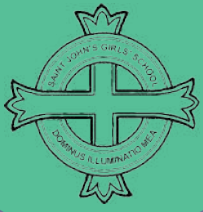




NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

22 August 2025



Greetings from the Principal

Mālō e lelei, Kia Ora, Talofa

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

E toi whakairo, ka ihiihi, ka wehiwehi, ka aweawe te ao katoa

Artistic excellence makes the world sit up in wonder

It has been an incredibly busy, yet rewarding fortnight. There have been some wonderful celebrations of St John's Girls' School in our wider community. The school is buzzing with excitement and learning. It is getting lighter in the mornings, and the tulips are starting to pop up in the gardens around our kura. This is a sure sign we are well and truly into the second half of the year.

Polyfest

The Kapa Haka and Pasifika roopū did themselves and the kura proud on the Polyfest stage on Tuesday afternoon. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from others outside of our kura who have commented on the standard of singing, uniformity and passion. Our girls who were spectating also did themselves proud with their lovely manners. A considerable amount of time and effort goes into these performance groups, and I acknowledge and thank Mrs Jagoutz and Miss McSoriley for their passion and dedication.

Our wonderful support staff were instrumental in ensuring our girls were stage-ready. Thank you!

I would also like to acknowledge the awhi and support from whānau on Tuesday. Your support at the Stadium was immense. It was lovely to see so many families come backstage for photos after our performance.

Jump Jam

Our school's debut in the Southland Jump Jam competition was a great success. Our Year 3-4 team won their section and were also announced as the overall winners for their age group. Our Year 5-6 crew followed this up with a first place in their section too! Once again, we had wonderful support from whānau in the audience. This will certainly become a new St John's tradition! Thank you to Mrs McIlwrick, Mrs King and Ms Coatsworth for their passionate coaching. I think they were just as excited as the girls!

Production

Our rehearsals are in full swing, and the show is starting to come together under the watchful eye of Mrs Taylor and Miss Gina.

Tickets are now on sale through the following link: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/aug/pirates-of-the-curry-bean>

The girls are excited to show off their mahi on the big stage!

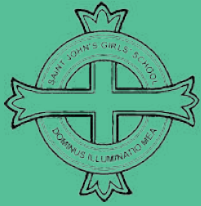
Request for Raffle Prizes

As part of production celebrations, the Parents' Association will be selling raffles for hampers before each show.

They are gathering donations for these hampers in the school office. New food [non perishable], health and beauty, and gift items will be gratefully received.

Every girl who brings in an item to go into the hamper will receive a bonus point for her house.





Values Cup Recipient



Sophia Risk
Room 3

Southland Interschools Speech Competition

Mahi pai to Gracie Dennis, who was selected to compete at the cluster final held on Rakiura/Stewart Island recently. Gracie's speech about why everyone should have a bucket list captivated the audience, and the judges! She won the Year 7 & 8 section and will now go on to the Invercargill Area Final next week. Good luck, Gracie!

Netball

Congratulations to our Year 7/8 netball team for winning the Grade 2 netball final against James Hargest College. They finished the season undefeated! The girls are now feeling very confident of their chances in the Year 8 Father-Daughter netball game next term. It might be a good time for the Dads to start their training regime!

Absences

We are experiencing a high volume of student absences due to winter illness. Please inform the school office of any absence as soon as possible [phone, email, Skool Loop, Kamar Portal]. Please note that a medical certificate may be required for any absence of five or more consecutive days.

NZEI Paid Union Meeting

On Wednesday August 27, a number of our staff will be attending a paid union meeting at 1:30pm.

The school will remain open for instruction. We have arranged for all students to be fully supervised, and the school day will end as scheduled at 3:00pm.

Have a relaxing weekend with your whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw

Tumuaki | Principal





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- **10** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **12** KIPRRR Day [non-uniform]
Sausage Sizzle & Chill
- **15-16** Māori Language Week
- **16** Production Dress Rehearsal [all day]
- **17** SMAC Maths [JHC Snr Campus]
 - Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm
 - Yr 8 5.45-6.15pmProduction Performance [7pm - CentreStage]
- **18** Production Performance [7pm - CentreStage]
- **19** **Last day of Term 3**
Jnr Syndicate Pirate Day

