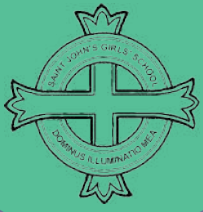




NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

15 May 2026



Greetings from the
Principal

Kia Ora koutou, Ola,
Bonjour

Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb

He toa
taumata rau

Courage has many
resting places.

My theme for assembly readings this term is “incredible women doing incredible things”, and I have been sharing stories with the girls of confident and capable women who make a difference in the world. Common themes in these stories are the ability to step out of your comfort zone, to have a growth mindset and to be brave enough to try something new.

These are themes that we often talk about at St John’s, but sometimes the most powerful lessons come directly from our students. This week, I am proud to share a poem and a personal reflection by Bailey, who captures the raw, honest experience of stepping out of her comfort zone.

Face the Crowd

*My head slumps down, and my shoulders hunch
As I wring my hands in a shaky attempt to look up and face the crowd.*

*“Good morning”, I squeak, fiddling with the hem of my kilt.
I exhale a silent huff as I face the crowd.*

*I’ll do it, I’ll look, I’ll be a brave girl.
My eyes dart everywhere till I find my friend,
I’ll look at her.*

But my eyes betray me as my head whips around looking for support.

*“Thank you, have a great day”, I say in a rush before I hurry back to my seat.
Tears prick my eyes, and my feet rub.*

*Then it’s all done, I smile again.
What was the panic?
What was the rush?
My head lifts high, my shoulders square.*

But I’m still not ready to do it again.

Bailey then spoke to the school and reminded us that bravery is not the absence of fear, but the decision to move forward in spite of it. Whether it is a Year 3 student preparing for her dance exam for the first time or a Year 8 student leading an assembly, these moments are where true learning happens.

By supporting our girls to "square their shoulders" and try again, we are helping them build the grit they need for life. We are so proud of Bailey for leading by example and showing us all what it means to be a resilient St John’s girl.





Values Cup Recipients

This theme was further brought to life over the past fortnight by "old girls", Emerson Dickson and Ella Pope. Speaking at assembly, they shared how the opportunities at our kura prepared them for success in high school and beyond. Both girls emphasised that the personal capabilities they rely on today, like perseverance and resilience, were forged right here in our classrooms and in the various opportunities they stepped into at St John's.

Their message perfectly mirrors Bailey's; the "shaky" moments of today are the building blocks of the confidence they carry tomorrow. Ultimately, being an "incredible woman" doesn't mean being fearless; it means having the courage to try, even when your hands are shaking. We are so proud of our girls, past and present, who continue to show us what true St John's grit looks like.

Cross Country

Our school cross-country event will be held at Queens Park on Friday 29 May [afternoon]. We are looking for parent volunteers to help out on the day; your support would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to assist, please get in touch with our sports coordinator, Netty Dennis.

Uniform

Our lost property bin is overflowing with unnamed items, including several brand-new pieces of winter uniform. Please make sure your daughter's uniform items are clearly named. This helps us return misplaced belongings to their rightful owners quickly and easily.

Invoices

The Term 2 invoices have been sent. Please act on these promptly. Your contribution is what allows our school to provide what it does for your daughter.

When settling your invoices, please ensure you are paying into the correct account [Board of Trustees or Board of Proprietors] and include your daughter's name as a reference.

Many families now use automatic payments to build a credit balance in their School Board account. This credit can be applied toward uniform purchases. If you would like to use your credit for uniform items, please contact the school office.

Support Staff - What a team!

This week has been Support Staff Week, and I want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our incredible support staff. Our kura wouldn't function without them! I am so grateful for the effort, care, and love they give our kura.



Bailey Cooper
Room 8



Isabella Johns
Room 7



Mrs Roberts runs the front office like a well-oiled machine! She is known for her secret lolly jar and 'magic' ice packs, which fix any bump or injury. Mrs Roberts puts together our beautiful newsletters and ensures important messages reach their destination. A fountain of knowledge, she has wonderful ideas to make our school the best it can be.

