

St John's School Newsletter

6 Stuart Road
Ranfurly
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Issue 2: 28th February 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Jake Smith - Mufti Day

A huge thank you to everyone for your generous donations to help Jake Smith and his family with Jake's rehabilitation. In the end, we raised \$1,122.00c.

Welcome to school

We welcome new 5 year old, Braxton Chalmers, and his family to St John's School.



Swimming Sports

These will be held on the afternoon of **Tuesday 4th March beginning promptly at 1.15 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to come along to the Ranfurly Pool to watch and support the children.

The school bus will come to the pool at the end of the afternoon to pick up any children who need to go home on the bus. Please let us know if your child needs to catch the bus next Tuesday, thank you.

When children start at St John's School they are put into a house, either O'Neill or McAuley House. Attached is a list of names of children in each house. O'Neill's house colour is green and McAuley's is red. Points from swimming sports events are added up to get an overall house winner. Each school event during the year has a house winner and at the end of the year a shield is presented to the overall house winner from events held.

Beginning of the Year School Mass and Ash Wednesday

We will be celebrating a beginning of the year school Mass on **Wednesday 5th March at 9 a.m.** It is also Ash Wednesday so that will also be part of our Mass. Everyone is welcome to join us in celebrating this Mass.

Soccer and Cricket Coaching

We were lucky enough to have Jess, the soccer coach, return last Friday 21st February to do some more soccer coaching with each class.

On Monday 24th February we had an Otago Country cricket development coach, Alex, come and take each class for some cricket coaching.

Awahi Atua Student Support Programme

This year we have the above school counsellor programme being offered in our school, once a fortnight. Our counsellor is Jenny Brown. She will come and work in our classrooms initially, to get to know students. Then she will be available for 1 on 1 sessions with individual students, or small groups of students where there may be a socio-emotional or well-being situation that a student would like help with or would like to talk about. Jenny will develop strategies to help and support these students.

Students can be referred to Jenny by the classroom teacher or principal. Parent permission will be sought to support each referral.

A student may also ask a teacher if they wish to meet with the counsellor. Parents can also ask for their child to be referred by speaking with the classroom teacher or Principal.

Our Board of Trustees is funding this for 2025 and it is run by REAP in Alexandra.

Education Outside the Classroom: Camps

*The Middle Class are away to Dunedin for an overnight stay at the Museum on Thursday 27th March.

*The Senior Class are away to Berwick for a 3 night outdoor education camp Monday 31st March - Thursday 3 April.

Teacher Only Day and Otago Anniversary Day

A reminder school is closed on **Friday 21st March for Teacher Only Day and Monday 24th March for Otago Anniversary Day.**

Stationery and Emergency Contact Forms

Thank you to those families who have paid their stationery accounts.

If you haven't done this, please either pay into the school account 03 0951 0066195 000 or pay cash at the office. Thank you.

We asked all families to complete the emergency contact form to keep our records current. If this hasn't been sent back to school please fill it in and send it back asap. Thank you.

Driver Licences

When you are transporting children for school, we are required to hold a copy of your current drivers licence. If you have given us your licence in the past and renewed it within the last year, we required a copy of the updated version. Please make sure that we have the front and the back of the licence.

Resignation

At our Board of Trustees meeting in February I gave the Board notice of my resignation as Principal from the end of this year.

2025 is my 40th year teaching at St John's School and it has been a very big part of my life. I have enjoyed my time at St John's very much and this has been a huge decision for me to make but I think it is time for me to take a step back now.

St John's families and children over a couple of generations will always hold a special place in my heart!

Special Character:

On Wednesday the 5th March, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday, as well as the beginning of the school year.

Ash Wednesday is a very important day of the year for Catholics. It marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day preparation for Easter. Traditionally, Ash Wednesday and Lent were times of fasting and abstinence. But now we are encouraged to put God first in our daily lives and do more to help others.

Junior Class News:

We have had a very busy start to the term with Swim Week, the A and P Show, the Life Education Trust visit and soccer and cricket coaching sessions.

Here are some stories from the A and P Show day:

At the A and P Show, I went on the side by side. We went to Mr Whippy and got an ice cream. I went on the little noddy train and rode it to the lolly shop and I brought lollies by myself.

Lochy Barnish

At the A and P Show, I got my face painted. I got a blue butterfly. I got a balloon hat. I went to see the paintings. I got 1st in my painting. I went on the cheeky train with Amiria. Then I got Mr Whippy. I went on the water slide. I love it.

Nika Miller

At the A and P Show, I got my face painted like a dolphin. I got candy floss.

Willow Eketone

At the A and P Show, I liked getting a Mr Whippy ice cream with chocolate on it.

Patrick O'Neill

At the A and P Show, I went sliding down the waterslide. It was slippery and fun.

