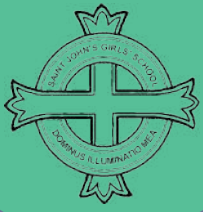




NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

13 March 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Kia Ora, Tafola Lava,
Kia Orana

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Ko te pae tawhiti, whāia kia tata. Ko te pae tata, whakamaua kia tina.

Seek out distant horizons and cherish those you attain.

It is hard to believe we are now over halfway through Term One!

Over the past couple of weeks, we've had numerous opportunities to celebrate success within our kura. From the Values Cup and class certificates to Principal awards and triumphs at Zone Athletics, it has been wonderful to witness our girls achieving their goals and taking pride in their mahi.

In assembly last week, I reflected on the phrase, 'practice makes perfect.' However, I prefer to say, 'practice makes progress.' Our goal is for each girl to strive to be the best version of herself and take pride in her personal growth and achievements. We are not chasing impossible perfection but focusing on continuous learning and progress for every girl in our kura, whatever that may look like.

I also spoke about perseverance and how, despite our best efforts, things don't always go as planned. This can be frustrating, but every great idea often begins with mistakes or struggle — just ask inventors, scientists, writers, and entrepreneurs. While it may not feel like it at the time, struggle is beneficial for our brains, helping to form new connections and pathways for learning. We aim to empower our girls to pursue their big ideas and understand that making mistakes and feeling frustration are a natural part of the learning process. We won't always get it right the first time we try! What truly matters is not giving up, staying resilient, and remembering that 'practice makes progress.'

ERO

Our ERO evaluation partner, Michelle Irving, spent three days in our school this week. During this time, she spoke with the girls, staff and School Board, observed in classrooms and spent time with me discussing our goals and strategic direction. Her visit was incredibly positive, and I am looking forward to sharing the final report with you once completed.

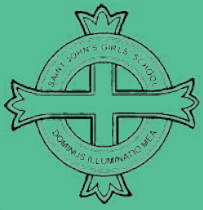
Parent Teacher Goal Setting Interviews

Our two days of Parent Teacher Interviews are being held on Wednesday, 18 March and Thursday, 19 March. Bookings are available via Skool Loop.

We encourage the girls to attend these interviews with their whānau; however, you are welcome to attend the meeting without your daughter if you wish to discuss any matters privately.

Reminder - school closes at 2pm on Wednesday 18 March as interviews start early. After School Care will begin at 2:15pm.





Values Cup Recipients



Jasmine McEwan
Room 1

House Bonding Day

As you read this, our school will have enjoyed a fun-filled day, expertly organised by the House Captains and Deputies. A great deal of planning and foresight goes into this event, providing an excellent learning opportunity for our House Captain group. This event allows them to develop their planning and leadership skills early in the year. A big thank you to Miss Woods for her guidance and support of these girls.

Reduced Speed Limit

Thank you to those in our school community who are following the reduced speed limit on Dee Street during school drop-offs and pick-ups. It has certainly helped the public realise they need to slow down! Your continued cooperation is much appreciated.

Winter Uniform

It is time to start thinking about winter uniforms, which our girls need to wear in Term 2 and Term 3. If your daughter likes to wear green tights under her skirt or pinafore, there are bottle green school tights now available at Kmart for a reasonable price. If you have any uniform requirements, please contact Mrs Lang by email: mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

School Kiwi Portal

It is wonderful to see so many parents using the School Kiwi Portal to keep student details up to date. If you haven't set this up yet, step-by-step instructions are available on our website to help you get started on your mobile device.

To ensure we can reach whānau quickly during emergencies or for urgent updates [like event cancellations], I will be testing our student management system's text messaging function. This will be happening at 12pm on Monday, 16 March.

You will receive a text message containing a link. An example of what this looks like is below.

Please click the link and follow the prompts in your browser to confirm receipt. If you do not receive a text on Monday afternoon, please check your 'spam' messages folder. If it's still missing, contact the school office so we can update your contact details.

