



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

29 May 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Talofa Iava, Mālō le soifua

I hope you are all looking forward to the long weekend for King's Birthday. There is something to be said for having an extra day; whether it is used to get things done, spend time with whānau, or simply do nothing at all!

The timing of the long weekend, right in the middle of the term, offers a valuable opportunity for some rest and a reset for our girls. Schools are busy places, and our kura is no exception!

Cross Country

Our school cross country is being held this afternoon at Queens Park. We have ordered perfect cross country weather, and the girls are ready to impress us all with their determination, perseverance, and resilience.

A huge thank you to Mrs King and Ms Coatsworth for their work in PE, which has played a key role in building the girls' overall fitness and confidence. I would also like to acknowledge Mrs McIlwrick, Mrs Dawkins, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Dennis for their dedication to the lunchtime Runners' Club, which provided extra practice for our keen runners.

Assessment

We are incredibly fortunate to have a School Board who recognise the value of our teachers spending dedicated one-on-one time with each girl to assess her understanding and progress in reading and mathematics. This is a significant investment, as it requires providing cover for classrooms while these important assessments take place.

At the moment, our teachers are hard at work preparing mid-year reports. They draw on a wide range of information, including assessment data, classroom observations, and rich learning conversations to build a clear, well-rounded picture of how your daughter is progressing.

Your daughter's report will be out at the end of the term [by email and also uploaded to the school.kiwi portal], with Parent-Teacher Interviews taking place early in Term 3.

Reports and the Refreshed New Zealand Curriculum

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education is currently implementing refreshed assessment and reporting standards across all schools. Reporting to parents and whānau is essential for developing a clear and shared understanding of children's progress, achievement, and success.

You may have seen in the media that part of these changes over the next two years include new Progress Markers that define the level of proficiency expected at each year level, and new Progress Descriptors for teachers to use when reporting to parents and whānau. These were introduced to schools at the beginning of Term 2 this year.

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

**Mā mua ka kite a muri,
mā muri ka ora a mua**

Those who lead give sight to those who follow, those who follow give life to those who lead.





Values Cup Recipients



Victoria Duncan
Room 6

Here is what you need to know as parents and whānau:

- **All schools are required to report against the revised Year 0-10 English, Mathematics and Statistics learning areas.** This remains the same as how we reported to parents at the end of last year.
- **We are taking a careful and considered approach to these changes.** Adopting these new national frameworks is a long-term process. Due to this, our mid-year reports will look very similar to previous years. To ensure we report on your daughter's progress with absolute clarity and confidence, our team are taking the time to thoroughly understand the new assessment tools and language. As a Special Character school, we are also carefully refining how these new systems align with our school's unique ethos and values.
- **Curriculum expectations have changed.** The revised New Zealand Curriculum sets higher, internationally-aligned benchmarks for each year level. As a result, your daughter's progress or achievement levels may look different from previous years. Please be assured this does not indicate a decline in her ability; it reflects the raised expectations in the updated curriculum.
- **Face-to-face conversations are vital.** This shift is exactly why our Term 3 Parent-Teacher interviews are so valuable. They offer a wonderful opportunity to sit down with your daughter's teacher and discuss the real, individual progress she has made during the first half of the year.

The government is still releasing further information and resources to support schools through this transition, with changes in reporting expected to be fully implemented across all schools by 2027.

As always, your daughter's classroom teacher is the best person to speak to about her learning and progress. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch; they are always happy to talk with you.

Have a wonderful weekend with your whānau. Enjoy the Monday sleep-in!

Kā mihi nui

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Lola Devlin, Maisie Freiberg, Deliliah McKenzie, Mackenna North

ROOM 2

Aggie McKenzie, Kate McEwan, Cambrie-Portia James Carman-Oneroa, Darcy Beer

ROOM 3

Claudia Hodson, Elliece Goodwright, Eva Welsh, Taylor Price

ROOM 5

Tilly King, Pippa Vaughan, Charlie Visser, Emily Sewpersad

ROOM 6

Aoife Gordon, Amélie Crossley, Amelia Goodwright, Mackenzie Brown

ROOM 7

Sophia Lillo-Dockerty, Laura Maxwell, Amelia Bosma, Elise Davison

ROOM 8

Briar Nicholl, Emily Laughton, Willow Murray, Bailey Cooper

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 1 Maisie Freiberg, Ellie Pekamu,
Harriet Telfer
Rm 2 Annabel Flannery
Rm 6 Nikita Zeestraten, Lucy Jenkins,
Aoife Gordon
Rm 7 Jaynee Holms-Johnston

