

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 3: 20th March 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai

Thank you

A big thank you to Tania and Russ from Lohi for organising the fashion show on Friday 28th February and donating the proceeds of the ticket sales to St John's School. They donated \$2,700 to our school. The Senior Class enjoyed participating in designing and modelling the clothes. Thanks to Rachel Gray and Geraldine Duncan for the help and support of the students with this project.



Another thank you

Thanks to Anna and Rob McSkimming for organising the honey extraction from the Holy Paddocks beehives on Friday 14th March.

Each class had time to watch, have a turn and a taste and ask lots of questions about the process, bees and beehives!

See some photos in the Junior and Middle Class news.

Swimming Sports

Congratulations to all the children for their efforts at our swimming sports held on the 4th March.

We were very proud of how the children all swam in their races, supported others and sat patiently waiting for their races.

A special congratulations to O'Neill House for being the overall winners (just!) of the swimming sports event.



Good luck to these students who are competing at the Otago Swimming Sports to be held in Dunedin on Sunday 6th April:

Harry Jeffries Axel McAuley Jae McAuley Isla Jeffries Xavier Love
Kaylah McAuley Jack Jeffries Izzy Eketone

Middle Class overnight trip

The Middle Class are away overnight to Dunedin on Thursday 27th March for a stay at the Otago Museum. We hope they have a great night away.

Senior Class Outdoor Education Camp

The Senior Class are away from Monday 1st April - Thursday 3 April for their outdoor ed camp at Berwick. I'm sure they will enjoy all the outdoor activities Mrs Duncan has planned for them.

Long Weekend - School closed

School is closed tomorrow, **Friday 21st March** for teacher only day.

School is also closed on **Monday 24th March** for Otago Anniversary Day.

End of Term 1 - School holidays

The end of Term 1 is approaching quickly. School finishes for Term 1 on **Friday 11th April**.

Term 2 begins on **Monday 28th April**.

Ngā Mihi
Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who came along to our beginning of the year/Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 5th March. There are some photos of this celebration under the Middle Class News.

We are now in the Church season of Lent. This is a time of getting ready for Easter and an opportunity to pray and do good things for others.

Junior Class News:

Last Friday we enjoyed spinning the honey from our "Holy Paddocks" beehives, with help from Anna and Rob McSkimming.

Here are some photos of this:



Here are some stories about this:

On Friday we spun the honey. I put some honey on my finger. It tasted really sweet.

Amiria Cromb

On Friday I went into the hall. I spun the honey. I put my finger in the honey. It was delicious.

Gab Aquino

On Friday we went to the hall to spin the honey. It tasted yummy.

Ruby Dodds

Middle Class News:



Week 7!! How can that be? The term doesn't seem to be slowing down at all.

Novel Study

We've finished reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We had a lot of fun reading the book and did some fun activities and quizzes about what we had read.

One of the writing activities was "What meals would you have in your bubblegum that tastes like a 3-course meal?"

Here is a display of the children's writing - Check out those big bubbles!



Persuasive Writing

During our writing time, the children have been learning and writing about a persuasive argument. We started off by writing which season they think is best and why. Their writing has to include 3 arguments and some have been very convincing.

They then had to write a persuasive argument around our topic of Healthy Eating with a partner and present it as a slideshow. The children have done a fantastic job of these.

Here are some examples:

Bryleigh and Mack:



Georgia and Archie:



Olivia and Oscar:



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, 5th March, we had a lovely service with Father Jaewoo to mark Ash Wednesday. In our Faith Focus sessions, we've discussed the three important practices to observe during Lent. Just as Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights, we focus on Almsgiving, Fasting, and Prayer during this sacred time.

At school, we interpret fasting as giving up something we enjoy, like lollies or screen time.



Honey Extraction

Last Friday we were lucky enough to have Anna and Rob McSkimming come and extract our honey for us. The children all had a go at spinning the honeycomb to get the honey out and also the very important job of taste testing!!

Thanks, Anna and Rob!



A Night at the Museum

This time next week the Middle Room will be getting settled in for our night at the Otago Museum. We have a great couple of days lined up:

We head to the gardens for a run around in the morning before heading to Moana Pool for a swim and hydroslide. We then head to the Museum from 3pm where we have Museum staff take us for some education programmes. We sleep on mattresses on the floor of the museum overnight, all around the fun exhibits in the Discovery World.

The next day, we head to the Orokanui Ecosanctuary, where we will learn about the native wildlife and plants.

It's sure to be a fantastic trip. I look forward to updating you all in the next newsletter.