Message from stjohnsgirls re:
Mrs Holly Bradshaw (Test)
<https://skt.nz/946/293L-H15LLNB6XL4F5E115III>
=DO NOT REPLY=

This is an important step in ensuring our school community stays informed and connected.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- **16** William Pike Challenge - Outdoor activity [12.00 - 4.30pm]
- **18** Interviews **[School finish - 2pm]**
- **19** Interviews **[School finish - 3pm]**
- **20** KIPRRR Day [Heart Kids Day]
Sausage Sizzle & Chill
Yr 7 Vision Screening
PA Grocery Raffle Books Due Back
- **21** Southland Athletics
- **25-28** Year 8 Camp [Deep Cove]
- **25** Lit Quiz - Gore
- **27** Junior Athletics [1pm]
- **30** Road Safety [Rms 1/2]

APRIL

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

MAY

- **7** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **21** Playhouse Theatre Performance

JUNE

- **1** **King's Birthday [school closed]**
- **4** School Swimming Sports [afternoon]
- **17** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **25** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]

JULY

- **3** **Last day of Term 2**
- **20** **First day of Term 3**
- **22** Circus Challenge Performance

AUGUST

- **20** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **24-28** Polyfest Week
- **24** **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

SEPTEMBER

- **9** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **25** **Last day of Term 3**

OCTOBER

- **9** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **12** **First day of Term 4**
- **15** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **26** **Labour Day [School Closed]**

WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Jasmine McEwan, Maisie Freiberg, Lola Devlin, Ivy Dickens

ROOM 2

Evie Bradshaw, Gypsee Stephens, Gussie Affleck, Kate McEwan

ROOM 3

Mia Mojica, Navy Sloane, Elliece Goodwright, Heidi Lawson

ROOM 5

Penny Sloan, Ava Davies, Grace McLeod-Young, Charlotte Farley

ROOM 6

Maggie Mulqueen, Mia Hitchcock, Portia Smith, Harper Peters

ROOM 7

Elise Davison, Avery Botting, Danielle King, Isabella Johns

ROOM 8

Briar McKenzie, Morrigan Parsons, Emily Laughton, Indi Howden

VALUES CUP

Rm 1 Jasmine McEwan

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Ivy Dickens
Rm 2 Evie Bradshaw
Rm 5 Eleanor Anstice-Shirley
Rm 6 Briar Brady, Katie Milne
Rm 8 Maya Preininger, Morrigan Parsons



Cleanest Class Award!



This week, we introduced the Cleanest Classroom Award. Once a week, we will be coming around the classes, and we will choose the cleanest class in the whole school. The cleanest class will be awarded a purple ribbon that will be displayed in the classroom for the week. Room 2 won last week, so the ribbon is currently hanging in their classroom. Below are some of the girls' responses to winning the ribbon.



Gussie felt good, proud and happy when she won the ribbon. She was very surprised when she won the ribbon. Gussie likes the ribbon because purple is her absolute favourite colour.



Evie feels really proud about winning the Cleanest Classroom Award. She made sure that her desk was nice and tidy, so she wasn't too surprised when her class won!

From your Kaiarahi

Amelia b, Avery B, Elise D, Danielle K, Emily L, Rosie L, Lydia O & Simone P

KIPRRR DAY

Friday 20 March 2026

Dress as a **Superhero** - or **Wear Red** ★★
★ for **Little Heart Day!** ★★



How to Take Part:



Dress as your favourite **SUPERHERO** or **WEAR RED!**



Bring a **GOLD COIN** donation!



To make an extra donation, go online via our school Facebook Page and click on the Heart Kids link!



Supporting Heart Kids NZ



Sausage Sizzle and Chill



On KIPRRR Day, the Parents' Association will be running a **sausage sizzle**, with **ice blocks** available too. Girls can place their orders with their homeroom teacher next week, up until **Thursday, 19 March**.

Gluten-free options available.

★ **Thank You for Your Support!**

House Captains and Deputy House Captains

Greer, Bailey, Samantha, Maya, Willow, Briar M & Indi



RMS 5/6 CAMP

Columba



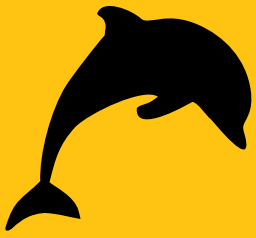
Both Rooms 5 and 6 have just returned from a wonderful three days at Camp Columba in Pukerau. Our time was filled with challenges such as kayaking, ziplining, archery, abseiling, high ropes and of course the concrete slide [where we got some serious air].

