



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

2 April 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Kia Ora, Tafola Lava,
Kia Orana

As we reach the end of Term 1, I find myself reflecting on what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term for our kura. Our girls and staff have worked tirelessly, and I am so proud of the achievements and milestones we have celebrated together.

As we approach the Easter break, it's a wonderful opportunity to pause and give thanks. Easter is a time of renewal and hope, and I encourage everyone to take this time to recharge and spend quality moments with whānau and friends.

I am truly grateful for the strong sense of community we have here at our kura. Your continued support and involvement make all the difference for our girls. Thank you for your support of the important work we do.

Term 2 is shaping up to be just as action-packed here at our school, with our calendar already brimming with exciting events. It is a longer term as well; we have eleven weeks of learning ahead of us! I am confident that after a well-deserved holiday break, both our girls and staff will be eager and ready to dive back in.

Camps

Year 5 - 8 classes have now all attended camp across the term, with the Year 8's arriving back from Deep Cove last Saturday. There is so much learning that takes place on camp, and most of it relates to our KIPRRR values, particularly resilience and perseverance. An extraordinary amount of planning goes into taking a class to camp, and the paperwork is mind-boggling! Once again, I want to thank our hard-working staff who make these experiences possible for our tamariki.

Easter Service

I would like to extend my appreciation to Miss McSoriley for the incredible amount of work she invests in preparing our girls for the Easter service. The weeks of preparation and the standout performances by our students are a testament to Miss McSoriley's dedication and hard work. Thank you, Miss McSoriley!

Mrs McIlwrickwick has also done a wonderful job preparing both the junior and senior choirs this term. You will hear the senior choir's first performance [with the Year 4 choir girls as special guests] at our Easter Service.

Attendance

At St John's, we place a strong emphasis on high attendance. Being at school every day supports academic success, builds social connections, and develops essential life skills. Regular attendance ensures our girls do not miss valuable learning experiences and fosters a sense of belonging and community, crucial for their well-being.

As you may know, regular school attendance is now a Government priority. Every school is required by the Ministry of Education to implement an Attendance Management Plan, utilising the Stepped Attendance Response [STAR]. Our Attendance Management Plan can be found on our school website.

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Poipoia te kākano
kia puawai

*Nurture the seed,
and it will blossom.*





Values Cup Recipient



Saffron Smith
Room 3

There will be times when you will receive written notification if your child has reached a certain threshold of absences across the term [five, ten and fifteen days absent]. These notifications are a Ministry requirement, regardless of the reason for absence.

We understand absences can be unavoidable due to illness, significant family events or other reasons. However, we encourage prioritising attendance whenever possible and ask you to communicate with us about any challenges. Please inform the school office of any planned absences, such as holidays, well in advance.

The Government target for attendance is for 80% of students to attend school 90% of the time. At St John's, 87% of our girls attended school for at least 90% of Term 1.

Swimming

Swimming will start for all year levels on Wednesday 22 April [Week 1], and will run every Monday and Wednesday afternoon until our last school session on Wednesday 27 May [Week 6]. Additional information will come out on Skool Loop early next term.

There will be no swimming on Monday, 27 April, due to Anzac Day Holiday. School will be closed on this date.

Winter Uniforms

Winter uniforms are required for Terms 2 and 3. All Year 5 and 6 girls will need the new winter skirts since the kilts are being phased out due to the unavailability of the tartan. Only Year 7 and 8 can wear the older style kilts, with only Year 8 wearing these in 2027. From 2028, all senior girls will be required to wear the new skirts. Mrs Lang is happy to help with any uniform requirements. Her email contact is mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

Staff Only Day

A reminder we have a Staff Only Day planned for Monday, 20 April. School will be closed for instruction. Term 2 will start for the girls on Tuesday, 21 April.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday break. Take this time to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with whānau and friends. We look forward to welcoming the girls back refreshed and ready for an exciting new term in a couple of weeks.

