



St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 5:

Principal's Page:

Welcome

Welcome back to everyone for 2021. We hope you all enjoyed a restful, relaxing holiday. We welcome some new students and families to our school:

Hunter Sutherland Year 8
Jacob Sutherland Year 6
Joshua Barroga Year 3
Eli Barroga Year 2
Ezra Mukai Year 2
Greta Love Year 1
Olivia Scott Year 1

Staff 2021

Mrs Duncan continues to teach Years 6, 7 and 8 with Mrs Hazlett releasing her on a Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Hazlett will continue to work two and a bit days (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) with groups and individuals in the areas of literacy (this includes the Steps programme). Literacy includes reading, reading comprehension, writing, spelling and alphabet activities. Teachers have identified children and groups of children with particular needs to work with Jayne.

I continue to teach the Junior Class, Years 1 and 2. Miss Helen Flintoff will be releasing me all day on a Wednesday and Mrs Jayne Hazlett on a Thursday from 11a.m. I will also be away from school for Term 2 taking my sabbatical, which I deferred from 2020 due to Covid-19. Mrs Erin Elworthy will be teaching in my classroom during this time and my release time for the term will transfer to Mrs Duncan who will be Acting Principal during my time away.

Miss Heaney continues teaching the Middle Class until the 1st April when she will be on maternity leave for the remainder of 2021. We have appointed Miss Bailey Smith to relieve from the beginning of Term 2 until the end of 2021. We look forward to meeting and working with Bailey who comes to us from Fairlie.

Waitangi Day

School is closed on **Monday 8th February** for **Waitangi Day**.

Stationery

Children will be issued with new exercise books and a stationery account.

These accounts will include Mathletics and the Steps workbook if children in the class are involved in either of these online programmes.

Please note each Steps workbooks cost \$12 and as a student progresses they will need the next Steps workbook, so they may need 2-3 workbooks a year.

Exercise books can be covered as this does protect them from many things, but this is not a requirement. If you would like to cover your childrens' books please ask them to bring the books home one night to do this. Thank you.

Stationery money is to be paid by **Friday 19th February**, please.

Internet banking can be made to the following account number: **03 0951 0066195 00**

Please remember, when paying by internet, to put your name and "School Stationery" as a reference.

Thank you.

Swimming

We have booked a swim week with the Central Otago Swim School for **Week 3: 15 - 19 February**.

Each class has 1 or 2 weekly sessions for Weeks 1 and 2 and individual teachers will let you know these times and days.

We will be working out ability grouping during these sessions for our Swim Week.

A reminder that children need to bring their swimming gear in a bag of some sort that is easy to carry to swimming.

Telephone

A reminder, please, that when ringing the school cell phone or landline, do not leave a message after 1.15p.m. as teachers are in their classrooms teaching and there is not always someone in the office to clear messages until after school. The cellphone is also difficult for teachers to access and hear, in class time.

If your child/children are going to be absent from school, please ensure that the classroom teacher is aware of this by texting the school cell phone or ringing the school before 8.50a.m. Thank you.

A & P Show

Our local Maniototo A & P Show is on **Wednesday 17th February**.

Children are dismissed from school at 12.30p.m. to enable them to attend the show with their parents. We ask that all children are collected from school at lunchtime - 12.30p.m. If there is a problem with this, please let us know.

Up-to-date contact details

Attached to the paper newsletter is a form for parents to fill in to enable us to update our files. Please fill in one for your family and return it to school asap.

If your contact details and emergency details have not changed, you do not need to do this.

Office Hours

A reminder that Fiona Weir's office hours are:

Monday 9 - 1p.m. Thursday 9 - 3p.m. Friday 9 - 12p.m.

If you have uniform enquiries it is preferable that you contact Fiona about this during her hours.

Emailing newsletter

Our newsletters will be emailed to those families who have provided us with an email address. If you don't receive your newsletter by email please contact Fiona Weir on office@sjr.school.nz

Our newsletter comes out every 3 weeks so you should receive a newsletter in weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10. For anything else that comes up, eg swim week, there will be a separate newsletter.

