safety of cell phones at school.

Altar Serving and Bell Ringing

With daylight saving, we have a new time for Sunday Mass - it is now 5pm, so children should arrive by 4.50pm to get prepared.

Friday sausage sizzle

This has gone very well and the seniors have done a superb job. Thank you for your orders and there have been requests for this to continue next term. We will wait and see, maybe we can come up with another tasty idea for lunches - if you have one, share it with us!

100 Mile Club

Boom - we have completed another great term of running, very diligently working to complete an average of 5.4km every week. This week we have started completing our laps in a slightly different style in preparation for the 800m at the Athletic Sports - so we jog part of it and then run hard for the remainder. Not a comfortable lap that's for sure!

Enjoy the holidays everyone.

Kind regards

Board of Trustees

At our last meeting:

- We discussed our strategic plan for 2019 and how we were going with the goals for this.
- Susan presented a curriculum report to the Board on Maths - Number.
- Geraldine reported back from the ski trip and follow-up feedback from children and families regarding this.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 15 September at 7p.m.**

Notices and Dates:

Week 10	Friday 27 th September	Last day of Term 3
Week 1	Monday 14 th October	First day of Term 4

Sheep Manure

Get your garden into shape for the summer with some of our lovely manure. It is only \$5 per bag and there is an honesty box (made by Ryan Crossan) to put the money in.

The money box will be in the church carpark by the fence and the manure will be just over the fence. You might like to drive in the back gate so that you don't have to lift the bags over the fence when loading up.

For those people that have pre-ordered, please come in and get your bags before they all sell out. Happy gardening everyone.

