



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

23 October 2026



Greetings from the
Principal

Tēnā koutou katoa, Ola,
Namaste

**Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb**

**Tukua kia tū
takitahi ngā
whetū o te
rangi**

*Let each star in the
sky shine its own
light.*

Nau mai, harere mai. Welcome back for Term 4.

It is wonderful to see our girls back, refreshed and ready for the business end of the year. Our school calendar is quickly filling up with important events. This term is busy, but there are many exciting things to look forward to.

Aerobics Festival

Our annual Aerobics Festival last week was an excellent display of skill and resilience.

Aerobics is not everyone's forte, but in the true spirit of house competition, all of the girls rose magnificently to the occasion and should be immensely proud of what they accomplished.

A special mention goes to our senior girls, who worked collaboratively to choreograph their own aerobics routines. We were thoroughly impressed by their creativity, tenacity, and the uplifting support they showed one another.

House competition was fierce on the day, with Marchant taking first place and breaking Alabaster's recent winning streak!

Thank you to the many parents and whānau who came along to cheer our girls on. A special thank you to Miss Gina for her fabulous work with the girls, and to Hana Skeggs for judging the competition.

2027 Camps

Dates for our 2027 Year 5 & 6 Camp Columba and Year 7 Stewart Island camps are now confirmed. We are currently awaiting date confirmation for our Year 8 Deep Cove camp.

To ensure we have enough time to process vetting for parent helpers, we will be calling for parent volunteers in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye out for a paper notice coming home with your daughter soon, which will outline all the necessary information and next steps.

Invoices

The Term 4 invoices have been sent. 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.





Values Cup Recipient



Lydia O'Brien
Room 7

Summer Uniform Reminder

It is wonderful seeing the girls back in their summer uniforms and hearing how much they enjoy the freedom to run around and play in them!

Since many students have had growth spurts since Term 1, please take a moment to check your daughter's summer dress and adjust the hem if needed so it sits neatly at knee length.

For any uniform requirements or assistance, please contact Mrs Marise Lang at mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz.

Acknowledgement - Mrs Shirley Alabaster

As a school community, we acknowledge the passing of Mrs Shirley Alabaster [QSM], at the age of 95, at the end of last term. Mrs Alabaster served as the Principal of St John's Girls' School from 1968 to 1978. Her care for and contribution to our school were legendary, and she is a truly worthy namesake of our wonderfully pink Alabaster House! Our thoughts and love are with her family during this sad time.



Staffing Update

Mrs Lee Stewart

Mrs Stewart has resigned from her classroom teaching position, effective at the end of this year. As many of you know, Mrs Stewart has built up her art school business this year, and she is ready to dedicate more time and energy to expanding this. We are immensely proud of Mrs Stewart and delighted to have backed her every step of the way as she has fulfilled her lifelong dream. She won't be a stranger to us; we look forward to welcoming her back to St John's in a relief capacity next year.

Mr Gavan Hamilton

At the end of this year, we will also be saying farewell to Mr Hamilton as he steps into retirement after more than a decade of dedicated service at St John's. He will be relocating to Christchurch to enjoy retirement closer to his grandchildren. We will miss his tireless care of our school grounds, his knack for fixing anything with ease, and, of course, his legendary dress-ups on KIPRRR days! We wish Mr Hamilton and his wife, Ann, all the very best as they embark on this exciting new chapter together.

Have a safe and relaxing long weekend. Hopefully, the sun will be shining where ever it is you choose to be!

