

St John's School Newsletter

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Principal's Page:

Ni Hao

Chinese Language Week - Thank You

This week is Chinese Language Week and a big thank you to Alina and Alex Cai who came to school on Monday. Alina read a book to us in Chinese and both Alina and Alex answered many questions about China and the Chinese language.

Please see the Middle Class News for photos of this.

School holidays and Term 4 start

School holidays begin today and Term 4 starts on **Monday 14th October**.

Our last school day for 2024 is **Friday 13th December**.

Pink Ribbon Appeal

We will be holding a mufti day on **Friday 18th October** to support our local Breast Cancer Foundation. Children can wear mufti on this day and can bring along a gold coin donation for this cause.

Labour Weekend and Teacher Only Day

School is closed on **Monday 28th October** for Labour Weekend and also **Tuesday 29th October** for Teacher Only Day.

The government allowed schools two teacher only days in 2024 to work on new curriculum changes and this will be our second day.

Bus Vests

If your child has not returned their bus vest we would like this back asap, thank you.

End of Year School Concert/Prizegiving Date

Our end of year concert and prizegiving will be held on **Wednesday 4th December at 7p.m.** in the Ranfurly Town Hall.

Trans-Tasman Principal's Conference

Last week I had the privilege of attending this conference for a couple of days in Christchurch. It was a great opportunity to meet principals from a wide range of schools and very interesting to hear how these schools work and the challenges they face.

We had many interesting speakers, some teachers, some not, but a common theme among those speaking was the importance for young people to feel a sense of belonging to their communities. In today's digital world many are not experiencing this and it is something we have to work to develop.

Athletic Sports Practices

The Maniototo Athletic Sports will take place on **Friday 1st November**.

We will have three practices at school:

- Tuesday 15th October
- Tuesday 22nd October From 1.20 - 2.30 pm. approximately
- Wednesday 30th October

We would like to ask for parent help with these practices. If you can help with taking an activity (high jump, long jump, discus, running or hurdles), please fill in the form at the back of the newsletter indicating days you would be able to help and return the form to school after the holidays.

Please then just turn up at 1.20 pm on the days you indicated. Thank you.

Please note you do not have to be an expert at any of these things, just willing to supervise and encourage the children.

Special Character:

Altar Servers and Bell Ringers - Mass time change

Please note that Sunday Mass will now be at the summer time of 5 p.m.

So from this Sunday 29th September, Mass is 5 p.m.

Our Bishop, Bishop Michael Dooley

Bishop Michael is the 7th Bishop of Dunedin. He became Bishop in 2018. Bishop Michael is from Invercargill. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and has worked in Invercargill, Mosgiel and Auckland.

Holiday Prayer

God, thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.

Thank you for the coming of growth, life, birth and rejuvenation that a Spring holiday can bring.

Thank you for the things that are awakening in the world.

Let it be a time when the Winter passes and a time of hope.

We hope in your gift of Spring these holidays.

Junior Class News:

*On Tuesday Evelyn Cai brought along a Chinese book and sound poster to share with the Junior Class. Evelyn read some of the pages of the book in Chinese and then read each Chinese language sound which we repeated after her. It was fun and Evelyn was a good teacher.



Emerson Smith was very proud of the new watch she received recently from Grandma in Auckland. She brought it along to show us all.



Middle Class News:



Ni Hao,

Can you believe that it is the end of Term 3 already?
This term has flown by with the children busy in and out of school.

RE
We have finished our topic of 'Te Atua - God' for this term. We talked about the Trinity and what that means, and we looked at the symbols of the Trinity. The children have done some lovely artwork around this as well. They had to create a painting that depicted the Trinity by using symbols. We will hang these in our church.
We have looked at the Fruits of the Spirit and how we can show these in our lives.



Literacy

In Reading the children have been reading Journals. The journals are great for the students reading as they have been working on their understanding of what they are reading and with the variety of stories, fiction and non fiction, this has helped the students answering specific questions about what they have read.

In our Writing time, we have been learning about Narrative writing and how a Narrative is set out. This week the students have been finishing off writing their own stories. It is not easy to write your own story by making sure you have an introduction, a build-up to a problem, the problem and then solving that problem and concluding the story. The children have done well with this and I have enjoyed reading their imaginative stories.

