

# St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 3: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Principal's Page:

### Swim Week

A big thank you to all those parents who helped drive the van for swim week. Also thank you for helping younger children get organised, dressed etc. It is a big help and we couldn't do it without parent support.



### Swimming Sports

Well done to all children who took part in the swimming sports on Monday. It was great to see the improvements in swim skills.

Congratulations to McAuley house who won the house competition for the swimming sports.

### **Trip to Arrowtown Tuesday 17th March**

A reminder that we are off to Arrowtown on Tuesday 17th March. All children need to be at school at 8a.m. A transport list is attached to this newsletter as there have been a couple of changes to this.

Children need to wear their school uniforms and bring enough food and drink to last the day please. They need a jacket in case of cooler weather.

If your child gets carsick, could you please send them along on that day with a container and a flannel, just in case!

If you have not paid \$5 for your child, could you please do so asap. Thank you.

**Please note: Junior children not travelling with their parents need to bring a car/booster seat to school this day please.**

### **Coronavirus**

On Thursday you should have received some information about this from us. It was given to the oldest child in each family. If you did not receive this, please let me know and I will organise for you to get a copy of this.

It is important that you read this information.

### **Teacher Only Day and Otago Anniversary Day**

A reminder school is closed on **Friday 20th March - Teacher Only Day and Monday 23rd March - Otago Anniversary Day.**

### **School 75th Jubilee Celebrations**

Our school is gearing up for its 75th celebrations from Friday 20 March - Sunday 22 March.

Each class has done some sort of presentation to be displayed in the school hall for this occasion.

We are asking for the names of children who would be able to come to school on Saturday morning 21st March at 11a.m. (in school uniform) to welcome ex students and staff to our school and to show them around. It would be great to have as many children as possible at this. This is followed by formal photos being taken in the hall. Those children who are present will be in a photo for future jubilee celebrations.

Then again on Sunday 22nd March at 11a.m. at the Church (in school uniform) for the final celebration of Mass. Children will sing a couple of songs and join in prayers etc.

If your child is able to help at these 2 events could you please fill in the attached form and return it to school by Wednesday 18th March. Thank you.

### **Mannequin**

We were wondering if anyone has a mannequin or half mannequin we could borrow for the school jubilee? We would like to dress some in old school uniforms. If you do, and are happy to lend this to us for the weekend, please text me or call in. Thank you.

## **Special Character Clipboard:**

\*In Faith Focus time each Monday morning we are currently looking at Lenten resources from Caritas. Mrs Duncan has organised three different challenges for us to complete as part of the Caritas challenge - a "Move it and Sweat it" challenge, a "Stop it" challenge and a "Live it" challenge.

We are looking forward to these challenges. You should have received a letter about what each of these challenges involves, so if you didn't, please contact us.

We will end our Caritas work with a multi day on **Friday 3rd April**, when children can come along to school, dressed as a person from another country (including New Zealand) and we will collect a gold coin donation from the children which will be given to Caritas, the Catholic Aid Agency, to help in its work in countries that have many needs.

\*We continue our journey through the 40 days of Lent. In each class we have a lenten journey map and we try to think of something to do each day we are at school that shows we are thinking about Jesus and how we act in our everyday lives, eg, trying hard at our swimming sports and not giving up, smiling at 3 people today (people who are not in our class!).

## **Junior Class News:**

As we have now finished swimming, here are some reflections from the children about Swim Week:

At swimming I like to dive under the water. We play turtles at the start of swimming. We have to run so fast. I like when we went under the goalposts to come back to school.

Arthur Elworthy

At swimming I have to jump into the deep end and do a starfish. It is fun.

