



# NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

3 November 2023

Beautiful Spring is certainly upon us and the girls are making the absolute most of their break times outside in the grounds playing. The imagination that the girls bring to their games is fantastic, and we love seeing our senior girls creating their own games with unique rules. The rules are unwritten, but understood by all, except adults! The Year 8 girls are hooked on a rather contemporary version of volleyball at the moment, and I've enjoyed joining in!

## Christian Education Speech Competition

The staff wish to commend the many Year 7 and 8 girls who took part in the speech competition yesterday. It was the largest group of girls we have seen compete and the variation in delivery styles was engaging. We were treated to interviews, role plays, comedy and monologues. Mrs King was proud of all the girls, particularly those who stepped outside of their comfort zones and rose to the challenge. A special thanks to Reverend Peter Taylor who assisted Mrs Dawkins with adjudicating.

1st - Chloe Taylor and Caryn Shepherd

2nd - Amelia Frew and Zoe Laughton

3rd - Meila Spain, Kiran Gilmete and Leah McEwan

## Invoices

We require all outstanding balances to be paid by Friday 1 December at the latest. Please look into your Xero accounts to see if you have an outstanding amount. Contact the office if you have any questions.

## Parents' Association

A thank you to these wonderful parents who work hard to support your girls through raising funds and providing opportunities. In the next few weeks they are holding a sausage sizzle, family portrait sessions and catering for both the Greats and Grands day and the Familiarisation Day. If you see these mums about, thank them for the great work they do!

## World Aerobics Championships

Our very own Ingrid Fleming is traveling home from the World Aerobics Championships in Belgium after taking out 6th place in the FISAF cadet finals. We couldn't be any prouder and we cannot wait to celebrate with her!

Old girls Matilda Stevens and Brooke Acker competed also with Matilda placing 3rd in her individual section; another incredible result!

## 2024 Leadership Roles

All of our Year 8 girls take on important roles that make our school function smoothly and effectively. All roles are important and we really notice the impact when one of our girls is away. At present the Year 8s of 2024 are writing application letters for their desired positions. There are many: Kaiarahi, PALS, Librarians, House leaders and more. The eight Kaiarahi are made up of both Year 7 and 8s, four from each year level. The girls are excited and understandably nervous in the lead up to finding out which positions they have won. It is up to our parents and teachers to think about how we work with girls who are disappointed. We have all had job opportunities not go our way and it is understandable to be disappointed, and perhaps upset. Looking forward and seeing the positive in what we have, or have been offered, is what will help to move on from the disappointment.



Greetings from  
the Principal

Konichiwa, Talofa,  
Tena koutou katoa

Whakatauki -  
Māori Proverb

Tē tōia, tē  
haumatia

*Nothing can be  
achieved without a  
plan, workforce and a  
way of doing things*





### Calendar of Events

We have so many events happening between now and the end of the term. Keep a close eye on our calendar and fill in your diaries! There is much to look forward to and a lot to celebrate.

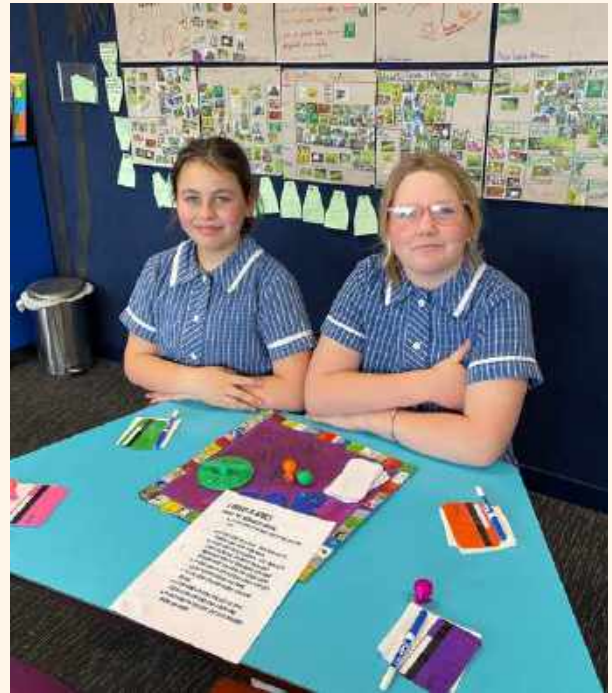
### Staff Only Day

A reminder that we have a Staff Only Day on Monday 13 November. Please ensure you have made alternative arrangements for your daughter.

