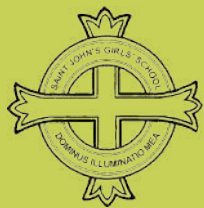




NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

14 March 2025



It is hard to believe we are over halfway through Term One!

Over the past couple of weeks, we've had numerous opportunities to celebrate success within our kura. From the Values Cup and class certificates to Principal awards and triumphs at Zone Athletics, it has been wonderful to witness our girls achieving their goals and taking pride in their mahi.

In assembly this week, I reflected on the phrase, 'practice makes perfect.' However, I prefer to say, 'practice makes progress.' Our goal is for each girl to strive to be the best version of herself and take pride in her personal growth and achievements. We are not chasing impossible perfection but focusing on continuous learning and progress for every girl in our kura, whatever that may look like.

I also spoke about perseverance and how, despite our best efforts, things don't always go as planned. This can be frustrating, but every great idea often begins with mistakes or struggle—just ask inventors, scientists, writers, and entrepreneurs. While it may not feel like it at the time, struggle is beneficial for our brains, helping to form new connections and pathways for learning. We aim to empower our girls to pursue their big ideas and understand that making mistakes and feeling frustration is a natural part of the learning process. We won't always get it right the first time we try! What truly matters is not giving up, staying resilient, and remembering that 'practice makes progress.' It's a mantra I will continue to share with the girls and it is a helpful reminder for adults too.



Parent Teacher Interviews

Our two days of Parent Teacher Interviews are being held on Wednesday 19 March and Thursday 20 March. Bookings are available via Skool Loop.

Reminder - school closes at 2pm on Wednesday 19 March as interviews start early. After School Care will begin at 2:15pm.

Chat Bus

As part of our Board's ongoing commitment to pastoral care, the ChatBus counselling service will continue to support our students this year. Our dedicated ChatBus counsellor, Mrs Sandra Lea will be available every Monday.

We offer a self-referral system for students who wish to speak with Mrs Lea. Students can simply drop a note into a confidential box to request an appointment.

Mrs Lea has already visited all classes to introduce the ChatBus service and give students the opportunity to explore the van.

Parental consent is required for students to access this service. Please look out for the consent form that was sent home this week.

For more information about ChatBus and parent referral forms, please visit our school website.

House Team Bonding Day

As you read this, our school will have enjoyed a fun-filled day at Queens Park, expertly organised by the House Captains and Deputies. A great deal of planning and foresight goes into this event, providing an excellent learning opportunity for our House Captain group. One of the captains remarked, "There's quite a lot that goes into this—I thought I could just turn up with the equipment, and it would all just work!" This event allows them to develop their planning and leadership skills early in the year. A big thank you to Mrs Taylor for her guidance and support of these girls.



Greetings from the Acting Principal

Kia Ora, Tafola
Lava, Kia Orana

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

*Ko te pae tawhiti,
whāia kia tata. Ko
te pae tata,
whakamaua kia
tina.*

Seek out distant horizons and cherish those you attain.





Values Cup Recipients



Portia Smith
Room 4



Avery Botting
Room 7

Camps

The first of our amazing camps returned last Friday afternoon after an action-packed four days of teamwork and memory-making. I would like to acknowledge the classroom teachers and support staff who put in an incredible amount of effort to provide these memorable experiences for your daughters. Thank you!

A special thanks also to the parents who took time away from their busy lives [and sacrificed sleep!] to help make these camps a success. We couldn't do it without you!

A reminder that camp invoices are due for payment one week prior to departure.

Rocky Shore Trip

Our junior syndicate is off to explore the rocky shore in Motupōhue/Bluff next week. This is a wonderful opportunity for the girls to see their learning come to life. A huge thank you to the junior syndicate teachers and support staff for their hard work in ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience. We also appreciate the parents who have volunteered to attend. Fingers crossed for settled weather!