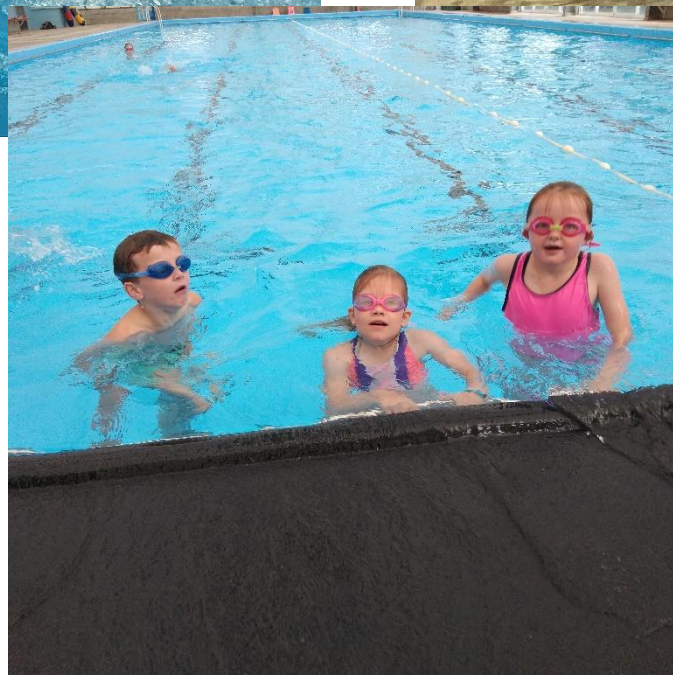
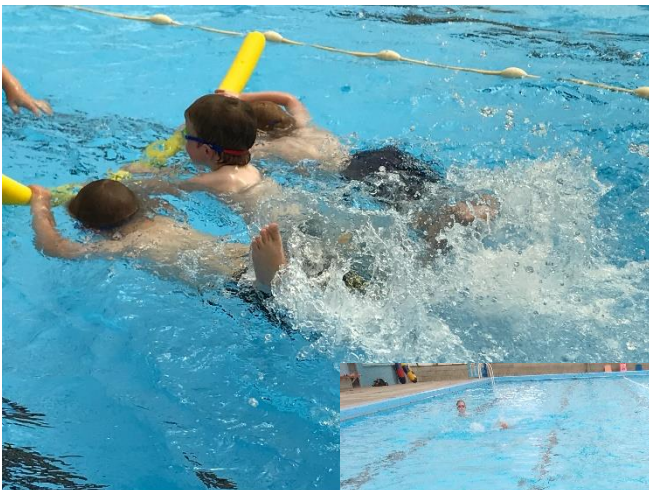
Jessica Greer

At swimming I like swimming on the noodle with Charlie.

Theo Dowling

At swimming I like jumping in the deep end.

James Marshall



## **Middle Class News:**

Kia Ora,

There has been a lot happening over the past few weeks in the middle room. A definite highlight was the swim week and then the swimming sports. Having seen the students swim just 4 weeks ago to watching them compete in the sports at the beginning of the week shows how phenomenal the progress has been! I am so proud of all the students, especially those in the middle room who swam their hearts out! A special mention to all the parents who came to support and also assisted with the swim week! It makes such a difference having your backing!

We have been running laps during our brain break/fitness sessions and the students are recording their progress on a line graph. This fits in with our statistics focus in maths for this term and having the students log their progress is a great way for them to relate to the data!

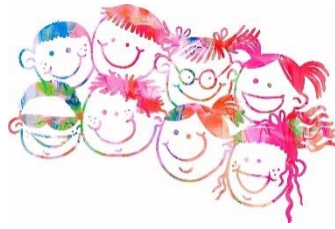
The school wide focus on Caritas and the amazing work they do as a charity has created some great discussion within the classroom. The students are getting an understanding of how diverse living conditions can be in different countries and thinking of ways they can help.

We are over half way through term one and have already achieved so much!

We are looking forward to a busy couple of weeks ahead with our trip to Arrowtown and the School jubilee.  
Rachel Heaney



## Senior Class News:



**‘Pull up weeds, plant good seeds’  
Establish good personal habits over the time of Lent.**



Thank you to the mothers that were able to come along and support us at the Patearoa Swimming hole on Wednesday afternoon, where we spent time in the water practicing our deep water survival skills. The water was chilly but the children were awesome with the majority getting in confidently and completing their tasks, and then warming up with a hot milo and biscuit afterwards. Having strong swimming skills and being able to cope in deep water are essential skills for our country children to have.