Thea Huddleston

At the A and P Show, I liked riding in the big truck.

Ollie Kensington

Middle Class News:



Hello Everyone,

Well, the term is not slowing down! Here are some photos from our busy few weeks.

A and P Show Art Success

Well done to the following students on their art prizes at the A and P show.



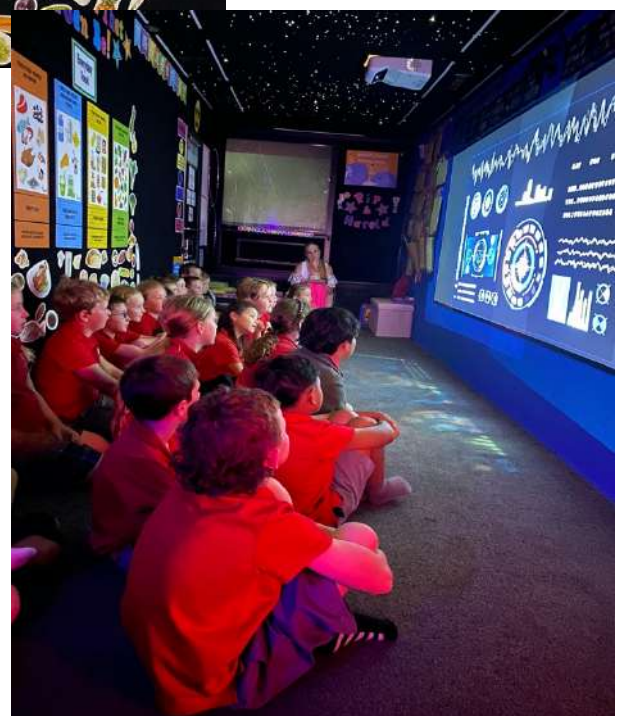
Soccer lessons with Jess



The Life Education Bus with Pip and Harold

In the Life Education bus, we learnt all about Healthy Eating. The students had to put different types of food into selected 'food cupboards' and we learned how much we should eat out of each cupboard a day.

We looked inside the body, where the food goes, and how it is digested.



Museum Overnight Stay

Thanks so much for sending back all the forms on time. I will collate all the information now and send out more information in a couple of weeks. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to come with us. We are all looking forward to it!

All the boxes of chocolates are out being sold now. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser. Remember, if you are having trouble selling the chocolates, please send them back and we can see if someone else can finish selling them for you.

I would like all the money back to school by Friday 14th March, please.

Start of year routines

All the students have settled in well now and are doing well with classroom routines. Most children remember their bookbags each day and are doing their homework and writing it in their books.

Please aim to have the students arrive at school at least 10 minutes before the bell rings. This allows them ample time to unpack their bags, catch up with friends, and get settled for the day ahead. Many students have morning responsibilities, such as leading prayers, and this extra time ensures they can complete these tasks without feeling rushed.

Upcoming Events

4th March Swimming Sports

5th March School Mass

Ngā mihi,

Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

'Be the change you want to see in the World.'

Dear Parents

The year so far has been busy, but we are settling into regular routines. Homework has started and from now on your child will ask you to sign it each night.

On Tuesday, the children completed a 15 minute run and we will do this again in 4 weeks time.

The goal is to be fit and strong for camp and we will complete a fitness programme to ensure this happens. Children will need to work on this at home by being active several times a week for about 15-30minutes. Their determination and grit during the 15 minute run were admirable - there was no moaning, complaining or trying to get out of it. Everyone did their best and I was impressed.

Following are some updates on what has been happening.

Young Vinnies



Jo Bell, who is the Youth Coordinator, came and visited us on Tuesday. She is our favourite visitor; Jo is incredibly warm-hearted and inspires us with her knowledge and messages.

She gave us an online tour of the St Vinnies shop on George Street in Dunedin, which was very interesting. It has 80 volunteers, a wide array of secondhand items, provides food for many families, and helps care for homeless people.

We then discussed the Young Vinnies goal of treating people with Dignity. We created these words to reflect dignity - honesty, love and respect, strength, helpfulness, believing in yourself, pride, heritage, kindness, unconditional love, sticking to your morals, confidence, non-judgment, loving yourself, humility, never giving up, freedom, being 'the change', being a truth-teller. Dignity is like a puzzle made up of lots of things.

Let us turn our talk into action this year!

On Monday, we are holding the Young Vinnie Executive elections.

Maniototo A and P Show



This was a fun day of community activities celebrating our rural lives. We entered eggs and placed 3rd, achieved 1st and 2nd in the Wool section with our Holy Paddock Halfbred fleeces and donated six lambs for the two Show Day lamb competitions. Our heaviest lamb weighed 58kgs. How awesome that our little farm could do so much! Thank you to Wayne Francis for picking our lambs up, crutching them and delivering them to the grounds on the morning of the show. Thank you also to Nick and Xavier Love for catching our runaway sheep heading to Patearoa one evening a couple of weeks ago!