Have a glorious weekend ahead. Treat yourselves!

God bless

Nathan Hughes  
**Tumuaki - Principal**





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

- **6** Weaving Wellness [Yrs 7/8]
- **9** Greats and Grands morning
- **10** Science Road Show  
PA Family Portrait Photo Session
- **13** **Staff Only Day**
- **15** BoP Meeting [5.30 pm]
- **16** Lip Sync Competition [lunchtime]
- **17** Weaving Wellness [Yrs 7/8]  
High School New Entrant Morning  
Waste Free Wanda show
- **20** Weaving Wellness [Yrs 7/8]
- **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]

## JANUARY 2024

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

## MARCH 2024

- **4** School Photos
- **13-15** Camp Columba [Yrs 5 and 6]
- **24** Southland Athletics
- **28** Easter Service
- **29** Good Friday

## DECEMBER

- **1** Stripes Awarded
- **4** Tabloids [1.00 pm]
- **7** PA Christmas Social [7pm Buster Crabb]
- **8** Bonus Points Awarded  
Reports Out
- **11** Prizegiving / Christmas Service Practice
- **12** Christmas Service [6.30 pm First Church]
- **14** Last School Day  
Prizegiving [1.30pm First Church]  
Leavers' Ceremony [3.15 pm School Hall]



# WEEKLY AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS

### ROOM 1

Madeleine McKenzie, Heidi Lawson, Addison Findlater, Oriana Smith

### ROOM 2

Lara Preininger, Eleanor Anstice-Shirley, Lola Rutledge, Nina Russell

### ROOM 3

Amelia Bosma, Laura Maxwell, Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson, Leah Hamilton

### ROOM 4

Danielle King, Briar Nicholl, Meila Greiving, Greer Valli

### ROOM 5

Anna Amar, Shanna-Beth Smith, Hanatia Mainland, Nieve Peddie

### ROOM 6

Nicole Carnie, Esmē McCleery, Star Welsh, Matilda Moody

### ROOM 7

Gwynedd Ryder, Mia Padgett, Aida Chamberlain, Gracie Dennis

### VALUES CUP

Nieve Peddie Room 5  
Laura van Westrenen Room 3





FROM THE KAIARAAHI



## White Christmas Disco

On Thursday 23rd of November the Year 8s will be hosting the annual disco.

This year's theme is 'White Christmas'!

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 6th November until Friday 10th November outside Room 5 at interval.

A senior ticket is \$8 and a junior ticket is \$5.

The Disco is from 6-8 pm.

Juniors (Room 1-3) will attend from 6-7pm and Seniors

(Room 4-7) will attend from 6-8 pm.

Please come dressed in a White Christmas theme.

Snacks and drinks provided with dietary requirements catered for.

We hope to see you there!