Mrs Dennis is our sports coordinator extraordinaire! She ensures our sports teams are registered, organises coaches and equipment, and ensures the girls have the information they need to get to games on time. She works hard behind the scenes of school sporting events, matching her positive energy with her air horn to keep us on our toes!

Mrs Smith keeps our library updated with new books and beautiful displays. She tirelessly supports our girls' learning in classrooms. Sometimes, you can find Mrs Smith in our gardens, ensuring they are beautifully maintained.

Mrs Lang ensures our girls are dressed immaculately in our school uniform. She handles stock ordering, sizing, and invoicing. She supports the girls' learning in classrooms, helping them progress towards their goals. She loves going on school camp, accompanying Mrs McIlwrick, Mrs Stewart and Room 7 to Rakiura this year.

Mr Hamilton, our wonderful caretaker, maintains our school and ensures it's safe for our girls. Whether fixing swings, ensuring playground safety, painting during holidays, or tidying autumn leaves, no job is too big for Mr Hamilton. He loves participating in KIPRRR Day celebrations, dressing up whenever he can!

Mrs Wilson runs the After School Care programme and has done so for well over thirty years! The girls love her afternoon tea treats, especially fairy bread or fresh pikelets. She supervises our girls with their homework and listens to the junior girls read. A big believer in outside play, she ensures the girls enjoy their afternoon on the playground, no matter the weather.

Thank you to these wonderful people. Our kura is incredibly lucky to have them as part of our team. Their work benefits your daughters immensely. Please take the time to thank them when you see them at school.

Have a wonderful weekend with your whānau.

Kā mihi nui

Holly Bradshaw

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Ellie Pekamu, Athena Parsons, Olive Johnstone, Ellen Arnold

ROOM 2

Madeleine McKenzie, Isabelle Miskimmin, Alora Bosma, Eden Dawson

ROOM 3

Isla Dackers, Heidi Lawson, Navy Sloane, Eva Nicol

ROOM 5

Charlotte Farley, Elenaor Anstice-Shirley, Millie Dobbie, Lorelai Stirling

ROOM 6

Eloise Smith, Katie Milne, Maggie Mulqueen, Kyla-Rose Jarvis-Patterson

ROOM 7

Avery Botting, Jaynee Holms-Johnston, Bethany Mehrtens,
Laura van Westrenen

ROOM 8

Briar Nicholl, Willow Murray, Peyton Cornish, Maya Preininger

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 2 Annabel Flannery, Harriet Telfer
Rm 3 Isla Dackers
Rm 6 Aoife Gordon, Lucy Jenkins
Rm 7 Danielle King, Jaynee Holms-Johnston

VALUES CUP

Rm 8 Bailey Cooper
Rm 7 Isabella Johns





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- **21** Playhouse Theatre Performance
- **22** PA Sausage sizzle
- **27** Swimming Sports
- **29** School Cross Country [pm]

JUNE

- **1** **King's Birthday [school closed]**
- **3** Cross Country [Zones]
- **4** Sing Out - Rehearsal [am]
- **5** Cross Country [Zones] - Postponement day
- **16** Period Project [Yrs 5/6]
Southland Sharks Visit [pm]
- **17** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **18** Period Project [Yrs 7/8]
Period Project [Parent / Daughters] 6.00pm
- **19** KIPRRR Day
PA Sausage Sizzle
- **25** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **29/30** Life Education Bus
- **30** Dance Exams

JULY

- **1** Dance Exams
- **1/2** Life Education Bus
- **3** **Last day of Term 2**
- **20** **First day of Term 3**
- **21** **School Finishes at 2pm**
Parent / Teacher Interviews [2.15-7pm]
- **22** Circus Challenge Performance
Parent / Teacher Interviews [3.15-7pm]
- **27** Speech Exam [Yr 5]
- **28** Speech Exam [Yr 6]
Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **29** Speech Exam [Yr 4]
- **30** Speech Exam [Yrs 2/3]
- **31** Speech Exam [Yr 8]

