

NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School 6 November 2026



Greetings from the Principal

Talofa lava, Mālō le soifua

It has been another busy fortnight at our kura. I spoke to the girls last week about all the events coming up over the next six weeks: Greats and Grands, familiarisation day, high school new entrant morning, Christian Education speeches, and dance sharing - just to name a few! There is still plenty of busyness ahead, but plenty of excitement too. The end of the year will be on us before we know it!

The Learner First

This week, three of our classroom teachers attended the latest school workshop with The Learner First hosted by Windsor North School. A key component of this day was observing model lessons taught in various classrooms across the school. This was a practical way for our teaching staff to see the curriculum in action and support high-quality, relevant teacher professional development across our cluster group. Staff who attend these workshops will share learning back in staff meetings over the next few weeks.

Greats and Grands

There is a buzz of excitement in the Junior Syndicate as they prepare for Greats & Grands, which is taking place on Thursday, 19 November. This is such a special tradition in our school and is something our whānau look forward to every year.

Whakatauki - Māori Proverb

Tūwhitia te hopo, mairangatia te angitū!

Cast out fear, elevate success!

SchoolDocs

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.

Our School Board has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

The SchoolDocs platform has had an upgrade and the interface is easier to use. Further information about how to access SchoolDocs is on our school website.



Punctuality

We have noticed an increasing number of girls arriving late to school recently, and we need your support in establishing a strong morning routine. When students arrive late, they miss vital daily messages and lose the time needed to unpack and get organised before assembly. To set your daughter up for a calm, successful day of learning, we strongly recommend dropping her off by 8:30am [students are allowed on site from 8:20am]. As a reminder for the afternoon, back gate duty on Avenal Street finishes promptly at 3:10pm, after which remaining students are brought to After School Care in the library.

If your daughter arrives late to school, she must report to the school office before coming to assembly. Bus girls do not need to check in at the office.



Values Cup Recipient



Eloise Smith
Room 6

Assessment

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

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

Your daughter's report will be emailed to you at the end of the term, and uploaded to the school.kiwi portal.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Ngā manaakitanga

HMBradshaw

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- ***10*** Cultural Day
- ***11*** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- ***12*** Christian Education Speeches
  School Board Meeting [5.45pm]
- ***13*** High School New Entrant Day
  Earthquake Simulator
- ***14-15*** William Pike - Overnight Dolamore Park
- ***19*** Greats & Grands [am]
  Year 7/8 Adventure Race
- ***20*** Dance Sharing [2.00pm]
- ***24*** Familiarisation 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]
- ***3*** Pack the Bus
- ***4*** Tabloids [1-3pm]
- ***7*** Tabloids [postponement day]
  Principal's Big Day In [Yr 8]
- ***9*** Junior Syndicate Christmas Rotation [am]
  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	Lola Devlin, Jasmine McEwan, Marnie Hughes, Maddi Barclay
ROOM 2	Cambrie PortiaJames Carman-Oneroa, Isabelle Miskimmin, Kate McEwan, Gussie Affleck
ROOM 3	Isla Dackers, Eva Welsh, Lexie Dwyer, Charlotte Dore
ROOM 5	Eleanor Anstice-Shirley, Emily Sewpersad, Penny Sloan, Ivy Manera
ROOM 6	Mia Hitchcock, Eloise Smith, Mckenzie Brown, Kyla Howden
ROOM 7	Simone Paganelli, Amelia Bosma, Lexie Nicholl, Bethany Mehrtens
ROOM 8	Samantha Parry, Briar McKenzie, Willow Murray, Evie Erskine, Emily Bulling

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD	Rm 1	Mackenna North
	Rm 5	Amelia Maxwell
	Rm 6	Eloise Smith
VALUES CUP	Rm 6	Eloise Smith



Come and work at our amazing school!

Be part of a supportive, friendly community where you can make a real difference every day.

School Caretaker wanted!