OCTOBER

- **6** Day one of Term 4
- **10** Lego Build Day [school hall]
- **14** Parents' Association Mtg [7pm]
- **16** BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- **27** **Labour Day [School Closed]**
- **28** **Staff Only Day [School Closed]**
- **29** Gymnastics Festival
 - Seniors in the morning
 - Juniors in the afternoon

NOVEMBER

- **5** Cultural Day [morning]
- **12** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **14** Dance Sharing [TBC]
- **20** Greats and Grands
- **25** Familiarisation Day [9.00-12pm]
- **28** Disco [5.30-7.00pm]
Singing at Rowena Jackson [Rms 1-3]
- **30** Choir Concert [2.00pm] First Church

DECEMBER

- **11** BoT Meeting [5.30pm]
- **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]

2026

- **2 February** **Staff Only Day**
- **3 February** **First day of school for students**
- **6 February** **Waitangi Day [school closed]**
- **19 February** **School Photos**
- **24-27 February** **Yr 7 Camp - Stewart Island**
- **9-11 March** **Yrs 5/6 Camp - Omaui**
- **2 April** **Last day of Term 1**
- **20 April** **First day of Term 2**
- **15 December** **Last day of school for students**

Science Fair

The NZAS Southland Science and Technology Fair will be held Tuesday the 2nd to Friday the 5th of September at the Invercargill Workmen's Club. Judging will take place on Tuesday from 10am to 3pm where the students share their work with the judges. Thursday and Friday the fair will be open from 10am to 5pm for school groups and the public to visit and the awards ceremony will take place from 5pm on the Friday evening.

We have 35 entries entering this year.

WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Lola Devlin, Delilah McKenzie, Lily Vaughan

ROOM 2

Georgia Cochrane, Navy Sloane, Olive Reilly, Heidi Lawson

ROOM 3

Maeve Devlin, Lucy Dixon-Calder, Ava Davies, Lilly Stalker

ROOM 4

Phoebe Hodson, Eloise Smith, Briar Brady, Harper Peters

ROOM 6

Lydia O'Brien, Avery Botting, Jaynee Holms-Johnston, Greer Valli, Agnes Russell

ROOM 7

Indi Howden, Greer Valli, Emily Laughton, Maya Preininger, Samantha Parry

ROOM 8

Sophie Crosbie, Emma Visser, Abby Unahi, Aida Chamberlain

VALUES CUP

Rm 3 Sophia Risk

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Abby Moore
Lily Vaughan



SJGS staff

We are continuing with our staff spotlight. We hope you have been enjoying learning more about the wonderful staff of St John's Girls' School. Here are some more interesting facts about these amazing people!

FROM THE YR 8 KAIARAHİ
Mia P, Zoe M, Drew P & Neveah R

Mrs Dennis told us that her favourite colour was definitely 100% turquoise. When we asked what her favourite food was, she surprised us by saying that she loved any kind of sandwich which was very interesting. If you could pick any sandwich to eat right now Mrs Dennis would absolutely love it. Her favourite song is *Sally When the Wine Runs Out* by Role Model. Her favourite place to sit back and relax is a peaceful place called Otematata, which is a small town in between Omarama and Kurow. She loves hanging out in her favourite lakes called Lake Aviemore and Lake Benmore with her family and friends. Mrs Dennis' job at school is the Sports Coordinator; she is always on task making sure everyone gets the opportunity to play the sports that they love. At the moment she is helping all the students with their gymnastics routine for the upcoming gymnastics festival in term 4.



Mrs Netty Dennis



Mrs Julie Dawkins

Mrs Dawkins' favourite colour is grass green. Her favourite meal is Thai food, closely followed by many other foods she loves. Her favourite song, *Voila* by Emma Kok, touches her heart. When we asked her what her favourite song was, she showed us a video of Emma singing *Voila*. We were blown away by the emotion she puts into singing, and understood Mrs Dawkins' love for the song. Mrs Dawkins' said her favourite place to go on holiday is Wanaka; this surprised us because she recently went on a big trip around Europe, which she had many amazing stories to tell because of it. Mrs Dawkins teaches in Room 2 on Mondays and Tuesdays, job sharing with Mrs King and is sometimes a reliever in other class rooms. However, she's always willing to help out with speech.