Ngā mihi,

Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

Dear Parents

Camp Berwick

Thank you for attending the camp meeting last night. You will have seen the details about who your child travels to and from camp with, what activities we are doing, the guidelines for child behaviour and the details for the Monday morning we leave. The Messenger Page will be set up next week for other communication, videos and photos while at camp.

On Wednesday, we are checking our fitness by completing our 15-minute run for the second time. The excitement for camp is building!

T20 Cricket

We had a great day in Dunedin on Tuesday. Although the weather was not perfect, that did not deter us from enjoying ourselves. We started with a swim at Moana Pool and then headed to the grounds. We saw the White Ferns women in action until there was a pause in play due to the drizzle, so we then headed across and connected with a past pupil, Warren Kearney, who works for Otago Rugby as the Community Rugby Manager. We had a great tour around the Stadium and then headed back for the Black Caps game. Our children had lots of screen time as the cameras often focused on them, and we enjoyed seeing the big hits going right out of the park! Thank you to the accompanying adults for your great company and help. It was a great day.



Young Vinnies



We have held our first meeting, and the children have outlined their action plan for the year. Already this year, we have donated six lambs to local community fundraisers, positively impacting others.

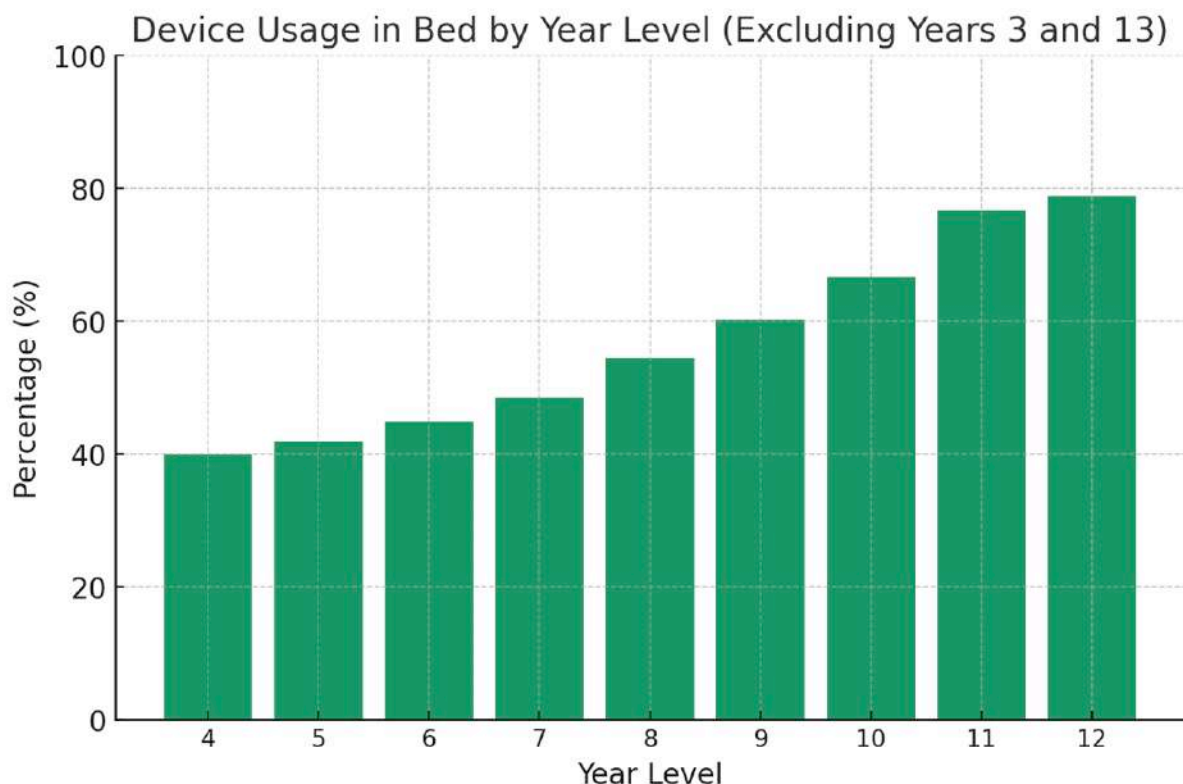
At the start of term 2, we will be collecting cones to give to parish and community members. Please send us your empty hen feed, etc, bags so we can collect pinecones in them. They can come in any time, as we have storage for them. Thank you.

In the last week of term, the children plan to make toffee apples as a treat for the other children and create Easter cards for our parishioners.

