



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

28 November 2025



Greetings from the
Principal

Mālō e lelei, Kia Ora,
Talofa

Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb

**Mā te huruhuru ka rere
te manu.**

*It is the feathers that enable
the bird to fly.*

**Values Cup
Recipient**



**Annabel Flannery
Room 1**

As we head into the end of Term 4, you can really feel the wonderful effort and energy pouring into the school. Our girls and staff are working hard, setting up some fantastic events and activities to celebrate the year.

This busy time brings to mind the whakataukī I have shared in our newsletter this week: **Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu.**

Great success needs great preparation and hard work. Like a bird carefully growing its feathers before taking flight, our girls are currently putting in the practice, planning, and teamwork they need to achieve their goals.

We see this especially with our Year 8 girls, who are showing incredible leadership and effort as they organise their special end-of-year events for the whole school. The success of these events will not just happen by chance. It will be the direct result of their countless hours of planning, collaboration, and determination.

This whakataukī is a reminder for all of us at home and school. Every bit of effort counts! When we support our girls with their learning, encourage their practice, and cheer on their ability to work with each other, we are helping to grow their 'feathers' so they can truly soar.

Dance Sharing

Our annual dance sharing is a highlight on our school calendar, and our event a fortnight ago was no exception! Every class performed an engaging and polished routine, and it was wonderful to see so much support from our school community. The atmosphere was electric! I was so proud of the support the girls showed one another. Miss Gina always does a fabulous job to ensure our girls are well prepared. It was a fun afternoon!

Greats and Grands

Our time-honoured tradition of Greats and Grands was held last week, and it was a wonderful morning of sharing and togetherness. We saw around 100 grandparents, great grandparents and special family members join their little people for a morning of sharing, classroom time and entertainment. Thank you to the many guests who joined us; I am sure you were as proud of your girls as we were. Ka pai to our Year 7 girls for their top-notch catering and floristry skills!

Dangerous Decibels

Last week, our students had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the Dangerous Decibels Programme.

The girls learned firsthand exactly how their ears work and the vital role they play in processing sound. They explored key concepts like understanding decibels [what's safe and what causes permanent damage] and identifying noise risks in daily life.

Most importantly, the programme empowered our learners with practical, life-long habits to protect their hearing.

Thank you to Barbara Purdie-Smith for her work in our classrooms last week.



Southland Adventure Race

Tino pai to our Year 7 & 8 girls who took part in the Southland Junior Adventure Race last week. It was a very warm day, and the course was incredibly challenging. The teamwork, determination and resilience were evident in all our teams. Every girl crossed the finish line with a smile and a sense of pride. Well done girls!

Familiarisation Morning

This week, we welcomed our new Year 2-8 girls and their families to our kura for our annual familiarisation morning. Many of our current girls were guides and buddies and did an incredible job of welcoming our new families to the school. I was a very proud Principal.

Invoices

There are still a large number of outstanding invoices to be paid. Please ensure these are settled as soon as possible. Your contributions ensure we can provide an excellent learning environment for your daughter.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend. Hopefully the girls will sleep in tomorrow after a fun night at the disco!

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki | Principal

AFTER SCHOOL CARE ACCOUNTS

Please ensure all After School Care accounts are settled by the end of this term [Tuesday 16 December].

Thank you for your support and I wish you a wonderful, restful holiday break.

Noeleen Wilson

Maths Game

Give it a Go!

100 or Bust



Aim: GET THE CLOSEST TO OR EXACTLY 100 WITHOUT GOING OVER

1. DRAW A TABLE WITH 7 EMPTY ROWS
2. PLAYERS TAKE TURNS TO ROLL THE DICE AND DECIDE WHAT VALUE THE DIGIT IS AND ENTER IT INTO A ROW, E.G. 5 COULD BE WRITTEN AS 50 OR 5
3. TRY AND KEEP A RUNNING TOTAL OF YOUR TOTAL SCORE IN YOUR HEAD AFTER EACH ROLL
4. AFTER 7 ROLLS EACH, PLAYERS TOTAL THEIR SCORE - THE PLAYER WHO GOT CLOSEST TO 100 WITHOUT GOING OVER WINS