We are looking for a reliable, practical and enthusiastic person to join our team from **January 2027.**

15 hours per week

7.30am – 10.30am

Term time only

You'll be helping to keep our school safe, welcoming and running smoothly.

Tasks include:

- Opening and securing buildings
- Minor repairs and general maintenance
- Health and safety checks
- Setting up rooms and equipment for school activities
- Looking after school grounds and facilities
- Managing rubbish and recycling
- Liaising with contractors when required
- Identifying and reporting maintenance issues

No lawn mowing required!



If you enjoy being part of a school community and take pride in keeping things in great shape, we'd love to hear from you!

All enquiries to:

Holly Bradshaw, Principal

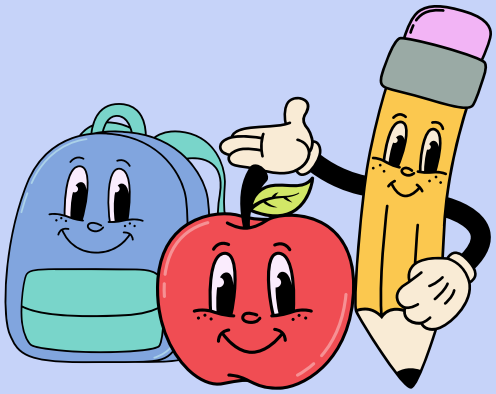
principal@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

218 7759

Together we make a brighter tomorrow

SAINT JOHN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL | DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA

SJGS Parents' Association



Term 4 Meeting

Welcome to Term 4

Term 3 was a busy term with the Arts Extravaganza and the Sausage Sizzle and Chill. A big thank you to all the volunteers who assisted at the Arts Extravaganza evening and a special mention to Blair and Brooke McKenzie for their generosity in donating the meat for the evening.

'Raffle 2026' has been another great success and we have had an overwhelming response. We hope to announce the winners next week once all books and money are sorted. Without your continued support the Parents' Association would not be able to provide the girls with new and exciting resources.

Term 4 sees the Parents' Association helping with the Greats and Grands morning tea as well as the annual Familiarisation Day. We look forward to connecting with the new families coming into the school in 2027.

At our final meeting of 2026 the Parents' Association approved a $5,000 donation to the school to assist with the cost of new furniture for Rooms 1 and 3.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support with all our fundraising. I know the teachers and girls truly appreciate all of the resources that we are able to financially support.

The Parents' Association want to wish you all a safe break and look forward to what 2027 has to offer.

Term 1 meeting will be 7th February 2027 @ 7pm.

Thank you again for your continued support, regards Shae [Chairperson of SJGS Parents' Association]

Fundraising Term 4

- Precious Labels (on-going)
- Raffle 2026 - closing 6th November
- Spud in the Bucket competition



Sausage Sizzle $2
and
Ice blocks $1

6th November
&
27th November

Keep a look out on Skool Loop for ordering.

SPUD 'N' BUCKET

Our 'Spud 'n' Bucket' fundraiser will commence Friday 20th November.

Grow over the summer and we will have a big reveral at family fun night in February 2027.

Place your order with your teacher from Monday 16th November until Wednesday 18th November.

There is no limit to how many you purchase. $5 covers one bucket and a seed potato. Buckets will be in the colour of your house.

All proceeds from the sales will be used towards school camps in 2027 for Years 5,6,7 & 8.

A big thank you to Nichol's Garden Centre and Diacks Nursery for generously donating the seed potatoes to us.

Care Committee

St John's Girls' School Care Committee is an important part of our school community. The group provides support for families during tough times.

We would like to say a special thank you to all the families that provide assistance on request during 2026.

Keep a look out for Care Committee information in Term 1 of 2027

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FIRST MEETING FOR 2027

9th February @ 7pm

SJGS staff room. New members welcome.



FROM YOUR KAIARAHI

SENIOR TECH

PIZZA AND KNIFE SKILLS

In Pizza and Knife skills the girls are learning to do some basic safety while cooking and how to make a pizza throughout two weeks. The first week the girls learn how to knead dough properly and some basic safety skills while in the kitchen. The girls also planned out their dream pizzas to make the next week. Week two the girls started to make and build their pizzas from scratch while also taste testing.