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



## INSECTS!

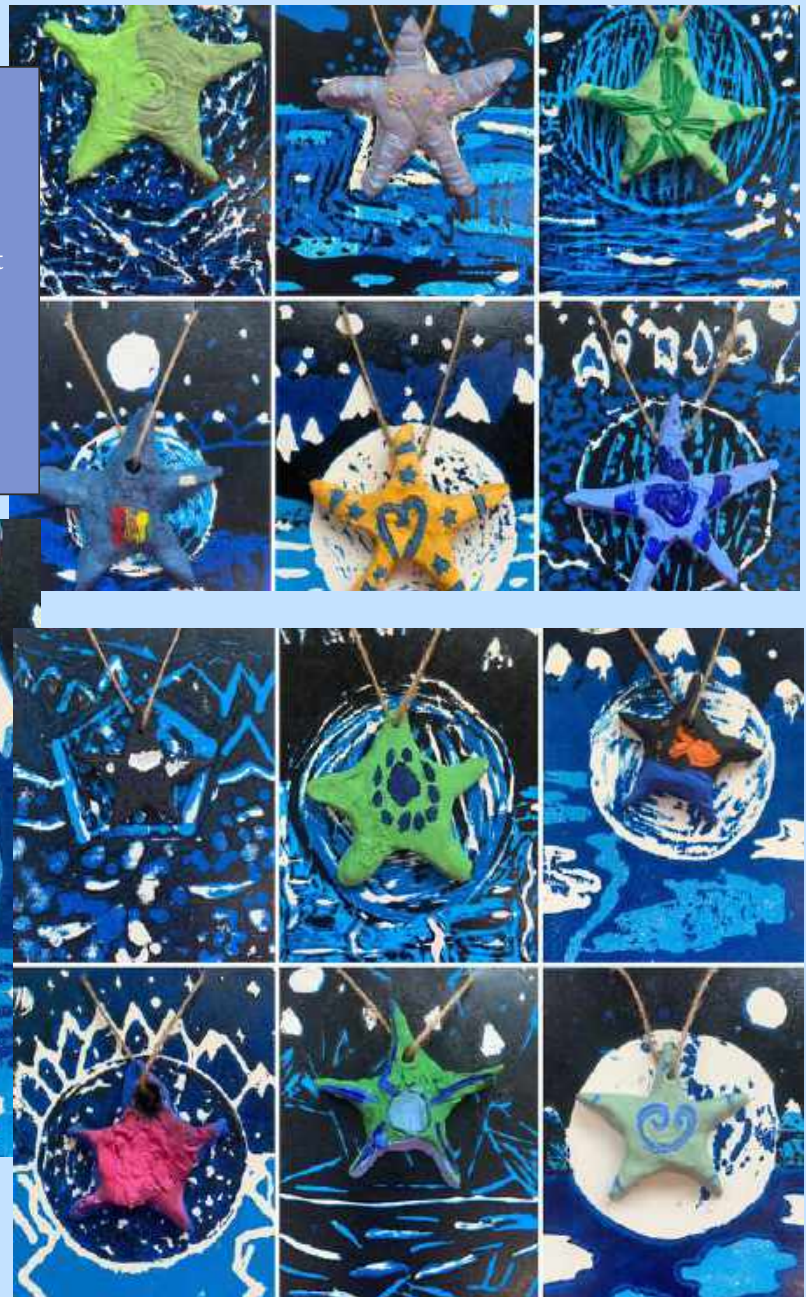


Room 4 are loving finding out about insects. We have collected many different species to observe, classify and identify from around the school and home. On Friday, we learnt all about ants and hunted out their habitats to find nests. We made ant farms and coaxed 10-50 ants into each of their new homes so we can observe their behaviours. Incredible creatures!



## PRINT MAKING

Room 4 have enjoyed their new learning in print making. Here are a few of our completed Matariki art prints and clay creations. We learnt the technique of reduction printing. This is a technical process of reducing our printing block after each print to create different coloured layers. We finished our piece by designing stars and modelling them with air dry clay.



## PERSUASIVE TEXTS

Over the past fortnight, Room 5 have been exploring persuasive texts. We unpacked what makes a good argument. We highlighted language features that are involved and worked to weave these into our writing. Here are some outstanding examples of persuasive writing.

### HIGH SCHOOL HOURS MUST CHANGE!

by Lilly Giles



Are you tired of getting up early every morning just to go to school? Well, I don't know about you but I definitely am! So here's why I believe schools should start at 10am and go until 4pm.

Firstly, if school started at 10am, students would be less grumpy and ready to learn. Once students get to sleep in, they won't be as tired because they have rested. If students do the right thing, they would take in a lot more during class instead of being too tired to participate or concentrate. Therefore, by allowing students to sleep in, they will be more engaged and ready to learn.

