



# NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

17 November 2023

While I feel a little reluctant to admit it, this is our last full newsletter of the year! How can we be approaching this time of the year so quickly? We will have a reminder newsletter go out at the end of Week 9 about the events of the following week.

It is a time of reflection, nostalgia and a feeling of unknown for our wonderful Year 8 girls as they enter their final weeks at St John's Girls. It seems only a short while ago that so many of them were starting their journeys with us in crisp pinafores and tiny little shoes. I'm not sure where the years go. It is exciting to see how far they have come, and to celebrate the fine young women that they have become. They are all ready for the new journey ahead of them. We are proud!



Greetings from  
the Principal

Ola, Bonjour, Tena  
koutou katoa

## Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Whāia e koe te iti  
kahurangi ki te  
tūohu koe, me he  
maunga teitei

Pursue excellence –  
should you stumble,  
let it be to a lofty  
mountain

## Upcoming Events

The calendar is absolutely jam packed for the remaining school weeks so please jot down the dates and add them to your diaries. We look forward to seeing you at Dance Sharing, Tabloids, Christmas Service and Prizegiving.

The Year 8 Leavers' Ceremony invitations will be sent directly to the families concerned. This is a special afternoon to celebrate every Year 8 girl. The ceremony is held in the school hall at 3.15pm on Thursday 14 December, following Prizegiving. Parents and Grandparents are invited, but no siblings please.

We have so much to look forward to!

## Chat Bus

We are excited to welcome Chat Bus to St John's in 2024. Chat Bus has been successfully operating in five Invercargill schools for a number of years now. Through generous funding of the ILT, a trained counselor spends one day each week across five schools. In 2024 a second bus will begin across five additional schools. The Board decided to take up the opportunity to utilise this really valuable service in a climate where mental health and a need to talk is paramount.

The counselor will spend one day a week in our school with their van which is set up as a counselor's office. The van has a visual camera set up inside to ensure safety. Girls will self-refer should they wish to speak to the counselor about something they would like support with. The service will be operated discretely so that girls feel confident in accessing the support. Parental consent is required however this is done as a blanket consent, meaning you give permission at the beginning of the year for your daughter to use the service should she need to. Parents are not fed back the content of the visit. At the beginning of the year the counselor will spend time getting to know the staff and the classes in order to make them part of our school community. They will be employed by a board made up of Invercargill principals, myself included.

We will provide you with more information at the beginning of next year.





### Camps

We are excited that four year levels get the opportunity for outdoor adventure in 2024! Camp is a truly memorable experience that encompasses many firsts, lots of bonding and great memory making! All of our camps are in Term One, so please mark the following dates on your calendars.

Yr Level	Venue	Dates	Length	Cost [Approximate]
Yr 5-6	Camp Columba	13-15 March 2024	2 nights	\$220 [approx]
Yr 7	Stewart Island	19-22 March 2024	3 nights	\$300 [approx]
Yr 8	Deep Cove	3-7 April 2024	4 nights	\$310 [approx]

### Lip Sync Competition

What an incredible time we all had at the first ever Lip Sync competition. The whole school filled the hall with roars of laughter and audience participation. It was heartwarming to see so many of our girls on the stage having the time of their lives, and with zero fear of any judgement. Miss Gina adjudicated and was very impressed. The House Captains and Deputies excelled in putting together a very memorable event that will be an annual feature on the calendar. Their entertainment item at the end of the show was very polished and had the crowd in awe. That is until the staff item took to the stage...

Just 39 days until Christmas! Take the weekend to achieve jobs, or as a last chance opportunity to put your feet up.

God bless

Nathan Hughes  
Tumuaki - Principal





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

- **20** Weaving Wellness [Yrs 7/8]  
Yr 8 Photo Shoot
- **21** Dance Sharing [2.00 pm]  
Last day of Dance
- **23** Disco [6-8.00 pm]
- **29** Familiarisation Morning
- **30** BoT Meeting [5.30 pm]

## MARCH 2024

- **4** School Photos
- **13-15** Camp Columba [Yrs 5 and 6]
- **19-22** Stewart Island Yr 7 Camp
- **24** Southland Athletics
- **28** Easter Service
- **29** Easter - Good Friday [School Closed]

## DECEMBER

- **1** Stripes Awarded
- **4** Tabloids [1.00 pm]
- **7** PA Christmas Social [7pm Buster Crabb]  
Pack the Bus More FM Fundraiser
- **8** Bonus Points Awarded  
Reports Out
- **11** Prizegiving & Christmas Service Practices
- **12** Christmas Service [6.30 pm First Church]
- **14** Last School Day  
Prizegiving [1.30pm First Church]  
Leavers' Ceremony [3.15 pm School Hall]