We have had a busy time recently and have completed a number of tasks

- a) Helping the Middle Room with their prayer planning and helping them to become confident with Mathletics. The seniors enjoy taking on responsibility and helping others in our school.
- b) Our recent walk with the Silver Boots walking trail on the Cavalcade was also a highlight. The children have received a very nice card from one of the walkers and came away with a lot of admiration for the walking group. We thoroughly enjoyed this and again, a very sincere thank you to the parents and Grandad Mike Dowling for supporting us on this. We are currently creating a google slide show on an aspect of our choice related to the cavalcade walk.



- c) Last week Grandad Gerald Dowling came in and spent time with us and answered our many questions about school life back in his day, (Gerald was a first day pupil when the school opened in 1945) and gave us a better understanding of how much our school has developed and changed. The children have been busy creating display work for the jubilee and have spent time preparing a timeline that you will hopefully find time to look at in the hall over the jubilee weekend.
- d) At the time of the last newsletter, we were down watching the girls play in their NZ Shield match at the Stadium. They played really well and came away with a win, and then headed to Naseby for their afternoon game. This was a close match which we unfortunately did not win. Thank you to the coaches for helping out both the boys and girls teams, they love these opportunities and I really appreciate your energy and drive behind the children.



## **Young Vinnie's**

We held our elections last week and I got true pleasure from listening to the speeches and campaign material that the children shared. After very close voting results, our Executive is as follows...

President - Annie Dowling  
Vice - Jake Smith and Alivia Steele  
Secretary - Ryan Crossan  
Treasurer- Paxton Francis  
Prayer Leader - Fred Dowling

Congratulations children and as a class, we are looking forward to working on our 2020 projects. One of these will be cone collecting and selling, in preparation for the winter months coming up. If you are able to help us out by donating bags (seed or feed bags) please do so, and if you would like to order some cones from us, please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and send it back to school before March 30th.

## **Camp Berwick**

This is getting closer and the children and I are feeling excited about this 4 day adventure. Thank you to the parent volunteers who have completed all of the required paperwork, this now allows me to move on with my other camp tasks.

There will be a **parent camp meeting on Monday 30th March at 7pm** in the senior classroom. All parents that are staying at camp will need to attend this please (if both parents are coming, one of you attending the meeting would be fine) and I encourage other parents to come along too. I'll be outlining the finer details of camp, checking I have my information correct. You will also receive on this night a note regarding food that we would like your child to bring to camp for our shared dinner on the first night. Please do try and come along.

## **Camp reminders:**

Camp money is due by Thursday 26th March. The children are paying \$55 each and the adults \$80 each if there for the whole camp, otherwise \$40 for half the camp.

The internet account number is 03 0951 0064739 00, using your child's name as a reference. This account number is different to other school account numbers so please ensure that you use the correct one.

I would like to acknowledge the amazing support that the PTA gives us towards our class camp, so that we can minimise class fundraising and keep our costs to a reasonable standard. We are very appreciative of the endless effort that you make to support the smooth running of school activities.

## **Otago Swim Sports**

These are being held on Saturday 4th April. Fiona Weir will send home information to those children who have qualified for this so that they can decide if they would like to attend. This information will come home next week.

I was proud of the swimming efforts of all of the children and I enjoyed the positive yet competitive feel to the afternoon, as the houses challenged each other to win the school trophy.

## **Enviroschools**

St John's School has recently signed up to a nationwide programme that helps us to commit to a long term sustainability journey. We will be working towards action based education activities that help our children connect to the environment in meaningful ways.

The children do not know anything about this initiative yet but this will be our school wide focus in term 2. We hope the children will grow in knowledge of the 4 specific pillars of

- a. Learning more about the living elements of our landscape
- b. Learning where our food comes from
- c. Taking positive action for the environment and people
- d. Learning more about our relationship to the land and ecosystems in our area and how we can affect these positively.

This will be a very positive experience for all of our children.

Kind regards,  
Geraldine Duncan.

### **Board of Trustees**

\*At our March meeting, Susan presented a curriculum report to the Board on "Oral language".

