



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL QUEENSTOWN

Our Vision Statement

Creating confident learners, who, like Jesus, make a positive difference.

Our Values

Walk in Truth
and with Respect.

Term Dates 2023

Term 1 ~ Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April

Term 2 ~ Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

Term 3 ~ Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Term 4 ~ Monday 9 October to Tuesday 19 December

Click here for - [Website](#) - [Facebook Page](#) - [Calendar of Events](#) - [Sports Uniform Order](#)

Newsletter

08 December 2023

Week 9

Term 4

Calendar of Events			Principal's quote of the week: It's all fun and games 'til Santa checks the naughty list!
Monday	11 December	End of Year Mass 9:30am	
Thursday	14 December	Last day for Ordering Lunches for 2023	
Thursday	14 December	Graduation and Prize Giving 5pm	
Thursday	14 December	Whānau Picnic and BBQ 6pm	
Friday	15 December	Junior Nativity Play 2pm	
Tuesday	19 December	Last day of School for 2023 (12pm finish)	
Wednesday	31 January	First Day of Term 1 for 2024	
Thursday	8 February	Ezlunch Orders will Resume for 2024	



Sleeps 'til Santa 16



WELCOME

This week we welcomed Oscar Petre and his parents Damian, Rochelle and Ella. Oscar has started in Hoiho Class.

SKIDS ... AVAILABLE FROM 12PM ON 19TH DECEMBER

Skids are available from 12pm on Tuesday 19th when school finishes early. Here is the link for parents who would like to make a booking.

[https://enrolmy.com/skids-rosie-cole/activity/50-Queenstown Christmas Holidays 2023](https://enrolmy.com/skids-rosie-cole/activity/50-Queenstown_Christmas_Holidays_2023)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL ...

Kia ora whānau. Ngā mihi o te te wā o te Aweneti! Advent greetings!

A huge thanks to the many, many parents, caregivers and whānau who have very generously given their time and energy this week to make our Education Outside the Classroom week such a great success! Experiences like those we've enjoyed this week are not possible without the support of our whānau, and it is so important to immerse our tamariki in these kinds of rich learning experiences as part of the school year. This week we have seen amazing perseverance and determination from our children, wonderful kindness and patience and understanding, great courage and enthusiasm and strength of character - our children are fantastic! A huge "Thank You" also to our awesome teachers who have spent so much time preparing for this week and have been so positive throughout what has been a very tiring week!

There's also lots of photos on our [school Facebook page](#).

Next week of course is our last full week of school for the year. A major focus at this time of year is remembering that our school is a place of learning. We're very grateful for your support towards this focus - please remind your children that it is really important that they attend school as normal and take a full part in the classroom learning programme as expected.

We have 3 significant school celebrations next week where our community will gather to look back and to look forward:

- we will gather to celebrate our End of Year Mass together on Monday morning starting at 9:30am in the church, and during this Mass we will announce our Ākonga Ranagtira for 2024;
- we will gather as a school community for the Graduation and Prize Giving for our Year 8 students on Thursday evening at 5pm in the church, a whole school celebration focused on our graduating students for 2023, followed by a whānau picnic and BBQ in the school grounds;
- we will gather to celebrate the Nativity story, our Christmas story, on Friday afternoon starting at 2pm in the church.

Of course you are also all welcome to join us for the Year 8 Speeches on Monday at 5pm if you wish. All of these are really special opportunities to come together as a community and celebrate another fabulous year at St Joseph's School. Please check in with your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

Remember too that school finishes at 12pm on Tuesday 19 December. Please make sure that you have made arrangements for your child to return home from school early on that day.

Thanks whānau. Kia pai tō rā whakatā! Only 7 school days left after today! It's all happening so quickly!

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki hoki. May God bless and care for you.

