

St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

Newsletter

26 February 2021

Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa – Greetings to you all

Family Fun Night

What a fantastic night. Thank you for supporting the Parents' Association who organised this wonderful community night. The weather turned it on for us and there were lots of families. It took a long time to choose the best five costumes as we have never had so many children dressed up and with such amazing costumes. Thank you for your creativity.

2021 Strategic Aims

Each year the board sets aims based on what is happening in the school. The 2021 aims are below with a brief summary of what we are doing to achieve these aims.

Strategic Aim 1: To implement the Digital Curriculum

This is the third year of this aim. All schools were expected to implement the digital curriculum last year. We did so but felt we could do more. As well as continuing what we did last year, this year, the board have funded Mrs Taylor, our digital guru, to be released for one day a week, to upskill teachers and classes.

Strategic Aim 2: Ensure that every learner/ākonga feels appreciated and included for who they are, in particular their identity, ancestry, language and culture.

This is the third year of this aim. We will build on what we are already doing, developing greater awareness of where people have come from and sharing their culture.

Strategic Aim 3: To implement a change in our teaching of mathematics to incorporate open ended, rich tasks, to promote higher order and creative thinking based around the Jo Boaler philosophy.

This is the first year for this aim for the whole school but two teachers are into their second and third year working this way. We have dedicated a lot of time to this aim in 2021, through professional development on Teacher Only Days and at staff meetings. As part of this, I am sure we will be tweaking what we currently do, looking closely at how we use the Number Knowledge cards and what and how we assess to ensure everyone achieves success.

We will have a parent night where you can experience what we are doing.

Strategic Aim 4: To meet the needs of staff and students around Well Being (Year 2 of aim)

This is part of ongoing practice. If you would like more detail around our aims look at the 2021 Charter which will be on our website towards the end of March. If you would like information on how well we got on with the 2020 aims, look at the 2020 Annual Report which will go on the website in June.

Parent Interviews (Wednesday 17th March 2.15pm and Thursday 18th March 3.15pm)

You have the opportunity to have a 15-minute interview with your daughter and her teacher(s) to discuss her achievement and progress and to set goals. You will be able to request an interview time through the Skool Loop App. Please ensure you have this downloaded onto your phone.

Go to the App store. Download Skool Loop, then select St John's Girls' School. You can use the app for more than one school. We have noticed that the app has to be completely closed to get notifications.

More instructions will follow re. booking interviews once we learn how this works at Monday's staff meeting.

Events

There are many big events happening in the near future. Some of them could be postponed at the last minute, eg zone athletics, so it is important that you have Skool Loop downloaded as this will become our number one way of letting you know about changes. At the moment, we are still using other communication tools too, to ensure you are informed. We recommend grandparents and caregivers download this app too to keep up to date with newsletters and cancellations.

Nga mihi nui (Warm regards)

Brenda Mackay
Principal

TERM 1

March

- 3rd—5th Year 6 Camp— Camp Columba, Pukerau
4th Health Nurse Visit
BOT meeting 5.30pm
8th Mufti Day
12th Zone Athletics
15th Year 7 Vision Testing
16th Zone Athletics postponement day
17th Interviews start 2.15pm
SCHOOL CLOSED AT 2PM
After School Care will start at 2.15pm on this day
18th House Bonding Event
Interviews start 3.15pm
19th Cyber Safety—John Parsons
Swimming Sport 12 —1.30pm (only for girls not attending Monday lessons)
- 22nd **TEACHER ONLY DAY—school closed**
22nd—26th Year 8 Camp—Deep Cove
24th—26th Year 7 Camp—Dunedin
25th Health Nurse visit
27th Southland Athletics
31st Easter Service practice am
BOP Meeting AGM & meeting
Parents' Assn AGM 7pm

April

- 1st Easter Service 1.30pm First Church, Tay St
2nd Easter Friday—no school
5th & 6th Easter Break—no school
14th Aerobics Festival 2pm
15th BOT meeting 5.30pm
16th Bonus Points trophies awarded
Last day of term 1

May

- 3rd First day of term 2

Congratulations to the following girls who received awards recently—

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|--------|---|
| Room 1 | Briar Brady, Lola Rutledge, Madeleine Davison, Mackenzie Brown |
| Room 2 | Maya Preininger, Elise Davison, Isla Ward, Laura van Westrenen |
| Room 3 | Meila Iosefo, Nakaysha Fraser, Sophie Crosbie, Martina Bosma |
| Room 4 | Libby Hamilton, Esme Middlebrook, Amber Behl, Jessica Hay |
| Room 5 | Meah Somerville, Ava Skeggs, Binne Lenihan, Lucy Muir |
| Room 6 | Scarlett Warnock, Lily Hillman, Ada O'Connor, Matilda Stevens |
| Room 7 | Hannah Marriott Wilkes, Zoe Stockman, Catlin Brady, Bonnie McIntosh |

Values Cup Recipient

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|------|
| 19 Feb | Anyia Hamilton | Rm 5 |
| 26 Feb | Lucy Muir | Rm 5 |

REMINDERS

Late arrivals:

All girls arriving at school after 8.40am must report to the office before going to assembly, so please remind your daughter when you drop her off. Bus girls are the only exception.

Reporting Absences:

All absences must be reported to the office before 8.45am with a reason for the absence. Please use the Skool Loop app but if you email an absence/appointment time to the class teacher please ensure you include - office@stjohnsgirls.school.nz.

Picking up girls for appointments:

Please notify the office if you are taking your daughter out during class time. Ask your daughter to wait for you at the office. You can drive in the main entrance off Dee Street and when your daughter sees your car she can go to meet you. Mrs McEntyre will sign your daughter out and sign her back in when she arrives back at school. Also inform the office if your daughter is going to be late due to an early appointment.

Dropping Gear Off for Girls:

Anything you need to drop off for your daughter is to be left at the office. Mrs McEntyre will contact your daughter and let her know it's there.

Arrival Time at School should not be before 8.15am please. This is for the safety of your daughter as she may be unsupervised.

UNIFORM PURCHASES

If Mrs Lang gives you pieces of uniform to try on at home, please return any unwanted items the following day, in the condition you received it.

Invoices are sent out within a week of purchase and it's time consuming having to adjust invoices when items are returned after the invoice is emailed.

REMEMBER to place your kilt order early.

Kilts take 6-8 weeks to make.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Scholastic Book Club orders are now online. No orders will be taken through the school.

AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME

This programme operates every day after school from 3.15 to 5.15pm. Girls can attend on a daily or permanent basis. If your daughter attends on a casual basis it is expected you will pay on the day. If your daughter attends on a regular basis, payment is expected weekly. This is an excellent service offered to the school by Mrs Wilson so please use it.