Extenders

- USE 3 DIGITS: 1000 OR BUST
- USE ONES AND DECIMAL TENTHS: 10 OR BUST
- USE TENTHS AND HUNDREDTHS: 1 OR BUST

Player A

Dice	Tens	Ones
	5	0
	2	0
		5
	1	0
		4
		3
		6
Total	9	8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



NOVEMBER

- 30 Choir Concert [2.00pm] First Church

DECEMBER

- 3 More FM Pack The Bus
Choir Performance - Rotary North [6.00pm]
- 5 Tabloids
- 10 Father/Daughter Netball
- 11 Christmas Concert - Senior Citizens [1.30pm]
BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- 12 Bonus Points / Stripes / Leadership Roles for
2026 announced at Assembly
Jnr Syndicate - Xmas Tree Visit [Stadium]
- 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

2026

- 3 February First day of school for students
- 6 February Waitangi Day [school closed]
- 17 February Family Fun Night
- 19 February School Photos
- 20 February Staff Only Day
- 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
- 27 April ANZAC Day Observed [School closed]
- 21 May Playhouse Theatre School Visit
- 1 June King's Birthday [School closed]
- 3 July Last day of Term 2
- 20 July Day 1 of Term 3
- 24 August Staff Only Day [School closed]
- 25 September Last day of Term 3
- 12 October Day 1 of Term 4
- 26 October Labour Day [School closed]
- 15 December Last day of Term 4
Prizegiving
Leavers' Function



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Alora Bosma, Ellie McCallum, Lily Vaughan, Abby Moore

ROOM 2

Saffron Smith, Charlotte Risk, Isabelle Miskimmin, Oriana Smith

ROOM 3

Lucy Dixon-Calder, Charlotte Farley, Nina Russell, Pippa Vaughan

ROOM 4

Lucy Jenkins, Madeleine Davison, Lola Rutledge, Aoife Gordon

ROOM 6

Lexie Nicholl, Lydia O'Brien, Ava Amar, Amelia Bosma

ROOM 7

Samantha Parry, Peyton Cornish, Briar McKenzie, Emily Laughton

ROOM 8

Abby Unahi, Zoe McMillan, Emma Visser, Martina Bosma

VALUES CUP

Rm 1 Annabel Flannery

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 6 Avery Botting, Lydia O'Brien,
Laura van Westrenen





DANCE SHARING

Move, Inspire, Perform!

On Friday the 14th of November, our classes shared the dances that we have been working hard on for many weeks. Miss Gina has helped every class to make the perfect, fun dance on the theme of *Colours*. Each classroom had a different colour song that we danced to. For example, the Year 8s danced to *Golden* from the movie *K-pop Demon Hunters*, which was definitely a favourite for the Junior school. Room 1's dance was very bubbly, to *The Colour Song*. We could see the smiles on everyone's faces, and everyone took pride and put effort into their dances. Most schools don't do dance sharing or dance at all. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to learn all about the wonderful dance skills we now know.



FROM THE

KAIARAHU

ROOM 1 THE GIFT OF GIVING



“You never know how big of an impact even the smallest contribution can have.”

Last Friday Room 1 was a hive of busy bees making Christmas cards, angels and lucky Gonks which we took with us for our visit to the Rowena Jackson retirement village this week.

The Junior girls shared their singing, poems and sing-a-longs from Greats and Grands to entertain the residents.

The girls then gave their Christmas crafts away and shared the joy that the girls have had making them.

GREATS & GRANDS

Greats and Grands was a wonderful morning and Room 1 was filled with our visitors. The girls showed off their classroom and their activities with pride. They also talked to their Grandparents about the Christmas traditions that they had when they were children.





ROOM 2 BUSY, BUSY, BEES!



"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun, and snap! – the job's a game." [Mary Poppins]

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Room 2 are excited to share our highlights with you... we have been a hive of activity!

A passion of ours has been working on our Christmas around the world posters. This has been very interesting as we learn the various ways mums and dads from around the world encourage their children to be good! From Gonks to sacks and being exiled to Spain we have heard it all!

We learned to use a Venn diagram to help us sort out information, comparing Christmas in another country with our own. We were surprised to see so many similarities and differences.



DANCE SHARING

Dance sharing was an event to look forward to and we danced our little hearts out. Thank you to our support crew for coming along to cheer us on. A favourite memory for all of us was the Year 8 song and dance!