VALUES CUP

Rm 6 Victoria Duncan





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- **1** **King's Birthday [school closed]**
- **3** Cross Country [Zones]
- **4** Sing Out - Rehearsal [am]
- **5** Cross Country [Zones] - Postponement day
- **16** Period Project [Yrs 5/6]
Southland Sharks Visit [pm]
- **17** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **18** Period Project [Yrs 7/8]
Period Project [Parent / Daughters] 6.00pm
- **19** KIPRRR Day
PA Sausage Sizzle
- **22** Kate Ross - Nutrition with Rm 7
- **25** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **29/30** Life Education Bus
- **30** Dance Exams

JULY

- **1** Dance Exams
- **1/2** Life Education Bus
- **3** **Last day of Term 2**
- **20** **First day of Term 3**
- **21** **School Finishes at 2pm**
Parent / Teacher Interviews [2.15-7pm]
- **22** Circus Challenge Performance
Parent / Teacher Interviews [3.15-7pm]
- **27** Speech Exam [Yr 5]
- **28** Speech Exam [Yr 6]
Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **29** Speech Exam [Yr 7]

AUGUST

- **6** Speech Exam [Yrs 2/3]
- **7** Speech Exam [Yr 4]
- **10** Speech Exam [Yr 8]
- **13** Sing Out - Rehearsal [am]
- **20** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **24-28** Polyfest Week
- **24** **Staff Only Day [School closed]**

SEPTEMBER

- **2** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **9** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **16** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
Sing Out Technical Rehearsal [pm]
- **17** Sing Out Dress Rehearsal [am]
Sing Out Performance [7-8.30pm]
- **21-24** Book Fair
- **23** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
SMAC Maths
- Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm
- Yr 8 5.45-6.30pm
- **25** **Last day of Term 3**

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]**

NOVEMBER

- **10** Cultural Day
- **11** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **12** Christian Education Speeches
- **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 student
Prizegiving [First Church 1.30pm]
Leavers' Farewell [3.15pm School Hall]

PUSS IN GUMBOOTS

BY GREGORY COOPER



FROM YOUR
KAIARAHĪ

*Amelia B, Avery, Elise D, Danielle,
Emily, Rosie, Lydia, Simone*

NEW ZEALAND PLAYHOUSE

Our school was extremely lucky to have some very special guests visiting us on Thursday last week. The New Zealand Playhouse came to perform a fun play called "Puss in Gumboots".

Synopsis: Times are tough in the loveliest smallest rural town of all lovely small rural towns in Aotearoa. In fact the town is so small nobody quite knows where it is, but when people do accidentally drive through they can be heard to cry, "What a lovely small rural town, I wonder what it's called?", closely followed by, "I think we're lost, check Google Maps."

Old McDonald, the volunteer mayor, fireman, police chief, librarian, movie cinema usher, skate park supervisor and farmer is at his wits end. A mysterious representative from a mysterious company has been busy buying up all the local buildings on the main street and leaving them empty. It's got so bad that Old McDonald is in danger of being the last lovely resident of the loveliest smallest ghost town in Aotearoa.

Just when he's about to shut up shop and the farm for good a mysterious visitor arrives... a cat! But not just any cat, a walking, talking, tail tapping, feline with a beeline who also just happens to be wearing a pair of the most magical gumboots you have ever seen!

'Puss In Gumboots' needs to help Old McDonald save the loveliest smallest rural town in Aotearoa and put it back on the Google Map!

LYDIA

"I really enjoyed watching the performance, and my favourite part was their singing and their humour!"

AVA

"It was the funniest one I have ever seen. My favourite part was definitely the humour part of the play, and Puss in Gumboots."

ROSIE

"It was really cool, and I liked the Kiwi spin on Puss in Boots turned to Puss in Gumboots! I liked how they asked us what dance moves they should do".

The girls really enjoyed their performance. It was humorous and interactive!

We have included some reviews from our Year 7 girls.