Life Education Bus

Last week we spent time with Pip the educator and Harold. Our focus during this time was food. A couple of takeaways for home are that it was apparent that not all children eat breakfast before school. Children must eat breakfast before they come along for their 'workday' at school as they burn a lot of energy with the thinking and activities they partake in while here. Please set them up for success by ensuring they eat a nutritious breakfast. This may explain why several of our boys have been tired and are yawning by 10am. Sleep is essential for our children; they are growing and are busy. If your child looks tired, make some changes so that they get enough sleep. The children should be in bed by 9pm at the very latest.

Camp Berwick

Thank you for returning the permission forms for our camp. More information will be shared at a class meeting on Wednesday 19th March, in the evening. Next week a form to fill out about your child will come home to be filled in.

International T20 Cricket in Dunedin

There will be a second notice on Monday 10th March and a Messenger Page will be set up at that time.

Coaching



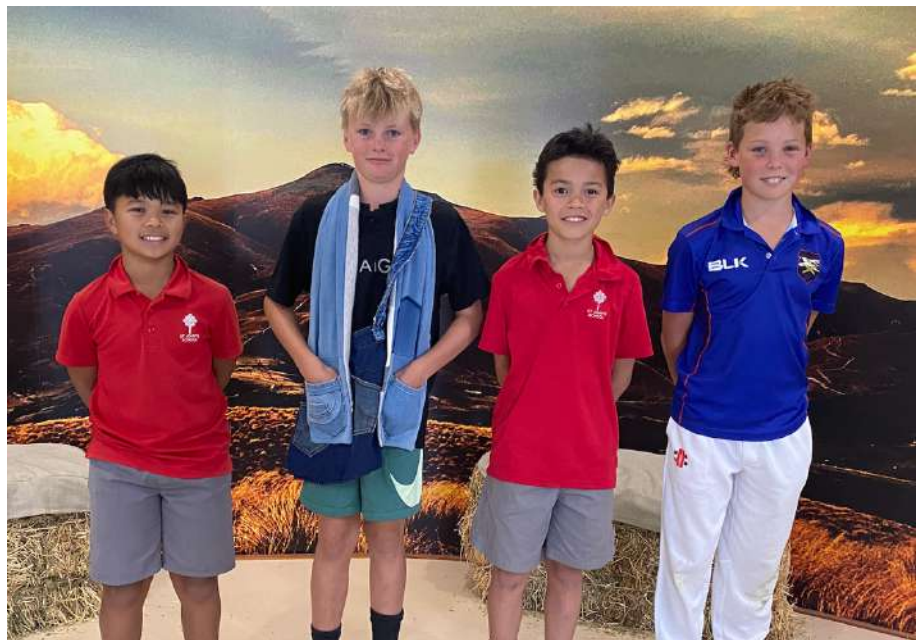
We have had two excellent football coaching sessions recently and you will see the flyer attached to this newsletter promoting football in Omakau. It runs for 10 weeks and would be a fun activity.

Earlier this week, we had a fun cricket session and the coach told us that we were one of the best classes she had had in a long time. Well done seniors. They were competitive but fair, trying to make it fun for everyone.

Lohi Fashion Show

With the help of Tania Murray from Lohi, the Senior students have designed items of clothing and accessories, ready to be modelled during the fashion show on Friday night. The design brief was to repurpose denim clothing from the op shop. The students worked in small groups designing, collecting materials from the op shop and then explaining their ideas with Tania. Tania then transformed these ideas on paper into wearable, and practical, pieces of art!





Kind regards,

Geraldine Duncan and Rachel Gray.

Looking ahead to March

Week	Dates	Activities planned at this stage
5	3 - 7th March	Mon - Young Vinnies Executive Voting Tues - School swimming sports Wed - School Mass Thurs - Teachers at professional development, Sarah Paterson is teaching
6	10 - 14th March	Mon - final T20 Cricket letter Thurs - 1st HPV vaccination for year 8's
7	17 - 21st March	Tues - T20 Cricket trip to Dunedin Wed - Camp Parent Meeting
8	24 - 28th March	Mon - Otago Anniversary Day Wed - Goal Day for seniors: 15 minute run.
9	31st - 4th April	Camp Berwick Monday - Thursday A normal school day on Friday.