ROOM 2



WEEKLY REPORTS

Our weekly reports have been well received. It has been interesting to hear about feel good news stories. We have had success stories such as the number of women voted onto council recently, Imogen told us that one is an ex-principal of St Johns, Trish Boyle! We felt connected to this news. Some stories even gave us giggles, like the surf board stealing otter Saffron told us about. Amaia had an amazing story of Murphy the dog who was trapped in his Kennel after the storm and Madeleine impressed us with a report on a new variation of blueberry which is the size of a plum! We have enjoyed writing about these reports.



MONDAY SPORT

Monday sport has been an opportunity to practise running and jumping and throwing. Luckily the sun has shown up for these sessions. It is fun to get out of the classroom and challenge ourselves.

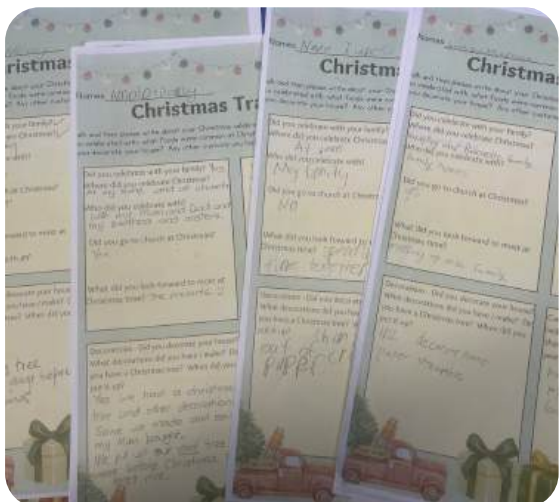
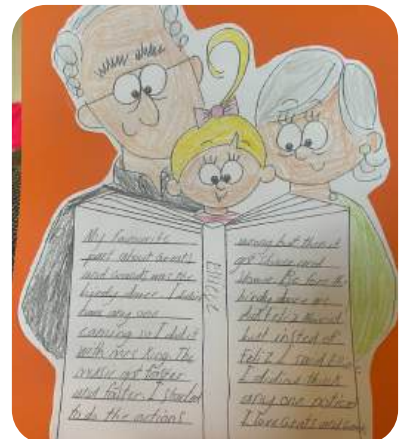
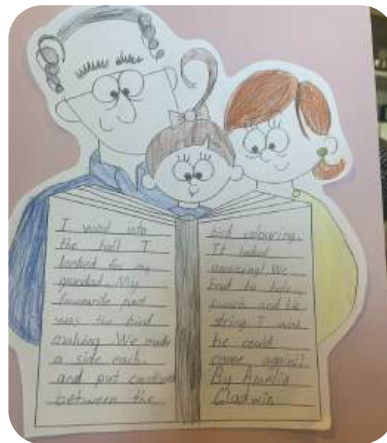


ROOM 2



GREATS & GRANDS

Greats and Grands was a huge success! We loved having our Grandies in for a very special morning. We are proud of the decorations we made with our special guests. These are on display in the classroom and we hope they will be treasured when they make it home. We were happy to ask our Greats and Grands about Christmas when they were young. We found that some things haven't changed much at all! Christmas has always been about family!



ROOM 3 TRYING NEW THINGS



“Don't be afraid to try something new. It might be the best thing you ever do.”

Room 3 is blooming brightly reflecting that indeed summer is certainly on its way. The warmer days means more time outside, sunhats on and the smell of sunscreen. The girls are happy and settled and working hard!

Check out what we have been up to over the past few weeks.

GYMNASTICS SHARING

It was just wonderful to see Room 3 shine at the gymnastic sharing. Many girls reflected how pleased they were of achieving new goals and pushing themselves to try new things. It was such a fun and fabulous afternoon.

DANCE SHARING

WOW! Room 3 was amazing. We were blown away by the girls' focus and execution of their dance skills and techniques. Well done Room 3.



ROOM 3



MATHS

We have been exploring many new fun and fabulous maths games.

Check out Room 3 playing race to 100. Better yet, ahve a go playing it with your daughter.

Rules:

- -Take turns rolling a dice.
- When it's your turn, roll a dice.
- Decide on the place value of the number you rolled. Eg a 6 could be 6 or 60
- Write your answer down and on your next turn you add your next roll to the last total.
- The aim of the game is to get to 100 but you only get 7 rolls.
- The winner is the person who gets the closest to 100 but if you go over 100 before your 7 rolls are up, you are out!

