



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

14 August 2026



Greetings from the
Principal

Kia Orana, Talofa lava,
Mālō e lelei

**Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb**

**He waka eke
noa**

*We are all in this
canoe together.*

Term 3 is in full swing, and it is a hive of activity across our kura. It is wonderful to see the girls busy and engaged in their learning.

Haepapa

There has been a theme in recent assembly readings about haepapa [responsibility] and the importance of 'keeping the small things in check'. By maintaining high standards and striving to be our best, we ensure that our school remains a positive learning environment where every student can work hard and reach their full potential.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain our high expectations. As the whakatauki on the left states, 'He eke waka noa - we are all in this canoe together'. Effective support between home and school will ensure your daughter thrives at our kura. We cannot do it without you!

Illness

We are beginning to see an increase in winter illnesses among our students and staff. We are doing our best to maintain a healthy environment at school, but winter bugs like influenza and COVID-19 are circulating through many local schools.

We have been reminding students about the importance of simple hygiene practices, such as washing hands, coughing into their elbows, and disposing of tissues properly.

Our new cleaning team from Crest Clean, Nigel and Jolinda, have been ensuring high-touch surfaces are disinfected, and desks/tables are wiped daily.

If your daughter is unwell, the best place for her is at home, resting. Please remember to inform the office if she will be absent from school.

If you are concerned about your daughter's symptoms or she is not improving, please contact your GP or Healthline [0800 611 116] for advice.

Staff Only Day - Monday 24 August

A reminder that we have a Staff Only Day on Monday 24 August. We will be working with our cluster schools [Windsor North and Salford] and Sue Pine from The Learner First. Our school will be closed for instruction on this date.

Jump Jam

Good luck to our Jump Jam teams who are competing this weekend. The teams look fantastic, and they are excited to perform. As a special part of their preparation, they will be getting a visit from Mr Jump Jam himself, Brett Fairweather, for an exclusive training session right here at school. Exciting!

Polyfest

Our Pasifika and Kapa Haka roopu are in their final rehearsals for their performance. Join us to celebrate their mahi on Tuesday, 25 August, at 2:10 pm at Stadium Southland. We will be sharing more details about performance logistics next week on Skool Loop.





Values Cup Recipients



Charlotte Farley
Room 5



Sing Out

Our choir have been rehearsing hard leading up to the 2026 ILT Sing Out Festival. Sing Out is celebrating 80 years with three fantastic nights of music at the Civic Theatre with an 80s theme. Our girls, under the direction of Mrs Kate McIlwrick, are performing on Thursday 17th September at 7pm. Tickets are available now from the ICC Booking Office or online through Ticketek: <https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=ILTSING26>



Enrolments for 2027

We are currently finalising enrolments for the 2027 school year. To help us with this process, please let us know in writing if your daughter will not be returning to St John's in 2027.

While we are always sad to see our students go, we understand that family circumstances and opportunities can change. Your timely communication helps us plan ahead.

Enrolment Opportunity - Year 6, 2027

We have two spaces available in our Year 6 class for 2027. If you have friends or family with daughters entering Year 6 next year who might be interested in joining our school community, please encourage them to contact us to arrange a tour. Demand for entry to our kura at Year 7 continues to grow, and space is often at a premium. Securing a spot in Year 6 guarantees a seamless transition through these pivotal intermediate years.

Attendance / Appointment Reminder

To help our school day run smoothly, please ensure all absences are reported directly to the school office via phone, email, or the Skool Loop app. Teachers are very busy preparing for the day in the morning and may not see early messages in time to update Mrs Roberts.

If your daughter needs to leave school early for an appointment, please notify Mrs Roberts at the office well in advance; ideally at least the day before. This ensures your daughter is at the main office ready and waiting for you when you arrive.

For safety reasons, all students must be collected directly from the office area. You are very welcome to use the main car park when collecting your daughter.

Invoices

There are still a number of outstanding invoices. Timely payment of these invoices is essential for us to continue providing a high-quality learning environment for your daughter. Your prompt attention to this is appreciated.