Secondly, after students get the right amount of sleep, they would be more open minded and focused. Getting up too early makes them less focused and not wanting to do anything. Whereas, if students were to get more sleep they would engage more in class. If students were to engage more in class they would do better in tests and exams, which then leads to better grades. After students get better grades, they will have a better future. Also, once students start getting good grades they will start realising that life has more to offer than just Starbucks, shopping and video games.

Finally, after resting well, students would be more interactive in class. If students do the right thing and get the correct amount of sleep that they need, they would have more of a bubbly personality around school. Also, there would be less drama and anger as the students wouldn't be taking things personally all the time and they wouldn't be as short tempered towards classmates.

As you can see, by making the school day hours 10am - 4pm would benefit not only the students but the parents and teachers as well. You would see a change in the behaviour of the students and it would make less fuss for parents in the morning.

As I said before, changing the school hours would help students to be less short tempered, grumpy and stressed, and be more interactive and focused during lessons. Altering the school day hours would benefit a lot of students who may struggle with getting themselves out of bed early in the morning. In the long run, you would get a better outcome from the students. You would also see better test results and behaviour improvements. So, that is why I believe that High schools should go from 10am to 4pm.

### EXTEND MY BEDTIME!

by Lucy Middlemass

"Get to bed." I can guarantee I'm not the only kid who hears this on a daily basis. This is the phrase many kids dread to hear. Parents constantly demanding that you to go to bed even though you are still bursting with energy. I'm writing to inform my parents why my bedtime should be extended and I can prove I'll be able to manage my bedtime.

Firstly I'm responsible enough to ensure I'll be able to get enough sleep to rest my body. I don't get grumpy when I'm tired. I notice that I just get a bit slow. So I can promise I will get to sleep depending on how tired I get. When I talk about extending my bedtime my siblings argue because they had an early bedtime although I can prove to you I will not get grumpy because I won't be tired therefore I'm responsible enough to not go to bed really late my only thinking between 8.30 and 9.00.

Secondly, the later I go the faster I go to sleep. This would be equivalent to me going to bed at 8.30 because I'm still awake at 9.30 lying in bed so what's the point lying in bed doing nothing when I could be being more productive. I know you say it's resting but I could also be lying on the couch watching TV! When I go to bed it's very loud with my bedroom being near the lounge hence why if I go to bed around nine everyone will start to wind down so it will be calm and quiet.

On the other side of the coin, when I have sports I will go to bed earlier because I will be tired due to the running and sometimes coming home late. If you find I have been tired I'll be open to compromise so we can both get what we want.

My last point is if I get to go to bed later, I can help out around the house and be more helpful! I can fold the washing, unpack the dishwasher, feed Pippa and generally be more prepared or organised for the next day.

As I've said, I'm responsible enough and I've proven that the later I go to bed, the faster I fall asleep. Also, I'm happy to compromise on my bedtime. Hopefully I'll no longer hear the phrase 'get to bed Lucy'.



This week we began our Weaving Wellness programme that is facilitated by St John. We explored our personal strengths and did some team building exercises.



## INQUIRY - HEDGEHOGS



Room 6 are researching and exploring animal pests in our local community for Inquiry this term. They are intrigued about these animals and are researching their habitats; dietary requirements; why they are a pest; the effect on human, animal and plant life; how, when, and why they were introduced to NZ; and how to help protect our local community from these pests. We have been reading about the hedgehogs which are one of our local pests and thought we would share some of our findings with you.

## Do you think Hedgehogs are pests?

by Leah, Kiran, Liliana & Sofia

Well they are, and we are going to explain why...

Finding hedgehogs in your garden can pose a threat to pets and wild animals because they carry mites which can spread very easily and make other animals and humans sick. Hedgehogs also target our insects and reptiles. They feed on endangered lizards and the lizard's eggs. Hedgehogs are also not fussy about what insects they eat. As a result, they are a predator to many of Aotearoa's rare insect species, such as the weta, giant centipede and many more. They also feed on earthworms which are needed for the soil when plants are growing as they eat the dead roots and help with nutrition. Birds are also on the hedgehog's menu, especially the ground nesting birds like the kiwi. Hedgehogs find their nests and feed on their eggs and even the live chicks. This is a concern as some of our native birds are becoming endangered.

