

St John's Girls' School

Newsletter

23 February 2018

Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all.

Welcome to Maddison Booth and her family. Maddison has joined Room 5.

Last night I had the privilege of staying over at the hostel as did another staff member the previous night. I say privilege, because even though it took away my personal time, I enjoyed the interaction with the girls and seeing the hostel in action. The hostel is very well run, based on respect and kindness and the girls show this to each other too. They helped each other and were very efficient.

National Standards

Below are some impressive results. We work hard to ensure your daughter succeeds so to achieve these results is rewarding. The following results are the end of 2017 assessments against National Standards. They do not include the girls who had been at school for less than a year.

- Reading - 91% of all students are at or above, 96% of our Maori students at or above
- Mathematics - 90% of the girls are at or above, 91% of our Maori students at or above
- Writing - 83% at or above, 77% of our Maori students at or above

I am sure that by working together we will be able to achieve similar results this year.

Charter Targets

We aim to *maintain* the incredible results we (parents and teachers) achieved last year in mathematics. 2017 is the first year for over a decade that the girls have achieved better in mathematics than writing. We firmly believe these results were achieved because the teachers explicitly involved you, so that we all worked together.

We are closely monitoring and helping those who are below the expected level but our main focus in 2018 is improving the use of surface features in writing and expanding the girls' vocabulary. This is a courtesy to the reader. It makes writing easier to understand and improves the overall standard. Expanding the vocabulary makes their writing more interesting to read and improves their ability to paint a mental picture in the reader's mind or to argue a point.

You can help by:

- deliberately increasing your use of interesting words in your conversations, explaining what they mean.
- getting your daughter to read what she writes out loud, noting where she pauses/stops so she can put a comma or full stop.
- reading to your daughter and talking about the words you encounter.
- noticing new/interesting words and punctuation.
- getting your daughter to edit each paragraph as it is written instead of the whole document at the end.
- generally creating an awareness of punctuation and words.

The standard of writing is good throughout the school but we can improve it by focusing on the surface features, punctuation and vocabulary, that will improve it. This does not mean we will not value the wonderful creativity that the girls show in their writing. We want excellence in all aspects of writing, for all of our girls.

Board of Trustees and Board of Proprietors

There is a vacancy on the BOT and two vacancies on the BOP. Both boards work closely together for the benefit of your daughter, the BOT making governance decisions around education and the BOP around buildings, Gilmour House and the Special Character of the school. If you are interested in putting your name forward for either board, please take the time to read the information in the Chairperson of the BOT's article later in this newsletter and in the Chairperson's of the BOP's flyer that was sent home earlier this week. We need a mix of skills and people who care about all students.

WINTER KILTS Years 5—8

You need to order now for your daughter's winter kilt to be delivered before the start of Term 2. They take at least 8 weeks to make and deliver.

Order forms are available at the office or online www.heleankilts.co.nz.

New Entrants to Year 4 girls wear winter pinafores which are available from the uniform shop. Please phone Mrs Lang to make an appointment to have your daughter fitted. It can take several weeks if we have to order one. Get in early.

TERM DATES:

Term 1 February

26th HPV Yr 8's
28th House Picnic

March

1st House picnic postponement
2nd 800m + 1500m at Sacred Heart 12.30pm
7th Family Fun Night 5.30am—7.00pm
9th Zone Athletics—all day 8-10 year olds
14th Interviews start 2.15pm
School closes 2pm.
15th Interviews start 3.15pm
Mufti Day
19th Swimming Sport 1pm—2.30pm Yrs 5-8
BOT 5.30pm
21st - 23rd Year 6 Camp Columba
22nd Health Nurse Visit
26th Zone Athletics postponement day
27th Parents' Assn AGM 7pm
BOP AGM
28th Easter Service Practice
29th Easter Service 1.30pm St John's Church
30th Easter Friday

April

4th First day back after Easter break
4th - 6th Year 7 Camp Dunedin
9th - 13th Year 8 Camp Deep Cove
13th Last Day Term 1

