

St John's School Newsletter

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Issue 4: 11th April 2025

Principal's Page:

Nau mai haere mai.

We have quickly come to the end of Term 1.
We wish you all a happy Easter and a safe and relaxing holiday.

Term 2

Term 2 begins on Monday 28th April.

Honey

Holy Paddocks honey can be purchased from school. It is \$20 for a 700gm jar.
Please send along cash and the number of jars you would like or you can internet bank the money into the St John's School Board of Trustees account no:
03 0951 0066195 00
Thank you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to those students who swam in the Otago Swimming Champs last Sunday. What a great effort from you all.

Entertaining at the Hospital

On Tuesday, 29th April, we have been invited to entertain the residents at the Maniototo Hospital.
We will all walk to and from the hospital, ready to begin at 11 a.m. and return at 12 p.m.

Waste Free Wanda Show

We have been invited to attend the "Waste Free Wanda" show at Maniototo Area School on Friday 2 May at 9.30 a.m. We will walk to and from MAS for this.
Waste Free Wanda is a show about how we can reduce our waste and discover tools that prevent us from counting solely on recycling to save our planet.

Special Character Review

On Wednesday the 6th and Thursday, the 7th of May, we will have 2 representatives from the Dunedin Diocese Catholic Education Office visit our school for a Special Character Review.
They will spend time in each classroom observing prayer time and Religious Education lessons over the 2 days. They will also talk to the Board of Trustees, students and staff about the special character of our school.

Ngā Mihi

Susan Mulholland

Special Character:

Sunday Mass is now at the winter time of **4 p.m.**

Please note that on **Easter Sunday, 20 April, Mass is at 9.30 a.m.**

Easter Services in our Church are:

Holy Thursday 7 p.m.

Good Friday 3 p.m.

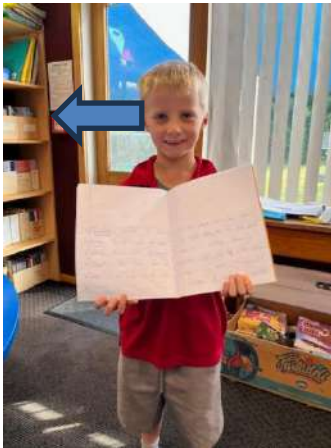
Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday 9.30 a.m.

This week we have been focusing on Holy Week events in Faith Focus and in class Religious Education times. On Friday afternoon we will participate in "The Stations of the Cross" liturgy in our Church, where we look at the pictures (stations) on the walls of the Church and follow the story of Jesus' death, through prayer and reflections.

Junior Class News:

Another busy term has come to an end.
Here are some photos of things we have been doing.



This is George Love, proudly holding the very long story he wrote recently about the Love family's fantastic trip to Australia.



Miller Barnish is holding two words out of his word tin. Each day in reading some of the younger children practice saying and recognising the words from their tin. These words are the main ones used when they start to read.



Here are Ruby Dodds and Harry McSkimming with their alphabet cards. Each morning the 5 year olds practise with their alphabet cards, saying the name of the letter and the sound each letter makes.



Here is Mrs Francis using the scales to show the Junior Class children how to find out which object is heavier.

Middle Class News:



Kia ora koutou,

Museum Overnight Stay

A couple of weeks ago, the Middle Class had an amazing time during our overnight stay in Dunedin. We kicked off our adventure at the Otago Settlers Museum, followed by an exhausting afternoon riding the Hydroslide at Moana Pool. Our next stop was the Otago Museum, where we took part in some fantastic educational programmes. We spent an hour in the Planetarium learning about stars and dinosaurs and later enjoyed a pizza dinner before diving into a session on mummies and Egypt.

We had the unique experience of sleeping among the equipment in the Science Centre at the Otago Museum. The following day, we headed to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary, where we learned about insects and had the opportunity to see the Takahe and Tuatara up close, before going on a forest walk.

It was an action-packed couple of days, and I couldn't be prouder of our students for their enthusiastic participation in all the activities. A big thank you to all the parents who joined us on the trip and for the delicious baking we received. We were very lucky!

