

# St John's Girls' School

Te Kura Kōtiro ō Hato Hoani

## Newsletter

### 29 May 2020

#### Principal's Comments

Tena koutou katoa—Greetings to you all.

#### Dear parents/caregivers

I feel for those of you who have lost your job or who are now working reduced hours, and for those with businesses who were unable to work during Lockdown Level 4. These are tough, uncertain times. We can manage tough times but it is when we don't know what is ahead that makes it all that much harder. I wish you all the best.

I am proud of what the teachers did during lockdown with online learning for the senior classes and the hard packs for the junior classes, supported in most classes by zoom or google meets. The teachers appreciated your input too and are looking forward to interviews to hear more of your stories.

**Welcome** to Sophie Baron and her family. Sophie joined the Year 5 class on Tuesday.

#### Interviews – moved to Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Reports go out on Friday 26th June.

The following week, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 3pm, you have the opportunity to have a 15-minute interview with your daughter and her teacher(s) to discuss her achievement and progress. We will send an interview request form home on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Parents often question why their daughter has the same learning step as another girl. This is because each group, be it reading, maths or writing, is often working on the same goal. Sometimes it varies, but often it is the same.

Due to Covid, we are not including attendance in the report. We have left the box there but it will not be filled in. We had to use a special code for Covid in our digital attendance register which has distorted the attendance rate, making it invalid.

#### Events

Our calendar is looking very bare! Changes, postponements and cancellations are still coming in. Polyfest will be a digital event this year. We have decided that we will still have Kapahaka, once we can resume singing, but we will not be participating in the digital Polyfest. We will have a live performance at school instead, probably as part of the Term 4 Cultural unit.

#### Some Good News

- The Year 8 girls get to go to Deep Cove, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June! They were to go the week Lockdown was called but obviously couldn't. We were fortunate to be offered a spot this term, when another school had to pull out.
- Year 7/8 netball starts 20<sup>th</sup> June!
- We are having assembly each day from Monday.

Please keep an eye on google calendar as we are having to move dates as we try to fit things in and as things change. Google calendar is on our website.

#### Health and Science Surveys

Thank you to everyone who has returned these. We are accepting them until 8th June. Your daughter can drop them into the box in the office or give them to Mrs McEntyre.

Have a happy, relaxing weekend

Nga mihi nui (Warm regards)  
Brenda Mackay  
Principal

## Term 2

*Please note the change of dates/times from previous newsletter.*

### June

3rd BOP AGM - 7pm, followed by a normal meeting staffroom.

9th Mufti

22nd—26th Yr 8 Deep Cove camp

26th Reports go out

30th June—3 July Life Education

30th Interviews from 2pm

**School closes 2pm.**

Afterschool care available from 2.15pm

### July

1st Interviews from 3pm.

3 July Stripes awarded

**Term 3 starts Monday 20 July**

## SIGNING IN AND OUT

Any child leaving school during the day **MUST** be signed out, and back in, at the office.

Please email the office before 8.45am if your daughter is going to leave during the day (and the reason why).

Any parent coming into the school to help in class, drop anything in for your daughter, coach sport etc must also sign in and out.

At all times we must be aware of who is on the premises.

## PARKING

It's been an odd time dealing with Covid restrictions so thanks for you all for dropping your girls off and not coming on to the school grounds.

We kindly ask that you do not park over, or close to, the school and neighbouring driveways. This is creating a road hazard when staff are trying to turn into our drive and neighbours are trying to exit their driveways.

Thank you.

## 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.

## BOT Update

Hello everyone it's certainly been a challenging time for all of us over the past months with students, staff, parents and caregivers taking on dramatic changes to schooling which has never been seen before in NZ along with dealing with COVID-19 requirements. It has been great to hear all the wonderful stories from the school community which I am immensely proud to be part of.

During Level 3 Lockdown, the Board of Trustees (BOT) held a special meeting to discuss the level of the activity donation for term 2 and decided, after much debate and discussion that the donation would remain at the current level. While the school has had reduced expenses in some areas, such as sport, we have had additional expenses due to COVID-19 and with the uncertainty at this stage, we are being prudent to ensure that each girl continues to be provided a safe and supportive environment to learn in. The level of activity donation for terms 3 and 4 has been added as an agenda item for future BOT meetings to ensure we are not over or under charging activity donations. The school is constantly reviewing our response to COVID-19 and the challenges we are faced with as a school. The school will continue to communicate with you regularly as new information and developments are received.

Thank you for all your kindness and support shown to everyone during this difficult time.

Mark Billcliff – BOT Chair