



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

6 June 2025



Greetings from the Principal

Talofa lava, Mālō le soifua

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead.



I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend for King's Birthday. There is something to be said for having an extra day - whether it's used to get things done, spend time with whānau, or simply do nothing at all!

The timing of the long weekend, right in the middle of the term, offered a valuable opportunity for some rest and a reset for our girls. Schools are busy places, and our kura is no exception.

Cross Country

Our school cross country was held at Queen's Park last week, and we couldn't have asked for better weather! The conditions were perfect for running, and the girls impressed us all with their determination, perseverance, and resilience.

A huge thank you to Mrs King and Ms Coatsworth for their work in PE, which has played a key role in building the girls' overall fitness and confidence. I would also like to acknowledge Mrs McIlwrick and Mrs Dawkins for their dedication to the lunchtime Runners' Club, which provided extra practice for our keen runners.

A number of our students qualified for the All Saints Zone event, which took place on Wednesday. It was a challenging course, but our girls rose to the occasion. We are proud to share that six of our eight Zone participants have qualified for the Southland event, joining our Year 7 and 8 qualifiers racing in Waimumu next Friday. Thank you to Mrs Dennis and Mrs Lang for braving the elements to support our girls at Zones.

Jump Jam

We are excited to be entering two teams in this year's local Jump Jam competition - an exciting first for St John's! This is a fantastic opportunity for our girls to showcase their fitness, energy, and dance skills in a fun and supportive environment.

A big thank you to Ms Coatsworth, Mrs King, and Mrs McIlwrick for the time and enthusiasm they are putting into preparing the teams. I had the chance to sneak in and watch the senior team's first practice, and I have no doubt we will be a force to be reckoned with!

Assessment

We are incredibly fortunate to have a Board of Trustees who recognise the value of our teachers spending dedicated one-on-one time with each girl to assess her understanding in reading and mathematics. This is a significant investment, as it requires providing relief cover for classrooms while these important assessments take place.

At the moment, our teachers are hard at work preparing mid-year reports. They draw on a wide range of information—assessment data, classroom observations, and rich learning conversations—to build a clear, well-rounded picture of how your daughter is progressing.

Your daughter's report will be out at the end of the term, with parent-teacher interviews taking place early in Term 3.



Values Cup Recipient



Willow Murray
Room 7

WILLOW MURRAY

Reports and the Refreshed New Zealand Curriculum

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education is currently refreshing the national curriculum to ensure it remains relevant, future-focused, and responsive to the needs of today's learners. This is a significant change, and schools across the country are taking time to prepare thoughtfully so they can best meet the needs of their students and communities.

Here is what you need to know as parents and whānau:

- **This is a long-term process.** The curriculum refresh will continue over several years, and teacher development is an important part of the journey. Our staff are working hard to integrate these changes, always keeping your daughter's learning and well-being at the heart of our practice.
- **The curriculum is being updated in stages.** New content is now available for English [Years 0–6] and Mathematics & Statistics [Years 0–8]. Schools have until the beginning of 2027 to fully implement the refreshed curriculum, which aims to provide greater clarity and consistency across the country.
- **Mathematics expectations have changed.** The revised mathematics and statistics curriculum sets higher, internationally-aligned benchmarks for each year level. As a result, your daughter's progress or achievement levels may look different from previous years. Please be assured this doesn't indicate a decline in her ability; it reflects the raised expectations in the updated curriculum.

Our mid-year reports will follow a format similar to previous years, while we continue to develop our understanding of the new curriculum and assessment tools. The government is still releasing further information and resources to support schools through this transition.

As always, your daughter's classroom teacher is the best person to speak to about her learning and progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch; they are always happy to talk with you.

Have a wonderful weekend with your whānau.