Congratulations to the following girls who received awards recently—

Room 1	Mia Padgett, Nakaysha Fraser, Gracie Dennis. Gwynedd Ryder
Room 2	Amber Behl, Ingrid Fleming
Room 3	Chloe Taylor, Matilda Stevens, Morgan Lau, Elizabeth Torrington
Room 4	Lilly Roughan, Sienna Hunter, Riley Morrison, Lucia Hughes
Room 5	Abbie Middlemass, Olivia Corson, Bailey Bennett, Maddison Booth
Room 6	Holly Driver, Lilyana Ultee, Emma Pope, Bella Van den Beld-Kerr
Room 7	Louella Mirrieles-Huxtable, Amanda Henderson, Greer Dawson, Lucy Griffin

Values Cup:

16 Feb	Andreeva Stephen
23 Feb	Willow Harper

News from the chair

Welcome back to a brand new school year, I hope you all had a great summer. The staff and girls are back in full work mode. For us as Trustees, we say goodbye and thank you to Aaron McKenzie, a long-term board member whose daughters' have moved on to high school. This leaves us with a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. We will be holding an election to fill this vacancy with requests for nominations going out on 7th March. Successful boards are made up of a variety of people with a variety of skills. It is this variety that gives us robust discussion and many viewpoints to consider. This is really important in our task of ensuring each girl has the opportunity to achieve her full potential. If you would like to know more, click the link below. This is a short video from NZSTA (Trustee Association) explaining our role a little more.

<https://vimeo.com/120984849>

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Mackay, myself, or any of our trustees—Mr Mark Billcliff, Mrs Jo Keary, Mrs Mary Kelly, Mrs Nic Macpherson, and Mr Phil Muir. We'd love to hear from you.

Keri Bryan
BOT Chair
(021441085)

SIBLING ENROLMENTS

Please remember to fill in an Application for Admission for your younger daughter/s if you want her/them to attend St John's. Application for Admission forms are on our website or you can pick one up at the school office. Ensure you do this well in advance as planning for 2019 has already started.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ever wondered what a Trustee does, what governance really is, or how you could help ensure the ongoing success of our fabulous school?

The Board of Trustees at St John's consists of;

- The principal
- A staff trustee
- 5 parent elected trustees
- A member of the BOP

The Board's primary focus is the ongoing improvement of student progress and achievement – making sure that each student reaches their potential.

If you like, an easy way of thinking about it is

Governance	(The Board)	= What do we want to achieve? The ends.
Management	(The Principal)	= How do we get there, or the means.

As a Board we have a number of policies to guide our governance. These give clear delegations to the Principal and ensures roles are clear within the team. The principal also reports to the Board.

The Board is accountable for setting student performance, strategic leadership, setting the vision for students and ensuring compliance with legal and policy requirements.

As a Board we are proactive, rather than reactive. We are not, and should not be, involved in the administrative details of the day to day running of the school.

Meetings are held once a month during term time. These are currently on a Monday at 5.30pm in the staff room at school. We have a code of conduct, which we follow to ensure we behave in an ethical manner in all areas, and this is discussed annually.

Over the last few years some of the Board's achievements have included; the introduction of BYOD; enabling extra support for students at both ends of the spectrum to enhance their learning; continual oversight of high performance in all areas of academia; improved communication with our community (shown in survey results); strengthening of our role in governance by reviewing and updating all our processes, promoting and valuing our cultural differences.

Governance, however, relies on a good effective team, a team that possess a variety of skills. These skills may include:

- an inquiring mind,
- someone who is learner focused,
- being a good communicator,
- practical people,
- creativity,
- financial knowledge
- a business focus.

Any and all of these skills are valuable on a Board of Trustees. Above all, you need to be a team player who can commit to the role, be honest, curious and have good integrity.

Our mission is:

'to educate each girl in a safe, supportive Christian environment, to be a lifelong learner.'

