

St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Road
Ranfurly
03 4449514
office@sjr.school.nz

Issue 5: 24th May 2024

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Welcome

We welcome new 5 year old, **Willow Eketone**, to St John's School.



Thank you

A big thank you to the PTA who recently purchased 4 new picnic tables for school. They are a great size and are proving very popular. Here are some photos of the children eating lunch on them last week, in the sun!



Congratulations

Congratulations to the Middle and Senior Class students who attended the Rippa Rugby tournament in Alexandra last Friday. Everyone participated and tried their best and had fun. Thanks to the coaches and managers for helping with the teams.

For results and photos please see the Middle Class part of this newsletter.

Another thank you

The PTA working bee which was planned for Sunday the 19th May was postponed due to weather but a huge thank you to **Garrad Eketone and his workers** who came on Monday and put the weed mat and straw down around all the native plants.

What a fantastic job they did and I'm sure everyone really appreciates their efforts getting this done for us. A huge thank you!

Pink Shirt Day thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated a gold coin for Pink Shirt Day last Thursday 16th May. We raised \$100.00 which will be given to The NZ Mental Health Foundation.

Old newspapers

If anyone has old newspapers they don't want we would love them for school as in weeks 6, 7 and 8, classes are going to be joining together on a Friday afternoon to take part in some technology challenges. These challenges include using newspapers to make things!

Thank you.

King's Birthday Weekend and Teacher Only Day

A reminder that school is closed for **King's Birthday weekend on Monday 3rd June** and then for **Teachers Only Day on Tuesday 4th June**.

So an extra long weekend for everyone. Maniototo Area School is also closed for Teachers Only Day on Tuesday 4th June.

Matariki Holiday

Also a reminder that there is a public holiday for the celebration of Matariki on **Friday 28th June**, so school is closed on this day.

Reports/Portfolios and Parent Teacher Interviews

Mid year reports and portfolios will be sent home on **Thursday 27th June**.

Mid year reports can be kept but we ask that portfolios are returned to school please.

Parent teacher interviews will be held the following week on **Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July**.

In the next newsletter there will be a form to fill in, indicating which day you would prefer if you would like a parent teacher interview.

Special Character:

*During the month of May we have been praying the traditional Catholic prayer, the Rosary which is a special set of prayers which tell us about the life of Jesus and his mother, Mary.

We get together each morning when the bell rings and say the Rosary together in the Senior Class. We have a school set of rosary beads and some children bring their own.

*Last Sunday, the 9th May our church celebrated the Feast of Pentecost which is a very sacred and special time in the Bible and in the Church when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost took place 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is also thought of as the "birthday" of the Church.

Junior Class News:

Here are some photos of happenings in the Junior Class.

Eating beetroot brownie made with beetroot grown in the Junior Class vegetable garden.



Flynn McSkimming at the end of Maths time with his man made out of shapes.



Arthur Dowling at the end of Reading time making words with the magnetic letters.

This term in some of our writing times we have been writing about a picture, using our imagination. These stories were written after brainstorming a picture of some binoculars:

I could see a magic ice age land through the binoculars. I saw a wooly rhino fighting a wooly mammoth. A sabre-tooth tiger was on the back of the mammoth. A big sloth was falling off the wooly rhinos cave and it face planted face first.

By George Love

I could see through the binoculars a castle. The castle was on a magical island. The queen could shoot magical powers and her power was ice. She turned me into an ice statue of ice.

By Lochy Barnish

On a Friday afternoon some of the Year 1s and all of the Year 2s use the Senior Class laptops and participate in a computer programme called "Steps". The younger children use an alphabet app to practice their alphabet skills during this time.

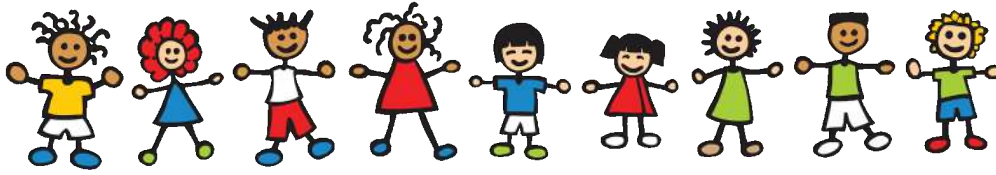
The Steps programme supports our classroom reading programme and structured literacy. The children are introduced to a lot of words that appear as individual words and in sentences and these words are incorporated into games. The words are re-introduced again and again until they are confident with them. It helps children:

- decode words
- recognise words
- use the words in context
- spell the word
- break the word up into syllables
- match the words with its meaning
- write the word
- use the word in a variety of memory activities

The programme automatically adjusts if children find something hard and it gives them more practice of that skill.