Miss McSoriley's only favourite colour is minty green, which explains a lot since she helps in the green house, Marchant. She loves eating flavourful lasagne. It's her most favourite meal, nothing else! At the moment she's teaching a whole variety of languages; if you ask me that's really impressive! She also loves to educate the lovely Rm 4 students and on top of that she loves listening to *Unchained Melody* which is by the Righteous Brothers. Miss McSoriley has one of the best voices, she's really dedicated and passionate with her singing. It's one of the things she does.



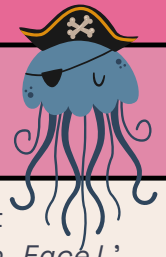
Miss Eve McSoriley



Miss Gina Stevens

Miss Gina's one and only favourite colour is Green, her favourite meal to eat is Filet Steak, Broccolini, Steak Diane gravy and roast potatoes; that sounds difficult to make! Her favourite song to listen and dance to is *Valerie* by Marc Ronson and Amy Winehouse. Miss Gina's job at school is to teach dance to all of the classrooms here at St John's. She is currently helping our school out heaps with the dances for the songs in our upcoming school production called the *Pirates of the Curry Bean*. She has made these dances so fun and looking really good, so if you come along to the production you will be amazed with our dancing all because of Miss Gina.

ROOM 1 NEWS



In Room 1 we have been learning about Pirates. We all found out what our Pirate names would be and Mrs Jagoutz is 'Swashbuckler Jellyfish Face!'



We have painted pirates and written about what we would do if we were a pirate.



Lily Wrote...



"If I was a pirate, I would have a hook and I would have a pirate ship."

Quinn Wrote...



"If I was a pirate, I would have an eye patch. I would sail a pirate ship."

Olive Wrote...

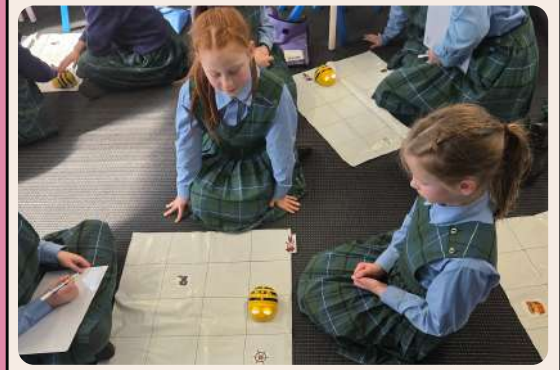


"If I was a pirate, I would have a parrot."

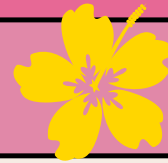
TECHNOLOGY



The Junior Syndicate have been involved in a Technology rotation this term. Rooms 2 and 3 came to Room 1 to write code to programme our BeeBots. They were looking for treasure and had fun working out how they could 'de-bug' their coding when things didn't go as planned.



POLYFEST



Check out our beautiful Pasifika group of girls who performed in the recent Polyfest. We are very proud of them.

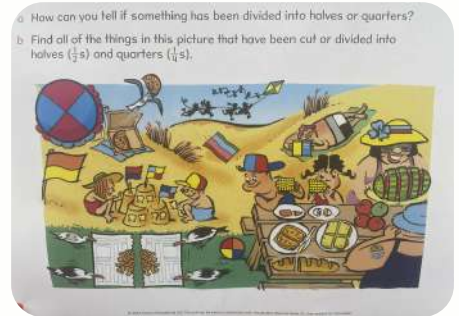
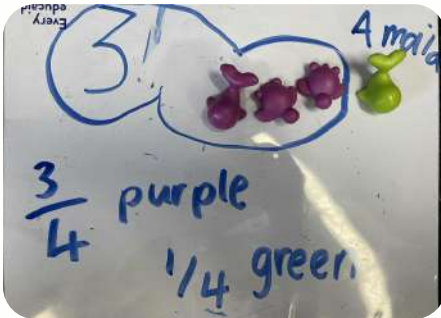


ROOM 2 NEWS



AHOY LANDLUBBERS! ALERT! PIRATE PHRASES AHOY!!

Room 2 has set sail for learning and adventures on the seven seas! This term we have avoided mutiny while we learn new concepts, illness and production rehearsals! In our Maths learning we have been learning to use the language of fractions while naming the fraction of a shape or set. We are ready to equally divvy up any pirate treasure we should come across!



S.T.E.M

Currently we are experiencing pirate rotations as we visit with the other junior classes to trial our problem solving and S.T.E.M. skills. Last week we made pirate ships with Mrs Raines, and this week we honed our coding skills with Mrs Jagoutz. It is fun to pop into other classes and try something new!