Remember to also check our website:

www.sjr.school.nz

Scholastic Lucky Books

Please remember if you are ordering Scholastic lucky books for your children as presents and do not want them to see these, just write a note on the order or let us know and you will be texted when the books arrive.

Uniforms

The start of each term is the time when we order school uniform items. If you wish to order outside of these times, you will be asked to pay full postage in the total cost. If you are needing a uniform order form, you can print one off the website under the "Notices" tab - then "Class Notices"

You can also order yourself, online at:

<http://stjohns.uniformz.com>

School Uniform

A reminder that children are to dress in correct uniform please:

Boys-Summer

Red polo shirt

Grey shorts

School polar fleece or jersey

Grey socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals

Girls - Summer

Red polo shirt

Skort

School polar fleece or jersey

Black socks

Brown/black shoes or sandals

We ask that children who have long hair, have this tied up with brown, red, green, black or white hair ties.

Head Lice

Please check your children's hair regularly for this, as it is an ongoing issue. Please treat this when necessary.

Parent Information Evening

On **Thursday 18th February** we will be holding a parent information evening. You can attend all sessions or as many as interest you.

The presentation explains the expectations and programmes in each class.

Junior Class 7 - 7.20p.m.

Middle Class 7.30 - 7.50p.m.

Senior Class 8 - 8.20p.m.

We look forward to seeing you then.

School 75th (plus 1) Jubilee

A reminder that our school jubilee is planned to go ahead on the weekend of Friday 19 March - Sunday 21st March (Otago Anniversary Weekend).

If you are interested in attending this, please register, either online: www.sjr.school.nz or pop into school and pick up a registration form.

Covid-19

We are regularly receiving updates from the Ministry of Education re Covid-19.

Here at St John's School we will continue to:

*display QR code posters for the NZ COVID tracer app

*keep our visitor register and attendance registers up to date

*be monitoring for illness and asking anyone who is unwell to remain at home, or to go home

*encourage people with relevant symptoms to seek medical advice through Healthline or their GP and get tested for COVID if recommended to do so

*reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying

*reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette

All parts of our school continue to be regularly cleaned.

Special Character Clipboard:

Next Monday the 8th February we have a holiday to remember Waitangi Day. We commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on this day in 1840. Waitangi Day was first commemorated in 1934. The Treaty is often called "The Founding Document" of New Zealand. It is an agreement and exchange of promises made between representatives of the British crown and representatives of Maori.

Ko nga pae tawhiti
Whaia kia tata
Ko nga pae tata
Whakamaua kia tina.

The potential for tomorrow depends on what we do today.

Wednesday 17th February is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Church season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

Junior Class News:

-We begin 2021 with 12 children in the Junior class. We welcome two new five year olds to our class: **Greta Love and Olivia Scott.**

We also welcome Eli Barroga and Ezra Mukai to Year 2.



-All Junior Class children should have brought home a letter about homework expectations for the year, and a swimming notice letter on Tuesday. If you have any questions please come and see me or text.

-Our theme for this term is "Water". Mrs Jayne Hazlett will be taking this theme in the Junior Class during my release time on a Thursday afternoon.

-During the first two and a half weeks children will be working with Miss Flintoff on a painting for the A & P Show on Wednesday 17th February. The theme this year is "Kiwiana in our Bubble".

Middle Class News:

Kia ora and welcome back!

We are off to a flying start in the Middle Room with a new classroom, new students and new routines.

A very special welcome to Joshua Barroga who has started with us at St John's school. We are loving having you in the class.

What is coming up:

Swimming - Monday and Friday next week.

Swim week - Week 3

Parent Information Evening - Week 3

I will have more information about Home Learning and what that will look like for this term after week 3.

Daily personal reading is encouraged as well as basic facts maintenance (times tables) in the meantime. Some students may start to bring home school books to read.