AUGUST

- **13** Sing Out - Rehearsal [am]
- **20** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **24-28** Polyfest Week
- **24** **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

SEPTEMBER

- **9** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **16** Sing Out Technical Rehearsal [pm]
- **17** Sing Out Dress Rehearsal [am]
Sing Out Performance [7-8.30pm]
- **21-24** Book Fair
- **23** SMAC Maths
- Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm
- Yr 8 5.45-6.30pm
- **25** **Last day of Term 3**

OCTOBER

- **12** **First day of Term 4**
- **15** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **20** Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **26** **Labour Day [School Closed]**

NOVEMBER

- **10** Cultural Day
- **11** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **12** Christian Education Speeches
- **24** New Entrant Morning [Yrs 2-8 for 2027]



Sandy Gilmete
Presiding Member

FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Kia ora koutou

The School Board met on Thursday 7 May, and I'm pleased to share a brief update on the key items we discussed.

We began the meeting by reviewing our Term 2 Board Assurances, which confirm that the school continues to meet all required obligations around curriculum, health and safety, emergency procedures, staffing, and student wellbeing. We also received Holly's Principal's Report, which highlighted steady roll growth, ongoing curriculum development with The Learner First, and positive feedback from recent EOTC activities.

A number of SchoolDocs policies are currently out for community review, including EOTC, Digital Technology, Cellphones, and Sun Protection. Thank you to those who have already contributed feedback — this will be considered before policies are formally ratified at our June meeting.

The Board also approved staff flu vaccinations for 2026 and reviewed the school's financial position for February and March.

Finally, we acknowledged Holly's participation in the national Beginning Principal Programme, which provides valuable mentoring and leadership development during her first years in the role.

Thank you for your continued support of St John's Girls' School. We look forward to connecting with you throughout the term.

Ngā mihi

Sandy Gilmete
Presiding Member

FROM YOUR KAIARAHĪ

Amelia B, Avery, Elise D, Danielle,
Emily, Rosie, Lydia, Simone

ANZAC DAY

This year for ANZAC Day all the classes did some really cool things, which we would like to share with you.

Room 1

Room 1 created beautiful poppies for the wall in their classroom. Maisie said she really enjoyed creating these!



Room 2

Room 2 made some really cool drawings of poppies and Lara said it was fun to make them.



Room 3

Room 3 painted a ANZAC soldier in a field of poppies.



Room 4

Room 5 created some ANZAC poppies using their chromebooks.



Room 6

Room 6 created photos by holding their hands out with a poppy in them. Kyla-Rose said it was interesting to do.



Room 7

Room 7 made informational posters about ANZAC Day.



Room 8

Room 8 created an ANZAC display. Some of our Yr 8 girls represented the school at the Dawn Service.



POEM



Lest we forget.
The time of sadness,
The gunshot that changed lives,
Postcards with no replies.
But after the rain comes the sun.
War and death won't come.

When some come home and some did not,
Woman and children cried a river of tears,
And some beamed like the sun.

Now that the war is done
There is no more suffering to come,
The bang of the gunshots not heard.

As that's all we know.
Some stories told, some put aside.
One side was as dark as night,
Another side born to bring the light.

Till this day we remember them,
The time of sadness is over,
lest we forget!



By Jaynee Holms-Johnston



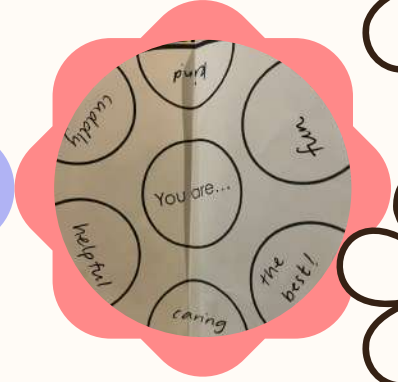
ROOM 1

A busy start to Term 2...

