



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

17 October 2025



Greetings from the
Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa, Ola,
Namaste

**Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb**

**Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā
whetū o te rangi**

*Let each star in the sky shine its
own light*

**Values Cup
Recipient**



**Olive Johnstone
Room 1**

Nau mai, harere mai. Welcome back for Term 4.

It is wonderful to see our girls back, refreshed and ready for the business end of the year. Our school calendar is quickly filling up with important events. This term is busy, but there are many exciting things to look forward to.

House of Bricks

Creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking were on full display last Friday during the House of Bricks visit.

The girls worked in their house groups to navigate various building challenges, designing and constructing impressive models with the vast collection of bricks. This hands-on session was not only a chance to problem-solve and bring imaginative ideas to life, but also a fantastic demonstration of tuakana/teina as the older girls mentored and supported the younger students.

The car build and racing event was a huge hit. The staff quickly discovered a secret loophole: a little dishwashing liquid on the axles guaranteed they won the race! You can imagine the uproar this discovery caused!

Thank you to the House of Bricks team for providing such an inspiring and positive learning experience for our girls.

2026 Camps

All of our senior classes now have their camp dates confirmed. To ensure we can process Police vetting forms and receive results back in time, we will be calling for parent nominations to attend camp in the upcoming weeks. Please keep a close eye out for a paper notice coming home with your daughter; it will contain all the necessary information and next steps.

Summer Uniforms

The girls look wonderful in their summer uniforms and have commented to me while out in the playground how easy it is to run around and swing on the monkey bars in them.

Many of our girls have had a growth spurt since Term 1. Please check your daughter's summer dress to ensure the hem is at the correct knee length.

We are still awaiting the arrival of our new summer dress order and anticipate that they will arrive within the next couple of weeks.

For any uniform requirements or assistance, please contact Mrs Marise Lang at mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz.

NZEI Te Riu Roa Industrial Action - Thursday 23 October

The School Board has received formal notification regarding industrial strike action by NZEI Te Riu Roa union members on Thursday, 23 October. Our school will be **closed** on this date.

Staff Only Day - Tuesday 28 October

A reminder that we have a Staff Only Day, directly after Labour Day on Tuesday, 28 October. We will be continuing to look at the implementation of the refreshed mathematics curriculum, focusing on long-term planning across all year levels.

I am sure the girls are looking forward to an extra-long weekend!



Staffing Update

Mrs Mary Kelly

Mrs Kelly has made the decision to resign from both her management and classroom teaching positions, effective at the end of this year. Mrs Kelly is stepping down to focus completely on her health and well-being.

St John's has been a huge part of Mrs Kelly's life, and her commitment to our kura over her long tenure has been immense. As a school, we are sincerely grateful for her dedication and the profound impact she has had on countless students and staff.

We are excited to welcome Mrs Kelly back for one afternoon a week this term to provide additional release time for our classroom teachers.

Mrs Sharon Taylor

Mrs Taylor has also decided to resign from her full-time teaching position at the end of this year. She is ready to embrace the role of being a hands-on Grandma and spend more time with her whānau. I want to sincerely acknowledge the commitment Mrs Taylor has shown to the school by stepping into a full-time role this year. We will miss her contributions across all areas of the school, particularly her work with music, our outstanding school choir and our Christmas and Easter services.

Mrs Lee Stewart

Mrs Stewart has resigned from her Senior Syndicate Leader position, effective at the end of this year. I am pleased to share that she will be continuing her classroom teaching position next year. Mrs Stewart is stepping down from her leadership role to dedicate time to building her art business, a change she is hopeful will allow her to find a positive work-life balance.

Invoices

The Term 4 invoices have been sent. These are due by the mid-term date. Please act on these promptly. Your contribution is what allows our school to provide what it does for your daughter.