Kā mihi nui

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



APRIL

- 2 Easter Rotation Jnr Syndicate [am]
Easter Service [1.30pm First Church]
Last day of Term 1 for Students
- 20 **Staff Only Day**
- 21 **First day of Term 2 for Students**
- 22 Swimming Rotation *[Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 22 April to 27 May - Whole School]*
- 27 **ANZAC Day [School closed]**
- 30 Constable Rosie Visit [Rooms 1/2]

MAY

- 7 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 21 Playhouse Theatre Performance
- 27 Swimming Sports
- 29 School Cross Country [pm]

JUNE

- 1 **King's Birthday [school closed]**
- 3 Cross Country [Zones]
- 5 Cross Country [Zones] - Postponement day
- 17 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 25 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]

JULY

- 3 **Last day of Term 2**
- 20 **First day of Term 3**
- 22 Circus Challenge Performance

AUGUST

- 20 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 24-28 Polyfest Week
- 24 **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

SEPTEMBER

- 9 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 17 Sing Out [evening]
- 25 **Last day of Term 3**

OCTOBER

- 9 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 12 **First day of Term 4**
- 15 School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- 26 **Labour Day [School Closed]**



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Mackenna North, Ellie McCallum, Delilah McKenzie, Quinn Botting, Athena Parsons, Freya Burns

ROOM 2

Indy Frost, Olive Reilly, Lily Vaughan, Madeleine McKenzie, Imogen Dixon-Calder, Alora Bosma

ROOM 3

Claudia Hodson, Oriana Smith, Eva Welsh, Taylor Price, Amelia Gladwin, Georgia Cochrane

ROOM 5

Maeve Devlin, Ivy Manera, Lorelai Stirling, Emily Sewpersad, Lucy Dixon-calder, Lilly Stalker

ROOM 6

Eloise Smith, Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson, Kyla Howden, Madeleine Davison, Amélie Crossley, Aoife Gordon

ROOM 7

Sophia Lillo-Dockerty, Laura van Westrenen, Bethany Mehrtens, Lexi Nicoll, Danielle King, Simone Paganelli

ROOM 8

Peyton Cornish, Greer Pine, Briar Nicholl, Aliviah Giles

VALUES CUP

Rm 3 Saffron Smith

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm2 Darcy Beer, Evie Bradshaw
Rm 5 Charlotte Farley
Rm 6 Phoebe Hodson, Kyla Howden, Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson, Briar Brady, Maggie Mulqueen, Nikita Zeestraten



Bonus Points Trophies

Term 1, 2026

At St John's, we love to celebrate 'deeds well done.' Bonus Points are a positive award used to acknowledge and encourage positive behaviour, such as showing good manners, including others, working hard, or producing high-quality work. The following girls have qualified to receive the Bonus Points Trophies for this term. **Congratulations** to them for the way they have displayed the St John's Girls' School values.

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Olive Johnstone | Room 1 |
| Charlotte Risk | Room 2 |
| Lexi Dwyer | Room 3 |
| Pippa Vaughan | Room 5 |
| Victoria Duncan | Room 6 |
| Elise Davison | Room 7 |
| Briar Nicholl | Room 8 |

Alabaster 1st

Enderby 2nd

Lester 3rd

Marchant 3rd



FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD



Sandy Gilmete
Presiding Member

Kia ora koutou

As we come to the end of a busy and productive term, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has taken place across our school. It has been great to see our students enjoying camps and a range of activities, with photos capturing their fun, teamwork, and new experiences.

We were also pleased to welcome the Education Review Office (ERO) during the term. While we are still awaiting the final report, we are delighted to share that the draft findings indicate the school has met expectations. This is a positive reflection of the hard work and commitment shown across our school community. The Board is incredibly proud of our school and extends sincere thanks to our Principal and all staff for their dedication and ongoing efforts to support our students.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs Jagoutz for her service as staff representative over the past years. Her insight, contribution, and commitment have been greatly valued. We warmly welcome Mrs Raines as our new staff representative and look forward to working alongside her.