CREATIVE WRITING

ARGH!!!



Our creative writing skills are being extended as we craft descriptive writing pieces. We are trying to include language features such as alliteration to make our writing more interesting for the reader. We are including our senses with 'looks like', 'feels like' and 'sounds like'. Our writing is improving and we love to wow our audience!

The Pirate Life is for me!

by Isabelle Miskimmin

I love the feeling of sailing on the blue.
I like waking up to the feeling of the ocean.
When I wake, I hear dolphins click.
I love to hear the waves crash on the ship.
I love to see dolphins swimming beside the ship.

Arr, the Pirate life is for me!



The Pirate Life is for me!

by Charlotte Dore

I love the feeling of smooth waves rocking my ship.

I love stormy seas that wake me up.

I love to hear mermaids splashing in the open ocean.

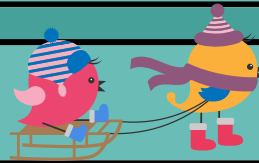
I love hearing the ocean splashing.

I love seeing the seaweed on the ocean floor.

Argh! I love being a pirate!!



ART



We enjoyed creating these winter birds. It is lovely to see the girls applying skills to make their art work shine with its own special sparkle!



As we move through the term our attention turns to production dances and whole school run-throughs. It is getting exciting! We will be the cutest little rats and monkeys you ever did see!! We look forward to shining on stage!

A date for your diary is our Junior Syndicate Pirate day on the last day of term. Girls are invited to come to school in pirate costumes! What Fun!!



ROOM 3 NEWS

It's hard to believe we are over half way through Term 3! Room 3 has been super busy and we are really lucky with all the great learning opportunities we are taking part in.



MONDAY SPORTS

On Mondays for the first 5 weeks of the term we bused to the ILT Stadium Southland to learn about football with Leigh from Southland Football. We have had a lot of fun learning skills, drills and shooting. We have improved our overall skill level and we even played a game. We had a lot of fun!



ROOM 3 NEWS

WRITING

Winter has been a topic for writing and art over the last couple of weeks. We created Winter Cinquain poems and a written piece about what we like and don't like about Winter. We also made some Winter Polar bears.

3 things I like about Winter:

1. Going outside and making the grass crunch as I walk through the frost.
2. You can go Ice-skating in the cold covered spaces the sun can't get.
3. Getting hot cocoa and lasagne for dinner.

By Penny S

3 things I don't like about Winter:

1. Mum won't let me out without a jacket.
2. Feeling like I just got hyperthermia because I didn't listen to mum.
3. Hannah having a snowball fight without me!

By Ava D

3 things I like about Winter:

1. Seeing my breath turning into steam on a cold wintery morning.
2. The rain pitter patter on my window and making patterns.
3. Seeing all the beautiful sun rises showing through the trees.

3 things I don't like about Winter:

1. Slipping over on the cold frosty ground.
2. Going into my cold bed, it feels like I am going to freeze.
3. Feeling sick and not going to school.

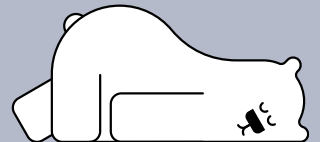
By Charlie V

Winter
Cold, snowy
Skating, sledding, building
Warm by the fire
Season

By Emily S

Winter
Snowy, windy
Skiing, baking, snuggling
Freezing in the snow
Season

Polar Bears



**ST JOHN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

PIRATES of the CURRY BEAN



**17 & 18 SEPTEMBER | 7 PM
CENTRESTAGE**

TICKET SALES

\$20 PER ADULT / \$15 PER CHILD [15 & UNDER]

available THROUGH iTICKET.CO.NZ

[HTTP://WWW.ITICKET.CO.NZ/EVENTS/2025/AUG/PIRATES-OF-THE-CURRY-BEAN](http://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/aug/pirates-of-the-curry-bean)



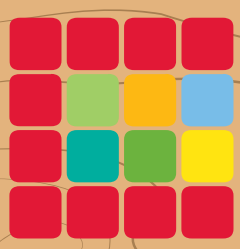
Thank You Sponsors

Pirates of the



Curry Bean

We are grateful to the following sponsors for their support of our upcoming Production "The Pirates of the Curry Bean". If you are also interested in becoming a sponsor contact the school office for further details.



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