SENIOR SPACE ORBITS

Will our skies ever look the same again? Throughout the last few weeks the girls in the senior syndicate have been orbiting around the different classrooms and becoming experts in the different areas of space. Our young scientists have brought incredible curiosity to these cosmic concepts. Be sure to ask your daughter to share their favorite discovery with you.

ROOM 5 - SUN POWER

In our recent unit on space: "Tātai Arorangi: Connecting Earth and Sky", our senior students have been investigating the fascinating relationship between the Earth and the Sun. Through activities such as shining a light on a globe, they have been exploring how Earth's daily rotation creates our cycles of day and night. They also have been examining how the Earth's tilted orbit around the Sun drives our changing weather and seasons throughout the year. We also had a look at Te Ao Māori and how myths and legends have shaped understanding about the sun.



ROOM 5

GALAXY OF IMAGINATION!

In relation to our Space Inquiry, Room 5 used air dry clay to create some cosmic creations. We learned about rolling, squashing and pinching techniques to build different parts. Our masterpieces show the level of creativity and fine motor skills that were used. The sky was the limit! They are on display in Room 5 if you have a moment to pop in. Here are some examples.!



ROOM 6 - HOW FAR?

Where do we fit into the grand cosmic scale? Our class has been answering this question as we explore our place in the universe! We have already learned so much about the planets in our solar system and have traced our cosmic address from our galaxy to the wider universe. We have also been tackling the mind-boggling distances of outer space to appreciate just how vast it is. The students have done a fantastic job navigating their space adventures so far!



Māori Battalions

INFORMATION REPORT

The men of the 28th Māori Battalion were very brave and courageous, and they hold a legendary reputation as one of New Zealand's finest fighting forces. 1600 Māori volunteered, and over 3,620 served in the 28th Battalion which suffered 649 deaths, but they all fought for our country. These Māori had a lot going on with pakeha and their own lives and jobs but they still chose to fight. These people were highly respected by their rivals, particularly German Field leader who said 'give me a couple māori battalions and I will conquer the world'.

Sir Āpirana Ngata son did not agree with his decision he said there was a lack of specific tangible benefits for Māori following World War 2. I think his son believed after the results of World War 2 and all the deaths it wasn't that easy and there should've been more research in saying that.

1. Victoria Moananui - a - kiwa Ngarimu was injured twice during the several night time counter-attacks.
2. Moana was awarded Britain's highest military honour for valour: the Victoria Cross.
3. He was ultimately killed on the morning of the 27th of March 1943.