To our students, thank you for your enthusiasm, effort, and the pride you bring to our school. To our parents and wider community, we truly appreciate your continued support—it plays a vital role in the success of our kura. And to my fellow trustees, thank you for your time, commitment, and shared focus on ensuring the best outcomes for our learners.

As we head into the school holidays, we hope everyone has the chance to rest, recharge, and enjoy quality time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another great term.

Ngā mihi nui

Sandy Gilmete
SJGS Board Presiding Member



FROM YOUR BOARD OF PROPRIETORS



Gregg Peters
Chairperson

Kia ora koutou

It has been a privilege to serve on the St John's Girls' School Board of Proprietors for the past nine years, and an honour to chair the Board for the last two—now entering my third term.

Many of you may not be familiar with the work of the Board of Proprietors, so I'd like to offer some context. We operate separately from, but in parallel with, the Board of Trustees. Our Board comprises up to nine members, including the Principal and a representative from the Board of Trustees. We meet quarterly in person, and electronically as required, and all members serve in a voluntary capacity.

The Board of Proprietors is responsible for all matters relating to the school's physical assets—its buildings, equipment, and grounds. Our scope includes oversight of BOP accounts, school insurance, renovations, maintenance, repairs, and infrastructure upgrades.

We are also responsible for overseeing the Special Character of the school.

Past Projects

Over recent years, the Board has supported and delivered a wide range of improvements across the school, including:

- Hall upgrade
- Double glazing in several classrooms
- Heat pump upgrades
- Installation of a shower in the hall
- Full classroom refurbishments
- Alarm system upgrade
- Rebuild of the office and administration areas
- Principal's office rebuild
- New playground equipment, including swings and the large slide
- Engagement with NZTA to secure reduced speed signage on Dee Street

Key Projects for 2026

Library Extension

This year marks the beginning of a long-awaited upgrade to our Library—something I'm sure we can all agree is overdue. At our March meeting, we reviewed the initial concept plans and provided feedback for several key refinements. We expect to receive the next set of draft plans shortly.

Our priorities for the new Library are clear: it must be adaptive, inviting, bright, multifunctional, and future-focused.

As part of this project, the rear of C Block will be reclad. In a shift from the school's traditional timber weatherboards, we will be using an alloy weatherboard-style cladding. This reflects the Board's commitment to selecting durable, low-maintenance materials that reduce long-term costs.

Fencing Project

At our March meeting, the Board approved the installation of new fencing along the driveway from the Dee Street entrance. The fence will run along the edge of the drive and finish just short of the office at the top of the hill. This decision reflects our ongoing focus on student safety—particularly for our younger girls.

Five-Year Maintenance Plan

We have developed a comprehensive five-year maintenance plan to guide targeted upgrades and ongoing care of the school's buildings and grounds. This plan will help us better anticipate future costs and ensure proactive, rather than reactive, property management.

These projects reflect the special character of St John's Girls' School. Every decision we make is grounded in our commitment to providing meaningful benefits for our girls and preserving the unique qualities that make our school exceptional.

Ngā mihi

Gregg Peters - Board of Proprietors Chairperson





Digital Safety:

Tips for Our School Community



For Students: Be a Digital Citizen



Think Before You Post:

Your "digital footprint" lasts forever. If you wouldn't want a teacher or grandparent to see it, don't post it!



Protect Your Privacy:

Never share your address, phone number, or passwords. Use strong passwords!



The Gut Check Rule:

If it feels wrong, tell a trusted adult right away!



Be Kind Online:

Cyberbullying isn't cool. Treat others with respect.



Stranger Danger is Digital:

Cyberbullying isn't cool. Treat others with respect.



Create a Family Media Plan:

Set rules for screen time & device-free zones.



The One Hour Rule:

Turn off screens 60-90 mins before bed.



Be a Digital Role Model:

Put down your phone during family time.



Use Parental Controls:

Set up filters on Wi-Fi, games & apps.



Stay Curious:

Ask your child about their favourite apps & games.



Stay Safe Online - Together We Can Make a Difference!



St John's Girls' School

Winter Uniform



Just a reminder that for Terms 2 and 3 the girls are expected to be wearing their winter uniforms.