The Room 1 girls have started Term 2 with lots of energy and excitement! We have been enjoying swimming and settling into routine with Mrs Jamieson and Mrs Devlin. The Room 1 girls enjoyed making special gifts for their mums throughout the week. We hope you enjoyed your Mother's Day!

Mother's Day

- My Mum is special because she makes yummy lunches for me.
- My Mum is special because she gives me the best hugs.
- My Mum is special because she takes me places and she loves me.



Swimming

We have been busy in the pool. The Room 1 girls are making lots of progress. It is safe to say they like putting their heads under the water!



ROOM 2

Room 2 has enjoyed being back at school and getting back into the swing of our mahi after our holiday.

Writing - Sloths

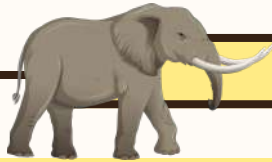


At the end of last term we have been learning how to write information reports. Last term we wrote about elephants and completed a piece of art to accompany our writing. This term we are writing our reports about Sloths! Here are some interesting facts that we have learnt.

- Sloths are very slow and they only eat leaves.
- Sloths have very long claws because they like to hang upside down in trees.
- Sloths only poo once a week.
- Sloths have a green algae on their fur to help them be camouflaged.
- You will find sloths in Central and South America.
- Sloths can hold their breath under water for up to 40 minutes.



Elephants



African elephants are the largest animal in the world! The colour of them is grey. They eat plants. They live in Africa, South Asia and South East Asia. They live in the wild or the zoo. The weight of their brain is 13 pounds. The weight of their body is 14,000 pounds. They use their trunk to eat and drink. If they don't have a trunk they will die.

By Gussie



African elephants only eat plants like big leaves and small trees. That means they are herbivores.

Wild elephants live in groups called a parade. Sometimes you can find baby elephants in a parade.

Did you know that elephants are famous for their amazing memory because their brain can get as big as 13 pounds!

Another cool fact about elephants is that they can not survive without their trunks. Elephants use their trunks to give themselves dust baths which is very smart for an elephant to do because it protects their skin from bugs called parasites. They also use their trunk to eat.

By Isabelle



Elephants are big and grey. A group of elephants is called a parade. They are mammals and they only eat plants. They get as big as 13 feet tall and weigh 14,000 pounds!

Baby elephants are called a parade and they live in the wild. They use their trunks to eat and drink and they can't survive without their trunks, they do a lot of stuff with it.

By Lara

ANZAC

This term the girls have been learning about the significance of ANZAC Day. We've been reading stories about the time at war.

One story that we thoroughly enjoyed reading was 'Bobby the Littlest War Hero', a story about a little yellow canary. We spent time retelling his war journey and discussing the very special job he had during the war.

We also enjoyed spending time in the tech room baking ANZAC biscuits and learning the significance of these biscuits.

- ANZAC biscuits were originally sent by women to the soldiers. These biscuits were known to last and were considered nutritious biscuits. They served as a "taste from home".



Maths

We have been enjoying learning all our new maths games in our class.



Swimming

We have been thoroughly enjoying our swimming lessons. It is a highlight of the week to get in the pool and learn our new skills.



We are proud of our learning so feel free to pop in and have a look at our work on display!

ROOM 3

ANZAC Day - Biscuits



Term 2 is off to a flying start! We've started our learning based around ANZAC Day and what better way than to kick off with baking delicious ANZAC biscuits. We read a story about the history of ANZAC biscuits and we really enjoyed the opportunity to get into the Technology Room and bake up a storm. We were lucky to have Mrs Dennis and Mrs Smith help us out. Everyone managed to get a job either measuring, stirring, rolling or dishes.





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!