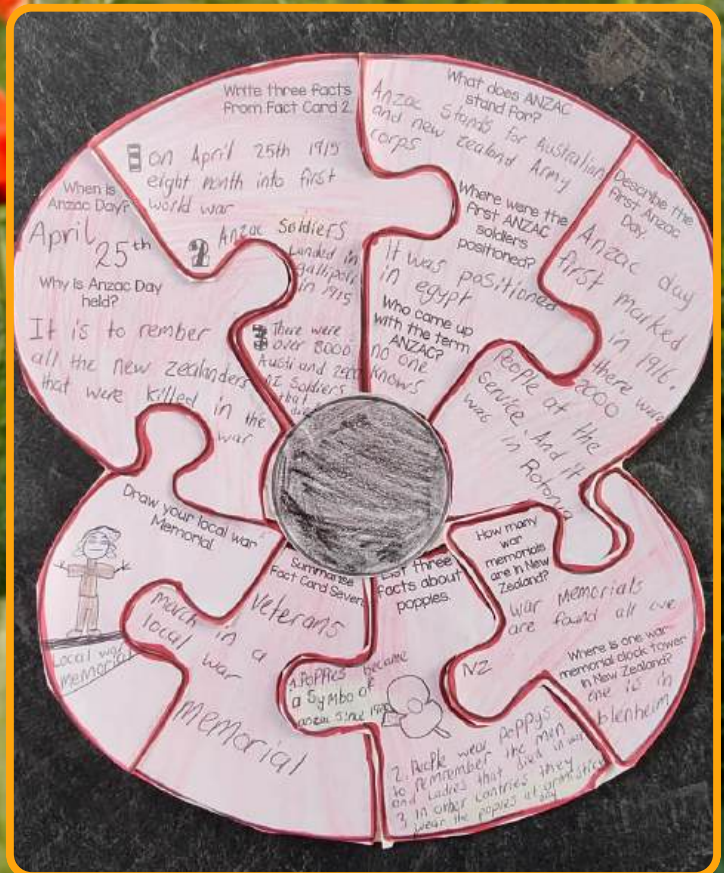
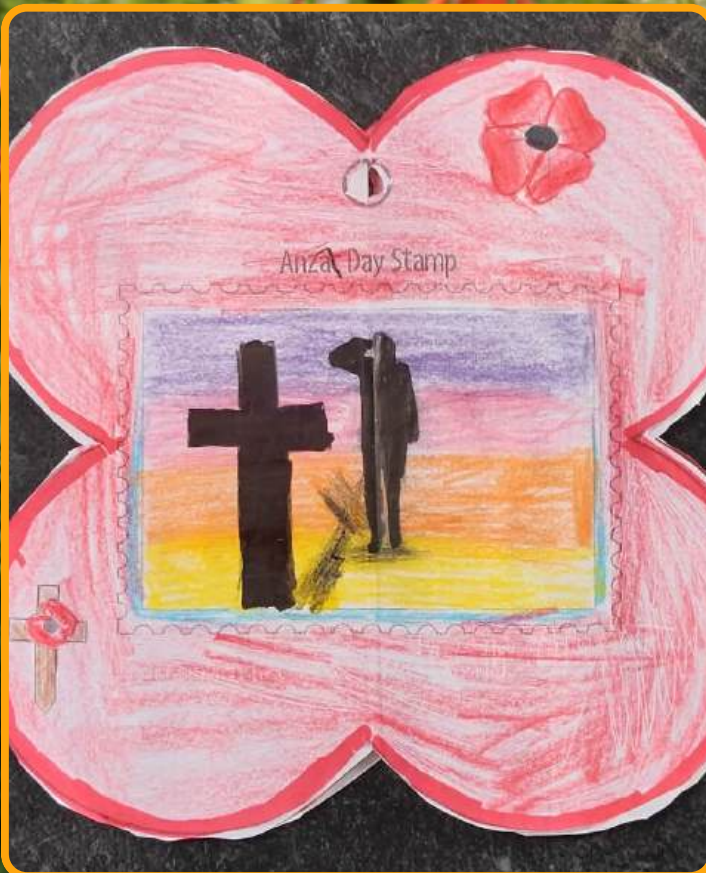
I don't think enough is known about māori efforts in the First and Second World Wars, I think it is very underrated what they did and fought for because I am only learning most of this now and I had no idea how legendary they were and I really think it should be more known.

THE 28TH MĀORI BATTALIONS



ROOM 6 - ANZAC

In commemoration of ANZAC Day, the girls recently dived into a meaningful exploration of our history and the incredible sacrifices made during WWI and WWII. To honour this important time, students were given the freedom to choose their own activities and challenge levels, allowing them to lead their own learning. Through their research, they uncovered an incredible wealth of facts and information about the ANZACs, gaining a much deeper understanding of their participation and legacy. It was inspiring to see the respect, dedication, and creativity the girls brought to their chosen projects!



