



St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Welcome Back

Welcome back to everyone after lockdown. It is great to see everyone back at school and we are already back into daily routines and learning.

We welcome Caleb Cai and his family to St John's School. Caleb started school just before lockdown. We also welcome new 5 year old, Jack Jeffries, to school.

Challenge Garage supporting our school community

A big thank you to all those who have donated their fuel discount at Challenge Ranfurly to our school. We got a big surprise when we recently had \$580 donated to our school bank account from the "My Challenge" scheme.

If you are interested in joining this programme go to:

www.mychallenge.co.nz/communities

For details of how to register.

Dunedin Catholic Diocesan Communication

Fr Gerard Aynsley has invited all interested parents to join the Catholic Community database.

If you click on the link below it will take you to a form which will take a few minutes to fill in.

This will enable you to receive newsletter and updates from the Dunedin Diocese.

[Dunedin Diocesan data base information](#)

Queen's Birthday Weekend

School is closed on **Monday 1st June** for Queen's Birthday weekend.

Special Character Clipboard:

*Last term we had a mufti day planned to end our Faith focus work about Caritas, the Catholic Aid Agency who help around the world in countries that have many needs. We would now like to have this mufti day on **Friday 29th May** and children can come along to school, dressed up as a person from another country (including New Zealand) and we will collect a gold coin donation from the children which we will send to Caritas to help with their worldwide efforts.

*In Religious Education time we are currently working on "The Holy Spirit strand". The Junior Class is finishing learning about Jesus before we move onto the Holy Spirit.

*Sunday May 24th is the day in our Church when we celebrate "The Ascension of Jesus". This is when we remember the story of how Jesus went to heaven to be with God.

*We received a letter from the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand re Covid-19 saying that they are aware of the challenges parents are likely to face as a result of the impacts of Covid-19. They are looking at ways they can support the cost of attendance dues for parents who have a loss of income or other hardship. Families in this position are encouraged to contact our school or the Dunedin Catholic Education Office.

Junior Class News:

Here are the two new children who started in the Junior Class recently:



Here are some stories about things we did when we were home in our “Bubbles”:

**In my bubble I played with Baxter, my puppy.
By Jack Jeffries**

**In my bubble we went up the farm for a picnic. We saw 5 deer.
By Ben Scott**

**In my bubble I shot a spiker. Dad and I showed Mac and Finn the heart.
By Charlie Dowling**

**In my bubble I made a bubble house out of chairs, a bed and some rugs. I played in there with Evelyn.
By Caleb Cai**

**In my bubble we saw a hedgehog.
By Adam Shead**

Middle Class News:

Kia Ora and welcome back!

It is so exciting to finally be back in class and have a normal (ish) routine! The classroom has been set up to ensure social distancing and the students have been very vigilant washing their hands and sanitising while in the classroom. This week has been spent getting back into routines, marking any extra lockdown work and just spending time hearing them read, share their writing and generally catching up! The students have thrived during lock down, thanks to the patience and extremely hard work of all parents. They have come back settled and ready to learn, some showing a much higher level of independence in their work. The standard of work produced over lock down, and also in the last week has left me feeling very grateful to be apart of such a supportive school community.

This week we have sent out a map of the school and asked families to share ideas of ways we can improve our school grounds. We will gather these ideas and hopefully, as part of Enviroschools, be able to create something new in our school grounds.

Again I want to thank everyone for the incredible amount of work that has been done, it has made the transition back to school smooth and stress free!

Senior Class News:



***Today you are you! That is truer than true! There is no one alive who
is you-er than you!***
Dr Suess

Welcome back everyone. Thank you for your fine efforts in supporting your child over the first 5 weeks of the term with their online - at home learning. Everyone got behind their child and encouraged them to develop a daily routine for their school learning and to learn to manage themselves through this experience. We have been reading our stories that we wrote at home and the children are enjoying the humor and description in each other's writing.

This week we have spent time catching up with each other and settling back into the class routine. I am very happy to have all the children back and to be able to interact face to face with them, it has made my week a very happy one.

So our routine is as it was back in term 1. Homework will run from Monday to Friday, and you sign various parts of it that your child will guide you to do. Each week the children do spelling, personal reading, Mathletics and record their personal exercise if they wish too. They will be tested on their spelling words at school on Fridays.

We will of course be continuing with maths, reading, writing and RE and our topic is Enviroschools work. Thank you for working through the map drawing and idea gathering activity this week, there are excellent ideas for all of to consider in improving our school environment for the children. This term we are also completing three 20 minute training sessions a week as we work towards achieving our personal fitness goals. So your child will become familiar with terms like tabata, intervals, lunging and mountain climbers. This week we have worked through the practice sessions and next week the training kicks in for real! So if your child has sore muscles, you will know why. Our bodies will take time to adjust to our training.

There has been quite a bit of yawning by the end of the school day, and I have been encouraging the children to make sure they are all in bed in good time every night as learning is really hard if you can't focus and be alert. Adjusting back to school is quite hard work after the different routine we all had in lockdown.

Young Vinnie's

The Young Vinnies letters / cards have been well received and a number of the children have received cards or phone calls of thanks. Kindness grows more kindness!

The group is going to run Monday Milo's for the rest of the school - they have created a separate note that is attached to this newsletter. Please read the details on it.

They are still offering pine cones for sale. If you would like to order some, please fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and send it back to school with your child. We will deliver the orders we already have in the next week.

Camp Berwick

The children are requesting that we have some sort of camp or outings as a class later in the year. I am listening to them and will put my thinking cap on to see what I can offer the children. In the meantime you will all receive a refund of your camp fees that you paid in term 1.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees

*At our recent May meeting we reviewed our Health and Safety policies and procedures and discussed new procedures in place for Covid-19 requirements.

*Work is continuing on getting quotes for a new shade cover for the sandpit and also repairing the back wall of the hall.

Notices and Dates:

Dear Student and Parents

The Young Vinnies have decided that we will have hot milo for all students who want it on Monday lunchtimes, for 10 weeks.

We will be starting this on Monday the 8th of June. Can you please bring a mug with your name clearly written on the bottom of it, and it will cost five dollars for ten weeks. Can you bring in your money and mug by Thursday the 28th of May.

It would be easiest if you could please pay online, (remember to reference your child's name so we know what it is for) here is the account number. Please pay by the 28th of May.

03-0951-0083139-00

Thank you Young Vinnies



Week 5	Friday 29 th May	Caritas Mufti Day
Week 6	Monday 1 st June	Queens Birthday – School Closed

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 to the Senior Room.