Road Safety

In recent weeks, we have experienced a few near misses and received complaints from neighbours regarding the Dee and Avenal Street entrances. To ensure the safety of our girls and duty staff, it is essential that drivers are considerate and follow road rules. Please avoid parking on yellow lines or in designated bus stop/no parking zones. Additionally, parking in or blocking driveways near the school is unfair to our neighbours. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Winter Uniform

It's time to start thinking about winter uniforms. As we mentioned last year, we can no longer source the tartan for our kilts. Our uniform coordinator, Mrs. Lang, has arranged skirts in the same material as the junior pinafore for our senior girls. These have been ordered and should arrive soon, and we'll let you know when they do. If your daughter already has a kilt, she can continue to wear it. The new skirts will be phased in over the next few years.

Information Forms

A pack of information forms has been sent home this week with the eldest child in the family. Please ensure these forms are filled out accurately and returned to school promptly. Completed forms can be delivered directly to the office or your daughter's classroom teacher.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki Whakakapi | Acting Principal



FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD



Sandy Gilmete
Presiding Member

Kia ora koutou

What a great start to Term 1. The first school camp has been completed and we hear everyone involved had a great time.

Welcome our new families to our School. We hope you and your girl/s have settled in and are getting involved in the school community. We have enjoyed reading about the "New B's" in the newsletter and how they are fitting into the St John's school life. Our school is a very special place, and we would like to thank all our staff and our Acting Principal for their hard work and commitment in making this school a great one.

The Board has been busy reviewing and planning the current year and will shortly start the process of advertising for a Principal. We will keep you informed with our progress.

We wish you all a productive and fulfilling term ahead.

Nga mihi

Sandy Gilmete - Board of Trustees Presiding Member

FROM YOUR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Shae Risk
PA Chairperson

Welcome to 2025. We held our first meeting on the 18th February. I would like to thank everyone who came, it was very humbling to have such a great turnout of parents wishing to be part of the Parents' Association. I am personally looking forward to working with you all.

Over the years the Parents' Association has been able to provide funds to assist with the purchase of additional resources for our girls to benefit from. In 2024 we were able to purchase two new interactive boards for the school which meant that every classroom now has one.

For 2025 we have a dream from current and past pupils, families and staff to create a memorial for Gilmour House which was home to the school's borders over the years. This building was demolished in 2021 due to earthquake standards. By doing the Gilmour Garden's Grocery Grab, we hope to create a lovely memorial of Gilmour House and a place where the girls are able to play and enjoy for years to come. There are a limited number of tickets so please let me know if you require more.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Regards

Shae Risk - SJGS Parents' Association Chairperson

stjohns-pta@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MARCH

- 17 Swimming [1-3pm]
- 18 Rocky Shore Bluff Visit - Rooms 1-3
- 19 Interviews [2.15 - 6pm]
[School finishes at 2pm]
- 20 Interviews [3.15 - 6pm]
- 21 Aquavan Visit - Stadium [selected students]
- 24 Swimming [1-3pm]
- 26 Omaui Camp Parent Meeting [5.30pm]
- 27 Lit Quiz [Gore]
BoT Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]
- 28 KIPRRR Day [non-uniform]
Sausage Sizzle & Chill
Hockey Southland Programme
- 31 Swimming [1-3pm]
- 31-2 Yr 5 Camp [31 March to 2 April]
- 31-4 Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp [31 March to 4 April]

APRIL

- 2-4 Yr 6 Camp
- 4 Junior Athletics Day [Rms 1-3]
- 7 Swimming [1-3pm]
- 10 Easter Service Rehearsal [9am]
- 11 Easter Service - First Church [1.30 - 2.30pm]
Last Day of Term 1
- 28 First Day of Term 2

MAY

- 6 BoT Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]
- 8 Parents' Association Mtg [7pm]
- 12 Jumping Day
- 15 Playhouse Theatre
- 19 Swimming Sports [Splash Palace]
- 28 School Cross Country

JUNE

- 2 King's Birthday [School Closed]
- 16-19 Speech Exams
- 18 BoP Meeting - Staffroom [5.30pm]
- 20 Matariki [School Closed]
- 24-25 Dance Exams
- 24-27 Life Education Bus
- 27 Last Day of Term 2



