



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 27 March 2026 Week 8 Term 1

Calendar of Events			Alan's quote of the week: "Trust and pray, go do your best today, then leave it in the hands of the Lord." Traditional Hymn
Monday	30 March	Pīwakawaka School Karakia	
Thursday	2 April	Easter Liturgy 2PM-3PM	
Thursday	2 April	Last day of Term 1	
Friday	3 April	Good Friday	
Sunday	5 April	Easter Sunday	
Monday	20 April	First Day of Term 2	
Friday	24 April	Teacher Only Day NO SCHOOL	
Monday	27 April	ANZAC Day Observed NO SCHOOL	
Sunday	10 May	St Joseph's Book Fair	
Thursday	21 May	School Photos	
Monday	1 June	King's Birthday NO SCHOOL	
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.

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

Ngā mihi mahana e te whānau! Warm greetings to you all!

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to our 5 students who represented our school and the Wakatipu zone at the COPSSA Athletics Champs in Alexandra on Wednesday this week, particularly to Jake who set a new COPSSA High Jump record for Year 7 boys, successfully jumping a massive 1.47m! And good luck to our netball teams heading over to Alexandra this weekend for the APS Netball Tournament (special thanks to Jen Johnston and our coaches for their work preparing for this)!

We sent 2 teams over to Cromwell yesterday for the regional "Kids' Lit Quiz" competition and they represented our school very well. Thanks to Sarah and Miira for transporting and supporting our students. A huge CONGRATULATIONS to Sienna, Jacob, Emelia and Panda who won first place for the Central Otago region and qualified for the National Final in Wellington in June! Amazing!

It's Palm Sunday this Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week and the last week of Lent. Holy Week is a really important week in the life of the Catholic church, and prepares us for the Easter Triduum, those very special 3 days where we remember Jesus' death and resurrection. We're really looking forward to our Easter Liturgy next Thursday starting at 2pm in the church! See you there!

Next week is the last week of Term 1. School finishes on Thursday at 3pm and reopens on Monday 20 April for the first day of Term 2.

Please remember in your prayers all of the families in our community who are in need at the moment, asking God's grace and loving touch in a special way in the coming weeks.

Thanks everyone.

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

PB4L FOCUS

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

'Be aware of others using the church (whare karakia)'

We expect that students will:

- be aware of other people who use the church at different times of the day, and for different reasons.
- speak politely and respectfully to those who are using the church.
- wait patiently and take their turn entering the church.
- walk up the stairs into the Church carefully and quietly.
- genuflect before sitting quietly to wait (without touching or talking to others).
- participate and respond to prayer, mass responses and singing.
- genuflect before leaving the Church and walk down the aisle and steps at the speed of the person in front of them.
- step down the stairs without swinging under the rail.

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.

GOTCHA WINNERS



AND THE WINNERS ARE

A huge congratulations to our Kids' Lit Quiz team. Sienna, Jacob, Emelia and Panda took out first place in the Kids' Lit Quiz held in Cromwell on Thursday. They have now qualified for the National final being held in Wellington! Special thanks to Sarah and Miira for transporting and supporting our students.



FROM OUR MEDIA LEADER ... SIENNA CHILDS

On Tuesday, this week, the Year 8s were invited by Wakatipu High School to come and watch their dress rehearsal for their school production, Legally Blonde. Three parents went with them. It was very fun and interesting.

EPRO8 is an engineering based competition that was held on Tuesday and Thursday for the Year 5s and 6s and on Wednesday and Friday for the Year 7s and 8s. The competition is done in teams of four. These class competitions decide which students will go to the inter-school competition.

Thursday was a very exciting time for 8 students in particular as two teams of four (one Year 5/6 team and one Year 7/8) were entered in the Lit Quiz. The Lit Quiz is a reading based competition, where teams have to answer a number of questions about different books and pieces of literature. Tom, Cam, Billie and Beau were in the Year 5/6 team, and Emelia, Jacob, Panda and Sienna were in the Year 7/8 team. The Year 7/8 team did very well and actually won the competition, earning them an invitation to the next stage of the competition held in Wellington and \$1400 to go towards flights.