When settling your invoices, please ensure you are paying into the correct account [Board of Trustees or Board of Proprietors] and include your daughter's name as a reference.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 22 Mind Mingle Quiz [1.00pm]
- 23 **Strike Day [School Closed]**
- 27 **Labour Day [School Closed]**
- 28 **Staff Only Day [School Closed]**
- 30 BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- 31 Gymnastics Festival
 - Seniors in the morning
 - Juniors in the afternoon

DECEMBER

- 5 Tabloids
- 10 Father/Daughter Netball
- 11 BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- 15 Prizegiving / Christmas Service Rehearsal
Christmas Service [6.00pm First Church]
- 16 Last Day for Students
Prizegiving [1.30pm First Church]
Leavers' Function [3.15pm School Hall]
Reports Out

NOVEMBER

- 6 Tour of Southland [Dee Street / 10.03am]
- 7 Christian Education Speeches
- 12 Cultural Day [morning]
BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 14 Dance Sharing [afternoon]
Last day of Dance
- 18/19 Dangerous Decibels Presentations
- 19 Junior Southland Adventure Race
- 20 Greats and Grands
- 25 Familiarisation Day [9.00-12pm]
- 28 Disco [5.30-7.00pm]
Singing at Rowena Jackson [Rms 1-3]
- 30 Choir Concert [2.00pm] First Church

2026

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| • 2 February | Staff Only Day |
| • 3 February | First day of school for students |
| • 6 February | Waitangi Day [school closed] |
| • 19 February | School Photos |
| • 24-27 February | Yr 7 Camp Stewart Island |
| • 9-11 March | Yrs 5/6 Camp Columba |
| • 24-27 March | Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp |
| • 2 April | Last day of Term 1 |
| • 20 April | Staff Only Day [Learner First PD] |
| • 21 April | First day of term 2 for students |
| • 15 December | Last day of school for students |



St John's Girls' School

Celebrating Our Special Character and Values

St John's is an integrated school with special character as set out in the 1990 Deed of Integration.

Special Character

- St John's is an interdenominational Christian school. The school has annual Easter and Christmas Services and a daily religious assembly.
- The provision of a full range of extracurricular activities for all pupils encourages each pupil to develop to their full potential.
- The provision of a curriculum to promote independence and self-reliance.
- Active participation by all parents/caregivers in school activities.
- Provision of a weekly religious education lesson.

Philosophy

- Education as members of a supportive family group.
- High standard of etiquette and behaviour, including compulsory wearing of uniform.
- Curriculum and teaching methods which encourage a sound intellectual and moral education that reflect current pedagogy and develop interpersonal skills, higher order thinking, problem-solving, creative thinking and communication and information skills.
- Provision of a full and broad curriculum including art, dance, drama, music, speech, language studies, sciences, digital technologies, religious instruction, outdoor education and a wide range of sports to encourage each pupil to develop their full potential.

Staff Commitment

- Supporting the school's stance as an interdenominational Christian school.
- Modelling the school values every day.
- Expecting the girls to demonstrate the values in all that they do.
- Incorporating values teaching into classroom programmes.
- Concluding each day with a prayer.
- Participating in and supporting the annual Christmas and Easter services.
- Knowing each girl well, and having a strong relationship with her and her family.
- Cultivate and maintain a warm, professional rapport with students and their families.



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Ellen Arnold, Annabel Flannery, Harriet Telfer

ROOM 2

Amaia van Westrenen, Madeleine McKenzie

ROOM 3

Ava Davies, Eleanor Anstice-Shirley

ROOM 4

Victoria Duncan, Mackenzie Brown

ROOM 6

Hannah Sloan, Sophia Lillo-Dockerty

ROOM 7

Willow Murray, Briar McKenzie

ROOM 8

Charlotte Beer, Nevaeh Roughan

VALUES CUP

Rm 1 Olive Johnstone

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Olive Johnstone, Jasmine McEwan,
Lily Vaughan
Rm 2 Charlotte Dore, Elliece Goodwright
Rm 4 Kyla Howden
Rm 6 Simone Paganelli





Vocals



PERCUSSION



UKULELE



Guitar



Term 4 MUSIC LESSONS



DRUMS



KEYBOARD



SIGN UP
NOW!!