



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

15 March 2024

It is a busy time in education at present. It is always busy, but there are some considerable changes being put upon schools; namely around the policy involving 1 hour per day of reading, writing and mathematics, and strategic planning.

We are fortunate at St John's that with such a rich and engaging curriculum, we have so much reading and writing integrated into our week. Reading and writing doesn't just happen in the morning at the dedicated time, our girls are immersed in rich literacy within inquiry, science, speech, Te reo etc. The Ministry has recognised the value of integrated literacy which is great, as we value it also.

Strategic planning looks different in schools this year also. Have a look on our website at the two primary goals that we are reporting to the Ministry on this year. The first aligns with our iDeaL teaching, and the other the introduction of Chat Bus to St John's next term to provide the best pastoral care that we can for our girls.

Chat Bus

This year, as part of the Board's commitment to pastoral care, we have joined the other 9 schools in Invercargill who utilise the services of the Chat Bus. Set up in 2021 as a charitable organisation, the Chat Bus service has successfully provided counselling to children at 5 schools for the last three years. Children self refer in a discrete way and see a counsellor in the 'Chat Bus' during the day it is onsite. The Chat Bus is a large van that is built for purpose, and along with the counsellor it travels to each of the schools it services one day a week.

The service has assisted so many children to navigate their challenges, whether they be at home, in the playground or with learning. As a result, Chat Bus South now has a second van and counsellor to service more schools across Invercargill. Generously sponsored by many corporate organisations and trusts, St John's is so fortunate to have the service available to all of our girls if or when they might need it. As a school we have made a financial commitment to allow this to happen.

Each Thursday, beginning at some point in Term 2, the Chat Bus will be onsite here at school for girls to talk with counsellor Sandra Lea, should they need to. Sessions will last between 30 minutes and 1 hour. We will have a self-referral system set up where the girls can drop a note into a box should they wish to speak with Mrs Lea.

The van is equipped with a camera that takes a visual recording of the girls' visits. There is no audio recorded, for privacy reasons. The data from the camera is downloaded and kept securely on a hard drive held by a principal trustee.

A generic form will be sent home for parents to complete giving consent for their daughter to speak with Mrs Lea, should she wish to. Like any counselling service, what is discussed is kept confidential, unless Mrs Lea believes the child's safety is at risk.

The schools who have had Chat Bus for years have shared how there isn't any stigma attached to using the service. Their counsellor, Miles, is seen as part of the staff and the children see going to the Chat Bus a bit like going to have a reading session with a teacher aide, or doing a test with a teacher. We too want to create this atmosphere here at school. The classes will all meet Mrs Lea and she will spend time at school learning about who we are and what we value.



Greetings from the Principal

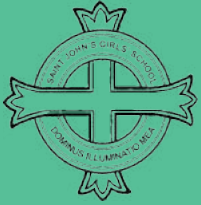
Bonjour, Ola,
Kia ora koutou

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

He ora te whakapiri, he mate te whakatakariri.

There is strength in unity and defeat in anger.





Values Cup Recipients



**Kyla-Rose
Jarvis-Patterson**



**Sofia
Peters**

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ChatbusSouth/> and www.chatbus.org.nz

Have a talk at home about giving consent. It is an individual decision and you know what you want for your daughter. Having been part of the Chat Bus board for the past year, and being on the employment selection panel, I would recommend giving your daughter the option should she need it.

More information and the consent form will follow later in the term.

House Team Bonding Day

What a wonderful day last Friday was! The Year 8 girls, in particular the House Captains and Deputies, showed outstanding leadership and great forward planning. The weather played the game, mostly, and the sausages and saveloys went down a treat. Would you believe we ate in excess of 320 sausies and savs? Happy hungry kids! Thank you Room 8!

Camps

The first of our amazing camps is returning this afternoon after an action-packed three days of teamwork, risk-taking and memory making! I do want to acknowledge the teachers who put in an insurmountable amount of work in order to give your daughters these incredible experiences. Thank you teachers!

Also, to the parents who are taking time away from their jobs and busy lives to assist in making these camps go ahead, thank you!

A reminder that camp invoices are due for payment prior to the camp departing.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Our two days of Parent Teacher Interviews are being held on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th of March. Bookings will be available via Skool Loop from Tuesday 19th March.

Reminder - school closes at 2pm on Tuesday 26th as the interviews start early. After School Care will begin at 2.15pm on this day.

Easter Service

Our annual Easter Service is being held on Thursday 28 March at First Church beginning at 1.30pm. This is a full school event and we invite you all to attend and bring extended family and friends. Girls are unable to leave with you from the church and must be collected from school afterwards.

The girls will be bused to the church on the morning on Wednesday 27 March at 8.50am for the rehearsal. We will return to school by 11.00am.

Have a wonderfully safe and relaxing weekend ahead.

