



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 2026

Term 1 ~ Tuesday 3 February to Thursday 2 April
Term 2 ~ Monday 20 April to Friday 3 July

Term 3 ~ Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term 4 ~ Monday 12 October to Thursday 17 December

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

Newsletter 24 April 2026 Week 1 Term 2

Calendar of Events			<p>Alan's quote of the week:</p> <p>Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.</p> <p>Randy Pausch</p>
Monday	27 April	ANZAC Day Observed NO SCHOOL	
Tuesday	28 April	Ruru School Karakia	
Friday	1 May	Book Character Day ... Details below	
Friday	1 May	Book Character Parade 10:40am - 11am	
Monday	4 May	Tūt School Karakia	
Sunday	10 May	St Joseph's School Book Fair	
Monday	11 May	Hoiho School Karakia	
Tuesday	12 May	Board Meeting 5:15pm	
Thursday	14 May	Pink Shirt Day	
Monday	18 May	Takahē School Karakia	
Thursday	21 May	School Photos	
Monday	25 May	Moa School Karakia	
Monday	1 June	King's Birthday NO SCHOOL	
Tuesday	2 June	Pīwakawaka School Karakia	
Tuesday	16 June	Reconciliation 3:30pm - 4:30pm	
Tuesday	23 June	Board Meeting 5:15pm	
Friday	3 July	Last Day of Term 2	
Monday	20 July	First Day of Term 3	

ADDITIONAL DATES - SCHOOL CALENDAR

The above dates are just a snapshot of what we have happening at school. If you wish to view all activities planned for all of our students, [please click on this link](#) - this will take you to the school calendar on our school website.

WELCOME

This week we welcomed Astrid Copland to Pīwakawaka Class. We also welcomed a new family to St Joseph's. Weston Killian has joined Hoiho Class and Wyatt Killian has joined Tūt Class.

BOOK FAIR INFORMATION

ANNUAL SCHOOL BOOK FAIR - SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026

Please spread the word! Our annual School Book Fair (a huge community event and our major school fundraiser each year) is on Sunday 10 May.

Thanks to those who are already preparing - we will need lots of helpers.

Please consider helping out in one of the following ways in particular - sorting books on Thursday 7 and/or Friday 8 May, setting up on Saturday 9 May, and staffing stalls on Sunday 10 May. We will require around 50 or 60 helpers in total in addition to the members of our school PTA, our staff and our Years 7 and 8 students!

More information to come, but in the meantime give thought to how you can help, and get in touch!

PTA BOOK FAIR RAFFLE TICKETS

Hopefully the raffle ticket sales are going well. Once you have sold them, please bring your money and the tickets to the office. If you want any more, please see Karen.

PTA PULSE

Book Fair – Sunday 10 May | Let's Make It Special

Our much-loved **Book Fair** is fast approaching on **Sunday 10 May**, and we're excited to once again bring our community together for what promises to be a fantastic Mother's Day outing.

To make this event a success, we need **lots of helping hands**. There are so many ways to get involved - whether it's sorting books, helping on the day, baking for the stall, or assisting behind the scenes. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference and helps make this event so special.

We are also seeking **silent auction prizes**, so if you have connections with local businesses or can help source items over the holidays, we would greatly appreciate your support. Our Book Fair raffle tickets will be coming home next week - perfect timing to sell to friends and family over the break.

This year, our fundraising efforts are especially important as we work towards a **\$38,500 funding request from the school**. These funds will go directly towards **learning support (teacher aides)** and **contributions to school camps**, ensuring all our tamariki have access to the support and opportunities they deserve.

If you'd like to get involved or have ideas to share, please reach out to the PTA at stjosephsqpt.pta@gmail.com or speak with **Emma Sullivan**.

Thank you in advance for your support, we truly couldn't do this without our amazing community.

Ngā mihi,

Rebeca & Juliana, PTA Co-chairs

BOOK CHARACTER DAY ... FRIDAY 1 MAY

Each year as we prepare for the School Book Fair, we hold a Book Character Day - a day to celebrate books and book characters, where students come to school dressed as a character from a book. Friday 1 May is our Book Character Day for 2026. On this day, students are asked to come to school dressed as a book character and to bring in some prizes for our upcoming Book Fair - a gourmet grocery item for our hamper and a scratchie ticket for the scratchie tree. There will be a parade and prizes for some of the best costumes.

We can't wait to see all the fabulous costumes!



REMINDER

If your child is going to be absent or late to school, can you please let the Office know. You can contact us by calling 03 4428224, email office@stjosephsqt.school.nz or go to the SkoolLoop app. Also if any of your contact details have changed, please give your new information to Karen as soon as possible. Thank you.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Kia ora e te whānau, and welcome to Term 2!