Board of Trustees:

At our February BOT meeting, we reviewed two policies:

- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- Health and Safety Management

If you are interested in reading any of our school's policies please go to:

1. Log onto www.schooldocs.co.nz
2. Click Search for your school
3. Start typing the school name and then select it from the dropdown list
4. Enter the community username and password: sjr sjr
5. Put the name of the policy in the search section and it should come up for you to read
6. Select your role (board member, staff member or parent/caregiver) from the dropdown list
7. Enter your name (optional)
8. Submit your ratings and comments

Notices and Dates:

Term 1 Week 4	Friday 28 th February	Lohi Fashion Show
	Sunday 2 nd March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Colleen & Yuri Torres
Week 5	Tuesday 4 th March	Swimming Sports
	Wednesday 5 th March	Beginning of Year School Mass and Ash Wednesday 9am
Week 5	Sunday 9 th March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Jade Aquino & Millie Smith
Week 6	Sunday 16 th March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: McKinley Francis, Sophia & Henry Crutchley
Week 7	Friday 21 st March	Teachers Only Day School Closed
	Sunday 23 rd March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Isla, Jimmy & Oscar Jeffries
Week 8	Thursday 27 th March	Middle Class overnight stay at the Museum
	Sunday 30 th March	Sunday Mass at 5pm Altar Servers: Ethan Chisholm & Evie Steele
Week 9	Monday 31 st March – Thursday 3 rd April	Senior Class Camp at Berwick
	Sunday 6 th April	Sunday Mass at 4pm NOTE change of time Altar Servers: Bryleigh, Eli and Joshua Barroga
		Otago Swimming Sport in Dunedin
Week 10	Friday 11 th April	Last day of Term 1
	Sunday 13 th April	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Xavier & Greta Love & Arthur Elworthy

House Groups 2025

	McAuley	O'Neill
Y8 11	Colleen Nathan Axel Finn Cyrus Jae	Keisha Harry Dowling Harry Jefferies McKinley Ethan
Y7 8	Jade Jessie Kaylah Xavier	Isla Joshua Arthur Elworthy Neale
Y6 6	Charlie Ben	Zach Theo Caleb Eli
Y5 8	Olivia Greta Millie Yuri	Juliette Maggie Sophia Jack
Y4 9	Evie Izzy Oscar Archie James	Bryleigh Jimmy Mack Henry
Y3 7	Georgia Emerson Bjorn	Harriet Evelyn Flynn Arthur Dowling
Y2 6	Nika George Love Gab	Amiria Kyle Lochy
Y1 12	Ruby Patrick Harry McSkimming George McKirdy Ollie Kensington Miller	Willow Thea Fergus Walter Oliver Crutchley Braxton
Boys	20	23
Girls	13	11
Total	33	34 = 67 (February 2025)



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

6 Stuart Road, Telephone & Facsimile (03) 4449-514, Ranfurly

Dear Parents

Please provide us with all the following details as we need to keep our records up to date in case of an emergency. If any of the following changes during the year, please advise as soon as possible.

Phone Numbers/ Emergency Contact Phone Numbers & Email Addresses & Medical Updates?

One form for each family to be filled in please:

Children's Name/s: _____

Address (including rapid number)

Parent's Name & cellphone number

Name	Cellphone number	Landline Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact

Name	Number
_____	_____
_____	_____

Medical Updates

Does your child have any allergies? YES / NO. If so _____

Do they use an asthma inhaler? YES / NO

Is there anything medically that we should be made aware of?



MATAKANUI RANGERS F.C.

FOOTBALL SESSIONS



TRAINING EVERY TUESDAY - OMAKAU DOMAIN
3.30PM - 4.30PM (STARTS TUESDAY APRIL 1ST)
GAMES EVERY SUNDAY WITHIN CENTRAL OTAGO
BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME YEARS 1 - 8


CONTACT: KYLE HINTON ON: 027 867 1944

kylehinton88@gmail.com


Give Your Teeth A Rest

Snack All Day, Get Tooth Decay!



3 x 
as 1 snack
= 30 minutes of possible
tooth decay



1 x 
as 3 separate snacks
= 90 minutes of possible
tooth decay



HOW OFTEN we eat is as important as
WHAT we eat to keep our teeth healthy

The more times we eat each day = more chance for holes in our teeth

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service

Scan this code
for more great
tooth tips



Back to
School

2025 School Update Alexandra Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year! The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.



Local Community Clinics:

- Alexandra - 5 Ventry Street; Ph: 443 5915
- Wānaka - 11 Ironside Drive; Ph: 442 7183

Mobile Dental Units:

- Cromwell - 259 Gilling Place; Ph: 027 284 9852
*From 6 January - 31 July
- Roxburgh - 70 Scotland Street; Ph: 027 284 9857
*From 3 March - 8 April
- Wānaka - 11 Ironside Drive; Ph: 027 444 9894
*From 14 April - 27 June AND
*From 1 August - 31 October
- Ranfurly - 15 Caulfield Street; Ph: 027 284 9857
*From 14 April - 8 June



Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media



*Dates subject to change
For appointments outside these dates please call
0800 672 543

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service

Scan this code
for more great
tooth tips