## Hedgehog Facts

by Greer, Star and Alysha



- When Hedgehogs hibernate, they usually hibernate in rabbit burrows, under dry leaves and under tree roots.
- Males hibernate before female hedgehogs.
- Hedgehogs have a strong sense of smell and use this to find food.
- Hedgehogs have a very small tail that is not covered in spines.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal which means they sleep during the day but come out during the night.
- Hedgehogs can slow their heart rate and breathing down to help them sleep over winter.
- New Zealand hedgehogs usually hibernate between June and September and for not as long as the European Hedgehogs.
- Hedgehogs give birth to babies called hoglets.

## More hedgehog facts

by Meila, Evie and Zoe



Hedgehogs are a well-known pest in New Zealand. A good way to capture hedgehogs is using the Department of Conservation traps, which are common traps for hedgehogs and other pests. But what other ways could we use to attract and eliminate hedgehogs? We know that hedgehogs find food using their strong sense of smell, so we could use strong scented foods to attract them to our traps. We could use meat-based pet foods, as it has a strong smell and many hedgehogs love it.

## Even more hedgehog facts

by Meila, Evie and Zoe

Hedgehogs love the piles of freshly swept leaves. Which is why they mostly live everywhere such as rural areas, braided rivers and forest environments. They are rarely found in swampy wet areas and above the snow line as they can't find a dry place to nest and food is scarce. They love gardens with lots of worms, caterpillars, slugs, beetles and snails. Hedgehogs hibernate meaning they sleep for a long period of time, so they need a good dry warm bed to do so. They can easily find this environment in a nice dry garden.

## And some more hedgehog facts

by Matilda, Amelia R and Lucia



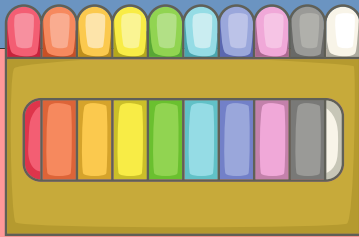
Hedgehogs were introduced in the 1870s because European colonists wanted something to remind them of home as it was very different in New Zealand. The second reason they introduced hedgehogs is because they wanted to control garden pests like grass grubs, slugs and snails as they can eat the crops we grow. But what they didn't know or expect was that hedgehogs would end up eating plants and native birds.



## HOMEROOM ART



Room 6 completed their chalk pastel daffodil artwork. Mrs Dawkins inspired the girls and helped them create these beautiful pieces of art. Don't they look stunning?



## HEALTH: WEAVING WELLNESS



The Year 7 and 8 classes are working on a 'Weaving Wellness' Health programme for 10 hours this term. This programme helps the girls to learn all about themselves, find their strengths, and help them to be their best selves.

- It helps their wellbeing, mental health and resilience for now and later.
- Gives them tools and strategies to move towards their goals and overcome everyday challenges.
- Helps them to find ways to feel good about themselves.



# INQUIRY - BOARD GAME SHARING



We have enjoyed having parents, teachers and other students in our classroom over the last few weeks to play our board game prototypes. It has been a good chance to test our instructions and designs with new players. We were inspired by Kate Howard, a 13 year old New Zealand student who has a Kickstarter campaign to fund the creation of her own board game design. We spent the end of last term designing and creating their own board game prototypes, so we certainly understand the effort and perseverance that is needed to be successful. A couple of weeks ago, we held a bake sale to raise funds for Kate. We spent our lunchtime selling yummy baking and then part of the afternoon calculating our profits. We are proud to announce that we were able to make a \$415 pledge to Kate Howard's board game Kickstarter. We wish Kate all the best with her venture.

