

St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

End of Year Concert and Prize Giving

As you will be aware we are really concentrating on practising for our end of year concert "Dragon Days" at the moment.

Next week we will be walking to the Ranfurly Town Hall each morning to start practises at 9.30a.m. We ask that children start organising their costumes and props and have them at school by next Wednesday 4th December. Please make sure the items are named and put into one bag. Thank you.

We are changing the time of the concert to **7p.m. on Monday 9th December at the Ranfurly Town Hall.** Doors will open at 6.30p.m. Children need to be at the hall by 6.45p.m. to get ready.

As it will be a late night for children, especially Juniors, we don't mind if they are late for school, or have a day off, on the Tuesday after the concert.

End of Year Activities

A reminder of our end of year activities:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Friday December 6 | Reports and portfolios will be sent home with children. Reports may be kept but portfolios need to be returned to school. Please fill in the comment box provided on the "Child's Self-evaluation" page in your child's portfolio. It is nice for children to look back on the comments parents wrote when they get all their portfolios from over the years at the end of Year 8! |
| Saturday December 7 | PTA "Night at the Races" fundraiser. |
| Monday December 9 | School concert and prize giving 7p.m. in the Ranfurly Town Hall |
| Wednesday December 11 | End of Year School Mass 9a.m. in the Church.
Morning tea for visitors, in the hall, following Mass.
Opening of "Holy Paddocks" school farm 10.15a.m. (approx)
Sausage sizzle lunch. (Free sausage for school children, provided by the PTA.)
Yr.8 Graduation ceremony in the school hall 1.30pm
Last day for 2019. |

Middle Class Teacher

As many of you know, Anna Jeffries will not be returning next year in the job-share Middle Class teaching position.

The Board of Trustees has recently appointed Rachel Heaney to the permanent, full-time position in this classroom.

Helen Flintoff will move to teaching 1 day a week release in the Junior Class.

We thank Anna and Helen for their dedication and hard work over the last 3 terms in the Middle Class.

Special Character Clipboard:

Sunday the 1st December is the first day of Advent. Advent is the time observed in many Christian churches when we are waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

At school we have prepared an Advent wreath and a nativity scene in the Office foyer area. The advent wreath has 5 candles. Each Sunday before Christmas a candle is traditionally lit on the wreath. The candles symbolise hope, faith, joy, prayer and peace

Junior Class News:

The Juniors were each given a notice on Thursday regarding clothing for the end of year concert. If you did not receive one please look in children's book bags or contact Susan.

Even though we will be having concert practise each day we will continue to do reading at some time each day. Children who do spelling and tables will not have any now, until next year.

Middle Class News:

Wow we've nearly done it, one and a half weeks of school left! What an awesome time we have had together in the middle class.

We have been remembering all the fun things we have done over the year. Below are some poems of our year.

Remember the year 2019!

Remember when the year 3s joined our class, so small yet noisy.

Remember when we made a farm at school with cows, sheep and chickens.

Remember when we practised so hard for the Christmas concert Dragon Days.

That was year 5!

By Tessa

Remember when I was so scared about coming into the middle class - I was so scared!

That was year 3.

Remember when we went to the museum for a sleepover - the girls screamed loudly at the lions!

That was year 4.

Remember when Mrs Jeffries come to teach the middle class - that was awesome!

That was year 5.

By Fred

Remember when I made the stock truck artwork.

Remember when Mrs Jeffries brought a lolly jar!

Remember when Bailey brought his Case tractor to school.

That was year 4!

By Logan

We are well into practising for our end of year concert. Your children would have brought home a notice earlier in the week with their part and a costume suggestion. Could you please ensure your child has their costume at school by **Tuesday 3 December**. Thank you for your help with this.

Could you also please encourage your child to have a hunt around home for any school books that might be hiding, especially school journals and library books.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and relaxing summer break. Below are some of our recipes for an awesome summer!

A Christmas Recipe

A pinch of cute candy
A litre of frolicking friends
A drop of pretty presents
A cup of laughing love
A pint of making other people happy
A tablespoon of laughter
By Rosa

A tablespoon of fantastic fun
A pinch of perfect peace
A litre of happy hope
A drop of Holy Spirit
A cup of family and friends
A pint of our wonderful world
By Alyssa

A pinch of backyard cricket
A litre of lemonade
A drop of summer fun
A cup of perfect presents
A pint of christmas patties
By George

God Bless,
Anna Jeffries

Senior Class News:

'HOLY PADDOCKS'

Week 7, Term 4.

Camp Naseby

We had a blast at our class camp last week. All the children were involved, well behaved and rose to the physical challenge of the various activities and enjoyed spending time together out of the classroom.



A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us on a specific activity, stayed with us, transported gear, cleaned houses and provided food and baking. It was great to be able to have a family BBQ with those who could make it and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Having these opportunities to be out of the classroom is very valuable and I appreciate the support that you give to these opportunities.