WHAT WE ARE DOING

Term 4 has been incredibly busy doing Technology Rotations on Friday afternoons. We have *Sewing* with Mrs Stewart, *Pizza and Knife Skills* with Miss Coatsworth, *Wood Technology* with Miss Woods and *Kitchen Science* with Miss McSoriely.

KITCHEN SCIENCE



In Kitchen Science the seniors have been learning about how yeast reacts to hot and cold environments and have learnt how yeast helps bread rise.

During the first week all classes from Years 5-8 make their own bread with jam and butter. In the second week we make microwaveable hokey pokey, which tastes amazing if you haven't had it before.

WOOD TECHNOLOGY

In Wood Technology the girls have been making and designing wooden toys/display items like robots and animals. They paint them with cool designs. The girls have done a great job and they are all unique and different for the people who make them. The girls are very happy with their end result, and happy to show their whānau.



SEWING TECHNOLOGY

In Sewing Technology the girls have learned to hand sew some patch work pillows through their two weeks. In week one they get to pick their fabrics and start sewing. In week two they start to finish their pillows and they start to come all together with all their unique designs. By the end of the lessons they are very proud and happy with their creations.





Yr 7 Kaiarahi

Elise, Danielle, & Rosie

Room 1

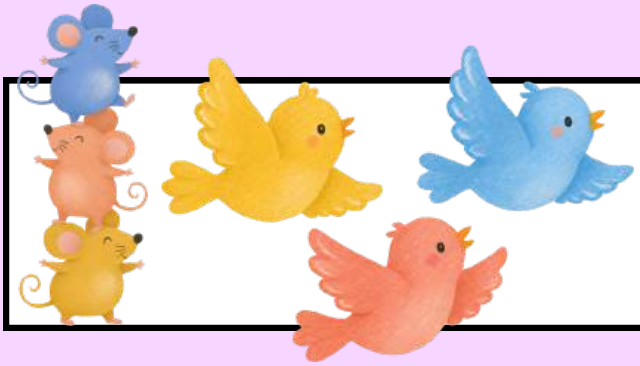


Grumpy Bear

Room 1 have had great fun acting out the book 'Grumpy Bear'. The costume used to fit Rosie [now Year 7] and she was pleased to see it in use again.

We are taking it in turns to play Grumpy Bear and the girls have written about the book.





Mackenna wrote:

At school we read a book called Grumpy Bear. Grumpy Bear was tired in his cave. Along came birds. Grumpy Bear said "I can't sleep" and along came mice.

Ivy wrote:

Yesterday Jasmine was the Grumpy Bear. She was very grumpy. She was so, so funny. My favourite part was when I chased Grumpy Bear. I was the bee.



Quinn wrote:

Grumpy Bear was in his cave. My favourite bit was when the bees were chasing him.



Inquiry

Our Inquiry this term is all about changes of states - solid, liquid and gas. We are learning about this through Kitchen Science. We made bread and butter. We had great fun shaking the cream in the jars to watch the changes, and then we had even more fun seeing how much butter we could spread on the bread!









Wet Days

Wet play times are fun in Room 1 and Freya was dressed to go shopping! It is always lovely to be a part of their imagination and see their characters shine!



Room 2

Term 4 already! Mrs Bradshaw kindly informed us the other day that it was only 7 Mondays until Christmas!!

It is a busy term but some very fun things to look forward to like Greats and Grands day and our rest home visit. We are also busy practising for our Christmas service and preparations are happening for our Christmas rotation.