RM 7 SPACE



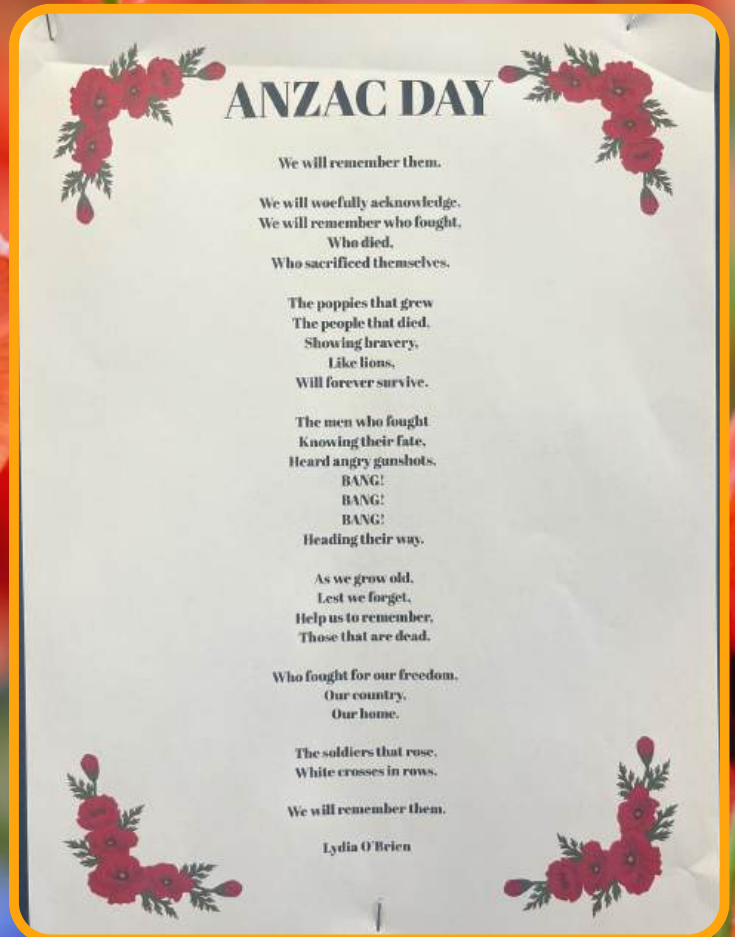
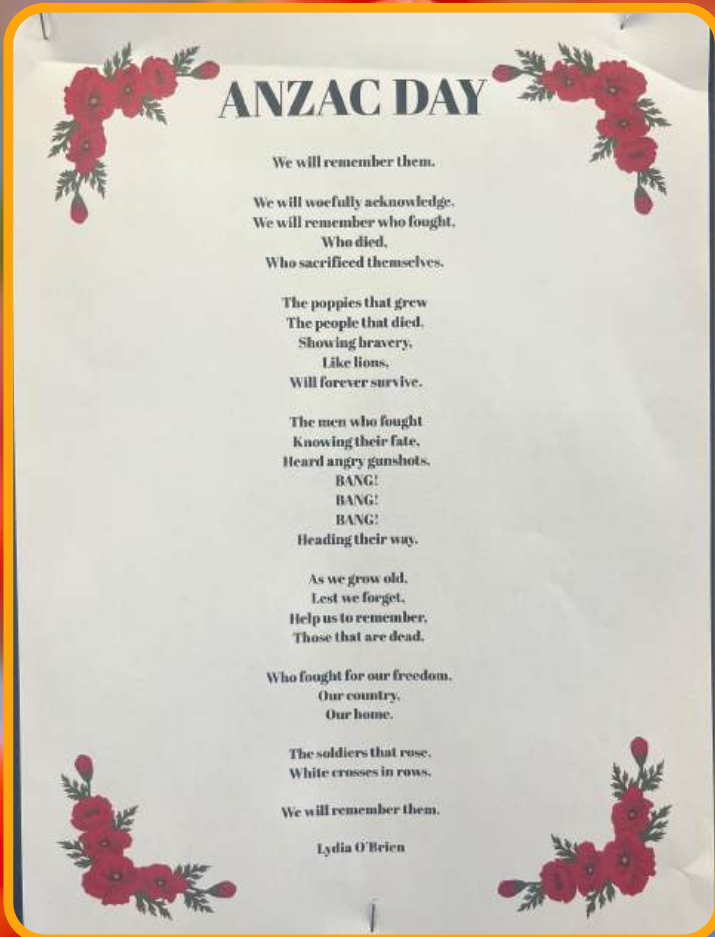
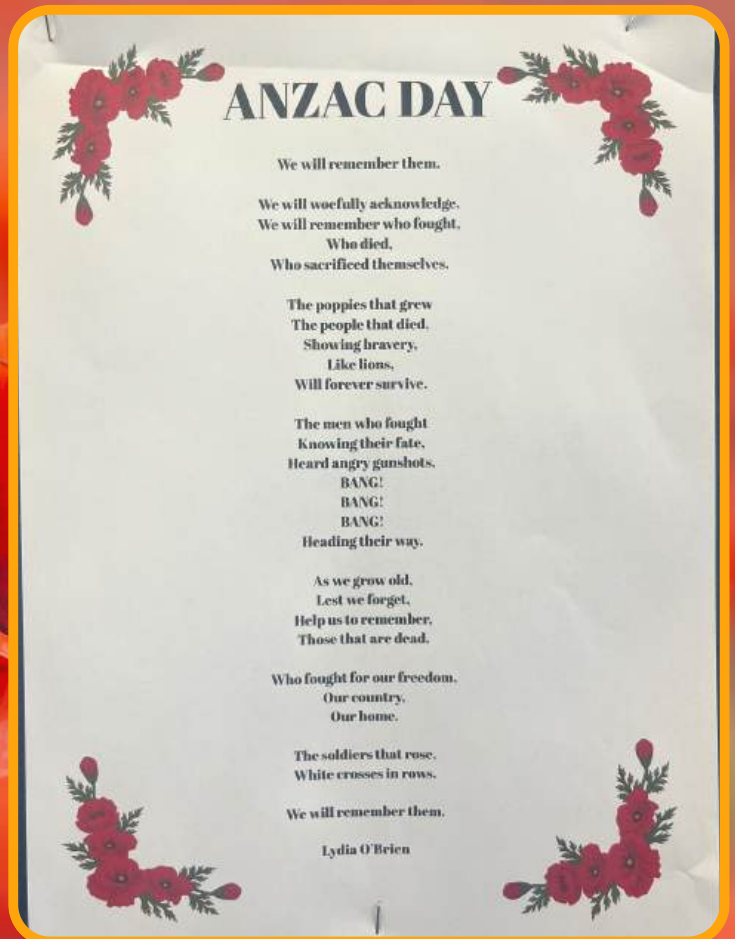
EXPLORING THE MOON

