Monday 3 April 2017

Principal’s Message:

We are extremely fortunate and grateful to be working so closely alongside Kavanagh College with the new Catholic Schools Gifted and Talented Hub located here at St Mary’s. Our Year 5&6 children have been lucky enough to have Ms McGarry all to themselves this term! These children partake weekly in a range of activities and projects that are targeted for gifted learners.

The G&T Hub will be officially launched next Tuesday at 11.30am with a special Mihi Whakatau followed by a shared kai, you are very welcome to join us.

Assembly Awards

Gabriel Kubala - being organised and on time.
Sophie Deerness - always being a great helper towards her teacher and showing great leadership qualities.
La Charna Moataane - great improvement in her weekly spelling results.
Madison Cole - great technology skills in making her diorama.
Will Deerness - outstanding butterfly learning.
Scarlet Milner - awesome attitude and skills in reading.
Matthew Rietveld - awesome adding.
Isobel Griffiths - excellence maths.
School Trip to the Otago Museum - Wednesday 5th April

We are off to the Otago Museum on Wednesday to wrap up our Science units on the Butterfly Life Cycle and Mammals. Mr Morgan has booked a session from 10am – 12pm. Can all children under 7yrs please bring their booster seat to school on Wednesday morning.

To help with the cost of this trip we are asking that each child bring $2 to school by Wednesday. Money will be collected through the office. Thank you to those who have already paid.

Winter Sports: An extra notice went home last week asking for interest in our winter sports run through the school - Hockey and Miniball. Can these please be returned by Wednesday please so that we can enter teams into the competitions.

If your child is interested in Netball, Football or Rugby, please let us know and we can put you in touch with local clubs or join with another school.

Senior Cricket Day

Our senior children had a great time at the Cricket Festival Day on Thursday organised by Otago Cricket. Our team was a mixture of experienced cricketers and also those very new to the game. They all had a great time, showed awesome sportsmanship and learnt something new.

Sport:

**Touch:** Thursday 6th April  (last game of the season) 3:45pm on Field 1B vs Green Island Sharks.

A big thank you to Mr Morgan for coaching the team during lunchtime practices, and to Mr Moataáne for coaching during the games. You have supported and encouraged our new players and given them confidence to carry on with this sport.

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Room 2 Trip to the Stadium– Thursday 6th April

Room 2 are participating in a FMS (Fundamental Movement Skills) session on Thursday morning at the Forsyth Barr Stadium from 9.30 - 10.30am. We require one more parent to assist with transport, if you are able to help please let Jacquie know. Children are to wear their sports uniform to school on this day and to bring their booster seat if they are under 7yrs.

Easter Raffle Hamper

Thank you for the many donations. Many thanks to the staff at Fresh Choice for being so accommodating and a massive thank you to the parents and children that gave up their precious time over Friday and Saturday to sell.

Please return all cards and money by Wednesday 5 April.
Special Character and Religious Education:

This Friday we begin our Mass with The Way of the Cross. This is a traditional way of walking in Jesus’ shoes on the day he died for us. Our children will be leading this in the church and our families and friends are very welcome to join us.

This weekend we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. This is the Sunday before Easter. It marks the beginning of Holy Week. It celebrates Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Great crowds of people lined the streets waving palm branches to welcome Him. The people shouted ‘Hosanna’ and laid their cloaks and palms from nearby trees in His path.

Teddy Bears Picnic:

A huge ‘thank you’ and ‘well done’ to our fabulous Year 5&6 Exec for organising and running our Teddy Bear’s Picnic Day. Although the weather wasn’t perfect, we all still managed to have an awesome picnic lunch outside! Thank you to all of our families for their food contributions, lunch was delicious!

It was important to the Exec to turn this event into an opportunity to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves, and fulfilling our Lenten promise of almsgiving, we raised $38 for Caritas which will be taken up during offertory at this weekends Mass. Thank you again to our families for their generosity.

The Exec helped out in organising a Teddy Bear Discovery Time in the afternoon which was an absolute hit! We can’t wait to see what you have in store for us next term!
In Room 2 we have lots of new writers! We have been trying really hard to become more independent at writing time and write words from our ‘Word Cards’ all by ourselves!

Here are some stories our new children have written about sea lions in Dunedin.

Here comes the sea lion named Samuel. He is swimming in the water. *By Samuel.*

My family are watching the sea lion. He is stinky, he needed a bath! *By Gabriel.*

This is Bluey and Pinky the sea lions. They are flapping their tails. *By Elizabeth.*

The sea lion is playing in the water. I saw her. *By Scarlet.*

My sea lion is pink. Her name is Fluffy. She likes to splash in the water. *By Kaila.*

Last week was jam-packed with activities and more assessment. The children really enjoyed the week with so many things on. It was great to watch the children step up to each challenge.

We have completed our dioramas which were presented at last week’s assembly. Parents and friends are most welcome to come in to Room 3 to view them. Each child had also written a descriptive piece of text from the perspective of the animal so they go very well together. We also started our unit on Maori Myths and Legends. We explored Maui and the Sun and worked on a play. I was amazed at not just the children’s fantastic ideas but at how well they worked together.

On Thursday we went to Cricket with the Cricket Otago crew. It was a great day with some classic cricket being played. The level of improvement from the first to last game was great to watch (as a spectator!)

Assessment will carry out through this week as I am trying to gather as much data as possible on the Room 3 children to pass onto Alan (the new Principal).

*Jeremy*