This week we've had Paul Richardson and Virginia O'Neill with us to complete our external evaluation of Catholic Character. This external evaluation is completed every 3 or 4 years by the diocese and is an excellent opportunity to reflect on what makes us a Catholic school. It's been great to be invited to reflect and to share our story, and I'm grateful to those who have made space for Paul and Virginia this week, in particular to our staff and members of our school board. Once Paul has completed his report I will share that with you all.

Today our teachers are in Clyde listening to Dr Helen Walls presenting on "The Teaching of Writing". This is one of the many ways our staff are working to implement the new English curriculum. Thank you for supporting us to engage in this professional learning and development.

Things are starting to pick up a bit as we get closer to our annual School Book Fair. Thanks to our wonderful PTA - parents and whānau who volunteer their time and energy to help to build community and raise funds for our school and our children. Please get involved - there's a multitude of ways you can help in preparing for Book Fair and of course on the day itself.

Have a lovely long weekend everyone, and happy ANZAC Day - lest we forget!

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a tātou katoa. May God's peace be with us all.

Alan Grant
Tumuaki | Principal
principal@stjosephsqt.school.nz

MEGAN ALEXANDER



This week we have welcomed Megan Alexander to our teaching team.
Megan is our new Moa Class teacher.
Megan has come to us from St Ignatius School in Royal Oak, Auckland.

GOTCHA WINNERS



PB4L FOCUS

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning focus again next week will be:

‘Do Your Best and Be Prepared’

We expect that students will:

- Put in their best effort even if it is an activity they do not necessarily enjoy
- Be brave to participate and accept challenges
- Feel proud of their effort and the way they participate
- Be their best self by taking responsibility for their attitude and actions

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.

TEACHER ONLY DAYS IN 2026 - DATES CONFIRMED

As previously advised, today is the first of our planned Teacher Only Days in 2026. Our teachers have travelled to Clyde to attend a workshop presentation from Dr Helen Walls on the teaching of Writing - “The ‘What’ and ‘How’ of Effective Instruction” using material from the new English curriculum. Dr Helen Walls is a highly respected educational researcher and consultant and is widely regarded as New Zealand’s writing guru. This will be our only Teacher Only Day in Term 2. In Term 3, there will be two Teacher Only Days. On **Monday 3 August**, school will be closed while our teachers take part in a Mathematics and Statistics workshop unpacking the new Maths curriculum. This will be the second of four Ministry of Education Maths Teacher Only Days. On **Friday 28 August**, our teaching staff will head to Dunedin for “The Gathering”, a unique celebration of Catholic schools in the Dunedin diocese, bringing together staff from all over the diocese for formation and fellowship. This year’s keynote speaker is Manuel Beazley from Auckland. Manuel will speak on Māori Spirituality - very topical in the current education climate and with the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ strong commitment to tangata whenuatanga and to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. In Term 4, there will be one Teacher Only Day. On **Tuesday 27 October**, school will be closed while our teachers complete the last of our four Ministry of Education Maths Teacher Only Days (day three will be completed as a Teacher Call-Back Day during the school holidays before the beginning of Term 4).

2026 Teacher Only Days

- **Friday 24 April**
- **Monday 3 August**
- **Friday 28 August**
- **Tuesday 27 October**

The school understands very well that Teacher Only Days are impactful and can be quite inconvenient for whānau. Be assured that these days are only a small part of our whole school commitment to staff professional learning and development towards maintaining excellent standards in education at St Joseph’s School Queenstown. We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

2026 SNOWSPORTS PROGRAMME (YEARS 4-8)

It's time to make your bookings!

Students need to have BOTH a season pass AND a Year Group Camp booking in order to attend. The total cost is \$380 per child.

St Joseph's Snowsport dates are as follows:

- Year 4: 26-28 August 2026
- Years 5 & 6: 12-14 August 2026
- Years 7 & 8: 5-7 August 2026

It is important that you select the correct camp date when making a booking for your child. The Local Schools' Camps and Passes can be purchased at <https://shop.coronetpeak.co.nz/shop/product/249>.

Please refer to the letter emailed to parents of Yr 4-8 regarding the NZSki Local School's Passes and Camps for further information. We hope that every student will take part in the snowsports programme. If you need financial assistance with paying this cost please talk with Alan Grant.

Please note: any child who attends our school is eligible for the reduced price of a Local Schools' Season Pass regardless of whether or not they are attending a school 'camp'.

LUNCHTIME FUN



CAR REGISTRATION

A current car registration label has been found in the Church car park. If you have a Honda fit and notice that yours is missing, it is in the School Office.

FROM OUR MEDIA LEADER ... SIENNA CHILDS

Welcome back for the start of Term 2! This hasn't been a super busy week but we still had some stuff going on.