Middle Class News:



Kumusta,

We've had a busy start to the term in the Middle Room.

Rippa Tournament

The first few weeks have been spent getting ready for the Rippa Tournament.

Thank you to our wonderful coaches who came in and took practises at school and supported us at the tournament in Alexandra - Gaz and Tim, Luke D and Logan and Gerard.

Thank you also to the managers who helped to organise the teams in Alexandra and made sure they were all ready to go - Liane, Sharon, Gabrielle, Renee and Geraldine.

I was impressed with how well our students competed and tried their best. Congratulations to the Year 5/6 team that got second at the tournament and has now qualified to head to Queenstown on June 6th for the Central Otago Rippa Tournament.



Pink Shirt Day



What a colourful class!

What's on in class?

Maths

This term we are working on our Addition and Subtraction strategies. The children did well to learn their family of facts to 10 in the first week which has helped them to work out harder equations.

For the Year 3 and 4 children, we are working on them being able to work out Addition and Subtraction equations in their heads without relying on materials, and the Year 5 children are working on addition and subtraction equations with 3-digit numbers by using several different strategies.

Writing

We are learning about Disasters for our topic work and integrating this into our writing. The children are in groups and are researching a disaster that has happened in New Zealand and are presenting their information in a range of ways. These include: a poster, TV interview, Radio report, brochure and a slide show.

Reading

The children continue to read with me daily. The older children have novels that they are reading and have set chapters to read at home each night. The younger children continue to have their reading books to read to an adult each night.

Thank you for filling out the homework books and listening to your child read.

They love sharing their books with you.

If I have been away, or the children don't have set pages to read on a night, the children can just read a book from home. This may happen over the next couple of weeks as I start the children's testing in preparation for the reports coming out at the end of next term.

Homework

This term you will have noticed I have started to send home Times Tables for the children to learn. I have decided to do this ahead of our Multiplication and Division learning next term, in the hope that they will be a step ahead with their knowledge before we start our strategy learning next term.

When learning a new set of tables, the children could learn them in order first. If they are finding them hard, I would suggest just taking 4 to learn at a time to cement them in their instant recall before moving on to the next ones.

Once they have started to have a better recall of them, then move on to calling them out, out of order. Once again, you could just do a few at a time until they have mastered them.

It doesn't matter if it takes the children a couple of weeks to master one set of tables.

I test the tables on a Friday morning and will move the children on when they can do that set out of order with quick recall.

R.E

We have started our Sacraments learning. The children know there are 7 Sacraments and are able to say the order in which they go in. We are starting to go through each Sacrament to learn more about them and what their significance is to the church and people's lives. We will also spend more time around the sacrament of Confirmation, which is coming up for some of our students early next term. The children involved have taken home a notice about this already.

This is often a busy term for families as there is a lot of sport on. I appreciate that it can be hard to juggle everything and am thankful for your support with the children continuing to get their homework done and ensuring your children are well-rested so they can concentrate on their learning when they are at school.

Ngā mihi,
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

Senior Room News

He aroha whakotō, he aroha puta mai.
If kindness is sown, then kindness you shall receive.

Week 4 Term 2

Rippa Rugby Tournament

This event was held last Friday in Alexandra. We had three teams competing and the players had worked hard with their coaches and classmates to develop their skills and fitness. We had a great day with a variety of results. The highlight for us was the year 5&6 team making the final and placing 2nd! An amazing achievement for these children. They will now head to the Central Otago finals in Queenstown on the 6th of June. Thank you very much to the coaches, managers and parent supporters. Here are two recounts of the rippa experience from the senior children...

On a foggy morning, we headed off to the rippa tournament. We went there to have fun and to compete with other schools and it was held at Molyneux Park in Alexandra. The year 3's and up from our school went to represent our school at the Dunstan Zone tournament.

Finally, we got there and as we warmed up my excitement was getting to me. Finally, the game started, I could hear kids puffing and adults cheering. Beep the buzzer went off and the game was done. It was a win for us and so were the other two games. Finally, it was the last game and we were playing TTS Tarantulas. It was the tightest game in the first half but we needed to win so we gave it all and we did.

We all gathered around to hear the news and to find out if we had done it. It was silent but you could hear a couple of whispers in the distance ... we did it! We made it to the final. Our team was screaming happily but not for long as we had to play two more games. The first game was a win but we all knew that our last game was going to be tough. The team we played wasn't nice, not at all! They were getting into my head but we just had to get on with it.

Our last game was a loss for us but our team made it to the Central Otago Champs that are being held in early June. Sadly I'm away so I wish my team the best of luck and I hope they enjoy going to the tournament. Our team was the best team I could ever wish for.

By Isla Jeffries.