If you are interested in joining the Board to guide us into the future at our upcoming election, we would love to hear from you. Equally if you would like to know more you can contact myself or Mrs Mackay. We'd love to welcome you to our team.

Keri Bryan
021 441 085

Waitangi Day

The first people to call New Zealand home were the Maori. New Zealand was mostly bushes and forests. Once all the Maori were really fond of New Zealand, they began to have some funny European people visiting from the U.S.A, Scotland and many more countries. The European people began to trade stuff like weapons for fruit. Then they started to fight and protest, so they made a treaty. They held a meeting and asked for the chiefs' signatures and for all the ones that didn't come, someone went around New Zealand for three months to get the chiefs that didn't come. Some didn't want to sign it, some didn't get the opportunity and some did sign it. Both of the treaty's said different things. Like the English one said they had total control over New Zealand and the Maori one said they gave governance to the British. But there is still fighting amongst the European and Maori. So every Waitangi Day the government have a meeting with the Maori to try settle the problems with the treaty and make the rules so they can make New Zealand better.

By Lucia Hughes

Waitangi Day

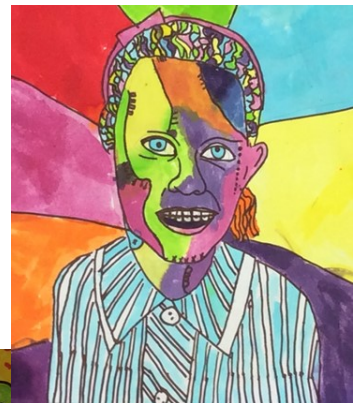
A long time ago there was a country called New Zealand. The first people to live in New Zealand were Maoris. Then the Europeans came to trade stuff like seal's fur for clothes and meat for food. Other countries were coming to trade as well, countries like Australia, Scotland, France, U.S.A and Ireland. Then fighting happened. Maori didn't want other people coming over and taking their land. They had way too much fighting so they said, we need rules. So they did. On the 6th February 1840 they got 40 Maori chiefs and the British crown and they signed the treaty. Not all chiefs signed the treaty. On the English treaty it basically said keep our land and on the Maori treaty it said use our land. Since the treaty was signed the Maori chat about stuff like why we do this. Then they celebrate, not because it was someone's birthday, because they celebrate for when they signed the treaty. That's what Waitangi Day is all about.

By Meah Somerville

Waitangi Day

The first people to live in New Zealand were Maori. The men hunted for food while the women weaved or made their houses better. But one day these white people came along and that's when the trouble started. They wanted to trade with Maori, but what they agreed to trade wasn't actually fair, per say, a gun for a bunch of grapes, that's not fair. So the Queen sent William Hobson to write some rules so that they didn't fight and they could live in peace. William didn't know how to write in Maori, so he asked a missionary, but the missionary didn't know that much Maori so he wrote down what he thought it was, so some of it was wrong. On the 6th February 1840, the treaty was signed by 40 Maori chiefs. Some signed it, some didn't get the chance to. In the 1900's, there was not much importance put on the treaty; it wasn't until the 1970's that Maori began to protest and march for their land. They tried to discuss some stuff but they couldn't understand each other. So on the 6th February we have Waitangi Day, where the government asks Maori over and they fix up some stuff for them, so it is a public holiday.

By Niamh Doherty



ROOM 5—Year 8—Mr Hughes

2018 is shaping up to be a wonderful year in Room 5. We've hit the ground running and have settled into routine really quickly. We spent our first week at school talking about what we value, what we expect from being a Year 8 and what we can contribute to our 'team'. The photo shows our brick wall. Bricks represent strength and longevity. A wall is something that supports weight and pressure, and holds up others that require it. The girls created two bricks each for our wall. One describes a quality or value they expect from the class and the other is something they can contribute. Based on these qualities we are in for a wonderful year as a team.

Part of beginning a new year at school is completing lots of tests! These tests help us to set goals in our learning and to show Mr Hughes where we should be heading next in different subjects. We are pleased to have those over and done with.