Here are some photos of our time away:









RM 7 CAMP

Stewart Island



DAY ONE

We arrived at Bluff, excited and ready to begin our adventure, though some of us felt a few nerves about the ferry crossing. We stepped aboard to a slightly choppy sea, but as we travelled further, the water settled and so did we.

When we arrived on the island, we climbed our first hill and were rewarded with our first glimpse of Bathing Beach. It stopped us in our tracks. Golden sand stretched along the shore, and the sunlight shimmered across every ripple in the sea. After taking it all in, we continued over the next hill to another beautiful spot — Butterfield Beach. Here, the camp van collected half of the group while the rest of us carried on, unaware that something special was waiting ahead.

As we reached Horseshoe Bay, we were amazed to see a pod of about eight dolphins playing in the water. They moved effortlessly through the bay, and we stood watching, feeling incredibly lucky to witness such a moment.

When we arrived at Mamaku Point Camp, we unpacked, set up our bunks, and settled in. After filling our bellies, we took advantage of the warm sun and headed through the bush to Frenchman's Beach. It did not disappoint. Among the rocks, we were fortunate to see Fiordland crested penguins (tawaki) caring for their chicks. We played in the stream, building dams and islands, and then waded into the sea. To our surprise, a dolphin swam past, coming within a metre of us — a moment none of us will forget.

We returned to camp for showers and enjoyed some baking. Mrs van Westrenen's warm empanadas were especially delicious after our swim.

Later, we worked in our bunk groups to build bivouacs in the bush, letting our creativity and teamwork shine.

That evening, patties sizzled on the BBQ as we enjoyed burgers and wedges for dinner. We played charades and shared lots of laughter. We headed out kiwi spotting, and although Blake spotted one, it disappeared back into the bush before most of us could see it. Still, the excitement of knowing they were there stayed with us.

We headed to bed, tired but happy, reflecting on an unforgettable first day.



DAY TWO

We woke to the sound of teachers singing and dancing along to the portable speaker, which was a lively start to the day. After breakfast, we prepared for a day of tramping.

We walked along Lee Bay Road and began the steady climb up the Garden Mound Track. The effort was worth it, with beautiful views waiting at the top. We continued along muddy tracks to Little River, where we stopped for morning tea, explored, and searched for crabs.

From there, we joined the Rakiura Track and made our way back to Lee Bay, finding the other end of the chain that links to Bluff. After completing our 8km tramp, we returned to camp for a well-earned sausage sizzle.

In the afternoon, we split into activity groups and travelled into Oban. Some of us fished off the wharf in Thomson Bay. The fish were quick and clever, nibbling the bait almost as soon as our lines hit the water, and many of us caught small fish within minutes. Others walked the Acker's Point Track to Lewis Acker's Cottage and continued on to the lighthouse. While the lighthouse itself was simple, the views from the point were outstanding.

We returned to camp without any fish to keep, but full of stories and smiles. After showers and board games, we enjoyed spaghetti bolognese and garlic bread for dinner.

That night, we tried kiwi spotting again. We could hear their calls echoing through the bush, reminding us how close they were, even if we couldn't see them.



DAY THREE

Once again, we were woken by music, singing, and dancing. After breakfast and preparing our lunches, we set off for another day of exploring.

We travelled into Oban, where one group visited the museum and completed a booklet challenge, while the other walked the Fuchsia Track to Observation Rock. From the top, we could see Patterson Inlet and Ulva Island - our next destination.

We gathered by the beach for lunch and enjoyed hot chips from the Kai Kart - golden, fluffy, and very welcome.

Soon after, our guides met us and took us by water taxi to Ulva Island. We walked to Flagstaff Point, where Postmaster Charles Traill once raised a flag to signal the arrival of mail from Bluff over 100 years ago.

We continued to Sydney Cove, hoping to see sea lions. Although none were there, the beach was stunning. As we explored further, we spotted robins, parakeets, yellowheads, kererū, kākā, and bellbirds.

Then came two unforgettable moments. One group, led by Sophia, spotted a brown kiwi in daylight and was able to watch it up close - an incredibly rare experience. Meanwhile, at West End Beach, Lexie spotted a sea lion in the water. It swam to shore, and Mr Bosma bravely (and jokingly) acted as bait, helping lure it onto the beach. Both groups were thrilled.

We returned quickly to the water taxis, still buzzing from what we had seen, and finished the afternoon with another fishing session at the wharf.