This week was the first week of hard technology and science for the year 7s and 8s. They went down to QPS in groups for hard tech, but science was at our school.

Friday is a teacher only day, meaning that our first week is only four days long.

ENTRIES CLOSE 4 MAY

2026 Kiwi Competitions

Certificates and prizes awarded

Online competition for Primary, Intermediate and Secondary students

Ask your teacher for details and entry form.



Kiwi Science Competition



Kiwi Maths Competition



Kiwi English Competition

Designed by NZ teachers for Kiwi students and align with the NZ curriculum.

The competition will run during the last 3 weeks of Term 2 and the first week of Term 3.

Register Now!
www.canterbury.ac.nz/cam/

CAM
CENTRE FOR ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

CONGRATULATIONS



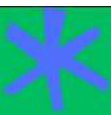
Lucas attended the Wānaka Interclub meet over the weekend where he achieved some great PBs as well as coming 1st in the 11-12 year old 200m IM, 2nd in 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle, and 3rd in 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly. He was also part of two relay teams who both earned 1st place in their events. Well done Lucas!

Lottie had a very busy but exciting school holidays she went to not one but two big 3-day dance competitions!

At the Wanaka competition she placed
1st in Acro Under 12s
3rd in Ballet Under 8s (novice)
She also made it through to the "Little Champions" finals

Then in Mosgiel she placed
2nd Ballet Under 8s (novice)
2nd Ballet 7yrs (open)
2nd Jazz 7yrs (open)
2nd in Acro Under 12s





ezlunch.

Order lunch Be in to win

5 x \$50 Kindo Credits to be won,
every week for 4 weeks!

Terms and Conditions apply.



CATHOLIC CHARACTER

Earth Day: Loving God's Masterpiece

On Wednesday, our school joined millions around the world in celebrating this beautiful planet. As a Catholic community, we look at the Earth a little differently—we see it as a **gift** entrusted to us by the Creator.

Pope Francis reminds us in his letter, *Laudato Si'*, that the Earth is our "common home." Just like we look after our own houses, we are called to be "Stewards of Creation," making sure it stays beautiful and healthy for everyone.



An Earth Day Prayer for Families

"Creator God, thank You for the emerald green of the grass, the deep blue of the ocean, and the golden warmth of the sun. Help us to hear the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor.' Teach us to tread lightly, use only what we need, and leave the world more beautiful than we found it. Amen."

The "Laudato Si" Challenge

Can your family find one thing in your recycling bin this week that could be "upcycled" into a piece of art or a useful tool? Send a photo to the school office—we'd love to see your creativity!

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 , 4 th and 5 th Sundays: 11 am Mass 2 nd 11 am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Check out the latest Parish news on-line:
www.stjosephsqueenstown.co.nz

BOARD CORNER

Tēnā koutou.

Poipoia te kakano kia puawai. Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

The role of the School Board is to ensure that all students achieve their highest possible educational outcomes. In our school, a state-integrated school, the Board (which includes Proprietor's Appointees) must also safeguard and maintain the Special Catholic Character of the school. The Board's role is one of strategic oversight, leadership, direction, and policy setting.

The Board wants to hear from you, our parents and whānau, the community whom we serve. There are 2 ways for you to 'speak' to the board.

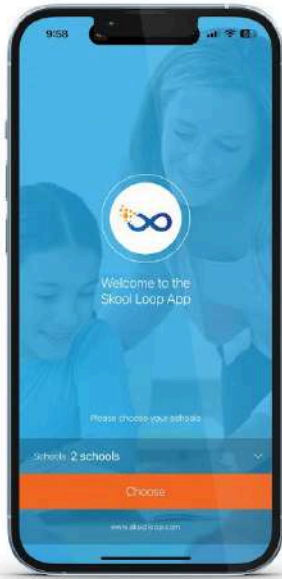
1. You can send an email directly to the School Board (board@stjosephsqt.school.nz) or to the Board Secretary (office@stjosephsqt.school.nz). You can expect a response to your correspondence within five school days.
2. You can email the Board (board@stjosephsqt.school.nz) and request an opportunity to speak at a Board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be held in Takahē classroom on Tuesday 12 May, starting at 5:15pm.

Kia tau te rangimārie o te Atua ki a tātou katoa. May God's peace be with us all.

Alan Grant
Tumuaki | Principal

Downloading the Skool Loop app a step by step guide



**NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379**



Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school

1. Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools as required.
4. Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
5. Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
6. Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.
7. Use the circular arrow button at the top of the main screen to toggle between your chosen schools.

To subscribe to groups as an existing user:

1. Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
2. Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
3. Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
4. You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

St Joseph's School Queenstown

Thanks to the businesses below for sponsoring our school app:



If you would like to advertise on the Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once