TEACHER ONLY DAYS IN 2026

The first of our planned Teacher Only Days in 2026 will take place on Friday 24 April. School will be closed on this day. Our teachers will be travelling 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.

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'.

STRUCTURED LITERACY

At the iDeal Regional Hui held at Remarkables School this week Lisa and I shared the journey our school has been on in successfully implementing our school wide structured literacy programmes in spelling, reading and writing. Teachers and Principals from 6 schools attended and it was a wonderful opportunity to share great teaching practice, tips and helpful advice.

Last week I shared information around READING FLUENCY. This week I will delve into the most complex literacy skill, WRITING!

As you can see from the image below the complexity of writing starts with pre-writing skills such as being able to hold a pencil correctly and developing hand- eye coordination.

Fluent handwriting is an important skill to master because the less time and energy spent on forming the letters means more time and energy can go into expressing ideas.

Spelling is an essential part of teaching in writing. Do you know that poor spellers may restrict their use of interesting words because they want to stick with simpler words they can confidently spell?

Effective written communication relies upon using well structured and composed sentences and paragraphs and there is a lot of knowledge that must be gained in order to do this confidently.

The components of literacy instruction are explicitly taught to ensure we do not leave writing to chance.

What writing skill is your child currently focussed on? How much do they write in their own time for a variety of purposes? How could you encourage your child to write more at home?

Alice Dunstan
Deputy Principal

The Building Blocks of Writing Success

The elements of literacy instruction which when explicitly taught establish success in written language.



Written Communication

Underpinned by executive function, grammatical competence, and all of the components listed below:

Composition

The ability to compose or create a well-formed piece of writing is supported through scaffolding and the explicit teaching of:

Methods to generate ideas

brainstorming, freewriting,
idea map/web, moodling

Paragraph Structure

topic sentence
supporting sentences
concluding sentences

Crafting

drafts
revising and editing
rewriting
publishing

Constructing Genres

descriptive, expository,
narrative, letters, report
persuasive, poetry

Awareness of audience and choice of language (vocabulary) used is an important aspect of creating well-formed written pieces of work.

Syntax and Sentence Structures

Knowledge of the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in English include the explicit teaching of:

Key Parts of Speech

determiners, nouns, pronouns, adjectives,
verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions

Sentence Structures

simple, compound,
complex, compound-complex

Tenses

correct use of tenses in writing

Spelling

Building a well established orthographic lexicon is crucial, so words can be automatically recalled when spelling, alongside the knowledge of strategies to assist with the spelling of unfamiliar words, i.e., syllable generation and sound isolation. The key components for the success of spelling include:

Phonemic Awareness

Explicit Teaching of Syllable Types

Learning Spelling Rules within Syllable Types

Morphology

Vocabulary Building

Even when spelling in keyboarding, a child must have an approximation of the correct spelling of the word they are attempting to recall and spell.

Handwriting and Keyboarding

Handwriting is a complex perceptual and motor skill. It involves visually storing all the letters of the alphabet, and as spelling ability develops, storing many sight words in memory. It also involves motor skills where the student has to reproduce the visual forms correctly and at speed. Slow and difficult to read handwriting is linked with poor quality writing. Slow handwriting takes up mental energy which leaves less cognitive ability for high-level processes, like planning, that are needed for expressing ideas.

Keyboarding requires explicit instruction to develop spatial awareness of where letters sit on the keyboard. Children still require knowledge of sound to symbol relationships for accurate keyboarding.

Pre - Writing Skills

Pre-writing skills are essential for the child to be able to develop the ability to hold and move a pencil fluently and effectively and therefore produce legible writing, e.g.

Hand and Finger Strength

Crossing the Mid-Line

Pencil Grasp

Hand-Eye Coordination

Visual Perception

Hand Dominance

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.

