

# St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

## Newsletter – 17 August 2018

### Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all.

#### Welcome

A warm welcome to Emily Bulling-Clearwater and Peyton Cornish who started school on Monday.

#### School Targets

This year our targets are:

- the improved use of punctuation in written language
- extending the vocabulary used when writing
- maintaining the great progress we made in mathematics last year and
- our Maori girls achieving well in relation to expectations (which they are) and experiencing a sense of belonging and the opportunity to succeed as Maori.

We appreciate any help you can give at home to reinforce any of these targets. The best way to get girls to improve their punctuation and the words they use, is to tell them it is a courtesy to the reader, as it is! Having accurate punctuation makes it easier for the reader to read the piece and having great vocabulary helps the reader to enjoy the piece and to create a visual picture in their head.

If you are the parents of a child who identifies as Maori, what does 'success as Maori' mean to you? I would like to hear your thoughts.

Please email me – [bmackay@stjohnsgirls.school.nz](mailto:bmackay@stjohnsgirls.school.nz).

#### Education Review Report

Some quotes from the recent ERO report.

"The school is achieving excellent outcomes and making significant progress towards achieving equity for all of its students.

Over the last three years most students have achieved at or above the school's expectations in all learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum. The proportion of students achieving at or above expectations has been 92% for reading over the three years, and rose to 90% for mathematics in 2017. Māori students achieve at similar or better levels to their non-Māori peers.

Students experience a range of rich learning opportunities. Leaders and teachers have established a carefully-considered balance for students to develop skills, attitudes and competencies to be life-long learners. The school values are known by all students and are highly evident around the school and in classrooms. The girls learn within all learning areas, often with specialist teachers. They are well supported to be actively involved in the learning process.

Students' learning, wellbeing, achievement and progress is the board's core focus.

Gilmour House accommodates 13 students, 10% of the school roll. There are positive relationships between students and boarding staff, and these are supported by clear routines and expectations for all. Girls at Gilmour House are well cared for and supported with their school learning."

**Congratulations to** Maddison Booth and Kobi Harpur who have made it to Round 2 of the Venture Southland speech competition. Well done to everyone who entered the school competition.

#### School Gym Festival—Friday 24th August

You are welcome to attend this event, seniors in the morning, juniors in the afternoon. The girls rotate around a series of activities in the hall, being scored for each one.

Have a lovely weekend.

Nga mihi nui (Kind regards)  
Brenda Mackay

### Term 3

#### August

20th BOT meeting 5.30pm  
21st Mufti Day  
24th Gym Festival Seniors am Juniors pm  
28th Polyfest 1pm  
BOP meeting 7pm  
30th Disco  
31st Father/Daughter netball

#### September

3rd HPV vaccinations Y8  
6th Room 4 Speech Exams  
13th Christian Education Speeches 1pm  
20th Parents' Association Art Exhibition & social event  
24th BOT meeting 5.30pm  
25/26th Dance Exams  
28th Last Day Term 3

#### October

15th First Day Term 4

**Congratulations** to the following girls who received awards recently—

Room 1	Alyssa Hamilton
Room 2	Amelia Frew, Amelia Reijnen
Room 3	Camyrn Shepherd, Lily Hillman
Room 4	Meah Somerville, Sienna Macpherson
Room 5	Olivia Corson, Ella Watt
Room 6	Asha Dickson, Madison Butler
Room 7	Meila Winsloe-Veil, Louella Mirrielees-Huxtable,

Values Cup:

10 August Sofia Campbell-Wall Rm 3

Due to Yrs 5-8 being on the ski trip, today's awards will be presented on Monday.

### Enrolments

We have a lot of prospective St John's families visiting the school. If you know that your circumstances are changing and your daughter will not be here, or may not be here, in 2019, please let me know asap so that I may allocate the space to someone else. We never like to see 'our' girls leave but realise that things change and we will support your decision. This is particularly important if your daughter is a current Year 6 girl as we have many enrolments at the Year 7 level which I cannot accept until I know what spaces are available.

Brenda Mackay



Junior girls practising for the Gym Festival.



## ROOM 4—Years 4 & 5—Miss Smillie



What a busy start to Term 3 we have had. We completed our technology sewing unit and made bookmarks out of felt. We learnt how to hand sew using the running stitch, blanket stitch, over-stitch and back-stitch. Turns out we have some talented young seamstresses in our class. Sofia was so inspired, she designed and sewed her own dress at home. Watch out Trelise Cooper!

We are well into our new AVAILL reading programme and the girls are completely engaged. The girls read the subtitles from DVDs and participate in reading activities based on what they read. I think our favourite so far is 'Earth - The Power of the Planet' documentary where we learnt about volcanoes and oceans. Mind-blowing stuff.



Speech exams are creeping up very fast for Room 4. The girls are busy finishing off their speech boards and practising their speeches for the big day.

We are busy little artists preparing our art for our exhibition at the end of the term. Sorry, no sneak peek photos! All will be revealed on opening night.