The girls have been busy exploring the wonders of lunar science! They've been learning all about moon phases and made the fascinating discovery that the moon actually looks "upside down" in the Northern Hemisphere compared to the Southern Hemisphere because of the angle we view it from. The classes also investigated how the moon's gravitational pull creates our ocean's tides.

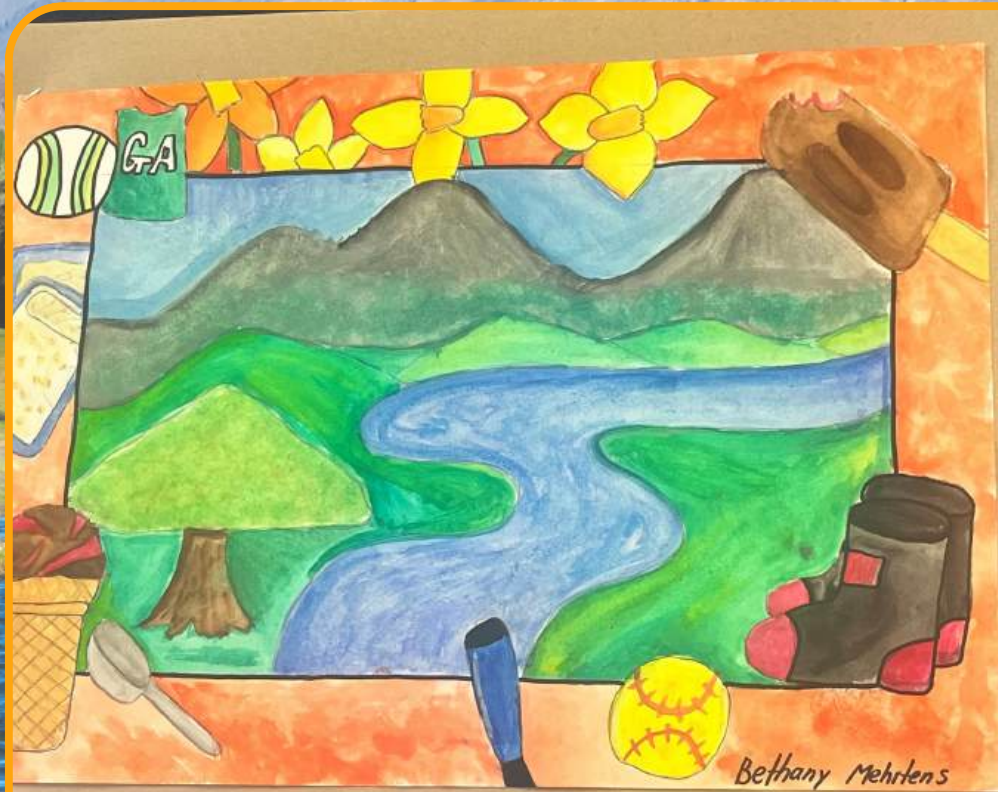


RM 7 ANZAC

Room 7 has been a hive of activity over the past few weeks. The girls are working hard, they are engaged and we certainly are having fun! In the classroom we have been learning about ANZAC Day and New Zealand's role in the war, inquiring about space, continuing our mathematical learning about number, shape and angles, writing descriptive poetry and using watercolour to represent our pepeha. We sure have been busy! This doesn't include the fun happening outside the classroom; school swimming, netball and cross country. If you have tired girls, this might be why! Check out some of our wonderful mahi.