Maths

We have been working on the topic of 'Time' over the past few weeks. This is a really tricky concept to get. The children have been learning how to read an analogue clock by reading times that are o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to at Year 3 up, to reading any time at Year 4 and 5. The Year 5's have also been working on problem-solving with time.

Please continue to work on this at home, especially if your child has been absent over the past couple of weeks, they would have missed some of this learning and will need more work on this.

Curling

The students had 3 Curling sessions over two weeks. This was a great opportunity for the children to learn how to slide on the ice and throw a stone down to the other end of the rink. They played some games and learnt the basics of how a Curling game works.

Thank you to the parents who drove us up to the rink and back over those 3 days.



Chinese Language Week - Hànyǔ zhōu

On Monday we were lucky enough to have Alina and Alex Cai come into school. Alina read a book to us in Chinese and then the children got to ask them questions about China and the Chinese language. The children enjoyed hearing about the Chinese culture and could have asked questions all afternoon. The Senior Class presented Alina with some paper flowers they had made with Mrs Hazlett.



Have a wonderful holiday everyone! I hope it is a relaxing time and I look forward to seeing you all back in Term 4!

Qīnqiè de wènhòu (Kind Regards),
Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.” – **John F. Kennedy**

Kia ora koutou families / hello mga kapamilya

In Faith Focus this week, we focused on identifying what we are grateful for, and the list was extensive! The children had fun completing a scavenger hunt with another school member; it was a special way to start our week.

I am grateful for the friendly greetings the children give me each morning, the opportunities we have to build connections with each other in our classroom and school, the parents who help with transport and supervision of our extra activities, and the honest effort and attitude that the children give to all activities.

What are you grateful for?





I am also thankful to **Maniototo Contracting**, who donated high-visibility vests for us to use at our recent ski day. These vests look very smart and have our name on the back, so we are easily identifiable when we are out and about. This photo shows some of our children modelling these. George Dowling has written a lovely thank you letter to **Judy and Ian Hore**.

Young Vinnies

Jo Bell visited last week and taught us how to look at the parable of 'The Good Samaritan' in the modern world.

We were asked - who are the Good Samaritans in our world today?

What is your journey? What is your purpose? What road are you on?

Who are the robbers today?

Who are the people who think they are doing good (God's) work, but their actions don't show this?

What are our prejudices?

We were challenged to be Samaritans in the modern world, where we have one culture of kindness and act for the good of all. This was very relevant to our learning stage, and we were challenged to go forth and do the same.

Today, we have completed our Ranfurly rubbish cleanup with Luke Jeffries and Nick Love. Thank you for your help. Our kids get very enthused about this task, as they want our town to look tidy, and they are always amazed at how much rubbish they find. Even though we do this yearly, I am amazed at how much litter is found in the long grass and creek areas. Perhaps you and your children could tidy up a roadside area near your home over the holidays.

Mathletics Gold Certificates

We now have many children who have achieved their twenty weeks of certificates for the year.

Joshua Barroga, Arthur Elworthy, Isla Jeffries, Xavier Love, Kaylah McAuley, Finn Dowling, McKinley Francis, Cyrus Janerol, Jae McAuley, Colleen Torres, Harry Jeffries, Keisha Evangelista, George Dowling, Josie Herlihy and Karl Suplente.

Their hard work has paid off, literally, in Banquer. Each milestone earns the equivalent amount of money, so 20 weeks = \$20,000.

I also acknowledge that some children have completed their current year group tasks and have moved on to the next year's level. Joshua Barroga has completed the year 6 and year 7 tasks and is now working on the year 8 tasks. That is a reflection of a lot of dedicated hard work.

Congratulations, Joshua.

Otago Cross Country

We now have the results of this event, held on September 6th. They are very impressive. Congratulations to all of our runners on their great results.

Marley Weir 4 out of 57 runners

Josie Herlihy 32/57

McKinley Francis 16/75

Ethan Chisholm 43/75

Xavier Love 7/80

Isla Jeffries 30/80

Joshua Barroga 10/80

Eli Barroga 31/87.

We also received confirmation that two of our students broke a record at the recent Maniototo Cross Country event.