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki - Principal





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- **19/12** Cyber Safety
- **13** **KIPRRR Day [non-uniform]**
- **16-19** Speech Exams
- **18** BoP Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]
- **19** Matariki Shared Morning Tea
- **20** Matariki **[School Closed]**
- **24-25** Dance Exams
- **24-27** Life Education Bus
- **26** BoT Meeting
- **27** Last Day of Term 2
Stripes and Bonus Trophies Awarded
Reports Out

JULY

- **14** First Day of Term 3
- **22** Parents' Association Mtg [7pm]
- **23** Parent/Teacher Interviews **[2.15pm - School finishes at 2pm]**
- **24** Parent/Teacher Interviews **[3.15pm - School finishes at 3pm]**
- **31** Staff Only Day **[School Closed]**

AUGUST

- **19** Polyfest Performance - Stadium Southland [2.10pm]
- **21** BoT Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]

SEPTEMBER

- **2** Science Fair
- **10** BoP Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]
- **16** Production - Dress Rehearsal
- **17** Production Performance - 6.30pm
[CentreStage]
- **18** Production Performance - 6.30pm
[CentreStage]
- **19** Last Day of Term 3

OCTOBER

- **6** First Day of Term 4
- **14** Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **16** BoT Meeting
- **27** Labour Day **[School Closed]**
- **28** Staff Only Day **[School Closed]**



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Maisie Freiberg, Olive Johnstone, Jasmine McEwan, Amelia Veint

ROOM 2

Georgia Cochrane, Kate McEwan, Charlotte Dore, Aggie McKenzie

ROOM 3

Penny Sloan, Nina Russell, Pippa Vaughan, Penny Sloan

ROOM 4

Harper Peters, Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson, Lucy Jenkins, Phoebe Hodson

ROOM 6

Amelia Bosma, Lydia O'Brien, Agnes Russell, Simone Paganelli

ROOM 7

Evie Erskine, Indi Howden, Maya Preininger, Alivia Giles

ROOM 8

Meila Iosefo, Willow Harper, Abby Unahi, Tayla Nel

VALUES CUP

Willow Murray

Room 7

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Aggie McKenzie
Charlotte Dore
Charlotte Risk
Agnes Russell
Greer Valli

Room 2
Room 2
Room 2
Room 6
Room 6



FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD



Sandy Gilmete
Presiding Member

Kia ora koutou

The Board of Trustees are delighted to announce that after a thorough recruitment process, we have appointed Mrs Holly Bradshaw to lead St John's Girls' School into the future. Mrs Bradshaw has been the Acting Principal since Term 1 and has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities and dedication to our school community.

Throughout her tenure as Acting Principal, Mrs Bradshaw has shown a deep understanding of our school's values, and we are confident that she will continue to lead our school with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to maintain our School's high standards. We are excited to have her continue to guide our Kura on its path towards success.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs Bradshaw on her appointment as our new Principal. Together, let us support her in leading our Kura to achieve great heights.

Nga mihi

Sandy Gilmete - Board of Trustees Presiding Member

CONGRATULATIONS



**St John's Girls School
Staff and Students Star in**

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

We're thrilled to share that two of our staff members and two of our talented girls are part of the upcoming production of Matilda: The Musical! Our Kaiārahi and the wider school community are right behind them, celebrating their hard work and cheering them on as they bring this magical story to life.



Profiles

Mrs Kate McIlwrick is delighted to be cast as Miss Honey in the SBS season of the Invercargill Musical Theatre major show "Matilda"

Kate is no stranger to musical theatre as this is Kate's 18th show for IMT. Her highlights have included performing in numerous theatre restaurants and playing the roles of 'Frenchie in Grease' and "Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act".

Kate is loving being a part of this wonderful show. The talent on stage is amazing. The children taking on various roles, have kept her on her feet as they are working so hard and are incredibly focused. Kate is so impressed by their level of commitment and talent.

This is an extra special show for Kate, as well as performing alongside dear friends, she is sharing this with her son Jamie who is part of the vocal ensemble.