Here is some student writing about our trip:

Finally! The big day arrives when the Middle Class goes to the Otago Museum! The countless cool things are impossible to predict, including going to Moana Pool and zooming down the fast hydro slides, playing with the awesome toys at the ecosanctuary and learning Mummy Mania.

It all started when we went to the Otago Settlers Museum because it was too wet in the gardens but at least it was super fun! We had about 10 things to find in the scavenger hunt like a Maori bird thing and a boy holding a suitcase. Then we went to the Moana pool. When we walked inside we got our wristbands on and got changed. We went up a long staircase to the pool and I saw some well detailed paintings outside the windows that I think were Maori. First I went down the super cool hydroslides that were lightning quick! Next, I went to the normal pool just in time for the waves. It made me swirl around like crazy!

I can't wait for next year!

Flynn McSkimming

On the 27th March, the Middle Room set off on a great journey to Dunedin for camp. We were doing lots of things but my favourite part was the museum because we did lots of stuff.

First, we had to bring all our belongings up so many stairs and the parents got to use the elevators. Finally, we arrived at our destination. We were all very hungry so we got some afternoon tea. First, we had to get some fruit and then we could get some baking. First I got Flynn's muffins but it was time to move on. Then we got some free time in the playroom. We were also sleeping in the games room. I would say my favourite game was the Make Your Own Movie. It gives you some rocks and animals to use to make a movie with.

It was so fun. I can not wait for next year.

Jimmy Jeffries



Wishing you all a lovely holiday! I hope you find some time to relax and refresh. Looking forward to catching up with everyone next term! Enjoy your break!

Ngā mihi,

Heather Dowling

Senior Class News:

Week 10, Term 1.

A huge thank you to all our parents for your continued support. We recognise the importance of your role in reinforcing learning at home, through assistance with homework, and by ensuring consistent school attendance. Also, your positive influence as role models helps shape our students into responsible and successful children. We appreciate your support.

Ukulele with Tim Carson

On Friday, March 28th, Tim Carson visited St. John's to teach a ukulele lesson to the senior class. He brought enough ukuleles for everyone, and the students were very attentive. In the 1.5-hour session, Tim managed to teach three songs: P!nk's 'Get the Party Started', 'Nga Iwi E', and another song of his choosing. The school has six ukuleles available, and it's hoped that the students will continue to play, as there is some real talent shining through.



Maths Trail

To solidify their understanding of measurement concepts covered this term, the students participated in a 'Maths Trail' around the school grounds. Each group of three students received an aerial map marked with various locations and corresponding codes. At each station, they were tasked with solving a measurement problem, documenting their thought processes in their booklets, and justifying their answers. The trail included stations requiring estimations, such as the height of the tree near the entrance, as well as those demanding precise measurements, like the area of the hall doors. This activity provided a valuable opportunity to observe how students applied their recent learning in a real-world context and how they approached various measurement challenges.



Camp Berwick

On Monday the 31st of March the Senior Class and some super parents went to Camp Berwick near Outram for 4 days. We met at school, packed our bags into the cars and headed off to Camp. We first stopped at Middlemarch to have a play on the playground and eat our morning tea. Then we kept going and arrived at Camp Berwick. We parked the cars and unpacked our bags into the rooms. After that, we met Tim who was our instructor. He was a nice guy and could whistle very loudly! Our first activity was the Team Building challenges and there were 3 different challenges which required lots of teamwork. We did well at these and there were lots of laughs. Then we had 3 more activities for the afternoon. My group first did the Confidence Course. It's a course with different challenges like tyres, rings you have to swing along, going through a tight net and the Berwick Challenge (where you try to turn around a horizontal pole without touching the ground) which was so hard. After that was Radio Orienteering where we had a map which had different points where we would find a letter. Lastly, we did the flying fox which was 30m long and a lot of fun.

The next day we did 6 activities. Our first activity was the Crazy Swing. We wore harnesses and we had to try and grab different coloured flags and you had to stretch so far. After that we did tree climbing where we had to climb this tall tree and it was fun. Then we went to abseiling. It was a wooden platform that went down onto a rock face and there was also a practice area. In the afternoon there were water activities. We went on push carts and ended up in the pond, kayaking where we played tag and raft building which ended up pretty much being a swim! The pond was really cold but we all enjoyed it.

