

St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

Newsletter

26 October 2018

Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all.

Strike Action

New Zealand's principals and primary teachers have just voted about what to do to get government action on the current crisis in recruiting and retaining teachers.

We're agreed - we can't in good conscience accept the Government's latest collective agreement offer because it does not begin to address the crisis.

We have therefore voted for an unprecedented second strike, to be held next month. There will be nationwide rolling strikes over a week, and our region will be striking on 15th November.

The Board of Trustees will decide at Monday's board meeting if the school will be closed. While we regret the inconvenience we know this will cause, we need to send a clear message to the Government that we are standing strong for the future of Education.

We are asking for:

- Smaller classes, so your children can get more one-on-one attention
- More resources and staffing to adequately support children with additional learning needs – this will benefit all children because teachers will be freed to spend more one-on-one time with every student.
- A significant increase in teachers' salaries so that they are properly valued for their qualifications and responsibilities, and as a country we can recruit and retain teachers.

We appreciate your continued support on this important issue.

2019 Classes

We have almost finalised the classes for next year. We have several composite classes and are taking our time to ensure we make the best decision we can for each girl. Year 6, 7 and 8 are all single year level classes.

If you know that your daughter will not be at St John's in 2019, please email me to let me know as soon as possible so the place can be offered to someone else. We never like to lose our girls but realise that circumstances change.

Our Familiarisation Morning for new students in Years 2 – 8 to St John's in 2019, is on Wednesday 7th November.

All girls spend an hour with their 2019 class and teacher on this day so we will let you know what room your daughter will be in prior to this.

2019 Stationery Lists

We intend to have online stationery lists for 2019. Mrs McEntyre is working through setting this up. You will still have the option of going to any stationery shop with your list. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Dance Sharing – Change of date!

This term, each class is working on creating a class dance to be performed to the rest of the school, staff and parents. Parents, grandparents and siblings are invited to watch. At the end of the performance, which will be approximately 2.30pm, you may take your daughter home after informing the class teacher.

Please note the date for this has **changed from 4th December to Friday 30th of November**, at 2pm. We start promptly at 2pm with Room 1. Each class only takes a couple of minutes.

Parents' Association

A huge thank you to this wonderful group of mothers. They provide us with so much that we wouldn't have without them. Thank you.

We need more wonderful mums to join this group. They meet once a term for about an hour and a half. If you are interested in joining this lovely group, contact Louise Purdon Phone 021 448 704.

Nga mihi nui (Kind regards)
Brenda Mackay

Term 3

October

29th BOT meeting 5.30pm

November

5th Mufti Day
7th Familiarisation Day
8th Greats & Grands Day Moved from 15th
13th BOP Meeting 7pm
16th Secondary schools familiarisation day
19th BOT meeting 5.30pm
21st Yrs 3/4 Speech exams
30th Stripes awarded
Dance Sharing 2pm Moved from 4th Dec
Everyone welcome

December

3rd Tabloids—afternoon
BOT Meeting—5.30pm
6th Christmas Service practice—morning
7th Christmas Service 1.30pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tay Street
Reports out
11th Prizegiving practice—morning
12th Prizegiving 1.30pm
First Presbyterian Church, Tay Street
Yr 8 Leavers afternoon tea 3.15pm
(Year 8s, parents and grandparents only).
Last day of school.

2019

January

28th Boarders arrive
29th School starts 8.45am

Congratulations to the following girls who received awards recently—

Room 1	Peyton Cornish, Isla Ward, Mia Preininger, Gwynedd Ryder
Room 2	Ingrid Flemming, Jessica Hay, Avé Valoa-Jack, Aaliyah Jack
Room 3	Matilda Stevens, Hazel Stevenson, Zoe Stockman, Andreeva Stephen
Room 4	Lilly Roughan, Grace Pope, Sienna Hunter, Riley Morrison
Room 5	Giovanna O'Donnell, Katie Dennis, Olivia Corson, Katie Unahi
Room 6	Jordan King, Emma Pope, Ivy Turner, Bellah Van den Beld-Kerr
Room 7	Madeleine Lawlor, Hannah Middlemass, Kaitlyn Pirie, Milly Cottam

Values Cup:

19 Oct	Nevaeh Roughan	Rm 1
26 Oct	Chloe Taylor	Rm 3

Sausage Sizzle!