That evening, we returned to camp for our final night. We enjoyed nachos for dinner, had a quiz lead by Ava and Rosie, and tried one last time to spot kiwi. Although we didn't see one, we went to bed feeling grateful for everything we had experienced.





DAY FOUR

On our final morning, the parents woke us with the clanging of pots instead of music and dancing. We ate breakfast, packed our bags, and prepared to leave.

We spent some final moments in our bivouacs and returned to Oban, with some of us squeezing in one last walk of Horseshoe Bay. We played at the playground, wishing we could stay just a little longer.

Soon, it was time to board the ferry. The crossing back to Bluff was smooth, giving us time to reflect on the incredible adventure we had shared.

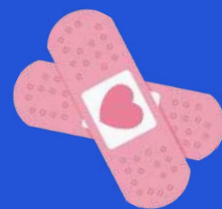
This camp gave us more than just four days away - it gave us moments we will carry with us for years to come. From watching dolphins glide through the water beside us, to spotting rare wildlife in their natural home, to laughing together over meals and muddy boots, every day brought something new and unforgettable. We challenged ourselves on steep climbs, worked together, and discovered just how capable and resilient we can be. Surrounded by the wild beauty of Rakiura, we felt both small and incredibly lucky. The memories we made, the friendships strengthened, and the experiences we shared have left a lasting mark on each of us. This was not just a camp - it was an experience that has etched itself into our hearts.

We would like to sincerely thank our parents, Mr Korteweg, Mr Bosma, Mr van Westrenen, and Mrs King for their time, energy, and support. We Their care, encouragement, and sense of fun made this camp such a memorable experience for us all. We would also like to give a very special thank you to Mrs Lang. She encouraged and supported every girl, always offering reassurance and kindness throughout the camp. After long days of tramping and adventure, she returned to camp and continued caring for us by cooking meals and helping keep everything running smoothly.





RM 8 NEWS



It's hard to believe we are already six weeks into the term! Time has absolutely flown by in Room 8, and the girls have done a fantastic job of settling back into their school routines.

It has been wonderful to see the students step up and embrace their new leadership roles with such enthusiasm. These leadership skills will certainly be put to good use as we get ready for our spectacular trip to Deep Cove in Week 8. To prepare, we've been diving into everything there is to know about staying safe in the unique Fiordland environment.

In our classwork, we've been busy exploring the world of words. We are currently looking at how to use specific language and different structures to make our writing really come alive. We've also been inspired by our history sessions, where we've been learning about the lives of some incredibly strong wāhine.

It has been a busy, productive start to the year, and we can't wait for the adventures ahead!



Last Tuesday, we went to the 2026 GRIP Leadership Conference, an interactive event with the goal of guiding the leaders of New Zealand and Australia to be the very best they can.

In the conference, we went over four main topics, covered in three sessions:

- What should leaders do at our school?
- Integrity - The way I can lead every day
- New Ideas for our school
- The challenges leaders face with a new idea

These are broken up by 'activities' called Loud Noises. During this, we enjoy lots of different activities, such as guessing the name of a song with pictures. During Loud Noises, some of our students were called up on stage for activities and were given GRIP badges as a thank you for participating.

It's not just learning and making noise. We had the opportunity to think critically about new ideas for our school and discuss these students from other schools. We are excited to bring some of these ideas to life within St John's.

When we arrived at the Gore Town & Country Club, we found small A5 booklets placed on our seats. We used these booklets to follow along during the speeches. Inside were word searches to keep us busy beforehand, empty spaces for us to write our ideas that we come up with, and the same spots for questions.

In our visit to GRIP, we had a great time, both learning and having fun. Some of the other year 8's have said that they enjoyed how they had made an entire day's worth of work fun and engaging.



After all the sessions, we are given a small amount of time for a Q&A.

Girls from our school asked some great questions, like:
What is the best possible way to move forward if an idea you put forward is rejected?

If I write a proposal to improve something for our school, how long should it be?

The students from our school loved this event, and are hoping to bring some of the lessons we have learned back to our school.

Written by Willow Murray and Morigan Parsons



WINTER UNIFORM

Now is the time to check your daughter's winter uniform. From next term all girls are required to be in full winter uniform. Contact Mrs Lang if you need to get anything new.
mlang@stjohnsgirls.school.nz



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

LUNCH MENU

All subs are made freshly baked white or wheat bread

WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ



Celebrate NZ Book Month at the Invercargill Public Library!