Kate is so proud to be representing St John's Girls' School alongside Gracie, Mia and Miss Gina. She would like to thank the school community for their support.

Kate recommends you should get your tickets soon! They are selling fast. You are in for a wonderful theatre experience, Matilda is a must see show for all!

Miss Gina

"Hi, I'm Gina, and I'm loving every minute of *Matilda* rehearsals! As an ensemble member, I get to play a variety of roles—including a ballroom dancer, a parent, a Russian gangster, and my favourite, a teenager at Miss Trunchbull's school. It's all so much fun, especially performing alongside the amazing child cast who bring so much joy and energy to the stage."



Gracie Dennis

"Hi! I'm Gracie, and I play Lavender in *Matilda*. I love being part of the cast—every rehearsal is so much fun! The moment you walk into the room, you're surrounded by smiling faces and positive energy. My favourite song to perform is *Bruce* because it's high-energy and packed with awesome props. We rehearse three to four times a week for two to three hours, but it never feels that long because we're always having such a great time."

Mia Reilly

"Hi! I'm Mia, and I'm a backing vocalist in *Matilda*. We sing most of the songs alongside the kids' cast and often add harmonies to support and strengthen the overall sound. Our role helps project the music and bring extra energy to the performance. Being part of this production has been such a cool and educational experience—I've learnt so much about singing, performing, and what really goes on behind the scenes. My favourite song is *Loud*, sung by Mrs Wormwood, because it's so upbeat and fun."

FROM YOUR KAIARAHİ
Zoe M, Mia P, Drew P & Neveah R

ROOM 4

HEALTH NUTRITION



Did you know there are 16 teaspoons of sugar in a bottle of Coke? [Our nutritionist Laura said that per day we should only be having about 6 teaspoons.]

In Room 4 we have been learning all about nutrition. We were so lucky to have Laura, a nutritionist from Foodstuffs visit us this term. We learned how to read nutritional information on different food products. We also looked at food groups and were surprised to learn a few things like:

"If you're going to get bread, get whole grain because it's better for your gut."

Lucy Jenkins

"I learned that you should always check to make sure it's healthy. Some things don't have sodium on them because they don't want you know how much it has."

Harper Peters



NEW WORLD VISIT

Our Nutritionist visit culminated in a trip to New World where we compared different brands of products and their ingredients. We were surprised to see how much sugar and salt were in some of our favourite foods!

"We had lots of fun in New World. We loved looking at the food. Some of us wanted to eat it."

Kyla Howden



REFLECTION



We decided to reflect on our learning journey by creating double sided artworks using a fruit/vegetable and a 'sometimes' food on the back. [We enjoyed discussing our favourite snacks].

"I chose to put an M&M as I do like sweets but I know they are a sometimes food. I also chosen an orange because they provide vitamin C and they're an always food."

Kyla Howden



"I did a dragonfruit because they are a cool fruit and have a lot of seeds."

Georgia Mead

"I chose fries as I do like them but they have a lot of fat which makes them a sometimes food. I also chose a chili because I like them a lot. Some people would say they are not but they are."

Lara Preininger

Come and see them in Room 4, they look deliciously spectacular!



ROOM 6



FINANCIAL LITERACY

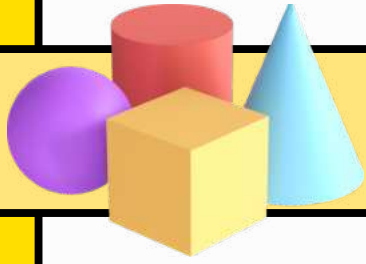
Room 6 had a fabulous time creating our Mother's Day Market. There was so much learning around financial literacy. The girls learnt about costs and expenses, working out profits and adding large amounts of money. Thank you everyone for your support with the market.