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- **26** Labour Day [School Closed]
- **28** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness

NOVEMBER

- **5** School Board Meeting
- **6** Sizzle and Chill
- **10** Cultural Day
- **11** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **12** Christian Education Speeches
- **13** High School New Entrant Day
- **14-15** William Pike - Overnight Dolamore Park
- **19** Greats & Grands [am]
Year 7/8 Adventure Race
- **20** Dance Sharing [2.00pm]
- **24** New Entrant Morning [Yrs 2-8 for 2027]
- **25** Mind Mingle [Yr 5/6] at Waihopai School -
2 teams of 4 to attend
- **26** Disco [5:30pm - 7:00pm]
- **27** Sizzle and Chill

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]



FEBRUARY

- **1** Staff Only Day
Open Classrooms [2:30pm - 3:30pm]
- **2** First day for students
- **8** Waitangi Day Holiday [School Closed]
- **9** Meet the Teacher Evening [6pm]
Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **22-24** Year 5 & 6 Camp [Camp Columba]
- **23-26** Year 7 Camp [Rakiura/Stewart Island]

WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Ellie McCallum, Ada Seator, Lola Devlin, Jasmine McEwan

ROOM 2

Olive Reilly, Harriet Telfer, Indy Frost, Imogen Dixon-Calder

ROOM 3

Navy Sloane, McKenzie Kyle, Claudia Hodson, Saffron Smith

ROOM 5

Lucy Dixon-Calder, Millie Dobbie, Beau McRae-Bothamley, Lorelai Stirling

ROOM 6

Charlotte Dowling, Victoria Duncan, Amélie Crossley

ROOM 7

Jaynee Holms-Johnston, Hannah Sloan, Sophia Lillo-Dockerty,
Laura van Westrenen, Avery Botting

ROOM 8

Greer Pine, Bailey Cooper, Indi Howden, Evie Erskine

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Whole class award for 'Grumpy Bear' play
Rm 2 Amelia Veint
Rm 6 Portia Smith, Maggie Mulqueen, Briar Brady

VALUES CUP

Rm 7 Lydia O'Brien



ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

FROM YOUR KAIĀRAHI

At the end of last term, we held our Arts Extravaganza!

We would like to send a huge thank you to all the girls who participated, as well as the audience of over 300 people who came along to support us.

The school choir opened with two amazing songs, Flashdance and Forever Young. We are so proud of them and can't wait to hear what they perform next year!



We were blown away by all the talent on show, including a wide range of individual items: drumming, dancing, singing, speeches, aerobics, ukulele, guitar, and poetry.

Well done to every girl who put herself out there to perform on her own!

Our Kapa Haka groups were another major highlight. The senior group performed Ngā Iwi and Wairua, followed by a wonderful performance of Utaina by our Junior Kapa Haka.

Both our Junior and Senior Jump Jam teams also brought incredible energy to the stage.



Thank you to Mr Jagoutz for his fabulous photography skills. We are very lucky to have him photograph this event for us.

The event also featured a student art gallery filled with outstanding pieces.

Everyone was buzzing to find out the People's Choice results. Congratulations to the following girls:

- 1st Place: Danielle King [Purple Tiger]
- 2nd Place: Samantha Parry [Realistic Eye]
- 3rd Place: Briar Nicholl [Field of Intricate Flowers]

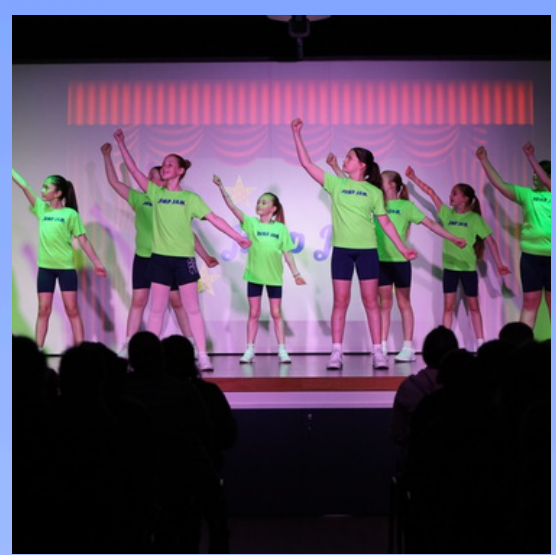


'Purple Tiger'
Danielle King



'Realistic Eye'
Samantha Parry







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!