Nathan Hughes

Tumuaki - Principal





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- **18** Kids Lit Quiz
Swimming [1pm]
- **19-22** Stewart Island Camp [Room 7]
- **20** BoP AGM and General Meeting [5.30pm]
- **24** Southland Athletics
- **25** Swimming
- **26** Interviews [2.15pm - school closes at 2pm]
- **27** Easter Service Practice
Interviews [3.15pm - school closes at 3pm]
- **28** Easter Service
- **29** Easter Friday [school closed]

APRIL

- **1-2** Easter - Monday/Tuesday [School Closed]
- **3-7** Yr 8 Deep Cove Camp
- **4** BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- **8** Grip Leadership [Yr 8 + Yr 7 Kaiarahai]
Swimming
- **12** Last day of Term
Bonus Points Awarded
PA Sausage Sizzle and Ice blocks
Mufti-day [SPCA]
- **29** Day 1 of Term 2

MAY

- **7** Parents' Association Meeting [7.00pm]
- **13** Swimming [1pm]
- **17** Mufti-Day [Pink Shirt]
- **20** Swimming [1pm]
- **21** Cross Country [1pm]
- **22** Cross Country [postponement day]
- **23** Playhouse Theatre
BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- **27** Swimming [1pm]

JUNE

- **3** King's Birthday [school closed]
- **4** Staff Only Day [school closed]



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Evie Bradshaw, Madeleine Mackenzie

ROOM 2

Mackenzie Smithies, Grace McLeod-Young

ROOM 3

Briar Brady, Madeleine Davison

ROOM 4

At camp

ROOM 6

At camp

ROOM 7

Martina Bosma, Alyssa Hamilton

ROOM 8

Amelia Frew, Ingrid Fleming

VALUES CUP

Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson
Sofia Peters

Room 3
Room 8

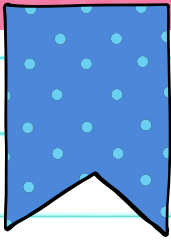


Gilmour House

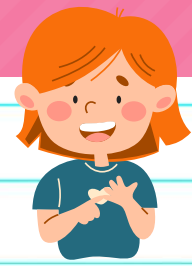
Gilmour House was a big part of St John's Girls' School, in fact for more than 100 years. Sadly three years ago Gilmour House was knocked down. This had to happen for several good reasons but mainly because it was a big earthquake risk. Gilmour House had stopped offering boarding facilities several years prior. So many different options were explored about Gilmour's future including renovating the house to become a technology suite, more classrooms etc but it was going to cost an insane amount of money. Sadly it had to be demolished. Gilmour House was about 120 years old and although it was such a tragedy that it had to be knocked down, St John's Girls' School has many things to remember Gilmour House by. Outside Room 3 there is a beautiful mural painting of Gilmour House, painted by Mrs Kelly's sister Annie Wyatt, and beautiful gardens where Gilmour House once stood. There is talk of a future Gilmour memorial wall.... watch this space!



**from your Kaiarahi
Sofia, Gwynedd, Martina and Star**



Room 1



Mindset Maths - Counting

Room 1 have been working on counting and numbers looking at different ways to show numbers and how many different ways to ask the question "How many....?" Mrs Jagoutz and Mrs Lang are always surprised at how the girls spot new groups to count using our Mindset Maths images.



House Bonding Day

House Bonding day has been a big highlight for the girls. Here are some of the things that Room 1 have written about.



Madeleine wrote:

"I went to Queen's Park for House Bonding day. We went to see the pigs. We did an obstacle course. We had some ice blocks."



Indi wrote:

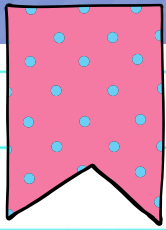
"We went under the parachute and we did an obstacle race at House Bonding day. We had big buddies and we had sausages and Mr Hughes cooked the sausages."



Addison wrote:

"On House Bonding day we went to Queen's Park and we played on the slide and the playground. We played a game and you had to find the characters and we investigated the animals. Mr Hughes cooked sausages for lunch. Our House captains took us to Queen's Park."





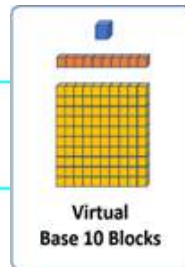
Room 2



The term is whizzing by and it is hard to believe Easter is two weeks away. We have been enjoying our new spelling programme, which is helping us with our writing, reading and handwriting.

Maths

The girls have been having a lot of fun with maths so far this term. We have been exploring place value by using equipment and drawing pictures to help us develop our understanding. You can help by asking how many tens and ones are in a number. Some girls are challenging themselves with 100s and 1000s.

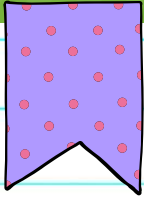


We have been enjoying gathering data and looking for patterns or connections in our findings. The girls are learning to make statements about picture bar graphs. There have been lively conversations about what our data shows.



Frogs and Butterflies

Our little froggy friends are all grown up and happily living back in the creek. Fredo, Kermit and Chocolate gave us plenty of excitement and learning opportunities. A big thank you to Meredith McEwan for kindly making this wonderful experience possible. We are just waiting for our late butterfly to safely hatch out of its cocoon.



Room 3



Cycle Safety

As part of our Health programme Room 3 have completed their Cycle Safety sessions with Marc from Cycling Southland. This programme aims to equip riders with the skills and confidence they need to ride more often. The girls developed balance and bike control skills for starting/stopping and turning, riding with one hand to signal and looking all around (including behind). They also learnt how to check that their bikes and helmets are roadworthy and ready to ride. Additionally, they learnt how to cooperate with other riders around them. Our girls thoroughly enjoyed this programme and it was fantastic to see their cycling confidence grow.



Living World

The living world has been on show in Room 3. We've had a caterpillar metamorphose into a butterfly and we released it. We've even spotted our butterfly in our school garden (so we think). We've also had tadpoles metamorphose into frogs and released them back into their creek. Both have been such great learning experiences for our girls. A big thank you to Leah and Meredith who supplied us with our tadpoles and cared for them over the last 6 weeks.



WINTER UNIFORM

Now is the time to check your daughter's winter uniform as from next term all girls are required to be in full winter uniform.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

LUNCH MENU

All subs are made freshly baked white or wheat bread

WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ



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

MOST RECENT WINNERS - AVA [RM 4] & NICOLE [RM 8]