Alan Grant

Tumuaki | Principal

principal@stjosephsqt.school.nz

SCHOOL ORGANISATION 2024

I just want to let you know about our staffing and class organisation for next year ahead of next week's 2 transition visits for students. Please note the following 2024 classes and teams:

Junior Team; Leader - Mrs Lisa Dickson

Piwakawaka, Years 0 and 1; Teacher - Mrs Lisa Dickson

Tui, Years 1 and 2; Teacher - Mrs Jen Johnston (Mrs Debbie Healy on Monday afternoons and Thursday afternoons)

Ruru, Years 2 and 3; Teacher - Mrs Emma Sullivan (Mrs Chris Stevens on Thursdays)

Senior Team; Leader - Mrs Alice Dunstan (Deputy Principal)

Hoiho, Years 4 and 5; Teacher - Mrs Belinda Davidson (Mrs Debbie Healy from 10:30am till 12:45pm Monday to Thursday)

Takahe, Years 5 and 6; Teacher - Mrs Ros Gale (see note below)

Moa, Years 7 and 8; Teacher - Mrs Alice Dunstan (Mr Nic Carter on Tuesdays)

Leadership Team

Alan Grant, Principal

Alice Dunstan, Deputy Principal and Senior Team Leader

Emma Sullivan, Director of Religious Studies

Lisa Dickson, Junior Team Leader

Miss Elli MacColl has worked at our school for the last 2 years on 2 fixed term (year-long) contracts, and recently accepted a permanent teaching position effective from 2024. Elli has applied for leave to teach in Australia in 2024 and this request has been approved. We're looking forward to welcoming Elli back to St Joseph's for the 2025 school year. Mrs Ros Gale is an experienced teacher who is relocating this month from Christchurch to Queenstown. We're looking forward to welcoming Ros to our community. Ros has accepted a fixed term position as classroom teacher for Takahe class for 2024.

We will have 2 transition visits next week where the children will spend 30 minutes in their 2024 class with their 2024 teacher (where possible). On Monday, shortly before the first transition visit, teachers will tell students which class they will be in for 2024. Please note that in some cases, given the size of our school and of particular cohorts, class placement is a matter of course. Where there is an opportunity to choose which class a student is placed in, teachers and leaders work together to make the best choice to give students the best opportunity to flourish, taking into account a wide range of factors including learning and social needs. Be assured that our children are at the heart of our thinking and our decision making. Our teachers do a wonderful job of meeting the needs of our children, identifying where they are at and teaching to their next steps (holistically). If you would like to discuss your child's learning (and other) needs, please make arrangements to meet with the classroom teacher or Team Leader (Lisa or Alice).

ARTERIAL ROUTE - SOME PROGRESS

We've seen significant progress in the last couple of weeks on Melbourne Street as the team from Kā Huanui a Tāhuna start to erect the pieces of the retaining wall - these are enormous concrete panels and they are placed with precision so as to align the wonderful artwork. This progress has made Melbourne Street even more congested, particularly on Tuesdays when panels are delivered. We have asked the team to be considerate of our key movement times but you may wish to avoid Melbourne Street if possible, particularly on Tuesdays (including the last day of the year for us, Tuesday 19 December).



PB4L FOCUS

For our last few weeks of the year our Positive Behaviour for Learning focus will be:

‘Keeping track of our personal belongings’

We expect that students will:

- pick up polar fleeces when they take them off in the playground, and when on the whole school picnic.
- take all personal belongings home at the end of the day. (including polar fleeces, shoes, socks, books, paper, artwork)
- keep the corridors, bag areas and decks clean of all belongings at the end of each day. (pegs for bags should have nothing on them at the end of the day, no paper left lying around on decks, no food wrappers left lying around).

At St Joseph's we do our best and do our bit.

We act honestly and with integrity, we do the right thing even when no one else is watching.

At St Joseph's we walk in Truth and with Respect.

WHOLE SCHOOL FUN DAY - MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

On Monday 18 December we will be holding a whole school fun day at Queenstown Events Centre. Students will not wear school uniform but will need to wear comfortable activewear, sports shoes and sunhats. They will arrive at school as normal and be transported by bus to the Events Centre where they will take part in a rotation of activities in their School Whānau groups. Students will need to bring their lunchbox and drink bottle, as well as swimming togs and towel. Students will be transported back to school by bus ready for home time.