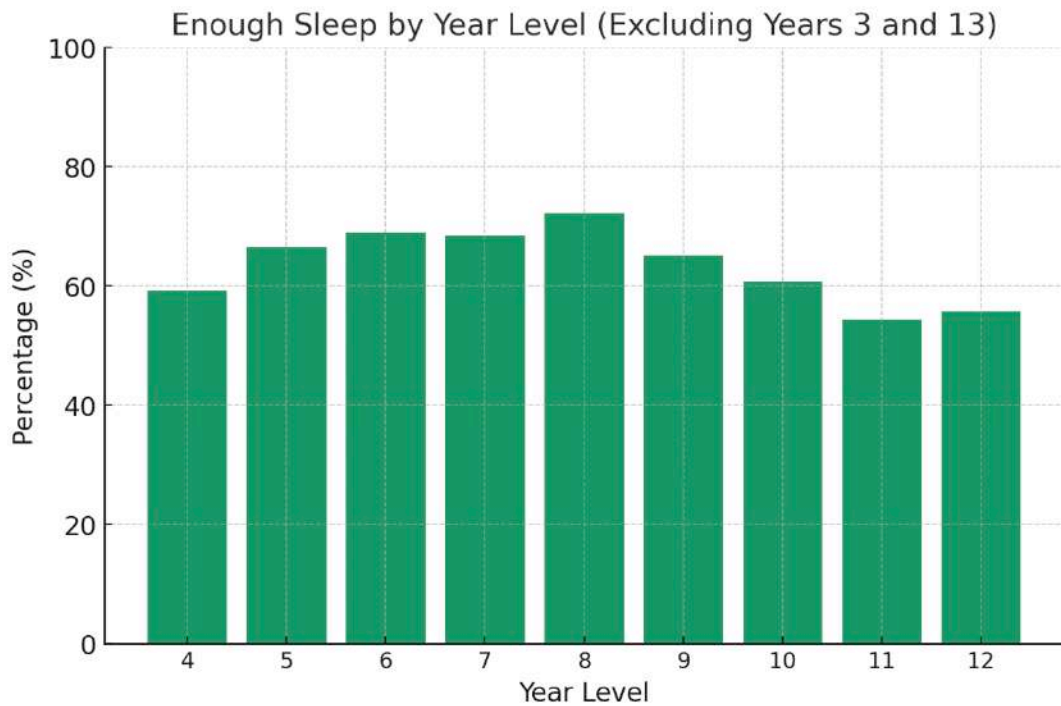
This photo shows our elected Executive members for 2025. They are a great team of class leaders.

Interesting Statistics from the Census at Schools 2025 data.

I receive updates from the Census at Schools team, and I found this latest data quite surprising and interesting.



Question: Did you use any device in bed last night? 'Device' includes TVs, phones, computers, tablets, consoles, etc.



Question: Did you feel like you got enough sleep last night?

Devices are a normal part of our lives, and we must guide our children on how to use them appropriately, when to use them, and how much to use them. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I have tired boys who yawn by 10 a.m. Getting to bed at a good time and having rest time with no distractions is vital for all of us.

Enviroschools

Keisha Evangelista and Cyrus Janerol Soil Testing 2025

On February the 28th we did a soil testing investigation around our school with Lucy from enviroschools. First we dug up some dirt with a spoon from the front gardens. The soil was lumpy, crumbly, damp and dark brown. We used a magnifying glass and a microscope, and we saw a dead ladybug and some insects.

Next we went to the tree next to the hall. The soil there was also crumbly, light brown and dry. We again used a magnifying glass and microscope and found a worm and some more insects.