Here are the Marvellous Middles with our very own Class Treaty. With such amazing guidelines that we have created together, we are in for a great term!



Have a lovely long weekend and don't forget to relax after a full on week back at school.

Rachel Heaney

Senior Class News:

No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.



Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to the school year everyone. We have had a happy start to the year and have spent this week working out our classroom guidelines, discussing what we would like our class feeling to be and getting back into the rhythm of school life. We have had some laughs along the way and it's lovely to be back together.

We have come up with a motto for the year that the children felt would guide their decision making and actions.

Don't talk ... Just act
Don't say ... Just show
Don't promise ... Just prove

Camp Columba

Thank you for returning the forms and I appreciate the offers to attend camp as an adult helper. The forms will come home next week for the adults to fill in.

If you haven't returned your child's camp notice, please do so by Monday.

The camp meeting is on Thursday 11th March at 7.30pm. Please add this to your calendar.

Parent information evening

This is being held on Thursday the 18th February. My slot will be last after the other teachers and I will share information regarding the way our class operates and talk through general ways to help your child out. This will be fairly informal and please feel welcome to come along.

Class swimming

We have one swimming slot at the pool each week and this is on a Tuesday. Can the children please bring their togs, a towel and swimming goggles. They can wear a swimming cap if they want too.

Habits, Hygiene and Happiness

This is a unit I am teaching over the first few weeks. We will be exploring and practicing good hygiene habits, developing helpful classroom routines and understanding our happiness and how we fit in our classroom and how we can contribute.

Part of this will be exploring skin care (we will be washing our faces) so can children please bring a facecloth to school in a snaplock bag (or something like this) so we can try different facial cleansers and moisturisers. I know I have children with sensitive skin so please talk to your child about what we can try using and I will get some. I plan on using different typical skin cleansers for adolescents from the supermarket and chemist.

Welcome Hunter and Jacob

We have enjoyed getting to know our two new classmates this week and the boys love having more numbers in their 'team' - we now have 12 boys and 7 girls. The Sutherland boys bring humour, smiles and a great attitude to our class and it's lovely to have them with us.

Buried jerseys

Late last year we enjoyed digging up the jerseys with Graeme Bell from PGG Wrightson Wool. There has been an article written about this and it can be found on the PGG Wrightson Wool facebook page and in the Wool News that they send out to farmers. You might be interested in reading the article.

Lastly I want to pass on my thanks for the amazing pile of gifts and cards that were on my desk at the end of the year. I'm sorry that I couldn't say goodbye to the children in person and thank them at the time but I really appreciate the thoughtfulness of your cards and gifts. I felt really spoilt. Thank you also for your concern regarding Toby at that time.



Senior Room 2021

Hei kona and enjoy the long weekend everyone.

Geraldine Duncan

Board of Trustees

*. Next meeting – Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm

Notices and Dates:

Week 2	Monday 8 th February	Waitangi Day observed School Closed
	Tuesday 9 th February	BOT meeting 7.30pm
Week 3	Mon 15 th – Fri 19 th February	Swim Week
	Wednesday 17 th February	Maniototo A & P Show School closes at 12.30pm
	Thursday 18 th February	Parent Information Evening
Week 4	Friday 26 th February	School Photos
Week 5	Friday 5 th March	Swimming Sports
Week 7	Mon 15 th – Fri 19 th March	Senior Class Camp
	Friday 19 th – Sunday 21 st March	School Jubilee
Week 8	Monday 22 nd March	Otago Anniversary Day School Closed

Throwing Coaching (Athletics)

We have been offered the opportunity to take part in a throwing (discus and shotput) coaching opportunity with Raelene Bates. She is an experienced coach at a national level and I am sure this would be a worthwhile session.

It is being held on Monday 15th Feb in Alexandra and will run from 4-6pm. I will be attending this and am very keen to have others join me if they are interested. I know athletics seems a long way off but term 4 will be here before we know it.

If you are interested in going, please contact me via the school cell phone and we can organise shared transport.

Geraldine