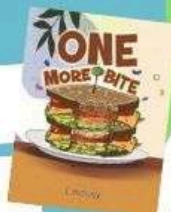
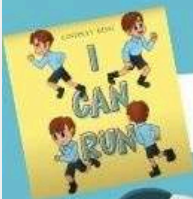
Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
YE HAKATA

Join us for...

STORYTIME

AUTHOR Q&A TIME

CRAFTS



with...

Lindsay King



10:30AM, SAT,
28 MARCH 2026



Top Tips To Remember

Keep your smile healthy for life



1. Have you enrolled with a local dentist?
Make sure you continue to get free routine dental care until you turn 18. Take charge and make an appointment for your check-up each year.



2. Brush teeth and gums twice every day with fluoride toothpaste
Plaque is always growing - regular brushing helps to remove plaque to keep your teeth strong. For sweet as breath, remember to brush your tongue and floss daily too!



3. Spit out your toothpaste and leave your mouth unrinsed
This lets the fluoride in the remaining toothpaste sit around your mouth for longer and work its magic to really help protect your teeth.



4. Eat and drink for strong teeth
Go for healthy, tooth-friendly options like unsweetened dairy products, nuts, wholegrains, beans, meat, fruit and vegetables. Save any sugary foods and drinks for meal times only.



5. Snack all day, get tooth decay!
Each time you eat, your teeth are weakened for a short time afterwards. Eating main meals, rather than constantly snacking, helps your teeth to stay strong as they are weakened less often.



Teenager | Rakatahi Dental Care Providers

School Year 9 until 18th Birthday



In Aotearoa New Zealand, free routine dental care is available for all eligible teenagers/rakatahi every year until their 18th birthday, even if they have left school. In the Southern region, their free dental care transfers from the Community Oral Health Service to a participating local dental provider at the start of school year 9.

How Is Free Dental Care Provided?

At the end of school year 8, the Community Oral Health Service will support you and your teenager/rakatahi to transfer to a participating local dental provider. This is a dentist, oral health therapist or dental therapist who is approved to provide free dental care on behalf of Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora.

Once your teenager/rakatahi has transferred to a local dental provider, they are released from the Community Oral Health Service. This means you and your teenager /rakatahi take up responsibility to arrange and attend their appointments.

You and your teenager/rakatahi can choose which dentist or therapist they would like to enrol with from any of the participating dental providers. They are also able to change to another listed provider at any time and do not need to let us know.

***Please note - only the listed dental practices are able to provide this routine dental care free of charge**

Important Things To Know

- Routine dental care is free for all eligible teenagers/rakatahi until they turn 18 even if they have left school
- Only the listed dental practices are able to provide this free routine dental care
- Some of the listed dental practices may only enrol your teenager/rakatahi if other members of your family/whānau are already enrolled with that practice
- We make every effort to ensure this list is up-to-date, however some practices may not be taking on new patients if they have reached their maximum patient number

For More Information

Please contact the Community Oral Health Service or visit the website at: <https://info.health.nz/services-support/dental-care/dental-care-for-rangatahi>



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora
Community Oral Health Service

Southern: 0800 672 543
community.oralhealth@southernhb.govt.nz

Talkteeth Southern

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora
Community Oral Health Service

Southern: 0800 672 543
community.oralhealth@southernhb.govt.nz

Talkteeth Southern



Is your Teen enrolled for free dental care?

From Year 9 onwards, your Teen will see a participating Dental Provider for their dental care in most areas.

This remains FREE until they turn 18 even if they have left school



Please contact us for help to enrol your Teen and a list of participating Dental Providers in your area

0800 672 543

community.oralhealth@southernhb.govt.nz

RIVERTON HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

28th & 29th March 2026 - Aparima College Hall

Competitions for Adults & Children
\$3,000 of fruit trees to be won!



The best bunch



A beautiful bloom



Your harvest basket



Prized vegetables and fruits



Famous fruit pies

Bring your entries down to the festival hall between
10am and 3pm on Saturday 28th March

www.sces.org.nz/harvest-festival

Workshops, stalls, displays, food!

Gold Coin Entry