Joshua Barroga and Xavier Love both broke the year 6 record held by Eddie Weir in 2021 (his time was 7.29 minutes). **This is an amazing feat, and as Xavier placed first in 7.17 minutes, he is now the new Year 6 record holder.** Congratulations, Xavier.

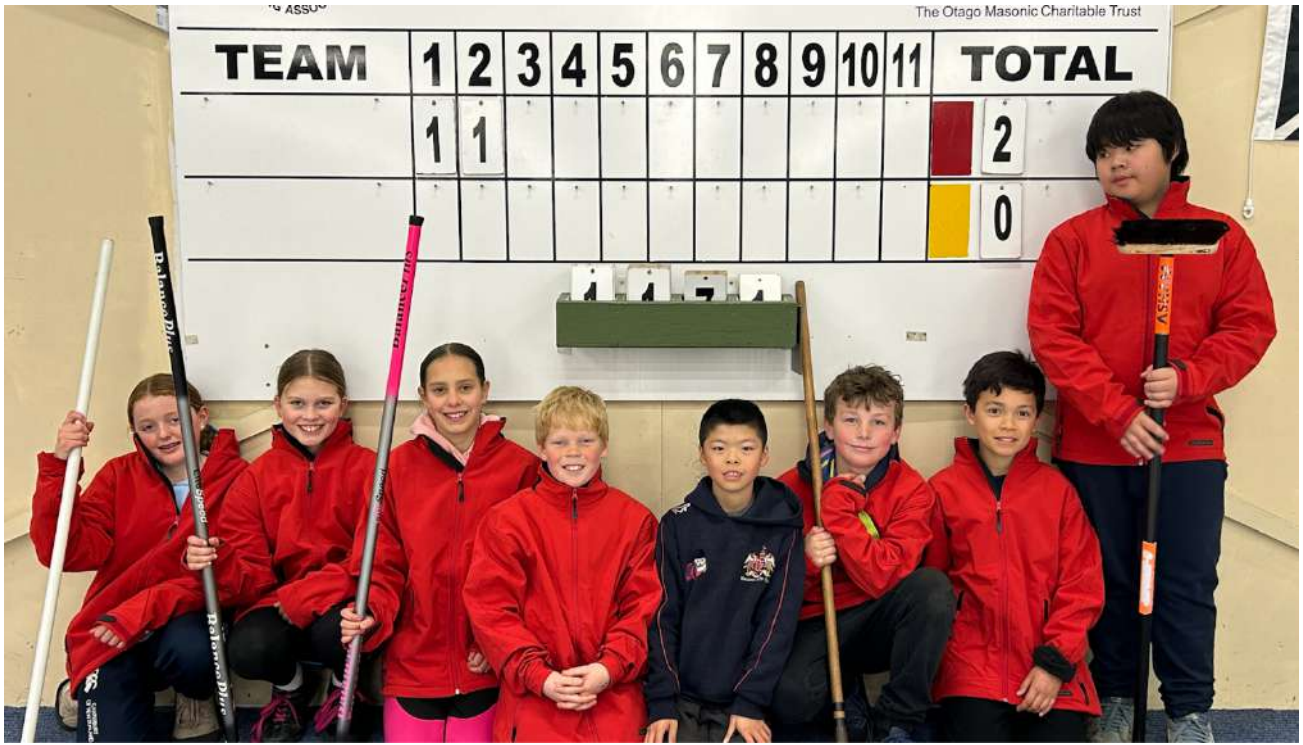
Curling Tournament

On Tuesday, we had the annual curling tournament. This year, we entered three teams in years 5/6 and 7/8. The children played five games, and all of our St John's teams made the playoffs to decide the placings 1-4. We had a fun and successful day and came away with both trophies. Congratulations kids! I'm sure that we have future NZ curlers in our class.



Year 5 and 6 winners:

Charlie Dowling, Jessica Greer, Kaylah McAuley and Isla Jeffries.



The two St John's teams fought it out for 1st and 2nd placing.



Year 7 and 8 winners: Josie Herlihy, Marley Weir, George Dowling, Karl Suplente.

They wore their lucky wigs this year!



The two St John's teams fought it out for 1st and 2nd placing.