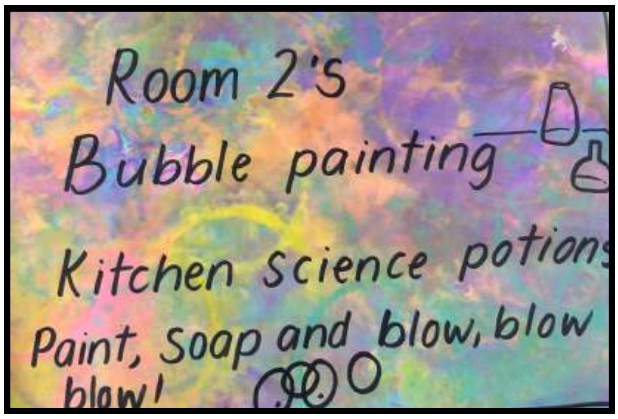
Bug Hotel

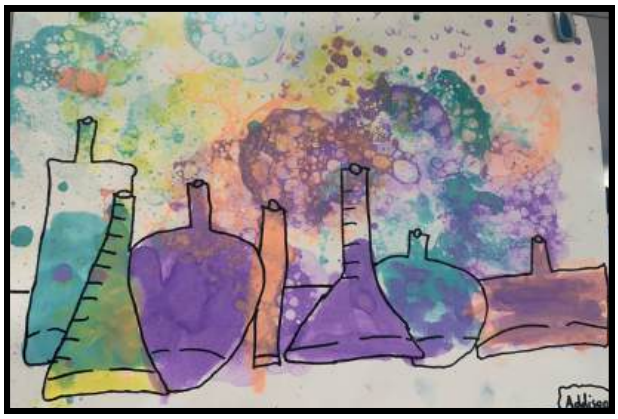
On the last week of last term we finished our bug hotel! We had been learning all about bugs and where they live and what they need to survive. We decided we needed to help bugs to survive at St John's so we built their very own habitat here at school. Doesn't it look great?

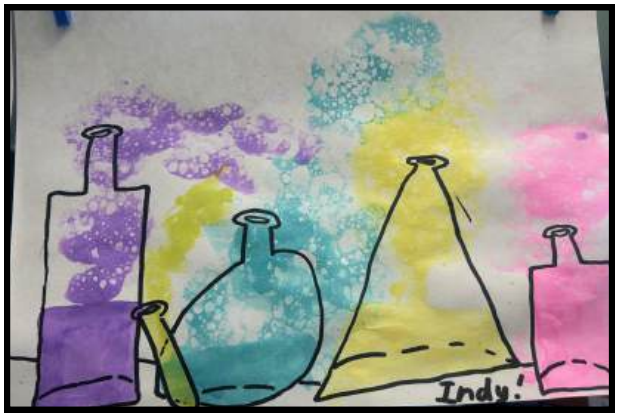
Inquiry - Kitchen Science

We are loving being scientists this term when exploring our Kitchen Science unit.

We have created some amazing art work using water colours and dishwashing liquid. We blew into this mixture and made bubbles.









Oobleck

We made Oobleck and got to play with it. This shows how something can turn quickly from a solid to a liquid and then back to a solid.





Persuasive Writing

We have been writing to persuade. We were trying to presuade Mrs Bradshaw that we should be Principal for a day. Here are some of our stories.

In the world, there are no children that are principals!

I think a child should be the principal for a day.

I strongly believe that kids know what other kids want to play in the playground. So I would ask the students what they wanted to play.

I am certain that if a wise kid was principal it would make school more fun because some grownups say no to fun things and yes to boring things and I find that ridiculous.

I think that if a child was principal it would teach great leadership skills. When we are in room 8 we might want to be a house captain. If a student was principal for the day then we would already have experience of being a leader.

I think a student should be the principal for a day. If I was the principal for the day, it would officially be the best day in the history of the world!!!

By Olive

Have you ever stopped to wonder why kids have never been able to be the principal?

I think children should be able to be a principal for a day.

I strongly believe that children know children best because they would know what they want to play with in the playground...like Busted.

I am certain that it teaches great leadership skills because one day I might like to become a house captain. When I am a house captain I will already know how to be a great leader.