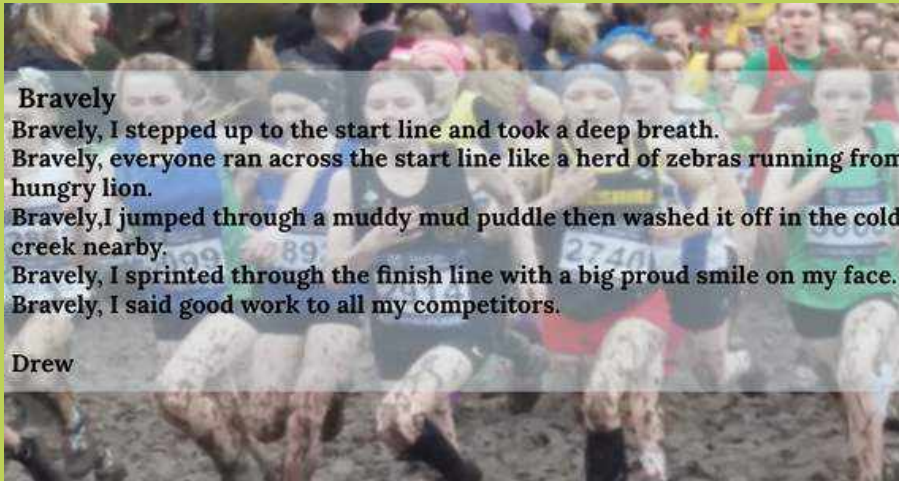




# POETRY



This term we have been writing poetry. We started with adverb poems. We analysed and critiqued examples and then developed our own. We are now working on concrete poems, where the poem takes the shape of the subject.



## Bravely

Bravely, I stepped up to the start line and took a deep breath.  
Bravely, everyone ran across the start line like a herd of zebras running from hungry lion.  
Bravely, I jumped through a muddy mud puddle then washed it off in the cold creek nearby.  
Bravely, I sprinted through the finish line with a big proud smile on my face.  
Bravely, I said good work to all my competitors.

Drew

Yes butte rflies are  
pretty, **BUT N OT TO ME...**  
They are furry a nd disgusting. T  
heir wings are a d of thousands s  
cales They eat through a straw imbe  
ded in their mouth, The patterns on  
their wings look so creepy, OH and  
how could you forget the  
tiny beady eyes on those su  
ckers! How o n earth could  
you enjoy s uch a thing!

Gwynedd



## ANXIOUSLY I WAITED

Anxiously I got called into the room  
Anxiously I waited for the news  
Anxiously the doctor came in the room  
Anxiously I got the news  
Anxiously I went passed the waiting  
room  
Anxiously my mom drove home

Emma



## Slowly Taking Over

Slowly harming your lungs,  
Slowly damaging your heart.  
Slowly hurting you,  
Slowly killing you.  
Slowly polluting the air with every puff.  
Slowly more and more people smoking and endangering themselves.  
Slowly People starting to die from smoking.  
Slowly People vaping instead because it's "healthier".  
Slowly leaving cigarettes everywhere.  
Slowly hurting our earth.

Willow 18/10/2023

Water building up  
Coming to you faster the a race car  
You get ready and kick hoping to catch this wave  
And crash it bracks on top of you makes you twist and turn  
when you get up you are soaked and sore but go again  
The next wave was bigger than ever and  
was coming right to you you scream  
and dive under the wave when you  
get up you see it crash onto the beach  
and then you see it go back like it never  
happened but it did you can see the foam  
from the wave but you can see all the grown  
see all the grown ups talking like it never happened  
But it did why are the they not caring that it could of killed  
Me i look over at my brothers then at their friends then at  
mine we laugh at each other then run back into the waves with  
Are body boards "race you first one to catch a wave win my lollies" then came a big wave

Aida

Fields of  
Beautiful  
flowers  
gracefully  
swaying in the  
gentle spring  
breeze.  
Slowly  
opening  
the cave  
to reveal  
the true  
colours.  
Wild  
native  
are all well  
known they  
are in their own  
ways.  
Grow  
grow  
and  
grow  
even  
more.  
The breeze  
picks up the  
scent of the  
flowers to carry  
along a  
breathaking  
scent in  
the air  
Intriguing  
flowers  
sharing  
their beautiful  
colours to  
the world  
The breeze  
picks up the  
scent of the  
flowers to carry  
along a  
breathaking  
scent in  
the air

Gracie





# 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 - **ISABELLA [RM 5]** & **STAR [RM 6]**