The House Captains and deputies have been working hard on the house picnic preparations and we know the school is excited to find out about their plans. All girls in the class have roles of responsibility and it is really pleasing to see everyone taking this seriously and planning ahead to make sure they are organised ahead of time.

Many of us are practising readings for the Easter Service and are working hard to master the art of reciting bible verse and prayer. It really is great to have so many opportunities in Year 8!



ROOM 6—Year 7—Mrs Hawke

Wanted Dead or alive!

Crime: sleeping 23 hours a day.



Sara Reynolds has escaped from jail to find the bed factory. The FBI and police have been searching everywhere. "She has been sleeping so much I don't even know how she could be bothered to escape," says one of the angry policemen. Some say she was sleepwalking there. Sara Reynolds had not been going to work or been paying her bills. She has hazel eyes, a round face, always looks tired and brown hair. Sara is 166cm tall, 11 years old and has creamy skin. She was last seen wearing a black cat onesie with pink lamb slippers.

If found call 0800 273 840
Reward \$200 + free mattress + GST



← by Emma Pope

↑ By Eva Sexton

We have been very busy testing and learning about each other in Room 6. We have 8 new students this year and are really enjoying getting to know one another. It is great to see the lovely positive attitudes to their learning and new friendships being formed. Room 6 are now preparing for Dunedin camp where we will have the opportunity to learn even more about one another while also exploring our heritage.

ROOM 7—Year 6—Mrs Taylor

Here in Room 7 we have had a great time getting to know all about each other and our strengths and our weaknesses. We have made a mihi about our family and where we live. We have 5 new students in Room 7 and we have been playing a game to help them learn everyone's names.

We have been working very hard at our monitoring and clarifying when we are reading. We have found out that we need to understand what we are reading by monitoring and clarifying. Monitoring means that you understand what you're reading and clarifying means to go back and check if you don't or read on if you don't understand what the word means. If you read on it sometimes explains what it means or tells you what the word is.

This term in maths we have been learning place value, and rounding decimals. Now we do a basic facts speed test every morning, and we have a graph to keep track of our progress. Every morning we round ten decimals and then mark them together. Mrs Taylor has been teaching us new strategies to help us with our place value, we use millions and thousands houses to help us.

We have been exploring triangles and using place value to add up the lengths of the side to find the perimeter. Some girls have been using compasses to draw triangles having worked out the lengths of the sides using adding and subtracting.

In PE the girls have been learning the strategies of athletics like how to land in the long jump, the scissor kick for high jump and the two ways of starting a running race. We have also learnt to use our arms in sprints. We have been very good at throwing our discus and shot put high and far.

We are now learning to speak Māori, and we are making Te Reo Māori e-books, with all of our Māori words and sentences. In the morning Mrs Taylor will ask us how we feel, what the day is, what the month is, what our name is and where we live and we will answer in Maori.

We have just started doing our first inquiry about leadership. We have shown examples of what a good leader would do and even discovered some bad leaders. We have printed off some people that we think are good leaders to us, like our parents and lots of other different people. We wonder if we will become great leaders?

By Millie Cottam, Isabella Rhind and Greer Dawson

SPORTS NEWS

SPORT REGISTRATIONS 2018

We hope you have found the new format for registering your daughter/s in their chosen sports user friendly. We have had a few instances where the app hasn't downloaded or whanau haven't been able to submit the form. If you don't have enough memory to download the free app, you can still register for sports through our website www.stjohnsgirls.school.nz Go to the After School Sports tab at the top of the page and click on Term 1, Term 2, etc. The sports for Term 2 will be added as we receive information from the sports codes. If you have any ongoing issues, we would appreciate hearing from you.

If you have any queries or feedback regarding the new registration process, please contact me at sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz

ILT SWIMMING FUNDING

Through the generous funding of the Invercargill Licensing Trust, ILT Foundation and the Invercargill City Council the Invercargill Schools Swimming Programme is fully funded again for 2018.