Last Friday the year 3-8s went to Alexandra for the Dunston Zone Rippa Tournament, it was held at Molyneux Park. There were lots of schools there and my team versed four other teams, we were called the St John's Rippers. It was fun and exciting.

I travelled down with Dad, Keisha and Colleen. Dad was the coach, I was excited to play. The first game was against The Terrace School, we lost the game 5-10 but the next game against St Gerards was better. We lost 7-14. We had a break so I watched Kaylah and Isla, they were so good! They had won all of their games. We played our next game and lost 7-10. Then we played the Maniototo Area School team and beat them 11-5!

After that the teams were announced for the finals, we sadly didn't make it. But the year 5 and 6 team did, so I stayed and watched them. They won their semifinal but lost the final. That means that they go to the Central Otago Championship! The day was so fun and I want to go back and play again.

By Marley Weir

National Young Leaders Day

This fantastic event is taking place on Friday 7th June for the year 8 students. I am sure that they will enjoy the day and be inspired by the speakers who include Brooke Neal (a former hockey Black Stick) and William Pike, an inspirational speaker. Our school sponsors our children to attend this event each year, and they always return very enthused by the energy of the day and the message that the speakers share with them. Thank you to Renee Weir for taking the children to and from Dunedin for this.

Being Set up for Success

Please check with your child that they have a decent-length pencil, a ruler, and a red and blue pen for school. Not all children have these items and they are needed. I do have spares but the children like to have their own items that they can keep at their desks.

Be an Upstander!

Last Thursday our classroom was filled with bright and happy colours for "Pink Shirt Day". We regularly discuss how we should treat others and how our behaviour can make others feel. I encourage our children to be 'upstanders' when they see mean behaviour and actions. It's also important for the children to learn about giving and receiving compliments. When doing this

- Say true things: people quickly pick up on compliments that aren't true!
- Focus on strengths, qualities, and characteristics instead of appearances.

Practising these skills is worthwhile.

Weekly sports catch-up

I enjoy hearing from the children how their various sporting activities have gone. They love it. I have noticed that the children are starting to look tired and I feel it goes hand in hand with term 2 and sports travel, you probably feel tired too. Please continue to do all your great work at home by having a good routine with homework, getting plenty of sleep and being well organised as these positive efforts by you impact the children at school. In turn, I try to match my school activities to their energy levels.

Young Vinnies

Please feel welcome to take bags of cones from beside the Church for your use or to give to other people who could use them. The children are replenishing our store of cones each Friday so don't be shy about taking a bag. We also have eggs for sale in the Church foyer.



The senior children have led the school in the Rosary. May is often referred to as the Month of Mary - a month when Catholics pay special devotions to her. This is a special reflective time for us and an opportunity to gather as a school. The senior children do a great job of leading us in this and they also partner with a younger child to help them use their rosary beads.

Galaxiid Update

Last year our class went to the official opening of the Spec Creek private galaxiid sanctuary. It was a very wet day but we did manage to do some electric fishing and see the galaxiids in the creek. These photos were shared with me this week of some of the fish that have been tagged at Spec Creek and tracked for many years. Their age is incredible and I thought you would be interested in seeing them.



First tagged in 2009 and is probably over 17 years old.



First tagged in 2004 and is thought to be over 28 years old!

Coming Up:

Week 6:

I am away with my family until the Wednesday of week 7. Mrs Sarah Paterson and Mrs Katrina Hunter will be teaching in our classroom during this time.

Thursday 6th June - Rippa finals in Queenstown for the year 5&6 team

Friday 7th June - National Young Leaders Day for the year 8 children

Week 9:

Thursday 27th June - Matariki School Mass and shared lunch

- Reports come home

Friday 28th June - Public Holiday

Week 10:

Tuesday/Wednesday - Parent Teacher interviews.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees:

-At our May meeting a curriculum report on Maths - Other Strands (this includes Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Algebra) was presented to the Board.

-The Board reviewed their Equal Employment Opportunities policy.

-Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11 June at 7p.m.

Are you going overseas for the school holidays?

*When you return, you can now complete a digital **New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD)** before you fly back into New Zealand – replacing the need to fill out a paper declaration card on the plane.*

Everyone coming into New Zealand needs to complete an NZTD. You'll answer questions about your trip and what's in your bags. You can complete it at a time that suits you, on the [NZTD website](#) or by downloading the [NZTD app](#), and submit it 24 hours before your trip back to New Zealand.