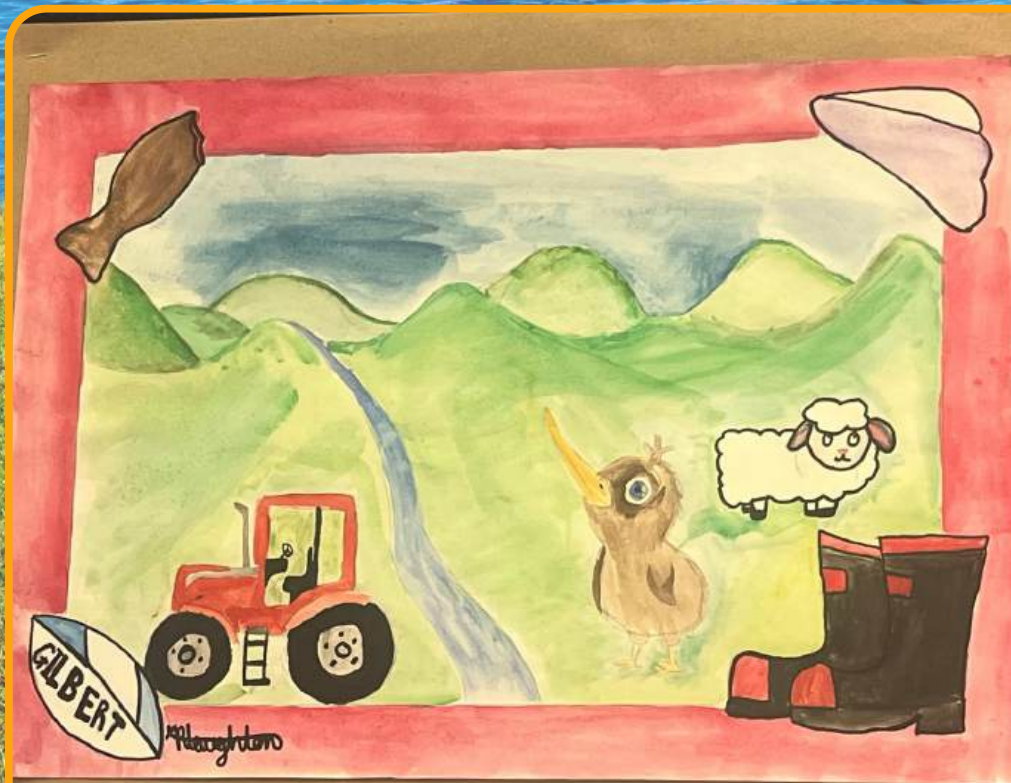


RM 7 - PEPEHA



PEPEHA OF BETHANY

TENA KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU, TENA
KOUTOU, KATOA
KO TAKITIMU TE MAUNGA
KO ORETI TE AWA
KO KOTIRANA TOKU IWI
KO MEHRTENS TOKU WHANAU
KO WILLIAM TOKU PAPA
KO EMMA TOKU MAMA
KO MELILAH TOKU TUAKANA
KO HENRY, EDWIN TOKU TUNGANE
KO BEATRIX, PHOEBE TOKU TEINA
KO TE KURA KOTIRO O HATO HOANI
TO TOKU KURA
NO PAHIA AHAU
KO BETHANY TOKU INGOA
NO REIRA, TENA KOUTOU, TENA
KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU, KATOA



PEPEHA

TENĀ KOUTOU, TENĀ
KOUTOU, TENĀ TĀTOU,
KATOA
KO ADRANGI TE MAUNGA.
KO OREITI TE AWA.
KO OTEWAO TE PUKE.
KO KOTIRANA TOKU IWI.
KO LAUGHTON TOKU
WHANUA.
KO GREGOR TOKU MATUA.
KO PAULA TOKU WHAEA.
KO ZOE TOKU TUAKANA.
KO TE KURA KOTIRO O HATO
HOANI TO TOKU KURA.
NO PUNAPUNA AHAU.
KO ROSIE TOKU INGOA.
NO REIRA, TENĀ KOUTOU,
TENĀ KOUTOU, TENĀ TĀTOU,
KATOA.