On Wednesday we went to the Maungatua Adventure Centre. We went through a tight cave, did the high ropes and went on the 150m zipline. To get there we had to walk up this steep and long hill. The high ropes were my favourite activity because there were many challenging obstacles so we wouldn't get bored and we had to be brave.

On our final day at Camp, we did archery and air rifle shooting. With the air rifles, we had to shoot teddy bears and targets. Lastly was archery. We had 3 arrows to shoot at a target and it was hard work to pull the arrow back. Finally, we packed our bags, tidied our bunk rooms and went home. Camp Berwick was really fun, the food was delicious but sadly we had to leave.

The parents who came with us were amazing. They were really helpful and supportive during the activities and they were also funny. Camp wouldn't be able to happen without the parents. The food was very yummy, we ate all the baking and had dessert every night. The camp was fun.

By Cyrus and Caleb

The Elevate Project

For the last three terms, the senior room girls have been working with Courtney, a facilitator from Puna Rangatahi, the Alexandra and District Youth Trust team. We have been doing a programme called Elevate. We have had so much fun with Courtney learning about life and how to work together healthily. It has been a great programme and it has made our friendships stronger in a lot of ways. A big thanks to Courtney, you have helped so much throughout the three terms we have had you and you have made it fun for all of us.

By Kaylah and Isla

Young Vinnies

After the holidays we are going to collect pine cones so we can donate them to our parishioners and community members. **If you have feed bags that you could donate to us, please send them in at the start of term 2.**

On Wednesday the year 6 boys worked with Mrs Jeffries to make toffee apples to give to the whole school! This was an activity they did to share the love or perhaps to share the sugar! When gifting the toffee apple, they also presented each child with a poem about Easter.



Shiny eggs, a yummy treat,
Toffee apples, oh so sweet!

Easter fun for you and me,
Happy as can be!

But Easter's love is best of all,
Jesus loved us, big and small.

He was a friend, so kind and good,
Just like friends you understood.

He showed us love in all he'd do,
A special friend, and always true.

Now Easter joy is all around,
Happy, happy, joyful sound!

Otago Swimming Championship event

Last Sunday 6 children represented our school at this prestigious event. This is their reflection on the day. Jack and Izzy from the Middle Room also attended the event.

Early Sunday morning Xavier, Jae, Axel and Isla headed off to Moana Pool in Dunedin for the Otago Swimming Sports. Isla, Jae and Xavier were entered in Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke and Axel entered the Freestyle. It was a long, hot and loud day at Moana Pool but the water was very refreshing. They all swam really well and were pleased with their results. Congratulations to Xavier for getting 3rd place in Backstroke.

A **big thank you** to Mrs Gabby Love for volunteering to marshall at this event, it was a demanding and tiring job.

Kind regards,
Geraldine Duncan and Rachel Gray.

Looking ahead to May

Week	Dates	Activities planned at this stage
1	28 -2nd May	Waste Free Wanda at MAS (Fri).
2	5 - 9th May	Catholic Review team visiting school.
3	12 - 16th May	National Young Leaders Day in Dunedin - Year 8 children (Mon) will need 2 parents to drive cars. Dunstan Zone Rippa Tournament.
4	19 - 23rd May	Dunstan Zone Rippa Tournament postponement date.

Board of Trustees:

At our April meeting, the Board were presented with a curriculum report on Health and Physical Education.

We reviewed two policies: Healthcare and Recording and reporting accidents, injuries, and illness.

Geraldine Duncan reported back to us on a very successful Senior Class camp.

Our next meeting will be part of the Catholic Special Character Review when they visit our school on May 7th and 8th.

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

Young Vinnies – 03 0951 0083139 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 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
Term 2 Week 1	Monday 28 th April	First day of Term 2
	Sunday 4 th May	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Finn & Charlie Dowling
	Sunday 11 th May	Sunday Mass at 4pm Altar Servers: Keisha Evangelista & Mack Mayo
	Sunday 18 th May	Sunday Mass at 4pm Zach Tomalon & Harry Dowling
	Sunday 25 th May	Sunday Mass at 4pm Theo Dowling, Nathan Smith & Maggie O'Neill

TAONGA TŪTURU:

MĀORI ARTEFACT CATALOGUING

FREE
EVENT!