Funding includes pool charges, assistance with 2 x Splash Palace Swim teachers and subsidy of \$1.50 per student per session for transport costs. This is a wonderful gift to our students and we really appreciate the funding.

TERM 1 WEEKLY DRAWS



The weekly draws are available on the individual sporting codes websites and the volleyball draw will be emailed through as soon as I receive it. Water Polo Southland has a new website where you will be able to find draws/results. <http://www.sporty.co.nz/southlandwaterpolo>

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS

We have been able to enter the following sports for Term 1. I wish to thank all those parents who have set aside time to coach the teams. Without your assistance and dedication, we wouldn't have been able to enter them.



- 2 x Y7/8 Basketball team
- 1 x Y1-3 Water Polo team
- 1 x Y4-6 Water Polo team
- 1 x Y7/8 Water Polo team
- 2 x Y7/8 Touch Rugby team
- 1 x Y5/6 Touch Rugby team
- 1 x Y3/4 Touch Rugby team
- 1 x Y1/2 Touch Rugby team
- 1 x Y7/8 Volleyball team

We only had two Yr 4-6 girls express an interest in playing volleyball. They will be playing in a composite team with Waihopai School.

ZONE ATHLETICS

The All Saints Zone Athletics Sports is to be held on **Friday 9th March** at Surrey Park. **We kindly ask for six parents to help at the long jump pit** as St John's is in charge of this event. If you are able to assist, please contact me through the school office by Wednesday 28th February. Your assistance would be very much appreciated. Tel. 218 7759 or preferably email me sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz.



SOUTHLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TRIATHLON

Today we had **9** girls competing in the Southland Secondary Schools Triathlon in Winton.

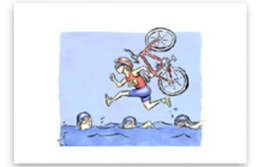
Y 8 Team 1: **Katie Dennis, Cate Reynolds and Sarah Slee**

Y 8 Team 2: **Meg Pope and Grace Watson**

Y 7 Team 1: **Ella Erskine, Elise Hampton and Claire Mercep**

Y 8 Individual: **Abbie Middlemass**

Thank you to those parents who have transported them to and from the event and for supporting them. Special thanks also to our team managers Netty Dennis, Ange Pope, Sharon Hampton and Suz Middlemass. We appreciate your support.



HOCKEY

With the start of the 2018 season fast approaching, IHC want you to be aware of the Coach and Player Development clinics that IHA are offering in March and April. Check out their website or Facebook page for further information.

www.sporty.co.nz/iha

<https://www.facebook.com/invercargillhockey/>



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

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 merit certificates and for Yr 7/8 stripes. Thank you. My email is sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz*

COMMUNITY SPORTS NOTICES

Winton Fun Run: Sunday 4th March - Walk, Run or Bike 2.5km, 6km or 12km www.winton.co.nz/event

ICC Surf to City: Sunday 18th March - Walk, Run or Bike 3km, 6km or 12km PLUS a free 2km fun run or walk for the kids www.surftocity.co.nz

AMP SOUTH KIDS TRYATHLON: Sunday 25th - March A triathlon event especially for kids!
www.southlandtriclub.co.nz

Southland Basketball Association is offering a training course for people who would like to become basketball referees. This course is aimed at beginner referees who do not necessarily have to have any basketball experience. Some knowledge of the game is of course helpful.

There is no cost for this training and all participants will be provided with all training materials, and once active, a whistle and a refereeing shirt. Beginner referees will be supported in an encouraging, protected manner and will have the opportunity to develop their skills and move through the refereeing levels as set by the SBA and BBNZ

Where: ILT Stadium Southland -Sport Southland large meeting room

When: Thursdays March 1 and 8

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Jill Bolger

Pre-registration would be appreciated to allow for the preparation of training materials. Please register your interest with Jill Bolger – 2112254 or 027 315 4769 email jill@basketballsouthland.co.nz