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Lily Vaughan, Gussie Affleck, Annabel Flannery, Mackenna North

ROOM 2

Amaia van Westrenen, Addison Findlater, Heidi Lawson, Cambrie Portia James Carman-Oneroa

ROOM 3

Ivy Manera, Ava Davies, Eleanor Anstice-Shirley, Millie Dobbie

ROOM 4

Mackenzie Brown, Mia Hitchcock, Maggie Mulqueen, Eloise Smith

ROOM 6

Lydia O'Brien, Lexie Nicholl, Rosie Laughton, Amelia Bosma

ROOM 7

Briar McKenzie, Emily Bulling

ROOM 8

Aida Chamberlain, Isla Patterson, Zoe McMillan, Gwynedd Ryder

VALUES CUP

Portia Smith
Avery Botting

Room 4
Room 6

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Amelia Veint
Alora Bosma
McKenzie Kyle
Oriana Smith
Willow Harper

Room 1
Room 1
Room 2
Room 2
Room 8



FROM THE
YR 7
KAIARAHĪ

Senior SYNDICATE CAMPS

RM 7 IS BACK FROM STEWART ISLAND

All the girls from Room 7 really enjoyed camp. We asked some of them what they liked the most about Stewart Island. Here is what they had to say:

EMILY LAUGHTON

"I enjoyed getting to see all the sea lions, the sea lion pups were adorable. I also liked kiwi spotting because I got to see a kiwi, she came so close to me! The cabin stories were great! And it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I would definitely go back there again".

SAMANTHA PARRY

"I definitely enjoyed seeing a kiwi for the first time in its own habitat, which was really cool! The food that we ate was delicious and my favorite meal was the burgers! I will definitely be going back there again!"

WILLOW MURRAY

"I loved all the nature. It was a relaxing place, but the walks were quite exhausting. I would love to go there again if I had the chance."

MEILĀ IOSEFO - DEEP COVE

"I am excited to go up to Hanging Valley. I love our groups and I'm excited to spend time with my friends on my birthday at Deep Cove!! I'm also looking forward to night time because my cabin group will be so funny."

AGNES RUSSELL - OMAŪI

"I am excited to go down the massive climbing tree and boogie boarding! I am going to miss school a little bit, but I am really excited that we get to sleep in tents! I am going to miss my sister, Mum and my dog a lot, though not my Dad because he is coming too!!!"

LYDIA O'BRIEN - OMAŪI

"I excited about going out with a compass into the bush, seeing Omaui and doing a sideways bungee! I am also excited about doing a sand castle competition in house groups."

BAILEY C, EVIE E, BRIAR N & GREER P

CAMPS
COM'IN
↑ UP



ROOM 4



LITERACY

We are excited about Camp Omaui which is in 17 sleeps! In reading we have been learning about different surfing moves because we are going body boarding as one of the activities. In writing we have been practising upgrading words to more sophisticated ones. Here are some snippets of our writing we did on our own class:

“This year Room 4 is excited to step up and be seniors. We are all beaming with excitement about camp. We are going to Omaui. Room 4 are my friends but I have close friends too.” - Lola Rutledge

“My name is Victoria and my class is Room 4. In our class we do art, writing, music, PE and dance and it is so fun. We have house groups - they are Alabaster, Lester, Enderby and Marchant. I am in Enderby. Sometimes in class we play silent ball at the end of the day. Room 4 even has a mascot. His name is Haku. Haku loses his legs or arms sometimes. Oh Haku!” - Victoria Duncan



MATHS

In Room 4 we are having a real push on our times tables.

We can earn bronze (answering order), silver (out of order) or gold (related division). Once we get to the end we get a mini Crunchie!



INQUIRY

Mr Lloyd Esler visited us last week. He is an expert on all things Omaui. We are doing our own inquiry into areas of Omaui. So far we have generated questions to investigate.



ART

Room 4 is full of budding artists. We have explored dye, watercolour, paint pens on black paper and graphite pencil on brown paper. Here you'll see us illustrating the famous cat from Paul Jennings's Story "The Paw Thing". Ask your daughter about this character to get some more detail.