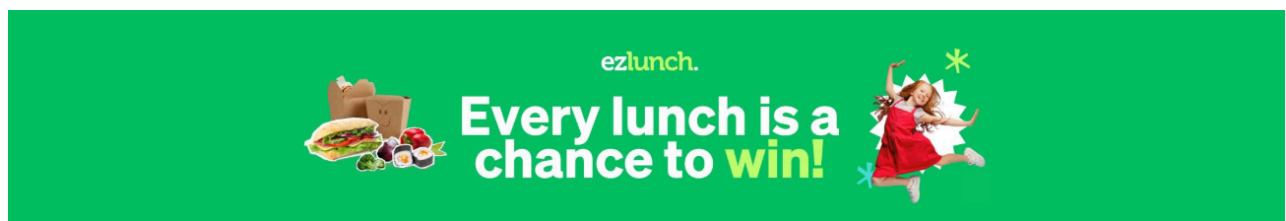
The competition will run during the last 3 weeks of Term 2 and
the first week of Term 3.

Register Now!

www.canterbury.ac.nz/cam/



EZLUNCH PROMO



"Great news! Ezlunch is running an Easter promotion. Every lunch order placed between now and the end of term goes into a draw to win Kindo credit (up to \$100!). You don't need to do anything extra. Just order Ezlunch as usual and you're in the draw. Winners announced in Term 2. Happy ordering!"

❖ The "Home Stretch" of Lent

We have reached the Fifth Week of Lent! If you feel like your Lenten energy is flagging, you're in good company. Even the disciples struggled to keep up as they neared Jerusalem. This week is all about **Persistence**. In many churches, you might see statues and crucifixes covered in **purple cloth** starting this weekend. It seems strange to hide the beautiful art, doesn't it? But it's a "visual fast"—we hide the glory so that when everything is uncovered on Easter, the joy feels even brighter.

🌸 The "Five-Finger" Family Prayer

Need a quick way to pray at the dinner table? Try the **Five-Finger Method**:

1. **Thumb (Closest to you):** Pray for those closest to you (family and friends).
2. **Pointer:** Pray for those who point the way (teachers, doctors, and priests).
3. **Tallest:** Pray for our leaders (government and school principal).
4. **Ring (Weakest):** Pray for the sick, the poor, and those having a hard time.
5. **Pinky (Smallest):** Finally, pray for yourself and your own needs.



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PARISH INFORMATION



Queenstown

Saturday Vigil 6.30 pm, Sunday 9 am.
3rd Sunday ~ 7 pm, Filipino Mass.
4th Sunday ~ 7 pm, Portuguese Mass

Arrowtown

1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays: 11 am Mass
2nd 11 am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Check out the latest Parish news on-line:

www.stjosephsqueenstown.co.nz

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 **stjosephsqt.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

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.

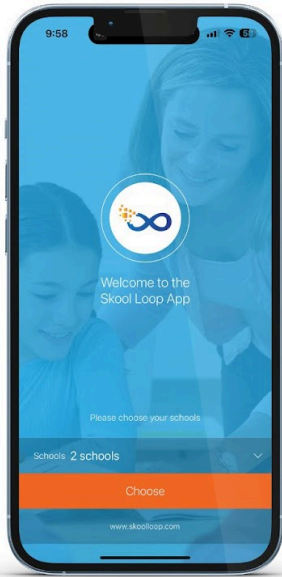
1. You can send an email directly to the School Board (board@stjosephsqt.school.nz) or to the Board Secretary (office@stjosephsqt.school.nz). You can expect a response to your correspondence within five school days.
2. You can email the Board (board@stjosephsqt.school.nz) and request an opportunity to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

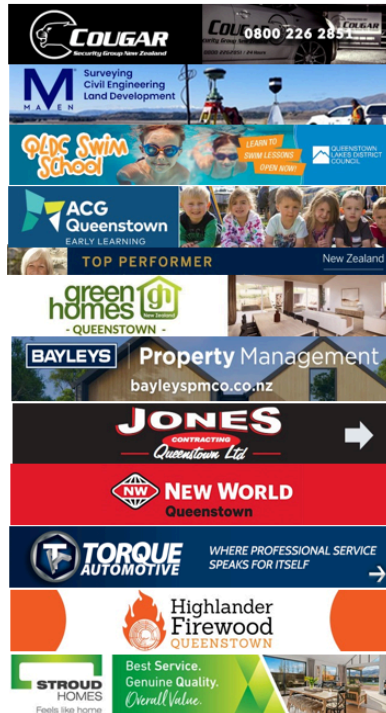
1. Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
2. Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
3. Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side. You can select as many schools 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