In my personal opinion it would be great because teachers would get a helper and principals would get to go into another classroom and do something more fun.

That is why I think children should be able to be the principal.

By Isabelle



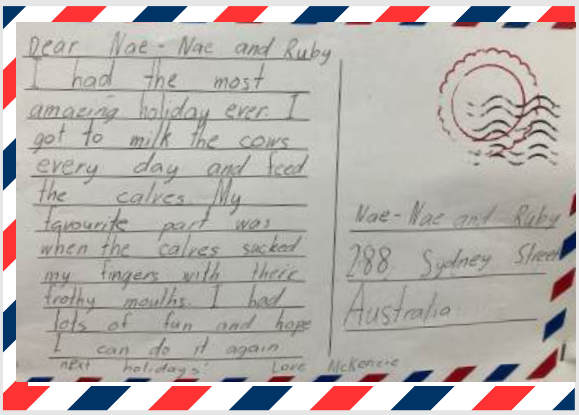
New Tables and Chairs!!

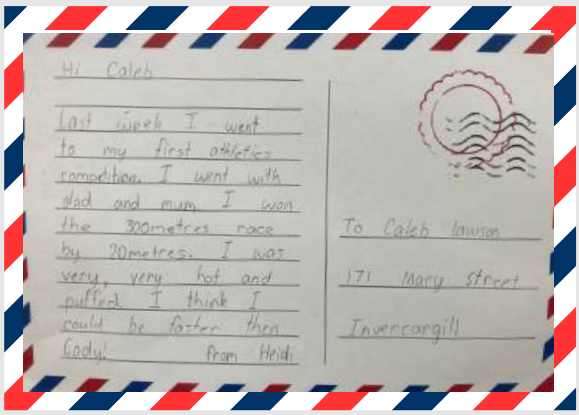
Thanks to the Parents' Association for your very generous donation of new tables and chairs for Room 2! We love our new tables. We think they brighten our room up and have given us more space!

Room 3

Holiday Activities

WOW! We are only in Week 4, but we have managed to achieve so much already! This term we chose to write a postcard to a family member or friend telling them about a favourite snippet of their holiday activities.





Art

These artworks were inspired by our inquiry 'Creepy Crawlies'. We looked closely at the beautiful gardens in our school and draw what we would find if we looked up closely.









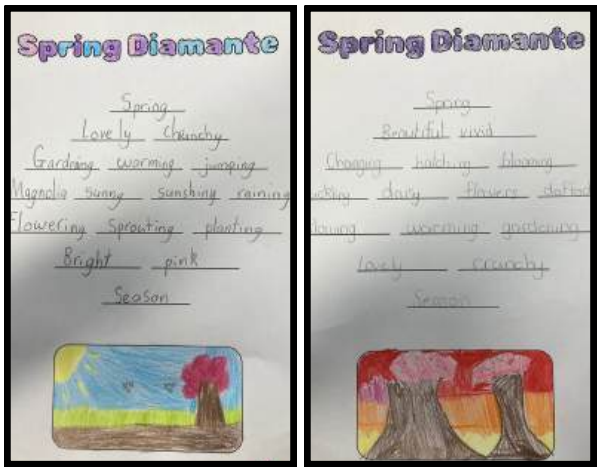
Springtime



Springtime has sprung in Room 3! We completed pencil drawings of daffodils, looking at their shape, design and features. We then carefully drew our final designs and dyed them to create these gorgeous pieces of daffodil art.

We have also written Spring Diamante poems. These follow a set structure of using nouns, verbs and adjectives that best describe springtime. See below for a couple of examples written by Georgia and Claudia.





Science

For Science this term we are looking at States of Matter and learning about solids, liquids and gases. We are enjoying being scientists and predicting, investigating, experimenting and learning about changes we can make to solids, liquids and gases.



YOUNG STARS NZ

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

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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 (2 Adults + Up to 3 Children)	$20.00

Eftpos Available for Entry



Outdoor Train Rides only $2!

Spaces available

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

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