It has been lovely to see some spring sunshine this week. Hopefully, this continues into the weekend. I hope you find some time to rest and relax with your whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- **17** School Speech Final [am]
- **19** Cluster Speech Final [9-10.30am] SJGS Hall
Jnr Syndicate - Creepy Crawlies with Suzanne from Te Una Museum [pm]
- **20** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **21** PA Sausage Sizzle & Chill
- **24** **Staff Only Day [School closed]**
- **25** Polyfest Performance [2.10pm] ILT Stadium
- **27** William Pike Hospice Volunteering [3.30-5.30pm]
- **28** William Pike Hospice Volunteering [3.30-5.30pm]

OCTOBER

- **12** **First day of Term 4**
- **14** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **15** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **20** Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **21** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **26** **Labour Day [School Closed]**
- **28** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme

SEPTEMBER

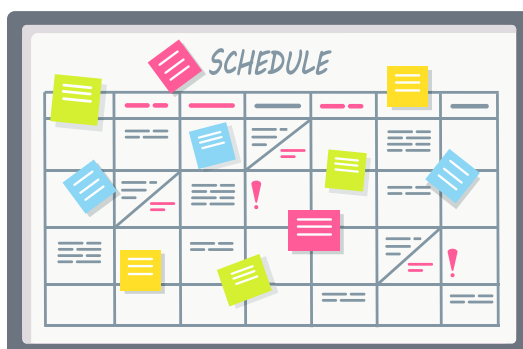
- **3** Invercargill Area Speech Final [Evening] - SJGS Hall
- **9** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **14-20** Māori Language Week
- **16** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
Sing Out Technical Rehearsal [pm]
- **17** Sing Out Dress Rehearsal [am]
Sing Out Performance [7-8.30pm]
- **18** Virtual Parliament Tour [Rms 6/8]
PA Sausage Sizzle & Chill
Jnr Gymnastics Festival [1-3pm]
- **21-24** Book Fair
- **22** Snr Gymnastics Festival [1.00-3.00pm]
- **23** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
KIPRRR Day
SMAC Maths
- Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm
- Yr 8 5.45-6.30pm
- **24** Arts Extrvaganza [evening]
- **25** **Last day of Term 3**
Virtual Parliament Tour [Rms 5/7]

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- **1** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **4** Tabloids [1-3pm]
- **7** Tabloids [postponement day]
- **9** Father / Daughter Netball [2pm]
- **14** Christmas Service & Prizegiving Practice
Christmas Service [First Church 6pm]
- **15** **Last day for students**
Prizegiving [First Church 1.30pm]
Leavers' Farewell [3.15pm School Hall]



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Maisie Freiberg, Jasmine McEwan, Ellie Pekamu

ROOM 2

Aggie McKenzie, Amelia Veint, Darcy Beer, Annabel Flannery

ROOM 3

Eva Nicol, McKenzie Kyle, Saffron Smith, Isla Dackers

ROOM 5

Lucy Dixon-Calder, Ava Davies, Ivy Manera, Amelia Maxwell

ROOM 6

Amélie Crossley, Phoebe Hodson, Aoife Gordon, Portia Smith

ROOM 7

Lydia O'Brien, Rosie Laughton, Avery Botting, Sophia Lillo-Dockerty

ROOM 8

Bailey Cooper, Samantha Parry, Maya Preininger, Willow Murray

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 2 Evie Bradshaw, Imogen Dixon-Calder,
Amelia Veint
Rm 3 Isla Dackers, Charlotte Dore
Rm 5 Lucy Dixon-Calder
Rm 6 Madeleine Davison, Lucy Jenkins,
Eloise Smith, Portia Smith

VALUES CUP

Rm 5 Charlotte Farley



Arts Extravaganza Raffle Collection

We are looking for
attractive items for our
famous raffles.

Please bring your items to the
school office and receive a
house point.



Thank you for your continued
support from SJGS Parents'
Association



FROM YOUR
KaiaRahi



commonwealth
games

COMMONWEALTH GAMES WITH THE JUNIORS

The Junior Syndicate have been learning about the Commonwealth Games. The whole syndicate was split into three different countries; Canada, Scotland and Jamaica. They spent some time learning about their country [flag, anthem, national flower, food and famous figures]. To celebrate their learning, they went to Stadium Southland to participate in their own Commonwealth Games extravaganza!

We interviewed some girls about their experience



Indy

Indy was supporting Canada. She says that she learned all sorts of things, like athletics. She felt good and surprised when she was awarded the Silver medal for KIPRRR values.



Eva

Eva was supporting Jamaica in the Junior Commonwealth Games. She said that her favourite part was the gymnastics. She loved the ribbons that they were given. She felt excited and happy when she received the Gold medal for our school's values. Eva said that she learned that kindness goes a long way!



Mia

Mia was our Bronze medalist for the Commonwealth Games. She was also a member of Canada. She said that her favourite activity was bowling, because she loved to know over the pins. She felt proud for getting the medal because she had been thinking a lot about it.