The Aviary committee will be holding a sausage sizzle on Friday 2nd November. Orders will be taken in Room 5 on Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st October at morning tea. One sausage will be \$2 and each additional sausage will be \$1.

Muffins will be \$1.
Gluten free options will be available.



ROOM 7—Year 6—Mrs Taylor

We have been really busy in Room 7. The holidays already feel more than 2 weeks away. Here are some of the activities we have been up to.

Every morning in Room 7 we are learning more Māori. We greet each other and say a karakia. Then we ask questions in Māori and answer them. We can talk about ourselves, objects in our classroom, the time and weather.

To help us use surface features more carefully we have been writing a dictated sentence. Mrs Taylor chooses a sentence form our class novel. The novel she is reading to us is called The Indian in the Cupboard. It is about a boy whose plastic Indian comes alive when he locks it in the cupboard.

This story makes a connection with our inquiry project, where we are learning about single-use plastic and how it is bad for the environment. We have been set into groups and given an area to explore to see if we have any plastic problems in our community. The groups include plastic in our lunch boxes, our attitude towards plastic, plastic shopping bags and classroom plastic. One group will be auditing classroom rubbish, another our lunch boxes, a third group hope to visit New World and the last want to send out a survey to find out what people think about plastic. Once we have identified what any problems are, then we will have to try and come up with some solutions.

For writing we are learning how to write persuasively. This also connects to our inquiry as we think this might be useful if we need to encourage people to change how they use plastic.

In maths we have started to explore equations. Last week we were balancing both sides of an equation. This week we are following rules and using a letter instead of a number.

Other activities include starting our class dance, learning Christmas music and finding out about traditional Māori instruments. So we have plenty to achieve before the end of the year.

Brooke Acker, Elizabeth Somerville & Mrs Taylor

Room 4 Technology

This week Room 4 started their technology unit of cooking. They made mousetraps using the skills and methods of grating, dicing and grilling.



Before we started cooking we learnt about safety and hygiene in the kitchen. We read the recipe so we knew what we were doing and what ingredients and equipment we needed. We chopped and diced like little chefs with a few tears from the onions, while our bread was being grilled. Eggs were cracked and added (without shells) and soon we were mixing, spreading and sprinkling with herbs. A quick grill and finally we were able to sample our mousetraps. They were delicious! Miss Smillie was very impressed with our skills and kitchen hygiene.

PIC•COLLAGE

ROOM 5—Year 8—Mr Hughes

We are loving this warm weather and beginning to spend our lunchtimes outside. The summer dresses seem to have got very short over winter. The girls have settled back wonderfully into their learning and they are driven to achieve all that is required by the our fast-approaching deadlines!

It is wonderful to see the girls stepping up and sorting end of year tasks. Sarah and Meg P are doing a wonderful job coordinating the Leaver's Hoodies (with lots of parent support). This term the girls are completing a novel study. They are required to read a quarter of the book each week and then review it and complete set tasks. They are loving the new novels and are whipping through the chapters at a rate of knots!

Mrs Packham has the girls exploring clay and this week they learnt how to correctly make pinch pots. They have some very exciting plans for their creations to come! We have been shocked to discover the problems with plastic pollution in our world. We have been talking about the small changes that we can make at home and the large impact that can make if many households do the same. We want to make changes happen and we're beginning to talk about how we could make this happen. Watch this space.

Room 6 are currently studying the 'plastic pollution' crisis throughout the world as part of our inquiry topic this term. This has involved investigating how people have used plastic and the impact their choices have made on the environment. The girls are developing a great awareness of the devastation and harm this is causing and are currently looking into ways in which they can make a positive change and hopefully influence others to make changes too.



PLASTIC POLLUTION

Predictions have been made that by the year 2050 the plastic waste will weigh more than our sea life itself!

Last ten years has seen more plastic produced than during the whole of the last century.

About every piece of plastic ever made still exists today as it has not broken down.