We are asking for parent helpers from 1pm to help younger students changing for the pool, as well as to get in the pool to support these students. Alpine Aqualand requires a ratio of 1 adult to 5 children 5-8 years of age, and that half of the caregivers are in the water actively supervising the children in the water. If we don't have enough adult helpers to meet this requirement we will plan a different afternoon activity for all children 8 years of age and under. Alpine Aqualand requires that some caregivers are in the water actively supervising children in the water aged 9-12 years. If you are able to help please make contact with your child's classroom teacher. Please indicate too if you are happy to be in the water actively supervising children while they are in the water. Again, thank you for your very generous support.

MEDIA LEADER

This week was Outdoor Education Week, which was very busy! Lots of days we had different classes doing different things but some of them we spent as a school or similar. On Monday the whole school went on buses to Moke lake and walked around it , which took the whole day. Everyone was separated into whanau groups then put with a buddy for the walk, Catherine and Martin went together one way, and Dominic and Rose went the opposite way round. We stopped for lunch in the shade by a little beach and played there for a bit before moving on to finish the walk! On Tuesday Moa class (Year 7 & 8s) got picked up from school by the bungy bus, which took us to the bungy bridge in Gibbston Valley. Most of the class did the bungy, but there were some that either did it last year and didn't want to do it again, or just felt too scared. Fair enough! Wednesday was the bike day for the senior school (Year 4 & up), so we met at Frankton Beach with our bikes in the morning and eventually rode to the Shotover Delta. We stopped for a snack at a grassy area at the back of Remarkables Park and rode our bikes around. Later we stopped again to eat lunch and go on some little bike rides to the river and do some exploring. Moa class went by themselves to Arrowtown Museum on Thursday and spent the day doing loads of fun things. First we dressed up like they did in the 1890's and went to 'Arrow School'. Then we did a treasure hunt sort of thing around the museum and saw lots of artifacts associated with the gold rush and things from that time. We did a historical walk and tried out gold panning, and some of us found gold! On Friday Year 5 & up are going to the Kiwi Water Park in Cromwell and it will be awesome!

BOARD CORNER

Tēnā koutou.

Our School Board usually meets twice each school term and the Board warmly invites parents and caregivers to attend. We meet in the Takahe classroom on Tuesday evenings from 5:15pm. The date for the next meeting is published each week in the newsletter.

All correspondence to the Board is to be sent either directly to the School Board (board@stjosephsqt.school.nz) or to the Board Secretary (office@stjosephsqt.school.nz). You can expect a response to your correspondence within five school days.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Catkin Bartlett
Board Presiding Member
catkinb@stjosephsqt.school.nz

PARISH INFORMATION



Queenstown	Saturday Vigil 6.30 pm, Sunday 9 am. 3 rd Sunday ~ 7 pm, Filipino Mass. 4 th Sunday ~ 7 pm, Portuguese Mass
Arrowtown	1 st , 3 rd , and 5 th Sundays: 11 am Mass 2 nd & 4 th Sundays: 11 am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Check out the latest Parish news on-line:

www.stjosephsqueenstown.co.nz

CATHOLIC CHARACTER



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

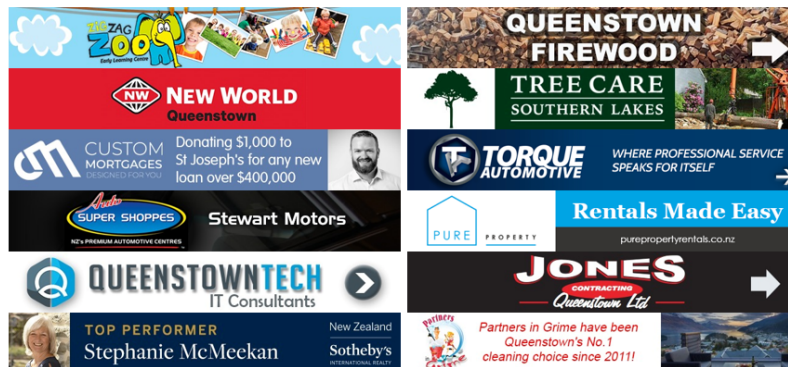
2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE**

St Joseph's School Queenstown

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