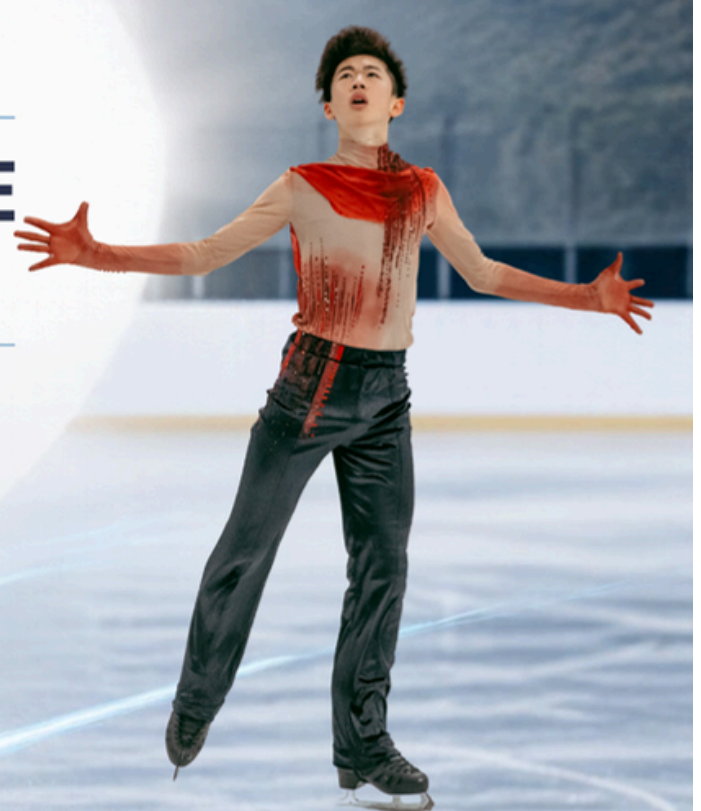


— NEW ZEALAND —

ICE FIGURE SKATING

— CHAMPIONSHIPS —

GORE 2026



 GORE MULTISPORTS COMPLEX

 29TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER

29th OCT	THURSDAY	12:30PM - 5:40PM
30th OCT	FRIDAY	12:30PM - 5:20PM
31st OCT	SATURDAY	12:10PM - 5:10PM
1st NOV	SUNDAY	10:50AM - 1:35PM

Door entry - \$5 per adult
Under 16's FREE

The Official Home of the
NZIFSA



INVERCARGILL

MUSICAL THEATRE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

SING • DANCE • ACT • PERFORM



SAT-SUN 9-10 JANUARY 2027

AGES 7-18 | VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

\$99 EARLY BIRD | \$180 BRING A BUDDY

Buddy price covers 2 children • Booking fees apply

creativestageworks.co.nz/young-stars-nz

cleo'n'cino **ILT STADIUM**
SOUTHLAND

AFTER SCHOOL

CLIMBING

PROGRAMME

**TURN TUESDAYS
INTO EMPOWERING
ADVENTURES**

27 OCTOBER - 1 DECEMBER

Tuesdays for 6 weeks

Beginner | 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Intermediate | 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Advanced | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Ages 7 - 17

\$80 per child

Limited spots available

Enrol your child in now
stadiumsouth.co.nz



The Southland Society of Model Engineers

Proudly Present our 2026

The Great Little Train Show

Model & Hobby Displays
Including
Trains, Boats, RC Buggy's & Retailers!

SSME Club Grounds &
Badminton Halls
Surrey Park, Invercargill

Labour Weekend
24th & 25th October
10am - 4pm each day

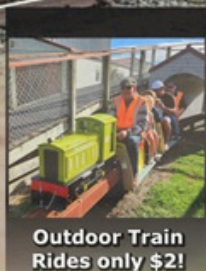
Entry Price

Children (up to 14yo) \$3.00

Adults (15yo +) \$10.00

Family \$20.00
(2 Adults + Up to 3 Children)

Eftpos Available for Entry



Outdoor Train
Rides only \$2!

Spaces available

**For Suzuki violin
tuition with
registered
Suzuki Teacher**

**Structured,
engaging violin
lessons focusing on
technical
foundations,
performance
confidence, and
making music fun.
Grade exams and
Fiddle style.**



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