Please email Mrs Lang if you realise you still need something new. She will be able to get this sorted for you on day one of next term [Tuesday 21 April].
mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz



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 - MACKENZIE 5 (RM 3)






AbsoluteLee

ARTSY

Where Creativity is AbsoluteLee Endless
ART CLASSES THAT INSPIRE

AbsoluteLee Artsy offers inspiring, hands-on art classes designed to spark creativity, build skills, and grow confidence.

TERM TWO ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

-  **Early Explorers**
Ages 5-7
1 hour
-  **Young Creators**
Ages 8-10
1.5 hours
-  **Creative Learners**
Ages 11-15
1.5 hours
-  **Creative Workshop**
Ages 14+
2 hours
-  **Artsy Home Away From Home**
Ages 8-14
1.5 hours



5 The Crescent, Invercargill

www.absoluteleeartsy.co.nz



AbsoluteLee Artsy



@absoluteleeartsy

Parent Education Programmes



Parenting and caring for children can be challenging and we all need support and encouragement to be the great parents we want to be. Family Works has a range of free programmes that can do just that.

Our Parenting Programme gives parenting strategies and other useful information in a fun and positive way. For parents/caregivers who have children aged 0 -18 years, 8 sessions.

Where: Family Works, 183 Spey Street, Invercargill

When: Wednesday 6th May – Wednesday 24th June 2026
Total 8 sessions

Time: 6pm – 8pm
Supper provided

Cost: Free

Contact: Nicole, programmes coordinator on
03 211 8272 or 027 223 1417
email pp@familyworkssld.nz



BUSHCRAFT & SURVIVAL SKILLS Holiday Experiences

CHILD VS WILD [5 Days]

7 to 13 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm

13th April to 17th April 2026

An Adventure quest in different locations. Children spend four days learning and acquiring bushcraft and survival skills ready to be tested on the final day in a teamwork survival challenge.

BUSH KIDS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill & Gore
9am to 3pm

Wednesday 8th April - GORE

Friday 10th April - Invercargill

One day of bushcraft and survival skills

Advanced fire starting, knife skills, carving, exploring the bush, finding your way, building shelters, cooking over flames, first aid in the wild, plant uses, foraging.
Every day feels different, shaped by the weather, the place and the season.

NATURAL CREATORS [1 Day]

5 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
9am to 3pm
9th April 2026

A one day creative cooking experience on a farmlet preparing nourishing meals from scratch. Children will come home enthused, feeling capable and independent as well as having enjoyed feeding the goats and chickens.

WILD & GAME [1 Day]

11 to 16 year olds
Invercargill
10am to 3pm

Saturday 11th April 2026

A day of connection around the fire, preparing and cooking hunted and gathered foods. Learn how to skin and butcher animals, build hands-on bush skills, and taste a range of nourishing kai. A day just for the older children.

www.trueinnature.com



Katie: 0226381497

Term 2 Starts 27th April 2026

For riders age 10+

LEARN TO RIDE

Come along and learn how to ride a track bike on New Zealand's first indoor velodrome

Register online -
<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=424845>

Monday's 4-5pm

\$100 per term
Includes track and bike hire, coach & certificate

Now taking registrations for Term 2
03 219 9325
office@cyclingsouth.org.nz

stageantics SHOW IN A WEEK

Invercargill

DOUBLE BILL



11.00am & 6.00pm
FRI 17 and SAT 18 APRIL
Invercargill Repertory Society

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
www.mtishows.com.au

with support from



TICKETS at

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT



The purpose of a Home Fire Safety Check is to provide you with information and tips to prevent fires and minimise risks, ensuring the safety of everyone in your home

We discuss cooking, heating, and electrical safety to ensure your home is as safe as it can be

We discuss cooking, heating, and electrical safety to ensure your home is as safe as it can be

We talk through escape plans to ensure everyone can get out of your home quickly, safely, and know where to meet



To request a visit or phone 0800 65 65 61



Join us these School Holidays



HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE FROM

APRIL 08

UNTIL

APRIL 17

LEARN AN INSTRUMENT - PLAY IN A BAND - DRUM CAMP
THEMED WORKSHOPS - MUSICAL THEATRE
PRESCHOOL OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR FULL CALENDAR



INFO@KSOM.NZ



TERM 2 ICE SKATING

CHECKOUT FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @icesportssouthland

KIWI SKATE TERM 2

Monday & Saturday
(During school terms. No Kiwislate on Public Holidays)

Monday: 4pm - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - 11am

Please make sure your Kiwislater has warm clothes, thick socks, skates tied up tight and we encourage gloves.