## APRIL 2024

- **1-2** Easter - Monday/Tuesday [School Closed]
- **3-7** Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp

## JANUARY 2024

- **30** Staff Only Day
- **31** Day one for students



# FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD



**Sandy Gilmete**  
Presiding Member

Kia ora St John's Girls' School Community

We are now at the end of week 6 with only 4 weeks to go. This year has gone fast and our girls and staff have been very busy throughout the year. We have been reading about all the achievements our girls are accomplishing. Congratulations to you all.

There are lots of exciting changes being introduced next year by the school and these are important for the growth of our girls by providing further opportunities. The uncertainty around the government and education minister is unsettling and the new curriculum roll out will be a huge task for our teachers next year however we are confident that our staff are well experienced and equipped to deal with these challenges.

At our last Board meeting we discussed our BOT fees for 2024. The cost of having additional curriculum such as speech, dance, during school sports and after school sports are increasing every term. We understand the cost of living is also increasing rapidly in NZ, however, in order for the school to continue to provide the broad curriculum and small class sizes, we the Board have decided to increase our fee by 5% for the year 2024. This would be an increase of \$16.00 per girl per term. This is the first increase in three years.

We can not wait to hear all about the disco next week. We hear the Year 8 girls have been working hard. We hope to see you all at the Christmas Service on 12 December and the Prize Giving on 14 December.

Nga mihi

**Sandy Gilmete - Board of Trustees Presiding Member**

# FROM YOUR BOARD OF PROPRIETORS



**Jade McNamara**  
Chairperson

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am sure you are all looking forward to the holiday season.

The Board of Proprietors take a lot of pride in providing the girls with outstanding school grounds and facilities. As part of the BOP meetings, the topic of costs is always on the agenda and are decided on annually.

At our last meeting, we discussed the ongoing costs of the upkeep of these grounds and facilities and the increase in costs that the school has encountered over the past few years. The board has absorbed these costs to date with no increase of fees over the past 3 years.

Unfortunately we now have no choice but to increase the BOP fees by 5% to be able to keep the current level of service.

We understand and sympathise that this will not be good news for anyone, however we are also sure that you will understand the BOP must ensure that the schools' costs are met.

The 5% increase will be effective from the beginning of Term 1, 2024.

Kind regards

**Jade McNamara - Board of Proprietors Chairperson**

# WEEKLY AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS

### ROOM 1

Indy Frost, Kate McEwan, Georgia Cochrane, Charlotte Risk

### ROOM 2

Amelia Maxwell, Lucy Jenkins, Maeve Devlin, Beau McRae-Bothamley

### ROOM 3

Sophia Lilo-Dockerty, Aoife Gordon, Hannah Sloan, Briar Brady

### ROOM 4

Morrigan Parsons, Indi Howden, Ella Calvert, Emily Bulling

### ROOM 5

Chloe Taylor, Christabel Billcliff

### ROOM 6

Raine Murphy, Esmē Middlebrook, Liliana Clinckett, Ingrid Fleming

### ROOM 7

Drew Peddie, Martina Bosma, Kadi Cantley, Isla Patterson

### VALUES CUP

Evie Arthur  
Indi Howden

Room 6  
Room 4



### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Cambrie Portia James Carman-Oneroa  
Room 2



# From the Kaiarahi

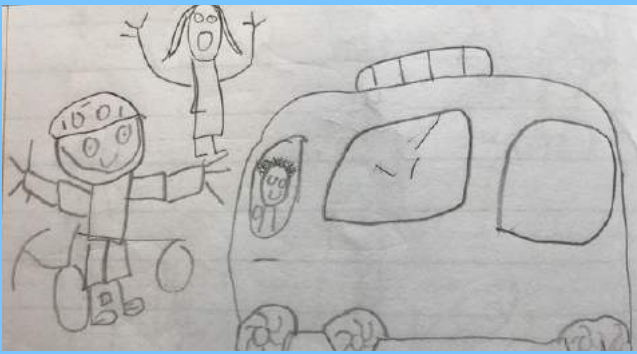
## How to Keep Safe This Summer

We are all so excited as the summer months are coming closer, but there are some things that we need to be reminded about. These include wearing sunscreen and being safe around the water. Here is a list of ways to be safe this summer:

- Stay cool (use air conditioning).
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.
- Put sunscreen on all your exposed skin while spending time outside.
- Be aware of how much time you are spending in the sun.
- Be careful in the water (for kids, making sure you always have a parent that is watching you when you are in the water).
- Make sure that your pets are safe and that they get plenty of water too.
- Make sure that if you have sheep that they are all shorn and ready for summer.
- Wear a hat that covers your face, ears, and the back of your neck when you are out in the sun.
- Wear UV protection sunglasses to protect your eyes from the sun.