ROOM 6



THE SECRET GARDEN

For our class novel we are reading 'The Secret Garden'. We are enjoying doing STEM tasks alongside the story. Last week we made combination locks after reading about the lock to the secret garden. We have also made carts and learned about the British Empire at the time the story was written.



MAKING YOUR MARK

The girls have been busy making their mark in the classroom. Part of this was designing their names to go on the wall by our KIPRRR poster.



STATISTICS

In maths we have been working really hard to understand statistics. We have looked at data around the weather. After learning about all the elements needed we did practise graphs for 'Average Rainfall in Invercargill over 29 years.' The girls then went off to graph their own data.



SUMMER POEMS

We combined a bit of art and writing with our 'Summer Poems.' The girls wrote poems about their summer experiences and then produced a piece of Pointillism art (lots of dots) to complement their writing. We showed these in assembly and some girls shared their poems too.

YEAR 7 CAMP ADVENTURE

Our Year 7 camp was an unforgettable adventure, packed with exploration, challenges, and incredible wildlife encounters.



DAY ONE

After a slightly rough trip on the ferry to Stewart Island, we arrived at Mamaku Point and quickly settled in before heading to Frenchman's Beach, where we were lucky enough to spot Crested penguins in their cave. A trek to Acker's Cottage and Acker's Point lighthouse helped burn off some energy before we returned to camp for burgers, games, and kiwi spotting—where we saw a large female kiwi!



DAY TWO

We tackled the Garden Mound track to Little River, navigating a rugged bush walk before enjoying rope swings at low tide. The return journey via the Mamaku fence line was long and steep but filled with laughter. After a well-earned sausage sizzle, we fished off the Golden Bay wharf and built bivouacs in the bush. Mrs Stewart filled our bellies with a hearty meal she had prepared before camp. We played games and then had an early night.



DAY THREE

Ulva Island was a highlight, with knowledgeable guides leading us to sea lions and teaching us about native wildlife. A climb to Observation Rock and a scavenger hunt in town rounded out the day, ending with hot chips and ice blocks by the sea. That evening, we enjoyed a delicious nacho dinner, played games and went to the Department of Conservation Centre for a presentation.

ROOM 7



DAY FOUR

We packed up early, had a final bivouac play, and held a prizegiving. Before heading home, we had a special moment watching Yellow-Eyed Penguins being fed. Our trip home on the ferry was smooth, a great ending to a fabulous camp.



THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Blake, Travis, Naomi, and Marise for coming along as helpers - we couldn't have done it without you! This camp was a true adventure and filled with memories to last a lifetime!



ROOM 8

PORTRAIT PHOTOS

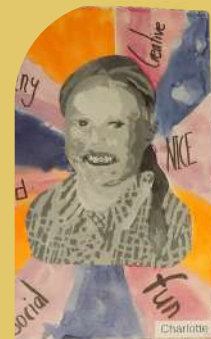
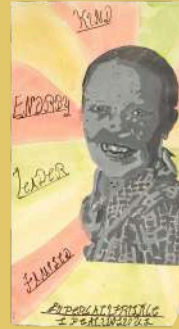
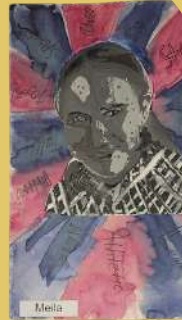
We took portrait photos and then put them through an app to create blocks of different shades. Next we had to trace the images and transfer the tracing onto cartridge paper. The final step was to paint them. It was a bit like paint by numbers without the numbers there.



POP ART PORTRAITS

We created Pop Art style self-portraits, then added words that we identified with.

ROOM 8




INQUIRY

Room 8 started this term's inquiry by sharing "Their Special Place."

ROOM 8


Chesham is a town in the north of Oxford. It is my special place. There are many amazing views in the quiet town of Chesham. My family's memories were made there. I see why you love it here. It's a great place.
Love, William.