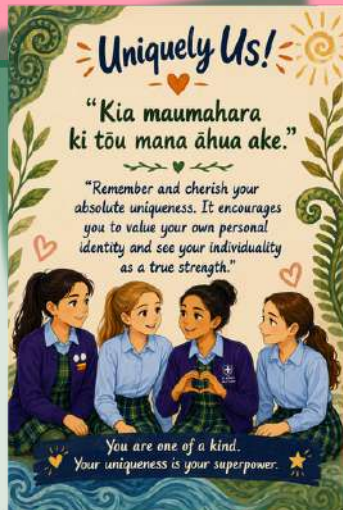
Gussie

Gussie was supporting Scotland. She says that her favourite part was the gymnastics routine on the air mattress. She had a great time! She was also very thankful to all the teachers and staff who helped organise the event.



Room 5 News

UNIQUELY US!



Last term we celebrated our own uniqueness through the health curriculum. This was also supported through The Period Project and our visit to the Life Education Bus. We learned to step into others shoes and embrace our own uniqueness.

From this learning, we took inspiration from Miss McSoriley's art page and created our own name plates. As you can see we had to draw with detail and precision, add colour and then outline in black pen. Come in and see our creations. Here you'll hear from a couple of Room 5 artists:



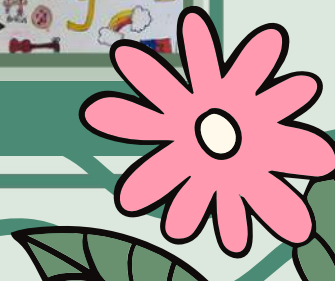
CHARLOTTE FARLEY

"First of all we wrote down our names in pencil. Then we drew a few decorations around. I drew a netball, my dog Archie, and a microphone to say that I love singing. You might also spot the St John's crest. My favourite foods are noodles and ice cream."



IVY MANERA

"It took quite a while to finish. There were 3 processes: pencil, going over in black pen, and colouring in. My favourite part was colouring. I turned my V into an ice cream. I drew my dog Ace farting because he does that a lot. I did a rocket ship going to the moon surrounded by stars because last term our inquiry topic was space and I like space."



Room 6 News

MATHS

In maths we are learning to convert measurements starting with length. The class is working hard to convert mm, cm, m and km. Part of our tasks was measuring ourselves and converting between cm and m.



SPEECHES

Speeches are ready to go and we have enjoyed listening to the ones presented so far. Your daughters have done a fabulous job of planning, writing and delivering a speech. It is going to be a tough job deciding who will go through to our Year Group Finals on Monday.



DANCE / AEROBICS

And one, two, three, four! Aerobics is in full swing with Miss Gina this term. Lots of work is being done creating routines. The girls have been learning a lot about negotiation, compromising and coming to a decision. They are doing a great job working in their groups to come up with a routine to present.



Room 7 News

CLAY

Our girls have been busy creating their very own clay envelopes using air-dry clay. They carefully shaped and decorated their envelopes, painted them and finished them with glaze. They are now hanging proudly on our classroom wall, ready to hold little messages of kindness. We have already started using them, and it has quickly become a favourite part of our classroom. We all look forward to checking our envelopes to see if we have received some special mail. It has been lovely seeing the girls take the time to write encouraging and thoughtful messages for one another.



INQUIRY

Our inquiry topic, 'My Voice, My Choice', is also well underway. We began with an exciting scenario: What would happen if we were stranded on an island somewhere between Stewart Island and Invercargill?

Working in groups, the girls had to decide how they would survive. Who would be in charge? How would they ration their supplies? Who would be responsible for safety, finding food and looking after the group? Before long, disasters began striking! Someone stole and consumed the remaining water, forcing the girls to consider what laws they needed and what consequences should follow when those laws were broken.

There were plenty of other challenges along the way, and the girls quickly discovered that making decisions for a whole community is not as easy as it sounds! Through our role play, the girls began to see how the need to organise, make decisions, create rules and keep people safe can lead to the development of a country's system of government.

One of our biggest decisions came when a rescue boat finally arrived, but there was only room for eight people. The girls had to decide who would be selected to leave the island. It certainly got us thinking about fairness, representation, leadership and whose voice should be heard!

We are looking forward to continuing our journey into 'My Voice, My Choice' and discovering more about how New Zealand's democratic system works.

CYCLING

Monday afternoons have seen the girls taking on a new challenge at the velodrome. Cycling has certainly pushed some of us out of our comfort zones! There have been a few tumbles, grazes and moments of uncertainty, but the girls have shown fantastic resilience and determination to get back on their bikes and have another go.