Download the NZTD app today!
travellerdeclaration.govt.nz

Notices and Dates:

Term 2 Week 4	Sunday 26 th May	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: George & Theo Dowling & Nathan Smith
Week 5	Sunday 2 nd June	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Cyrus Janerol & Keisha Evangelista
Week 6	Monday 3 rd June	King's Birthday – School Closed
	Tuesday 4 th June	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
	Sunday 9 th June	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Ben & Olivia Scott
Week 7	Sunday 16 th June	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley
Week 8	Sunday 23 rd June	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley
Week 9	Thursday 27 th June	Reports & Portfolios sent home
	Friday 28 th June	Matariki – School Closed
	Sunday 30 th June	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Harry, Isla & Jack Jeffries
Week 10	Tuesday 2 nd & Wednesday 3 rd July	Parent/Teacher Interviews
	Friday 5 th July	Last Day of Term 2
	Sunday 7 th July	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Colleen & Yuri Torres



Dunstan High School

SEEK WISDOM AS GOLD
RAPUHIA TE MATAURANGA HEI TAONGA

Information Evenings

The Acting School Principal, the Director of Boarding and a representative of our Hostel Parents will present an information session for parents and children who are interested in attending Dunstan High School as day pupils or boarders in 2025/26.
Refreshments will be provided.

If you require further information, please contact the school on 03 448 8595 or office@dunstan.school.nz

Omakau / Poolburn:	7:15pm, Monday 20th May - Omakau School
Millers Flat:	7:15pm, Wednesday 22nd May - Millers Flat School
Maniototo:	7:15pm, Tuesday 28th May - Hawkdun Lodge Motel, Ranfurly

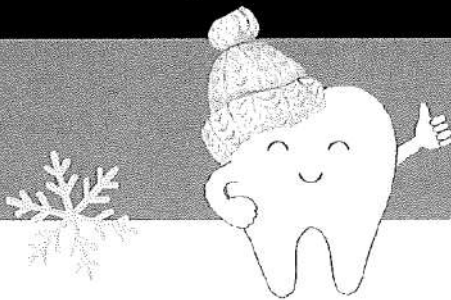
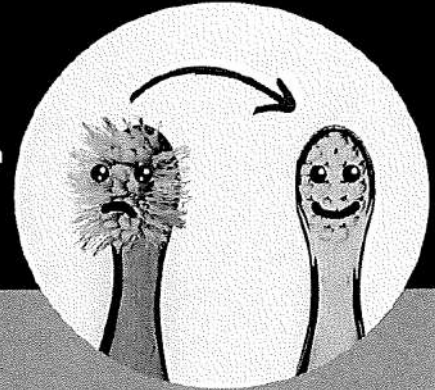


Change of season... Change of toothbrush!



It's time for a new toothbrush...

- If the bristles are scruffy, bent or splayed
- After being sick with a cold, flu, or infection
- If anyone else has used your toothbrush!
- Even if it still looks ok, it's best to use a new toothbrush every 3 months. A good way to remember is a change of season = a change of toothbrush!



Community Oral
Health Service

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Scan this code
for more great
tooth tips



Mural by Flox (flox.co.nz), Alexandra Primary School

What's On: Youth Arts (May & June)

CENTRAL OTAGO & ONLINE

Term 2: Drawing Classes (Alexandra)

Join artist Marion Vialade-Worch for drawing classes 3.30-5pm every Wednesday. For children 8 & over.

Contact: marionvialade@gmail.com or 022 652 5036

May: Tūhura Photography Competition

Calling all budding young photographers. Competition categories include wildlife, botanical, landscape, & black & white. Entries close 27 May.

otagomuseum.nz/photo

May: Wintersteller Astrophotography Competition

Photographers 18 years & under can enter the junior section of this night sky competition. Entries close 12 May.

winterstellar.com

10, 14, 17 May: The Big Bike Film Night (Alexandra)

The Big Bike Film Night is on a mission – bringing the best cycling short films from around the world together for you!
bigbikefilmnight.nz

18 May: Singing Workshop (Tarras)

Join vocal coach & singer/songwriter Anna van Riel to learn vocal mechanics, breathwork & posture techniques. Suitable for ages 16 & older.

nookroadproductions.co.nz/events

19 May: Te Tupua - The Goblin (Bannockburn)

A solo play written & performed by John G Davies, that deals with atonement concerning bicultural New Zealand. Suitable for ages 10 & up. Watch the trailer: vimeo.com/657355269

artscentral.co.nz/te-tupua

29 May: Archaeological Documentary (Alexandra)

The Immortals: The Wonders of the Museo Egizio delves into Egyptian mythology, & focuses on the history & treasures of one of the most important museums in the world. Watch the trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=CMXjxNO_ATc

centralcinema.co.nz

19 June: Andrew Joyce & Jian Liu (Bannockburn)

Go on a musical journey like no other! Immerse yourself in a captivating showcase of cello & piano music.

artscentral.co.nz

23 June: 'Welcoming Communities' Talent Festival (Cromwell)

The festival showcases the talents of people in our region, focusing on our different cultures & ancestries.

Email: Heather.Harries@codc.govt.nz