

# St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 14: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Principal's Page:

### Otago Athletic Sports

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Otago Athletics Day in Dunedin on Tuesday 19th November.

A special congratulations to the following children who placed in their events:

George Dowling	1st	Shot put
Marley Weir	1st	Hurdles
	2nd	Long jump
Nathan Smith	1st	Discus
	2nd	Shot put
Xavier Love	1st	High jump
	1st	Hurdles
	1st	Long jump

Theo Dowling      Part of the U10 boys relay team who got 1st in this event.

### White Fern - Eden Carson visit

We were lucky, and proud, to welcome back ex-pupil, Eden Carson, to school on Monday 4th November. Eden, from the White Ferns winning World Cup Women's T20 Cricket Team, visited for a Q & A session. The children had many questions for Eden and she inspired us with her story of hard work, perseverance, and dreaming big to get where she is today. Eden also acknowledged the sacrifice and support of her family who took her all around the countryside for her sport, a familiar thing for many of our families!



### **Dunstan Zone Triathlon**

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the Dunstan Zone Triathlon held in Cromwell on 12th November.

Four students chose to continue on and take part in the Central Otago triathlon in Queenstown on Thursday 28th November: Josie Herlihy, Marley Weir, Isla Jeffries and Xavier Love.

The children did extremely well in some trying conditions. They came 8<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively in their age group races.

### **“Bring a Pet to School” Afternoon**

You should have received a notice about this on Thursday - if you didn't please let the class teacher know as it has all the details for this event which is being held on **Monday 9th December from 1 p.m.**

### **End of Year Concert/Prizegiving**

This is being held on **Wednesday 4th December** in the Ranfurly Town Hall at **7 p.m.**

Children do not need to be at the hall until 6.45 p.m. They need to come to the side entrance door of the hall.

Doors to the main hall will not open until 6.50 p.m.

Seats will be reserved at the front for Year 8 parents and families.

We discourage preschoolers from attending the concert/prizegiving night as it is a long time to sit. The concert takes approximately 35 minutes with speeches, prizegiving and a calf auction to follow on Wednesday evening.

The calf auction will take place at the end of the evening before icecreams. This will be held inside the hall.

The money raised from this auction will go towards the cost of the Senior Class camp at Berwick, which will be held next year. There will be a pamphlet inside the Concert programme with photos and a bit about each calf.

### **Reports/Portfolios**

End of year reports and portfolios will be sent home with children on **Friday 6th December**.

There is a change to the report format with a single-sided page reporting on Literacy (Reading and Writing), Numeracy (Maths) and a General Comment.

Reports may be kept but portfolios are to be returned to school by Tuesday 10th December.

Thank you.

A reminder that there is a page in the portfolios where we like parents to please comment on the children's work they see in the portfolio.

### **End of Year Mass**

A school Mass to celebrate the end of the year and our Year 8's leaving will be held on **Wednesday 11 December at 11.15 a.m.** in our church.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this celebration.

### **Year 8 Graduation**

This is taking place on **Wednesday 11 December** at **1.30 p.m.** in the school hall.

### **Last Day 2024**

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

School is open until 2.50 p.m. as usual, and buses will run at the normal times.

Thank you.

### **First Day 2025**

The first day of school for 2025 is **Monday 3rd February**.

### **Swim Week 2025**

Next year our swim week is in Week 1 from the 3rd - 7th of February (not Thursday 6th February as school is closed on this day for Waitangi Day).

Children will be put into the same groups as last year with any new children put into a group the teacher thinks they may fit into. Jo, the swimming instructor, will sort out any changes to the groups on day one of Swim Week.

### **Merry Christmas**

As this is the last newsletter for 2024 I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

Meri Kirihinete.

Ngā Mihi

Susan Mulholland

## **Special Character:**

This Sunday, the 1st of December, is the first Sunday of Advent. It is a time for preparation for the birth of Jesus. At school, we have an advent wreath with 5 candles on it - 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white.

The first candle (purple) represents hope, the second (purple) represents love, the third (pink) represents joy, the fourth (purple) represents peace and the white candle in the middle represents the birth of Jesus.

## **Junior Class News:**

Here is a photo of the Junior Class ready for beekeeping on Friday 22nd November. We enjoyed getting "up close and personal" with the bees and beehives and it was great to see the bees working away and that the hive had a queen bee (after some fatalities!)



It is amazing what children can make with the materials available. Here is a photo of Harriet and Lochy with a monster they made out of alphabet letters.



We welcomed a new five year old, George McKirdy, and his family to St John's School. George started school on 20th November.



## Middle Class News:



Kia ora!

What a busy term!