Scientists have recently discovered micro plastics embedded deep in the arctic ice and in animals.

Till someone does something about this problem you are hurting wildlife and future generations.

It will kill your children, grandchildren and all their children.

Cups, straws, bottles and plastic bags are the most single used plastic waste items causing problems today.

Persuade your community to wash and recycle plastic to make a positive change.

Our goal is to use products like metal straws, reusable bags, cups and bottles.

Leave your bad habits behind and reduce, reuse and recycle.

Love your ocean like it's your family.

Use reusable bags, bottles and cutlery when you're dining out.

Think of how your generations will have to live with all this plastic waste surrounding them.

If you don't change your habits, you are making plastic islands that will overtake our earth.

Our plastic can be replaced with reusable and harmless replacements.

Not only is it healthier but making your own meals, which doesn't involve takeout containers or doggy bags, will also help to reduce plastic waste.

Written by Room 6



SPORTS NEWS

TABLE TENNIS

Next Wednesday we have a team competing in the Southland Schools Table Tennis Championships which will be held in Invercargill.

The team is: St John's Emeralds – Lindsay Black and Asha Dickson (reserve Kobi Harpur). Many thanks to Ann Black for transporting and managing the girls on the day. Good luck girls!



TENNIS

Congratulations to Grace Watson who won her section at the Invercargill North and South Zone Tennis Championships which were held last Thursday. Grace will now go on to compete at the Southland Primary School Championships on Wednesday 31st October. We wish her well.



SUMMER FUTSAL

We have entered three teams in the summer futsal competition. They are:

U6 St John's Pink Socks coached by Kaye Fraser

U8 St John's Purple Socks coached by Jo Stockman

U14 St John's Strikers coached by Glenn Williams and managed by Maria and Shane O'Donnell.

The competition starts this Monday 29th October. The draw has been emailed to the girls with school email accounts and parents/caregivers. It will also be available on our school

website www.stjohnsgirls.school.nz under the Summer Futsal tab, via the SPORTY app and on the

Southland Football website - <http://www.southlandfootball.org.nz/summer-futsal>

For the futsal rules, please click below -

<http://www.southlandfootball.org.nz/asset/downloadasset?id=cd946a72-e25e-40c9-a64f-63677f51584e>

We wish all the teams a fun and successful season!



MINIBALL

The miniball competition is now midway through the competition.

The full draw for the remainder of the competition is available at www.southlandbasketball.co.nz



SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS TERM 1—2019

This term I will start to collate the information I require to get school swimming lessons set up for Term 1, 2019. If your daughter has attended private swimming lessons between Term 1 2018 and now, and has received her 200m certificate, please forward a copy of the certificate to me as soon as possible. Email: sports@stjohnsgirls.school.nz



I require this so I can arrange the correct groups for girls who require lessons. Girls in Years 4 - 8 who have obtained their 200m certificate will remain at school for PE.

If you do not forward a copy of this certificate, your daughter will be assumed to have not passed her 200m and will require the school swimming lessons next year. I only require 200m certificates that were obtained in 2018. Thank you.

TOUCH RUGBY

Our two Junior High teams have played two weeks of double games and the primary school grades have played two weeks of a seven-week competition. The weather has played its part for the first two weeks of season. Let's hope that it continues for the rest of the season.



VOLLEYBALL

Our Year 7/8 volleyball team has been playing in the Wednesday afternoon social grade. The competition has two weeks left. Good luck girls.



WATERPOLO

The Year 7/8 competition started up again on Friday 26th October. The 23rd November is '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.

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*

Lucy Bird attending the NZ Gymnastics Nationals competition in Tauranga in the holidays Her pair came 2nd in NZ!



Elizabeth and Eva recently competed at the NZ National Artistic Swimming Championships held in Auckland, as members of the Phoenix Synchronised Swimming Club. This 5-day competition was attended by 170 athletes, including 5 international clubs from Australia and New Caledonia. Their 12 & Under team achieved 1st place in the "12 & Under Free Team" category and also 4th in the "Open Free Combination" category.

Other results:
"12 & Under Duet"
5th - Elizabeth & partner
7th - Eva & partner