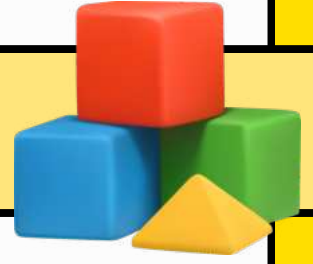
PE

In PE, Room 6 has been working on fitness and our skipping technique. The girls learnt a lot of different moves and how to pace themselves. They worked in groups to choreograph their own skipping routine to present to the class.



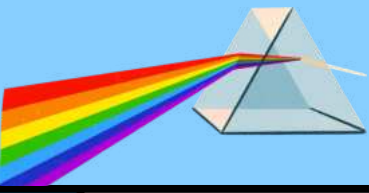


MATHS

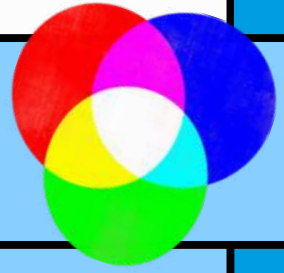


We are beginning to look at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes for mathematics. We started by looking at the names of different shapes, how many angles, edges and vertices they have. We have moved onto looking at angles inside shapes this week.





ROOM 7



SCIENCE LIGHT

This term in Science, we have been diving into the fascinating world of light. Over the first four Fridays we explored how mirrors reflect light, how shadows are formed, how magnifiers and refractions bend light and how we see colours through activities with rainbows, colour spinners and more.

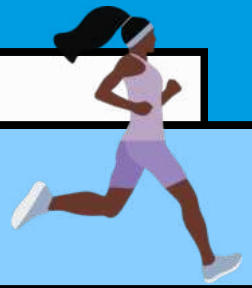
We have also been learning how scientists work by using the scientific method. We've been asking questions, making precision, carrying out fair tests and drawing conclusions from our observations.

Now we are using everything we've learned to plan our own investigations for the upcoming Science Fair.

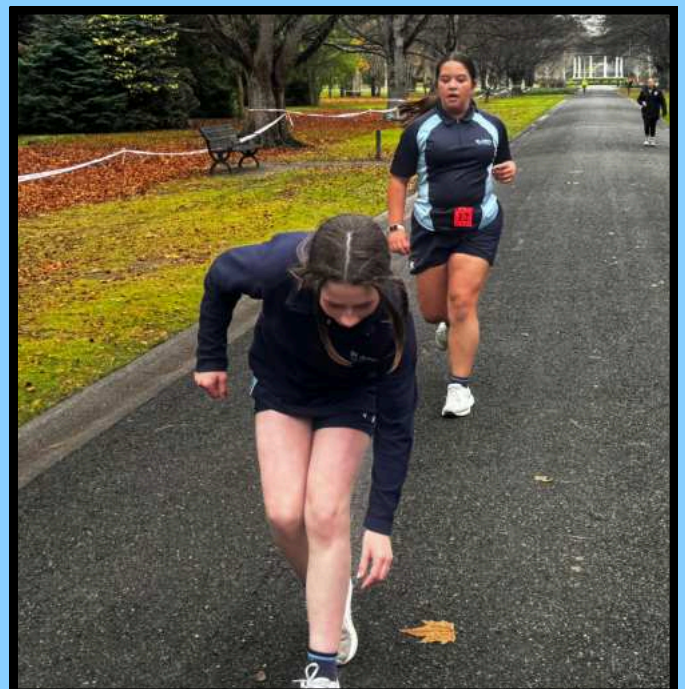




CROSS COUNTRY



Last Wednesday we had many happy faces running through Queen's Park for cross country. It was great to see everyone setting goals, showing determination and pushing themselves to do their best. Whether it was aiming for a personal best or just finishing the course, we were proud of each other's efforts and attitude.





ROOM 8



PRODUCTIONS

In week three the Playhouse Theatre Company performed "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" for our school and in week five Rooms 7 & 8 went to see the dress rehearsal of "Legally Blonde" that Girls' and Boys' High performed. In my opinion they were both great, but they were also very different.