## ROOM 6—Year 7—Mrs Hawke

Wow it is hard to believe we are in Week 4 of Term 3 already. The girls have been cooking up a storm in Food Technology this term. They have made savoury and sultana scones, apple crumble and custard, tomato soup and pastry twists and sausage rolls. Their cooking skills, following a recipe and clean up routines are certainly improving as time progresses. Hopefully the girls will cook for you at home now and you will see some of these fabulous culinary skills.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kobi Harpur, Lilyana Ultee, Ella Erskine, Ivy Turner, Lindsay Black and Sara Reynolds on taking part in the St John's Speech competition this week. They all spoke beautifully and presented their speeches with great confidence. There were a variety of topics presented which both educated and entertained the audience. Kobi Harpur was selected to go through to the next round to compete against some other schools. Well done girls! Good luck Kobi.

In literacy, we have been studying a number of fairy tales in writing and analysing their characters, plots, settings, conflicts and resolutions. We have nearly finished writing some of our group fractured fairy tales where we make a modern twist on a traditional fairy tale.

Room 6 have thoroughly enjoying the track cycling on Monday afternoons at the Southland Velodrome. The girls have challenged themselves and have worked hard to overcome fears. Some of the girls are particularly proud of their progress. Majority of the girls were very nervous about taking part in this sport and had to step outside of their comfort zones. We are now looking forward to our next sport option – wheelchair basketball. The Gymnastics Festival and Polyfest performance are approaching fast. The girls have been practising for their gymnastics and we are looking forward to show case their talents on Friday morning. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend and support the girls.







At the start of term Molly joined us in Room 7. She has fitted in so quickly, it feels she has always been a part of the class.

We have been busy becoming scientists. We now know the difference between an atom and a molecule, and a compound and a mixture. Following the “Scientific Method” we are carrying out a series of experiments. Our first experiments have involved different ways to separate mixtures. Mrs Taylor “accidentally” dropped her salt and pepper on the floor and it got mixed up. We tried to use static electricity to lift the pepper. This wasn’t too successful so we added water and filtered the mixture. The pepper stayed in the filter while the salt solution passed through. We had to evaporate the solution to get the salt back. We weren’t convinced we would want to use either the salt or pepper after all this. It didn’t look the same as it had originally. The suggestion was made that perhaps we could use it mixed together anyway! Next we used chromatography to discover what colours are really used to decorate M & Ms. It was quite a surprise to discover how the different colours appear as the salt solution travelled up the blotting paper. We are looking forward to learning more through our experiments.

This term we have enjoyed “read-watching” two films, ‘The Water Horse’ and ‘Earth: The Power of the Planet’. AVAILL is a daily programme that replaces the normal instructional reading programme. This is an exciting and unique approach to teaching literacy skills where we watch engaging films with the subtitle feature turned on supported by activities to develop vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and spelling. We are about to start our last film, ‘Horton Hears a Who’.

We are reaching the climax of our narrative writing. We have been exploring different ways to include figurative writing features in our stories. Here are some of our examples:

*“The heavy hippo hopped over the river.” (alliteration)*

*“I am in the moment as the summer sun swallows me with its hot rays.” (personification)*

*“The waterfall was as clear as crystal.” (simile)*

*“The spooky house squeaked in the wind.” (onomatopoeia)*

Working together in small writing groups we have created and developed shared stories. Now we are working independently on our own ideas. A Google add-on, called WriQ has been a new way to edit the surface features in our work. It is much quicker than waiting for our work to be looked at by the teacher. Although we do need to work out what the problem is. This challenge is no bad thing as it makes us think for ourselves.

In other areas we are busy working towards gym festival next week and dance exams at the end of the term.

# SPORTS NEWS

## MINIBALL

I am pleased to advise we have entered a Year 3/4 and a Year 5/6 girls team in the Tuesday competition starting on the 28<sup>th</sup> August. There is still one space available in the Year 5/6 team so if your daughter is keen to join, please let me know ASAP. Many thanks to Mr Shaun Cook who is coaching the Year 3/4 team and Mrs Rebecca Agnew who will be coaching the Year 5/6 team each week.



## NETBALL

Good luck to St John's Steel (Secondary School Grade 3), St John's Magic (Grade 2) and St John's Tactix (Grade 4) who are playing in the semi-finals tomorrow. Well done teams!



## HOCKEY

Our Year 1/2 St John's Bluesticks in action recently



## TOUCH RUGBY

Registrations are now open for Term 4 Invercargill Cobb & Co touch rugby. Please register your daughter through our school website 'After School Sport' > 'Term 4' or via the SPORTY app. The Primary School competition is held on Wednesdays and the Junior High competition is held on Thursdays. Please see the registration form for more details.



## WATERPOLO

Junior Water Polo Year 1-3 and Year 4-6 competitions will commence again in Term 3, starting 7<sup>th</sup> September (Week 7), followed by 14<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> September. In Term 4 all school grade games (primary and secondary) will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> November. The 23<sup>rd</sup> November will be the finals night for all grades.



## PHOTOS

If anyone has taken any photos of our after school sports teams in action, please feel free to email them through to me as it would be nice to put some in the sports section of the newsletter when space is available.  
[sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz](mailto:sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz)

## REPRESENTATIVE NEWS

*If your daughter has **made a representative team or has excelled in her sport**, please remember to inform either myself or Mrs McEntyre in the school office so we can acknowledge it in the newsletter. If they participated in a St John's Girls' School sports team we will note this for end of year achievement certificates and for Y7/8 stripes. Thank you. My email is [sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz](mailto:sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz)*