Being Prepared for Learning

Please sort through your child's pencil case over the holiday break. All children need a red and blue pen, a full-length pencil, a rubber and a ruler.

Term 4

Next term, we will prepare for the **Maniototo Athletics Day** in the first three weeks. I would like the children to do some running in the holidays to get them fit for the 800m. I run this event on the day, and there is no way to make it easier for the kids other than being running fit. This week the new highjump mat that the PTA purchased has arrived and it has been in use already. There have been 12 new PB's (personal bests) set already. Isla Jeffries has beaten her old height by 20cm, now jumping 1.2m. That new high jump mat is magical.

Naseby Outing: At the end of the term, we will be spending a day in Naseby on Friday, December 6th. I have no definite plans yet, but the children are encouraging me to organise mountain biking, walking, fishing, and a BBQ and game at the domain. I like their thinking. More details will come out next term but put this date in your calendar now, as we would love to have you join us for this outing.

Pet Day: This will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. Live pets and toy pets - all are welcome! The Smith family have two male guinea pigs to give away. They are free and are friendly. Contact Deborah Smith on 0211057906.

Year 8 Graduation will be held in the last week of term, but a date has not been set yet.

Enjoy your family time over the holiday. When we come back together, we only have nine weeks left in the year. A crazy thought!

Kind regards (mihi aroha, mabait na pagbati)

Geraldine Duncan.

Board of Trustees:

-At our September meeting staff presented a curriculum report to the Board of Trustees on the curriculum area of Writing.

-Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th October**.

Notices and Dates:

School Holidays	Sunday 29 th September	Sunday Mass at 5pm (NOTE: change of time) Altar Servers: George & Theo Dowling, Nathan Smith
	Sunday 6 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Cyrus Janerol & Keisha Evangelista
	Sunday 13 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ben & Olivia Scott
Term 4 Week 1	Friday 18 th October	Pink Ribbon Day – support Breast Cancer, mufti day, gold coin donation
	Sunday 20 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Axel & Kaylah McAuley
Week 2	Sunday 27 th October	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Caleb Cai & Jae McAuley
Week 3	Monday 28 th October	Labour Weekend – School Closed
	Tuesday 29 th October	Teacher Only Day – School Closed
	Friday 1 st November	Maniototo Athletic Sports
	Sunday 3 rd November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Harry, Isla & Jack Jeffries
Week 4	Sunday 10 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Colleen & Yuri Torres
Week 5	Tuesday 12 th November	Dunstan Zone Triathlon
	Sunday 17 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith
Week 6	Tuesday 19 th November	Otago Athletic Championships
	Sunday 24 th November	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis & Sophia Crutchley
Week 8	Wednesday 4 th December	Concert & Prizegiving – 7pm at Ranfurly Town Hall
	Friday 6 th December	Senior Room Day Out – Naseby
Week 9	Tuesday 10 th December	Pet Day

Athletic Sports Practices

I can help with athletics coaching at school from 1.20 - 2.30 p.m. on:

Tuesday 15 October

Tuesday 22 October

Wednesday 30 October

(Please circle dates that are suitable)

Name: _____

Maniototo Area School Art Auction & Garden Tour



Saturday 19th October 2024

Tickets \$35 (incl. Devonshire Tea)

Gates open 1:00pm - Art Auction 2:30pm

316 Puketoi Runs Road, PUKETOI 9398

Bus available from Ranfurly I-site if needed \$10 (cash)

(email office @maniototo.school.nz to book the bus)

Maniototo Area School, along with Jane Falconer invites you to join us and tour the stark beauty that is her Clachanburn award winning garden, in the heart of the Maniototo, for our Vietnam History Trip Fundraiser .

Whilst there you will have the exclusive and rare opportunity to view, fall in love with and then bid on the incredible artwork available for auction, each piece individually handcrafted and created by our celebrated and award winning Central Otago artists, sculptors and photographers. (full details on the school Facebook page)

We are fortunate to have been gifted two prints from world renowned Maniototo based artist Grahame Sydney, which we will have available to bid on at auction.

The artists have generously provided selected pieces specifically for auction, to help the group fund their history tour of Vietnam, the first one by the school in over 10 years.

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA ITICKET