8-12 APRIL

Cromwell, Clyde, Alexandra

TŪHURA
Otago Museum**TIME TRAVEL THROUGH CENTRAL OTAGO'S INCREDIBLE HISTORY!**

Touch, examine & learn about REAL ancient Māori stone tools, watch expert curators solve historical mysteries, learn how ancient tools were made & used, discover the incredible stories hidden in stone artifacts & learn about your own local history.

MEET EXPERT EXPLORERS!

Meet Dr. Gerard O'Regan & Lana Arun (Taonga Māori curators) & Kane Fleury (Natural History curator), all experts from Tūhura Otago Museum.

This event is suitable for all ages, with hands-on experiences.

Found any weird rocks or artifacts while exploring? Bring them along! The museum experts will help you uncover their secrets.

Visit centralstories.com for dates & information

NOW: SONGWRITING COMPETITIONS (Online)

The 2025 Play It Strange songwriting competitions are now open. Visit playitstrange.org.nz/competition

3 APRIL: AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING (Alexandra & Ranfurly)

Be inspired by the stories behind the fashion, photography & writing of the new Eden Hore couture collection book.

Visit centralapp.nz ('What's On' page)

5 APRIL-4 MAY: NZ PASTEL ARTISTS EXHIBITION (Alexandra)

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to appreciate the skill & variety of Pastel Artists of NZ's annual exhibition.

Visit centralstories.com

7 APRIL-12 MAY: TŪHURA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (Online)

Entries open on 7 April for the Tūhura Otago Museum's prestigious photography competition.

Visit otagomuseum.nz for more details

12-27 APRIL: SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES (Alexandra)

Join us for an exciting school holiday programme, including arts & craft activities to celebrate our two visiting Otago skinks. Hop down over Easter to take part in some Easter challenges & on Easter Saturday only, you can decorate your own Easter biscuit!

Visit centralstories.com for more information

14 APRIL: IHC ART AWARDS ENTRIES OPEN (Online)

These awards provide artists with an intellectual disability the opportunity to have their talent recognised & their voices heard. The Youth category is for 13-17 year olds.

Visit ihc.org.nz/get-involved/art-awards

23 APRIL: LIAM WOODING (Bannockburn)

Versatile concert pianist Liam Wooding is known for his eclectic performances & is the recipient of numerous awards.

Visit artscentral.co.nz for tickets & information

24-27 APRIL: ARROWTOWN AUTUMN FESTIVAL

This fun community festival offers creative workshops in rock painting, juggling, circus performance, art & balloon art. Come & enjoy storytelling, street performances, comedy & music.

Visit arrowtownautumnfestival.co.nz

24 APRIL-18 MAY: HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (Clyde)

Waiata Theatre Productions is proud to present this musical based on the Victor Hugo novel & songs from the Disney film.

Visit iticket.co.nz

26 APRIL: SIX STRINGS AT SIX (Alexandra)

Classical guitarist Braden Southee leaves a lasting impression with his profound musical interpretations & technical finesse.

Visit eventfinda.co.nz/2025/six-strings-at-six/Alexandra

30 APRIL: STEAM COMPETITION ENTRIES OPEN (Online)

The Solve for Tomorrow competition challenges year 7-13 students to show how design thinking can be applied to help improve their communities.

Visit samsung.com/nz/solvefortomorrow

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS: TAKE A LOOK

Rockquest, Tangata Beats, Bandquest, OnScreen, Stills

Visit raqp.co.nz

NZ Youth Film Festival Competition (online)

This competition celebrates & empowers Aotearoa's next generation of filmmakers. It's free for youth aged 15-24 years.

Visit nzyff.com

BOOK NOW:

13 & 16 May: The Big Bike Film Night (Alexandra)

24 & 25 May: RNZB: The Firebird with My Brilliant Career (Dunedin)

1 & 4 July: Daniel Champagne (Lowburn & Alexandra)