Winton, a small town in the south of Devon is my special place. It is a beautiful town with a lot of history. I love the views from the top of the hill. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss M. Roberts
11, Alington Road South,
Brixton,
Invercargill,
9879




Chesham
Chesham, a place near London by the Milton 100 is my special place. This place is truly a sight to see. Thousands of memories are all stored here. You should come, this has is shared. Have you ever been there? Oh what a sight! There's friends and whoas, but don't worry they don't bite!


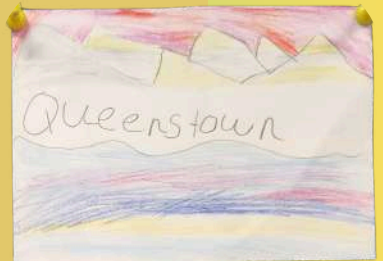


Sharon Whelan
1418 Chesham Rd
Chesham,
Dunedin,
9586.


Chesham is a wonderful place in Oxford. It is special to me. I love the views from the top of the hill. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss M. Roberts
11, Alington Road South,
Brixton,
Invercargill,
9879



Winton, a small town in the south of Devon is my special place. It is a beautiful town with a lot of history. I love the views from the top of the hill. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss M. Roberts
11, Alington Road South,
Brixton,
Invercargill,
9879


Dear Miss D. Eddie
Region is a small town in the North Island, it is my special place. This is because I lived there for a few months as a baby when my mum got cancer. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss D. Eddie
304 Black Road
Chesham,
Invercargill
9879




Winton, a small place in Devon is my special place. It is important to me because I have lots of memories there with my family. I love to go walking in the hills with my family. Winton is my special place, so I hope you love it too.
Mrs S. Taylor,
349 De Street,
Arona,
Invercargill
9800




Chesham is a small town in the north of Oxford. It is my special place. I love the views from the top of the hill. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss M. Roberts
11, Alington Road South,
Brixton,
Invercargill,
9879




Winton, a small town in the south of Devon is my special place. It is a beautiful town with a lot of history. I love the views from the top of the hill. It is a great place to visit. I hope you love it too.
Miss M. Roberts
11, Alington Road South,
Brixton,
Invercargill,
9879




Events for These April Holidays



MON 14TH - THUR 17TH WEEK 1

MON
14

BOOGIE BEAT
9:30am - 10:30am
BAND IN A WEEK
5pm - 6pm

TUES
15

KEYED IN
9am - 4pm
(HALF DAY OPTION AVAILABLE)

WED
16

CURTAINS UP
9am - 4pm
(HALF DAY OPTION AVAILABLE)

THUR
17

BORN TO ROCK
9am - 4pm
(HALF DAY OPTION AVAILABLE)
MUSIC MAKERS
1pm - 3pm

For more information:



info@ksom.nz



Aquavan and our coastal connection

The Aquavan is heading to Winton and Invercargill, bringing live marine critters and touch pools to schools and communities. Get hands-on with heaps of special marine creatures and learn about the connection between our rivers and coast.

What is the Aquavan?

The Aquavan is a specially designed vehicle that can transport marine species. The van is equipped with chilled recirculating seawater tanks. During visits with schools and communities mobile touch tanks allow you to see and touch a range of live marine animals, alongside other fun activities to show how the health of our catchments, rivers, and coasts are all interconnected.

Bring the family and come havesome fun!

Event information

Winton
Tuesday 18 March, 4pm to 6pm
Winton Presbyterian Church Hall

Invercargill
Saturday 22 March, 10am to 3pm
ILT Stadium Southland - main foyer

For further details contact Josh Sullivan on 021 345 812 or email Josh.Sullivan@es.govt.nz
Find out more about the NZ Marine Studies Centre at marine.ac.nz



link for bookings is:
[HappyHolidays!](#)



**RIVERTON HERITAGE
HARVEST FESTIVAL**
29th & 30th March 2025
www.sces.org.nz



Childrens' activities/workshops

only \$5-\$15 per child & supervised by one of our tutors

Leaf Pressing Baked Bread Mice

Wool Felting Natural Jewellery

Make a Terrarium Harakeke Weaving
Maypole Dancing

