



# NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

13 February 2026



Greetings from the  
Principal

Kia Ora, Tafola Lava,  
Kia Orana

**Whakatauki - Māori  
Proverb**

**Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti  
arahia o tatou mahi**

*Let the uniqueness of the child  
guide our work.*

**Values Cup  
Recipient**



**Pippa Vaughan  
Room 5**

Nau mai, haere mai! What an incredible start to the school year. It has been the most wonderful time at school over the past couple of weeks. There is a keen sense of positivity and plenty of smiling faces around. As I have been around the playground at break times, I have noticed how much the girls are enjoying being back at school. There is confidence in the air!

Our new girls have become St John's girls quickly, and it is wonderful to see how they are settling into their new school environment. Many of the staff have commented on just how quickly our new girls have adapted to St John's routines and also how they have created new friendship circles. This is a testament to the kindness of our girls, and how they support our new students from the start. I have spoken to many of the new girls over the past two weeks, and all have commented on just how much they love life at St John's!

At our Staff Only Day at the beginning of the year, I shared the whakatauki you can see to the left with our staff, just as I did at the beginning of last year. It is a whakatauki that is incredibly important to me as an educator, and one I reflect on often. Everything we do at our school is centred around what is best for our learners. They are truly at the heart of everything we do. The home-school partnership is vital to this. We strive to work together as a team for the benefit of your daughter.

## Meet the Teacher Afternoon

It was wonderful to see many of you at our Meet the Teacher afternoon on Tuesday. If you were unable to attend, your daughter's class newsletter will provide vital classroom routine information.

## Family Fun Night

Our annual Family Fun Night is being held on Tuesday, 17 February. Beginning at 5:30pm, whānau arrive with their dinner and find a space for a picnic on our back field. The Parents' Association kindly provide entertainment and ice blocks for our tamariki. Our Year 8 leaders will help with organising the running races on the night. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in their daughter's house colours.

## Staff Professional Development

It has been a busy week for our staff with after school First Aid training, and additional work with The Learner First.

On Thursday, we hosted 15 teachers and principals from Waikaia, Salford, and Windsor North schools for our continuation of The Learner First maths workshops.

The visiting group observed lessons by facilitator Sue Pine in Rooms 2, 5, and 7. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for the school, with the visiting teachers commenting positively on the high level of engagement and enthusiasm in every classroom. Our staff were very proud of the girls!

## Camps

We are excited to have our entire senior syndicate heading away to their respective camps this term. There is so much learning that takes place on camp and most of it relates to our KIPRRR values, particularly resilience and perseverance. It is also a wonderful way for the classes to come together as a team. When classes come back from camp, their team dynamic is certainly stronger. This is the reason why we hold camps at the start of the year.

Thank you to our wonderful camp parent volunteers. We could not provide these opportunities for our girls without your support.

Please look out for your daughter's camp information and invoice. Payment is required the week before departure.



## Attendance and Punctuality

We have a strong emphasis on high attendance and punctual drop-off and pick-ups. It is important your daughter is at school on time and every day. One day off each fortnight equates to 20 school days off a year. This makes for a considerable lack of consistency in learning. Please do not be offended if your daughter's attendance rate is discussed with you by her teacher, or myself. We want the very best for every one of our girls.

Our Attendance Management Plan is available on our website.

## Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Students may arrive on site from 8:20am. We recommend arriving by 8:30am to allow ample time for organisation before the morning assembly.

All students must be picked up promptly at the end of the school day. Back gate duty [Avenal Street] concludes at 3:10pm. Any students not collected by this time will be brought back to After School Care in the library.

## School Docs - Policies and Procedures

St John's Girls' School is a SchoolDocs kura.

Our school works with SchoolDocs to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. SchoolDocs updates policies in response to changes in legislation and Ministry guidelines, reviews/requests from schools, and regular research from the SchoolDocs team.

The link to our SchoolDocs website can be found on our school website. [www.stjohnsgirls.school.nz](http://www.stjohnsgirls.school.nz)

## Invoices

The Term 1 invoices will have arrived in your inbox. These are due by the mid-term date. 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.

There is information regarding our payment schedules on our school website, including information on how to make regular automatic payments.

If you are paying by automatic payments, it is likely you will build credit, especially if you continue your payments through the holidays. It would be helpful for us to know if you would like your credit used against any other invoices, e.g. uniform or camps. Please email our office manager, Nic Roberts, and let her know your preference.

Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school.

Holly Bradshaw  
**Tumuaki | Principal**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## FEBRUARY

- 16 Police Dog Visit [Rms 1/2]
- 17 Family Fun Night [5.30pm]
- 19 School Photos
- 23 Christ Knight - Athletics [Yr 7/8]  
Bike Ready Programme [Yr 4/5]
- 24-27 Year 7 Camp [Stewart Island]
- 25 Road Safety [Rms 1/2]
- 26 Bike Ready Programme [Yr 4/5]
- 27 Athletics Extra Race at SCAS

## APRIL

- 1 Easter Service Rehearsal
- 2 Easter Service [1.30pm First Church]  
Last day of Term 1 for Students
- 20 **Staff Only Day**
- 21 **Day 1 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]

## MARCH

- 3 GRIP Leadership [Gore]
- 5 All Saints Zone Athletics
- 9-11 Year 5 and 6 Camp [Columba]  
ERO Visit  
Firewise [Rooms 1/2]
- 11 BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- 13 House Bonding Day [Queens Park]
- 18 Interviews [**School finish - 2pm**]
- 19 Interviews [**School finish - 3pm**]
- 21 Southland Athletics
- 25-28 Year 8 Camp [Deep Cove]
- 25 Lit Quiz - Gore
- 30 Road Safety [Rms 1/2]