ROSIE LAUGHTON



Averys Pepeha

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena
koutou katoa.
Ko Takitemu te Maunga
Ko Oreti te awa

Ko Scotland toku iwi

Ko Botting toku whanau
Ko Bevan toku matua
Ko Amanda whaea
Ko Archer Tuakana
Ko Quinn Tuahena

Ko Te Kura Kotiro o Hato Hoani
Toku Kura
No Otatara ahau
Ko Avery toku Ingoa
No reira, tena koutou, tena
koutou, tena tatou, katoa.



PEPEHA

TENA KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU, TENA
TATOU, KATOA.
KO WHAKATIMU TE MAUNGA.
KO ORETI TE AWA.

KO O'BRIEN TOKU WHANAU.
KO PRENTICE TOKU MATUA.
KO CLAIRE TOKU WHAEA.
KO TIMOTHY RAWA HARRISON
OLIVER WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER OKU
TUNGANE.
KO PHILIPPA TOKU TEINA.

KO TE KURA KOTIRO O HATO HOANI
TO TAKU KURA.
NO OTATARA AHAU.
KO LYDIA TOKU INGOA.
NO REIRA, TENA KOUTOU, TENA
KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU, KATOA.

ROOM 8 EPIC STAR POWER

We took a deep dive into the cosmos this week, and the energy was electric! Girls transformed into real-life astronomers as we uncovered why stars twinkle [spoiler alert: it's actually our own wild atmosphere playing tricks on us] and tracked the wild journey of stars from cosmic nurseries to spectacular supernovas.



ROOM 8

HAIKUS ABOUT SPACE



Vast black velvety sky
Stars litter the dense blackness
The unexplored and lost

Greer

A transcendent void
Universal lights speckle
Burning sparks of hope

Maya

Stellar nursery
Moving towards the lights
Ending in a boom!

Emily B

A vacuum of time
The galaxy, a lone place
Filled with unknown life

Indi

Matariki stars
Nine sister stars shine brightly
Calling the new year

Willow

Endless void of black
Punctuated by planets
Fierce and fiery

Bailey

Colours of rainbows
Paint splattered across the sky
Fiercely moving clouds

Peyton

Voids of endless space
Planets spin around the sun
Time drifting away...

Briar M

WILDFLOWER ART

Mrs Dawkins shared some wonderful wildflower art inspiration in which the girls got to paint their own version.





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



8th August 2026

12-3 pm

**Taking People of all ages with Special Needs
Or Life long Medical Conditions
For a ride in a Big Rig, Classic Car or Hot Rod**



**VENUE: Southern Field Days Site,
Waimumu**



Food and Drink provided on the day by
Rapid Relief Team,
Mad Cow Coffee and Bees Bites



**Anyone wanting to Volunteer their Time, Truck or Car to help out on the day
please contact Dianne 027 7732700 or Ian on 0204 335500
Check out our Facebook Page : Southland Hug a Rig Day**



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!

SOUTHLAND SAFEZONE Magazine

ka tango i tetahi kainga ki te whakatipu tamaiti

Magazine



Dear Parents, whanau & caregivers

We're excited to share our FREE online SAFETY magazine with you.

The publication is aimed at primary aged tamariki and their parents.

We thank Safekids Aotearoa (Starship Digital and Community Engagement) for the editorial.

Our shared vision is that every very child in Southland and Aotearoa New Zealand enjoys a childhood free from traumatic, unintentional injury.

For FREE ACCESS just scan the below QR CODE (This is for mobile devices)



To access magazine on your PC go to <https://communitysafety.co.nz/magazine.php?m=288>

INVERCARGILL CENTRAL PRESENTS

SILENT DISCO

A Dance Party in your head!

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

SESSION ONE - 11:00AM TO 1:00PM

SESSION TWO - 2:00PM TO 4:00PM

**JOIN US ON
LEVEL 1**

hello@invercargillcentral.nz