FIFA WORLD CUP & COMMONWEALTH GAMES

We have also managed to squeeze in a few sneaky sports-watching sessions, keeping an eye on the FIFA action and the Commonwealth Games when we could!



Room 8 News

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Every Monday since the start of term, we have been doing wheelchair basketball at ILT Stadium. We have been practising dribbling, passing and shooting in and out of the wheelchairs. We are loving this engaging and fun sport that has proven to be hard to play, given that we can't use our legs and we have to shoot with the power in our arms.



MATHS

During maths this past week, we have made stop-motion art with an algebraic pattern and rules. We used popsicle sticks to show shapes in patterns, then took photos every time we moved them to make a stop-motion animation. Within the video, we made the popsicle sticks spin and fly into place, then showed the rule that could be used to continue the pattern or find how many popsicle sticks would be needed for the 100th shape.



BAKING

On the final day of Term Two, Room 8 made afghans. While making them, there were many setbacks, such as adding too much butter, undercooking, overcooking, and thick icing. Fortunately, the biscuits were still edible. And delicious!



TALL TOWERS

Building the tallest tower sounded easy, but then we were given a different leadership style from the government. We were split into Democracy, Monarchy, Republic and Dictatorship. This created a new challenge for us. In Democracy, everyone had a vote on what to do, while the others were told what to do by just one person. The towers had varying degrees of success. We learnt that with everyone having a voice, we calmly and easily share our ideas.



FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Step into the past
Thursday 20 August, 12pm-1pm

Find Your Digital Family Footprint

Join our Research Libraries to find out more about some of the library's free online genealogy databases, including Ancestry.com and Find My Past.

Post your family story
15 - 30 August

To help celebrate 20 years of the Southland Oral History Project, tell us about a treasured family tradition or a juicy family story that has passed down through the generations. Write it down on one of our special postcards and put it into our Storytime bags when the time is right! We will send the postcards to our Community Archives as part of our shared history.

Discover your roots

Every family has a story Family Tree Project Competition
1 August - 13 September

Create a project that celebrates your family history, your people, and the stories that make your family unique.

Who can enter?

There are four age categories:
- Children (age 0-10) - Teens (age 11-18) - Adults (age 19+)

What do I need to create?

Create ONE family tree that shows your family connections. The project must include at least three generations and be no smaller than A3 size.

Bring your family tree into the Invercargill Public Library and fill out a registration form at the desk by 13 September.

Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
TE HAEATA
library.co.nz



Family Tree Project Competition Registration Form

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Tick one: ☐ 0-11 years ☐ 12-18 years ☐ 18+ years

Please tick to confirm:

- ☐ I have permission to use any family photographs or personal stories included in my project.
- ☐ I give permission for my project to be photographed and shared on library social media.
- ☐ My project includes family connections, stories, facts, and/or important memories.
- ☐ I understand my project will be displayed at the library after the competition.
- ☐ My project is A3 size or larger.
- ☐ My family tree includes at least three generations.

Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
TE HAEATA



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!

ILT SING OUT PROUDLY PRESENTS

PARTY LIKE IT'S

THE 80S!



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF ILT SING OUT

SEPTEMBER 17 2026

7:00PM

LOCAL SCHOOL CHOIRS PRESENT A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION
OF THE ICONIC MUSIC OF THE 1980s

Adults \$19

Children \$12

Tickets available at ICC Booking Office or online at Ticketek

Booking Fee Included. Credit Card charges will apply.

Donovan Primary School
James Hargest Junior Campus
St John's Girls' School
St Patrick's School
Wallacetown School

**ILT
SING
OUT**

 iltsingout.nz

 Civic Theatre, Invercargill





GILBERT ENOKA

Mental Performance Coach



GALA EVENING

25TH
SEPT

CONNECT. GROW. STRENGTHEN.

Gilbert Enoka is best known for his long-standing role with the All Blacks, where he has helped shape one of the most successful high-performance teams in sporting history. With a background in psychology, education, and performance science, Gilbert has spent decades supporting individuals and teams to build resilience, manage pressure, and develop a culture of excellence. His work extends beyond sport into education, business, and leadership, making his insights highly relevant for people from all walks of life. Come along to hear from one of New Zealand's leading thinkers in performance and wellbeing, and leave inspired with approaches that can make a meaningful difference in both your work or personal life!

TWO COURSE MEAL | AUCTION ITEMS
MUSIC BY D&M DUO

Doors open at 6pm, event starts at 6:30pm



Ascot Park Hotel

Cnr Tay & Racecourse Road,
Invercargill

Get your tickets at:

events.humanitix.com/chatbus-south