GEOMETRY

We have been exploring geometry through spring! Creating our own geometry gardens. We are learning about tessellation, rotation, reflection and symmetry.



ROOM 3



GREATS & GRANDS

We thoroughly enjoyed having our Greats and Grands join us for a wonderful morning of sharing music, poetry and dance. We welcomed our visitors to Room 3 where we enjoyed hearing about how they celebrated Christmas when they were young. Check out some pics from our time together.



IT WITH JASON FROM ILT INTERACT

Room 3 has loved our time with Jason from ILT Interact. We have learnt many new skills such as creating google slides and canva presentations. Our new found skills are going to come in handy as the girls become senior students next year! We were grateful to have had Jason's expertise.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTING & CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

We have loved learning about how Christmas is celebrated around the world and how different religions and cultures celebrate. Each week, our Current Events reporters shared with us a variety of celebrations. The standard of Room 3s Current Events had been outstanding. We are impressed with how organised the girls are and how their oral language communication skills have developed. It's also very cool to see the girls' new found IT skills put into practice as they create Current Events Presentations.

In class we are exploring celebrations and creating festive art that matches each celebration. We are enjoying Christmas crafting to take to Rowena Jackson to share the spirit of Christmas. We also learnt about Christmas Gonks. Traditionally they are said to bring good luck to a household if they were treated kindly. They are a popular Christmas decoration and we think our Gonks look FAB!





Order Back to School stationery now and **beat the rush!**



Class lists are ready to view at **myschool.co.nz**

Stationery for 2026

Printed lists will be sent home on Monday December 1st. They will also be emailed and available on our Website and Skool Loop

We've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back to school shop super easy. And if you order in December, you'll go in the draw to WIN 1 of 5 \$1000 cash prizes*.

Your daughter's class list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm - and OfficeMax will get your delivery underway with free delivery on orders over \$70*.

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Zip# is also available, so you can pay in 4 interest free payments over 6 weeks and still get your order right away. Plus, you'll be helping our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

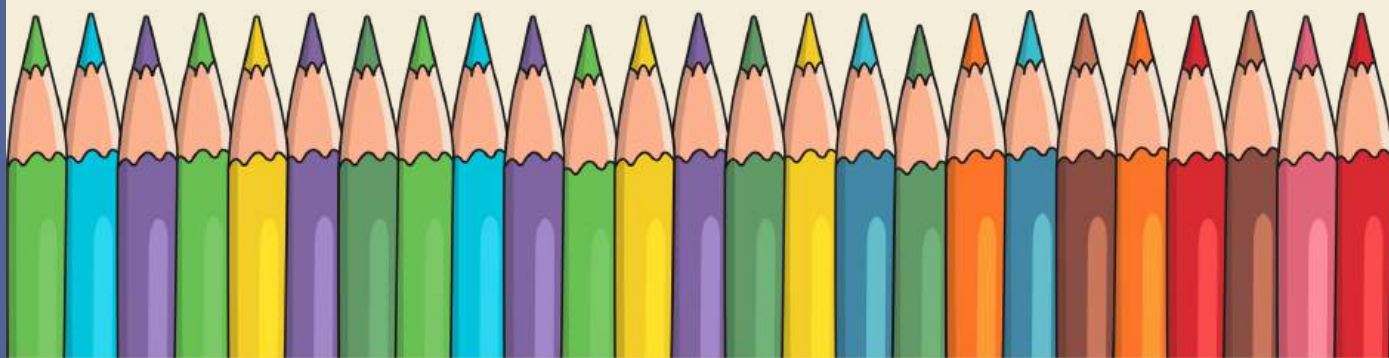
Quotes for WINZ are available by contacting 0800 724 440 or via email enquiry@myschool.co.nz.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1.

So go ahead and beat the back to school rush, order today and give them the best start possible.

#Zip Pay in 4 is available to approved applicants only and subject to completion of satisfactory credit checks. For more information visit myschool.co.nz/zip. T&Cs and late fees apply. Zip Co NZ Finance Limited FSP 598969.

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KENNARDS HIRE



A very Big shout out to **Kennards Hire** for supporting our disco - we are very grateful for their help in setting up our hall.

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Runs from 1st of December 2025 until 31st of January 2026

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2025 SUMMER

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