Please pay the \$30 for the camp into 03 0951 0064 739 00 if you haven't already done so.

Athletics

Congratulations to our children who represented Maniototo last week at the Otago Championships. Our children all did really well, had a great day out and enjoyed the experience. A special congratulations goes to Alivia Steele who placed 3rd in the U12 discus. What a great achievement.

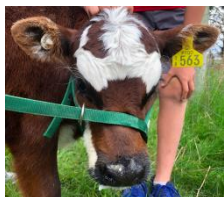


School Farm

The opening of Holy Paddocks is on Wednesday 11th December at 10.15am. This will be held after the school mass which is 9am. Please come to the school hall for a cuppa at 10am (after the mass) prior to the opening. Afterwards there will be a sausage sizzle for the children hosted by the PTA.

Calf names

Tash and the team at VetEnt had the pleasure of choosing 5 calf names out of the dozens that were entered. The winners are (come and see me on Monday for your prize children) ...

Tag 563 Rosie Boy McKinley Francis	Tag 587 Clarabell Girl Josie Herlihy	Tag 665 Licorice Girl Paxton Francis	Tag 657 Moosli Boy Tessa Steele	Tag 632 Dozer Boy David Hore
				

The calves have also been neutered and debudded by George from the Blue Cross Vets. George gave out spot prizes of beanies to children who were able to ask some quiz question after he had worked with us.



We are working on our auctioneering skills and will have the calves at the school concert ready to be sold after the show. The calves will go back to school that night as we will have them there for the school farm opening and they will be delivered after that.



Logo's

The senior class children have been creating possible logos for our egg boxes. These are really good and are currently being judged by Michelle and Martin Grundy at the Maniototo 4 Square.

Soil Testing

Nicole Dowling from Ravensdown has spent two sessions with us doing soil tests and teaching us about the results and the meaning of these, we have discovered that we need to apply superphosphate or sulphur super to our paddocks. We love having an ex-pupil come in and work this with us. The children have asked really good questions and the learning with our school farm is looking pretty limitless.



Grass Management

Earlier this week Bailey Dowling came in and mowed one of our paddocks which was highly exciting for all of our tractor followers. He then came back one evening and bailed our hay. Bailey is another ex-pupil who has kindly shared his knowledge and time with us.



School Concert

Our concert is on Monday 10th December, at 7pm. The doors will open at 6.30pm.

Your child needs to learn their lines, please practice these with them so they know them well. Costumes also need to be gathered - your child has a separate note that they bought home mid week about what their character could be wearing. Please have costumes at school by next Wednesday in a bag that can be used between then and the school concert (and not fall apart) and name items if needed.

Year 8 Secret Celebration

Last night the year 8 children had an end of year celebration with the MAS year 8's. The theme was fiesta and the children had no idea what was happening for the afternoon as it was secretly planned by the parents. This was a lot of fun and we are lucky to enjoy such a positive relationship with MAS, their teachers and students.

Portfolios

These will come home next Friday. If your child is in year 6 or 7, please fill in the evaluation in the portfolio. Keep your child's report that is in the portfolio and then send the portfolio back to school before the end of the year. If your child is in year 8, please keep their portfolio at home. I will send home their other portfolios before the year ends.

Year 8 Graduation

Every year I host a small graduation ceremony for the year 8 children. This will take place on Wednesday 11th December at 1.30pm in the hall. Families are welcome to come to this.

Secret Santa

The children have asked if we can please do this. Secret Santa is where each persons name is put into a hat and each child pulls a name out. They then work on doing kind things for the person in secret. This could be nice notes (written by someone else so the handwriting can't be recognised or typing them up), secretly done helpful activities, jokes or mind teaser activities, or small inexpensive gifts. This activity will run for the last three days of school: Monday 9-11th December. The children will find out who their Secret Santa is on the Friday previous so they have time to organise themselves.

Lastly - don't you just love our creations that the children made with Mrs.Hazlett. We love the cool activities that we do with her.



Take care,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

-We are currently looking at putting a type of roof over the sandpit cover frame.

-We have been advised by NZ Police of changes we need to make to the daily security of our buildings to be safe in the event of a lockdown situation. This will mean new locks on some doors and some quite significant changes to how parents will be able to access the school building during the school day if our office area is unmanned. We will advise you of these when they are actioned.

As this is our last newsletter for 2019 we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and we'll see you in 2020.

Notices and Dates:

Week 8	Friday 6 th December	Reports/Portfolios given out
	Saturday 7 th December	P.T.A – “Night at the Races”
Week 9	Monday 9 th December	End of Year Concert & Prizegiving 7.00pm in Ranfurly Town Hall NB: change of time
	Wednesday 11 th December	End of Year School Mass in the Church at 9am
		Opening of “Holy Paddocks” school farm at 10.15am
		Year 8 Graduation ceremony in hall at 1.30pm
		Last day of school for 2019