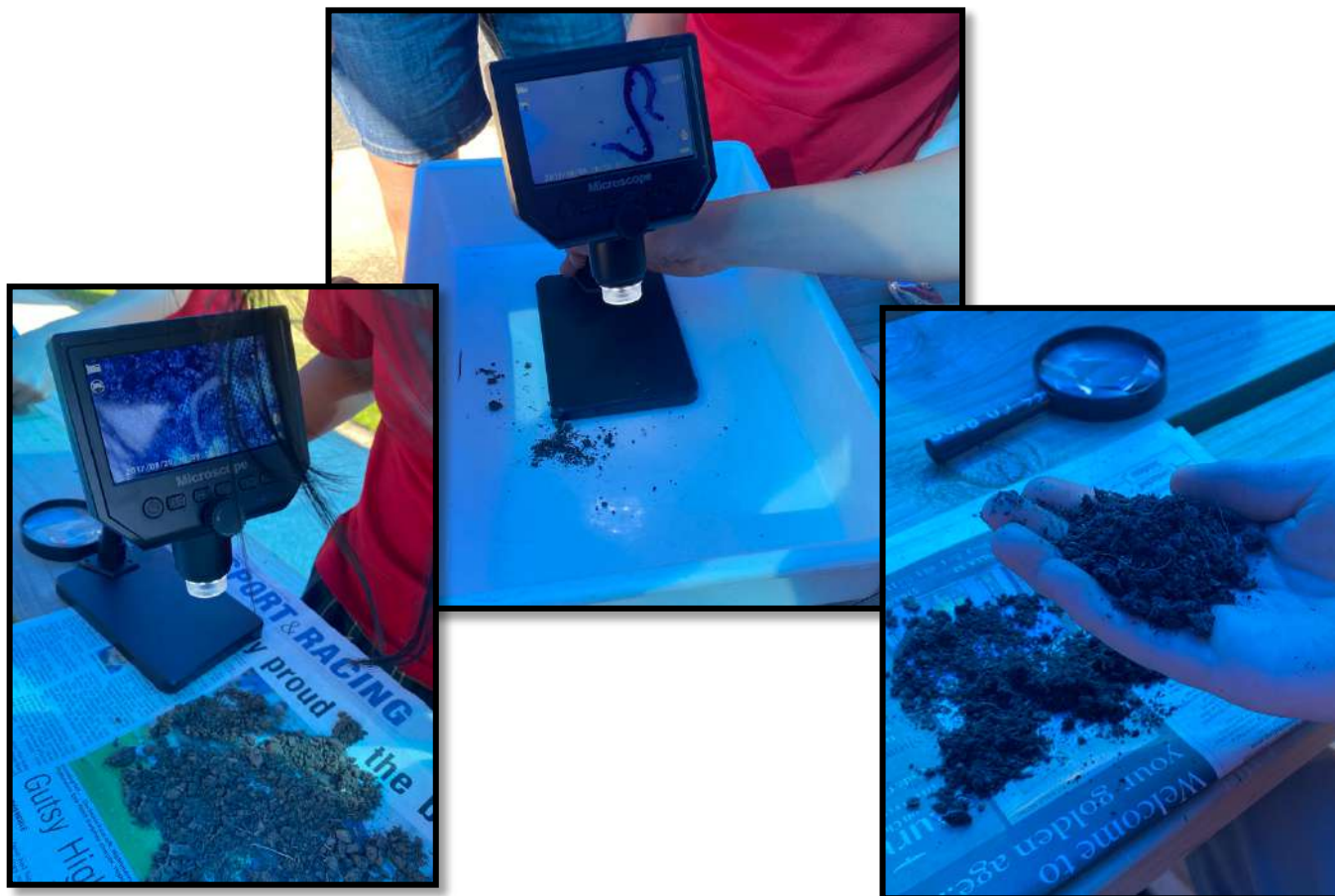
Lastly we went to the Apple Tree next to Holy Paddocks, the soil there was also crumbly, dark brown and moist. We found insects and some tiny worms.

We recorded all our information on a table with the different textures of soil, what living creatures were in it and the moisture content of the soil.

Our healthiest soils were at the front gardens and the apple tree.

This was a fun investigation and we got to go around the school and see the different types of soils.

Here are some photos that were taken during our experiment:



Kind regards,
 Geraldine Duncan and Rachel Gray.

Looking ahead to March

Week	Dates	Activities planned at this stage
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. Otago Swim Sports on Sunday - Good Luck to our superstar competitors!
10	7-11th April	YV: Toffee apple and Card Making Fri - planting with Tiaki.

Board of Trustees:

At our March meeting, the Board was present with and discussed a curriculum report on English and Visual Language.

We also reviewed the following school policies:

- Risk management
- Worker engagement, participation, and representation

If you would like to read any of these 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 drop-down 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 drop-down list.
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.

A reminder that Board of Trustees elections are coming up in September.

If you are interested in standing for election please come along to a meeting and see what is involved.

Our next BOT meeting is on **Tuesday 8 April at 7.30 p.m.**

Notices and Dates:

Bank Account Details

Below is a list of bank account details that you might want to save in your phone for future reference.

St John's School Board of Trustees - 03 0951 0066195 000

St John's School Camp – 03 0951 0064739 000

St John's School Uniform Account – 03 0951 0045351 000

Please make sure when paying into any of the school accounts that you put what the payment is for in the reference field then it can be allocated to the right event/class.

Term 1 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
School Holidays	Sunday 20 th April	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Jessie Greer & Izzy Eketone
	Sunday 27 th April	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Florence & Juliette Dowling

#WOHD25
#HappyMouth



PRESENTING TOOTHIE THE BEAVER IN...

**A HAPPY MOUTH IS...
a happy mind**

worldoralhealthday.org



Happy World Oral Health Day 20 March 2025

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: 448 5915
- Wānaka - 11 Ironside Drive; Ph: 443 7185

Mobile Dental Units:

- Cromwell - 258 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
- Banbury - 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