# WEEKLY AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS

**ROOM 1**

Freya Burns, Ivy Dickens

**ROOM 2**

Darcy Beer, Charlotte Risk

**ROOM 3**

Saffron Smith, Isla Dackers

**ROOM 5**

Charlie Visser, Millie Dobbie

**ROOM 6**

Amélie Crossley, Charlee Miles

**ROOM 7**

Ava Amar, Amelia Bosma

**ROOM 8**

Willow Murray, Maya Preininger

**VALUES  
CUP**

Rm 5 Pippa Vaughan

**PRINCIPAL'S  
AWARD**

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# Introducing Our Kaiarahi

## Kaiarahi

*Amelia B, Avery Botting, Elise Davison, Danielle King, Emily Laughton, Rosie Laughton, Lydia O'Brien, Simone Paganelli*

Our Kaiarahi are a group of leaders who work hard to serve our school and make sure SJGS is a wonderful place for everyone to be. They have some amazing ideas for the year ahead! You can look forward to new school projects to help our environment, fun class competitions, and special days of learning for all the girls to enjoy. We are so excited to see all the great things they will bring to the role this year!

## *Welcome to Our New Faces!*



### Miss Woods

Miss Woods is our new teacher in Room 8, and she is already having a great time! Not only is she the Room 8 teacher, but she is also our Deputy Principal. She says everyone has been so welcoming, and she is really enjoying getting to know all the girls and the friendly staff. She also likes the SJGS traditions we do, like line-up and assembly every morning. When she isn't at school, Miss Woods loves going to quiz nights and is a huge fan of basketball. She even does the game statistics for the Southland Sharks!



### Gracie McCallum

Gracie is a new Year 4 student in Room 3! She is having lots of fun getting to know everyone in her class, and she really loves using the playgrounds. A new routine she has had to get used to is morning assembly, and she is a proud member of Enderby House. Outside of school, Gracie's favourite thing to do is dancing!



### Taylor Price

Taylor is in Year 3 this year in Room 4. She has been enjoying getting to know all the other girls in her class and making new friends. This week, she has been learning our school routines like line-up, and she says she is really enjoying P.E. and dance lessons! In her spare time, when she isn't at school, Taylor loves to go swimming.

# Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our **Concerns and Complaints Policy** and related policies on SchoolDocs.

## OVERVIEW



You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.



The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.



The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.



## HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).

**A staff member involved**  
(e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)

**The principal**  
for serious matters

**The board chair**  
for concerns or complaints about the principal

**Another board member**  
for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member).
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter.
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative). Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.



## HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

**The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved** (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).



## NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, **the school considers the matter closed.**

**If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response,** you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

**After the board has dealt with a matter,** there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

DR CRAIG HARRISON PRESENTS...

# UNDER PRESSURE

HOW TO THRIVE IN A HYPER COMPETITIVE YOUTH SPORT WORLD

A talk for athletes, parents, & coaches

INVERCARGILL | 17 FEBRUARY

Tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)




**INC** *Get Ready 4 Netball*

## NETBALL DEVELOPMENT

Term One 2026

- Starts Tuesday 24th FEB
- 6 weeks
- 1 hour sessions
- \$60
- Practice netball skills
- Have fun
- Game play ready for Term 2

*Register now*

## SOUTHLAND WATER POLO

# HAVE A GO DAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

3.30-4.30PM

YEARS 2-3: LEARNERS POOL  
YEARS 4-6: MAIN POOL-SHALLOW END  
YEAR 7-13: MAIN POOL-DEEP END

**SOUTHLAND**  
— WATER POLO —

**INVERCARGILL**

ROCK 'n' ROLL CLUB Inc.

### CHILDREN'S LESSONS

18th FEBRUARY 2026  
5:30-6:30PM  
Runs for 6 weeks  
Held at the Invercargill Working Men's Club

**\$50 PER CHILD**

Send our Facebook page a message or Wendy on 027 379 7227

**INVERCARGILL**

ROCK 'n' ROLL CLUB Inc.

### ADULT BEGINNERS LESSONS

18th FEBRUARY 2026  
6:30-7:30PM  
Runs for 6 weeks  
Held at the Invercargill Working Men's Club

**\$50 PER PERSON**

Send our Facebook page a message or Wendy on 027 379 7227



IN-CONFIDENCE

### Become an Oranga Tamariki Foster Caregiver in Southland

**Help make a Difference in a Child's Life!**

Are you ready to provide a safe, loving, and supportive home for a child in need? Oranga Tamariki is looking for caring individuals and families who can help children in care to grow, heal, and thrive.


We are currently seeking caregivers who can offer:

- A safe and nurturing environment
- Emotional and physical support to children in need
- A commitment to helping a child reach their full potential

As an Oranga Tamariki caregiver, you'll receive training, 24/7 support, and a financial allowance to assist with the care of the child. You'll also join a network of compassionate individuals dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact in the lives of children.

#### Who can become a caregiver?

- People with a genuine desire to care for children
- Families, singles, and couples
- People with different life experiences, backgrounds, and cultural connections



Every child deserves the chance to grow up in a loving, stable home. Could that home be with you?

Contact us today to learn more about joining the Southland caregiving whānau.

Call: Isla Hardy  
Email: [isla.hardy@ot.govt.nz](mailto:isla.hardy@ot.govt.nz)  
Website: [orangatamariki.govt.nz](http://orangatamariki.govt.nz)

Together, we can make a brighter future for children in Southland!