As you are aware we are busy preparing for the school concert at the moment. Our mornings are taken up with concert practice and I just know you are all going to really enjoy seeing your children on the stage. They are all doing such a fabulous job. The next few days we are putting on the finishing touches and we will be ready for Wednesday night!



## **Otago Sports**

I was lucky enough to attend the Otago Sports in Dunedin last week. I was very proud of how all our students performed down there and our students got some amazing results which Mrs Mulholland has written about earlier in the newsletter. Well done to all our students!



Ethan Chisholm



Xavier Love

### **Dunstan Zone Triathlon**

We had a group of 13 students go to the Dunstan Zone Triathlon in Cromwell earlier this month. Thank you to Anna Jeffries for being in charge of our team and the parents for taking the students up there.

Well done on the fabulous results:

Isla	1st
Xavier	1st
Marley	2nd
Theo/Ben	3rd
Josie	4th
George/Harry J/McKinley	4th
Jae	5th
Charlie/Caleb/Arthur	6th

Isla, Xavier, Marley and Josie attended the Central Otago Triathlon on Thursday

### **Holy Communion**

A lovely service was held this past Sunday for all the students receiving their first Holy Communion at our church. Thank you Anna Jeffries for preparing the students for this.



I look forward to seeing you all at the concert on Wednesday night.

Thank you again for all your support this year. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the Middle Class and Becky and I have had another fantastic year with your children.  
All the best to the Year 5's moving up to the Senior Class next year. We will miss you.

Ngā mihi,  
Heather Dowling

**Senior Class News:**



There is no Senior Class news in this newsletter due to staff sickness.

## Board of Trustees:

We would like to thank two of our Board of Trustee members who are standing down at the end of the year, Cate Herlihy and Logan Dowling.

Cate and Logan have been on our Board for a substantial time - Cate for 6 years and Logan for 5 years and Cate has been secretary most of this time. Both have been valued members of the Board and we thank them for their support and involvement.

A reminder that Board elections are coming up in September next year so if you are interested in putting your name forward please come along to a meeting next year and see what it's all about.

## Notices and Dates:

<b>Week 7</b>	Sunday 1st December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Bryleigh, Eli & Joshua Barroga
<b>Week 8</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Concert & Prizegiving – 7pm at Ranfurly Town Hall
	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Year Reports/Portfolios will be sent home
	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Xavier & Greta Love, Arthur Elworthy
<b>Week 9</b>	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	“Bring a Pet to School” afternoon from 1pm
	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Year Mass at 11.15am in our church
		Year 8 Graduation at 1.30pm in the school hall
	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Last Day of School
	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Jessie Greer & Izzy Eketone
		Please refer to website <a href="http://www.sjr.school.nz">www.sjr.school.nz</a> and check out the calendar for alter servers over holiday period.
<b>Date for 2025</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	First day of Term 1, 2025
	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Swim Week 2025
	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Waitangi Day – School Closed

**For Sale**

# Patearoa Honey

We have some 3kg pails of Patearoa Honey for sale through St John's School. This could be purchased as a great Christmas gift for family or friends or just for your family.

The cost is \$65 per pail.

If you would like to purchase please let us know by filling in the form below.

Thank you.

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I would like to buy \_\_\_\_ pail/s of honey at a total cost of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please deposit \$ into the school bank account, number:  
03 0951 0066195 000

Or

Send cash along to school.

## Swimming Lessons – Ranfurly

Billy Laing Swim Lessons

27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

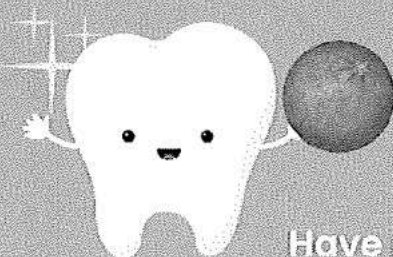
Please message Geraldine Dowling 027 4859693, or FB messenger if you wish to enrol your child.



## Fruit Drinks... what's the deal?

Did you know 'Fruit Drinks' only need to have a minimum of 5% (5ml /100ml) fruit content?

That means up to 95% could be added sugar, water, food acids, flavours and colours



For a yummy fruit hit, it's best to eat a piece of fresh fruit instead

Have plain water and milk as everyday drinks

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral  
Health Service

Scan this code  
for more great  
tooth tips





Tiaki Maniototo  
**TAIARI WAI  
 RIVER FESTIVAL**

Tess Liautaud • Jessie Shanks • Mads Harrop • Skin and Bone  
 Kids Activities • Music • BioBlitz • Guest Speakers • Food and Drink

**PĀTEAROA SCHOOL**

Ranfurly District

18 January

12pm to 5pm

Free Entry

[Tiakimaniototo.co.nz](http://Tiakimaniototo.co.nz)