\*Discussion continued on the best way of repairing the back of the hall and putting a sunshade cover over the sandpit.

### **Notices and Dates:**

<b>Week 8</b>	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Arrowtown Museum Visit
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	St John’s School 75 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee
<b>Week 9</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Otago Anniversary Day – School Closed
<b>Week 10</b>	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Otago Swimming Sports in Dunedin
<b>Week 11</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Senior Class Camp at Berwick

### **Help Required for P.T.A – St John’s School Jubilee Celebrations**

We still require help for Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. We are only needed to clear tables, dishes etc as there are caterers doing the meal. It will only be for a couple of hours.

Please contact Ang Francis if you are able to help with this.

0274504945



## Transport for Arrowtown Museum Visit – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

<u>Kim Gibson</u>	<u>Trina Steele</u>	<u>Angela Francis</u>	<u>Judy Hore</u>
Ben	Alivia	Paxton	Phoebe
Sam	Tessa	McKinley	Hayley
Ethan	Chloe		Georgia
Harry J	Jae		Alyssa

<u>Geraldine Dowling</u>	<u>Geraldine Duncan</u>	<u>Scott &amp; Kym Smith</u>
Annie	Toby	Jake
Fred	Ryan	Paige
George	Billy	Luke
Theo	Elliot	

<u>Cate Herlihy</u>	<u>Fiona Dowling</u>	<u>Sam Marshall</u>
Rosa	<b>Sharon Scott</b>	James
Josie	Mac	Arthur
Marley	Finn	
Eddie	Charlie	
	Ben	

<u>Luke Dowling</u>	<u>Bridget Becker</u>	<u>Heather Dowling</u>
Florence	Axel	Tom
Isla	Kaylah	Harry D
McKenna	Logan	Cyrus
	Jessica	Xavier

<u>Susan Mulholland</u>	<u>Becky Bruhns</u>
<b>Jayne Hazlett</b>	<b>Rachel Heaney</b>
Adam	Katelyn
Zach	Grace
Caleb	

Total children: 51

Total adults: 19

## Guidelines for parents/caregivers on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

There is a very high profile focus on the Coronavirus through all forms of media. The important thing to keep in mind is to 'prepare not panic'.

Maniototo Area School have very kindly allowed us to use their parent guidelines, which have been prepared by them, in consultation with Dr. Verne Smith:

- **SYMPTOMS**: Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to a range of other illnesses such as influenza. Having these symptoms does not necessarily mean that you or your children have COVID-19. However, should any of these symptoms be present it is better to be safe than sorry – **Please keep your child at home if they are displaying cold or flu-like symptoms.** If a student attends school while showing cold & flu symptoms, they will be asked to return home as per the Ministry of Education directive.  
Symptoms include:
  - Fever (38 C)
  - Coughing
  - Difficulty breathing
  
- **PREVENTING THE RISK**: These are simple things that can be followed both at home and in school: Keep reminding your children to:
  - Wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap and dry them thoroughly. Their teachers in school are teaching them how to do this.
  - Wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.
  - Use a tissue to sneeze or cough into and then dispose of the tissue immediately after use.
  - If there are no tissues available, they should sneeze or cough into their arm, just as their teachers have been reminding them.
  
- **IF IN DOUBT call Healthline 0800 358 5453**: The best course of action in case of doubt is to call the number above. They will advise if you need to go to the Medical Centre or not. If you are advised to go to the Medical Centre, please make sure you phone the Medical Centre in advance. Please do not go directly to the Medical Centre unless advised.
  
- **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED TO STAY HOME**: Teachers will continue to support any student/s who need to stay home, in any way they can.

Every student's health and wellbeing is important to us here at school. Thank you for supporting us to keep them safe through this period.

Kind regards,

Susan Mulholland

## **75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations**

My child/children will be able to come along on:

Saturday 21st March at 11a.m.

Sunday 22nd March Mass in the Church at 11a.m.

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## **Young Vinnies Pine Cone order form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ bags of cones. They are \$5 each.**

**I have paid with cash**

**I have paid on the internet (03 0951 0083139 00)**

**Return to school by Monday 30th March.**