1 DAY \$130
2 DAY \$200
PLEASE PAY AT THE MULTISPORTS COMPLEX RECEPTION ON WEEK 1.
REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/KIWI SKATE

TEEN KIWI SKATE

Saturday Morning
(During school terms. No Kiwislate on Public Holidays)

Saturday: 11am - 12pm

Teenager-specific timeslot to learn to skate. Teens - 12yo and over. They can also join Monday Kiwislate if wanting to skate twice/week.

1 DAY \$130
2 DAY \$200
PLEASE PAY AT THE MULTISPORTS COMPLEX RECEPTION ON WEEK 1.
REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/KIWI SKATE

CUBS LEARN TO PLAY ICE HOCKEY

TUESDAY 4.30PM - 5.30PM

4 - 16 YEAR OLDS
STARTS: 21ST APRIL

PLAYERS WILL LEARN THE BASICS OF SKATING AND STICK HANDLING AND BUILD CONFIDENCE ON THE ICE ALL THE WHILE FEELING SAFE WRAPPED UP IN A FULL SET OF HOCKEY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.
ALL SKATES, STICKS, HELMETS AND COACHING INCLUDED.

1 DAY \$130
2 WEEKS
Gore Multisports Complex off Robertson Street, Gore
WWW.ICESPORTSSOUTHLAND.COM

ADULT LEARN TO SKATE

Monday: 7pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday: 7pm - 8.30pm
(During school terms. Not on Public Holidays)

All abilities welcome. Cost includes skates & helmet if required.

Age 16+
1 DAY \$15
2 WEEKS \$25
Adult Beginners Lesson First 1/2 hr - Group Lesson Next 1/2 hr - Time to skate and connect with others. Space for some people to have 1 on 1 Private Lessons.
THESE SESSIONS ARE CASUAL JUST SHOW UP AND PAY AT RECEPTION.
More info email: ts@figure@gmail.com

RINK REOPENING

6TH APRIL
2-4PM

DAILY UNTIL 19TH APRIL

PLUS 10AM-12PM
8TH, 9TH, 10TH APRIL



LEARN TO SKATE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Mon 13th, Tues 14th, Weds 15th April.

SKATERS ARE WELCOME TO STAY ON FOR PUBLIC SESSION AFTER THE LESSON AT NO EXTRA COST.

1 DAY \$18
2 DAY \$30
3 DAY \$40
1PM - 2PM

"REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED"

REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/LEARN-ISS

Gore Multisports Complex off Robertson Street, Gore
WWW.ICESPORTSSOUTHLAND.COM

PRESCHOOLER & PARENT

Thursday: 1.00pm - 1.30pm

RUNS FOR THE FIRST 6 WEEKS OF TERM

INCLUDES PENGUIN SEAL SKATE HIRE FOR PARENT/ PRESCHOOLER AND COACHING.
1 DAY \$48
6 WEEKS
REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/PRESCHOOL

HOME ED. LEARN TO SKATE

Tuesday: 1pm - 2pm

RUNS FOR 10 WEEKS (BEGINNING 2ND APRIL)

INCLUDES ICE ENTRY, PENGUIN SEAL SKATE HIRE AND COACHING.
1 DAY \$130
10 WEEKS
REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/HOME ED

PUBLIC ICE SKATING

EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

2-4PM
Full Time: \$10
Market: \$5
Party: \$10
REGISTER: WWW.ICESPORTSSOUTHLAND.COM