Gwynedd

There were a lot of different features in both shows and sometimes it depends on the ages of the audience and their interests. Playhouse Theatre was a professional show because they have all been to acting school. Legally Blonde was a school production with children 18 and below, who haven't been to acting school.

Sophie

After watching these two productions we have learnt some skills to help with our own production.

Willow

Both plays were great, however how would that help us with our own play?

Sometimes older people find acting much easier when they have had a lot of practice, like the Playhouse Theatre.

Luna

I learnt that on stage you always need to give it your all because it ruins the whole show if there is someone being enthusiastic or not smiling.

Gracie

I learnt that even if you have a big or small part you must play it exactly how you are meant to. You will be seen!

Aida

PRODUCTIONS

In our show we need to have big expressions and gestures to indicate to the crowd what's going on and what's going to happen.

Tayla

You need to learn your lines so well that you don't forget them and so you can portray your character so well that the audience feels like you are not still a school kid.

Meila

If we use as much expression in our production and project our voices it would make it so much more entertaining for our audience.

Sophie

You also need to think what's going on and what others are doing, and stay in character.

Gwynedd

I learnt that you don't have to be a professional and that you have to get into character before you go on stage.

Martina

You don't have to have lots of props to make it more interesting because Legally Blonde made it clear that you don't need to, especially in the shopping scene.

Sophie

We need to use the stage and get the props on and off at the right time.

Meila

St John's Girls' School has some very nice voices. The choir and whole school singing needs some credit. The songs in our play will be just as good as the lovely voices from the plays Legally Blonde and The Boy Who Cried Wolf.

Luna

We learnt how important costumes are, they really help you look and feel the part.

Willow

If all those people can step out onto a big stage in front of a big audience, then it fills up my confidence to do that as well.

Neveah

THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF





What Does ChatBus Offer?

- Free professional counselling in a familiar setting.
- Opportunity to talk and be listened to without judgement.
- The development of interpersonal skills while accessing support.
- Opportunity to develop resilience.
- Life skills for the present.
- Hope for the future.
- Children gain an understanding of their own uniqueness and worth.

Staff

- ChatBus Provides a professional counselling service to children within Intermediate & Primary schools.
- ChatBus employs only qualified, experienced counsellors to ensure a high quality service.
- Chatbus counsellors must be members of a professional body, and have regular clinical supervision.
- Our counsellors are always happy to hear your concerns and accept self referrals from students, parents or other professionals.
- Your counsellor is: **Sandra Lea** [sandra.chatbus@gmail.com]

Confidentiality

- As with other counselling services, client confidentiality is protected, unless the counsellor believes that a person is in danger of serious harm. If this is the case, the school Principal is notified.
- The children need to know that they can talk safely without their conversation being repeated. If there is something you need to know, the counsellor will talk to your child about this before you are contacted, so they can understand the importance of having mum or dad involved.
- Sometimes parents will be contacted to support the work that happens at school, or to offer you support in working with challenging behaviour.
- Teachers are aware of who visits ChatBus, but they are not informed of what your child talks about, unless it concerns the classroom. If your child talks about what is happening at home, this information is protected.

Issues Children Face

- Children today face a number of issues that cause them worries.
- Sometimes they face challenges at school with friendships.
- Sometimes they face challenges at home, such as parents fighting, blended families, separation or divorce, grief etc.
- Sometimes they face challenges from within such as fears or anxieties, nightmares or behaviour problems.
- Often when children have worries, their learning is affected because they are distracted and have difficulty concentrating in class.
- Worries are common among children, and a little bit of professional support can help them with strategies to cope and overcome their challenges.

You Can Help

- ChatBus is a registered charitable trust. You can invest in the well being of the children in our city by becoming a ChatBus supporter.
- Chatbus South Bank Account: **03-1746-0056525-000**