*Kiran, Green, Amelia, Libby, Nieve,  
Bonnie, Lilly and Hannah*





ROOM 1

### Tour of Southland

Room 1 enjoyed watching the Tour of Southland and Saffron wrote:  
"We went to the bike race. There were lots of bikes. The people were in teams. It was exciting when the bikes zoomed past. The cars beeped at us."

### Masks

We have been working on creating masks and have chosen our favourite character. Mrs Jagoutz has had to learn who Owlette is.



### Word Families

To help remember some of our word families we have been learning "Oh you lucky duck" for the 'ould' family and "Oh you naughty duck" for the 'ound' family.





With the term halfway through, we are beginning to look forward to all our exciting end-of-year activities. We have been very busy over the past few weeks looking at our goals and trying our very best to tick some of them off. One area where some girls need some further support is with backwards counting in ones and twos. Ask your daughter how she is going with this goal.

Greats and Grands Day was a huge success this year. We loved hosting all our grandparents and showing them our classroom. They were wonderful joining in with all the singing and dancing.

Room 2 have been learning to create masterpieces like the artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. 'Hundertwasser' liked to paint things he saw in nature. He used simple shapes such as circles and spirals. We spent time noticing the details in some of Hundertwasser's paintings. On the day we began to make and plan our own artwork, Mr Hughes shared some beautiful pictures of our school gardens to our school facebook page. We were inspired by this beauty in nature around us. We have used brightly coloured felt pens and vivids to create landscapes just like Hundertwasser did. Challenges and new learning for us included colouring using lines as well as creating interest and movement with bold lines. Our maths learning is even evident in our designs. Our pictures include garden features which are in front, beside, under, over and behind.

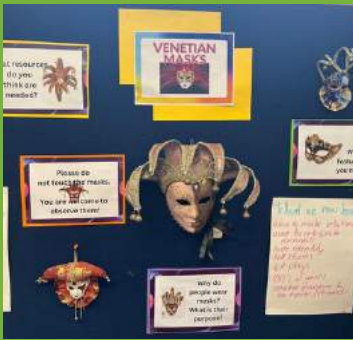
We have been having fun in the sun playing T-Ball for our summer sports programme.



## ROOM 2







### Masks

Room 3 have been learning about masks and how they are used in celebrations. We have been focusing on Venetian masks and exploring their history, resources needed, and going through the design process to create our own masks.

It is exciting to see our designs take shape and we can't wait until they are completed.

### Maths

In Maths we have been exploring Geometry! We are creating Geometry gardens that include tessellating patterns, symmetrical butterflies, and rotating flowers. Here we are exploring tessellations.

### Greats and Grands

It was so lovely welcoming our Greats and Grands to St John's. We really enjoyed our time with them. Thank you to all the Greats and Grands that joined us for this wonderful day.

**ROOM 3**





# SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

## LUNCH MENU

All subs are made freshly baked white or wheat bread

[WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ)



BE IN TO WIN A FREE 6-INCH SUB WITH YOUR NEXT SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER!

MOST RECENT WINNERS - SOPHIE [RM 5] & NEEKA [RM 5]





Kennedy School of Music  
www.ksom.nz

PRIVATE TUITION

GROUP LESSONS

IN-SCHOOL LESSONS

DIGITAL DELIVERY

MUSICAL THEATRE

VOCAL CLASSES

PERFORMANCE

BAND CLASSES

HOLIDAY CAMPS

KID'S CHOIR

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMES

WOMEN'S VOCAL GROUP

TERTIARY EDUCATION

REHEARSAL ROOMS



COME AND JOIN THE FUN!  
REGISTER TODAY!

PRIVATE LESSONS



GROUP LESSONS



KSOM - FOSTERING A LOVE AND ENJOYMENT OF MUSIC, WHILE PROVIDING THE SKILL-SET TO CREATE EXCELLENT MUSICIANS

[WWW.KSOM.NZ](http://WWW.KSOM.NZ) - [INFO@KSOM.NZ](mailto:INFO@KSOM.NZ) - 0211339799